

Statutes

for

**The Research School for Organic
Agriculture and Food Systems
(SOAR)**

at

**The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural
University, Denmark**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Paragraph 1

Foundation, participating institutions, name and location

Section 1 The 25th of June 2001 *The Research School for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems (SOAR)* was founded in collaboration by the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL), Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF) and all the following institutions, which are part of DARCOF:

Aalborg Universitet, Amternes og Kommunernes Forskningsinstitut, Aarhus Universitet, Danmarks JordbrugsForskning, Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser, Danmarks Tekniske Universitet, Forskningscenter Risø, Danmarks Fødevarer- og Veterinærforskning, Københavns Universitet, Landsudvalget for Svin, Naturhistorisk Museum, Statens Skadedyrlaboratorium.

Section 2 In Danish, the name of the Research School is: *Forskerskole for økologisk jordbrug og fødevarerproduktion.*

Section 3 The Research School is located at KVL. The Research School provides a range of research and teaching activities and an environment for networking for students with an interest in organic agriculture and food systems. The Research School forms part of *The Graduate School for Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences.*

Section 4 The Research School is founded for an initial period of five years. It is located at the institutions listed in par. 1 sec. 1.

Section 5 The present document constitutes an amendment of the research school statutes approved on 23 January 2002. The Background for the amendment is the change in the overall legislative premises for the university's activities brought about by the new University Act, new central statutes etc.

Paragraph 2

The objectives and scope of the Research School

Section 1 The general objectives of the Research School are:

- To improve and strengthen education at the PhD level within organic agriculture and food systems by developing joint courses and by establishing networks to strengthen the interaction between supervisors and their students – both within and across the institutions
- To provide the tools needed for students to work interdisciplinarily and systemically through courses and seminars
- To encourage the personal development of students and a critical attitude to the principles and the values on which organic agriculture is founded through participation in interdisciplinary research
- To attract national and international MSc and PhD students to the research area of organic agriculture and food systems
- To enhance interaction and cooperation between universities and sector research institutions in postgraduate research training
- To strengthen supervisors' competences and skills
- To establish and strengthen the relationship between research training and society
- To improve the competitiveness of research training internationally and to encourage international cooperation including Nordic cooperation in PhD education within the *Nordic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University (NOVA)*.

Section 2 The scope of the Research School:

According to the general objectives of the Research School (cf. par. 2 sec. 1) the activities of the Research School are within the following areas:

- Plant health in organic production systems
- Agro-technology and production of organic cereals, fruits, vegetables and protein crops, including quality and nutritive value aspects

- Livestock production, health and welfare in organic production systems
- Natural resources and ecosystem services
- Recirculation of nutrients from urban to rural areas
- Food quality, nutritive value, health and consumer preferences for organic food
- Interaction between production, economy and extension in organic farming systems
- Bioethical and sociological research in relation to organic farming and food production

Organisation and Management of the Research School

Paragraph 3

Section 1 The Research School SOAR has been developed as a separate PhD programme within the general PhD study programme of KVL. SOAR is an important part of the cooperation between university and sector research, which has been initiated by DARCOF within organic farming and food production.

Section 2 The funding agencies of SOAR are KVL, DARCOF and the *Danish Research Training Council (Forskeruddannelsesrådet FUR)*. The grants are administered by the KVL departments in which the head of the research school works.

The Head of the Research School

Paragraph 4

Nomination and Terms of Reference

Section 1 A permanent senior lecturer or professor at KVL is appointed head of the Research School. KVL's Research and Innovation Committee (FIU) nominates the Head of School and presents the nominee to the Vice-Chancellor, who takes the final decision. The nomination is based on an expert evaluation of one or more qualified candidates in terms of their professional qualifications and the activities of the research school.

Section 2 Following delegation from the Vice-Chancellor, the head of the Research School refers to the Pro-rector of research at KVL who requests the opinion of FIU before making any decisions in important matters concerning the activity of the research school. The Pro-rector of research ensures that important issues are handled in FIU and other bodies at KVL, according to the rules at KVL.

Section 3 The operation of the Research School is managed in close collaboration between the head of the Research School and the head of DARCOF, and between the head of school and the Scientific Advisory Board (*Det Rådgivende Videnskabelige Panel*, RVP) cf. par. 7.

Paragraph 5

The Jurisdiction and Responsibilities of the Head of the Research School

Section 1 The head of school represents the Research School externally, is in contact and negotiation with the government authorities, other institutions and NOVA etc. Following delegation from the Vice-Chancellor, the head of school can commit KVL in respect of the management of grants within the Research School, according to the account regulations of KVL.

Section 2 The head of school is responsible for the administration of the budget, cf. par. 6 sec. 1. As a part of the day to day management of the Research School the head of school sees to the coordination of the educational activities of the school including seminars, PhD courses and invitations to visiting lecturers. The head of school is responsible for the operation of the secretariat. The head of school is expected to promote the Research School, to apply for additional funds for the Research School as well as other activities, to maintain contact with the donors and to inspire new courses.

Section 3 The head of school can delegate management and responsibility for scientific activities of a practical nature to the scientific collaborators at the participating institutions.

Paragraph 6

- Section 1** The head of school is the grant–holder responsible for the grants and coordinator of grants, which are provided to the Research School to finance its operation and PhD scholarships. The administration of external funds and PhD scholarships etc. follow the KVL guidelines concerning the administration of external funds (KVL 2001) and to the financial guidelines for PhD education at KVL (1998).
- Section 2** Within two months before the end of the calendar year the head of school prepares a draft work–plan and budget for the next year. The draft work–plan and budget are discussed in the Scientific Advisory Board (RVP), cf. par. 7, and are presented to FIU for adoption.
- Section 3** The head of school reports the activities of the year in question after the end of a calendar year. The report is considered in Scientific Advisory Board (RVP), cf. par. 7, and is presented to the PhD Study Committee (PSN), pro–rector of research/FIU, for adoption. Subsequently the report is presented to the KVL’s management for information.
- Section 4** The head of school is invited to participate without voting right when the work–plan, the budget and the report are considered in FIU, cf. par. 6 secs. 2 and 3.

Scientific Advisory Board

Paragraph 7

Composition and nomination

- Section 1** A Scientific Advisory Board (Rådgivende Videnskabeligt Panel, RVP) is appointed to support the head of school in planning the professional activities of the Research School. The panel consists of relevant and well qualified representatives from the research environments participating in the DARCOF and SOAR cooperation.

- Section 2** The head of school is an *ex-officio* member and chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board (RVP). The head of school convenes meetings, issues the agenda and prepares discussion papers to be considered by the panel.
- Section 3** In addition to the head of school, the Scientific Advisory Board (RVP) consist of: two representatives from institutions belonging to DARCOF (except from KVL) and appointed by the governing body of DARCOF, the head of DARCOF, two academic staff from KVL and one PhD student from the Research School, appointed by FIU.
- Section 4** The terms of office of the members of the Scientific Advisory Board corresponds to the initial period of the Research School, cf. par. 9 sec. 1. The term of office for the PhD student is two years.

Paragraph 8

Duties

- Section 1** The Scientific Advisory Board (RVP) assists the head of school in the scientific evaluation of educational programmes and subjects for PhD projects. The Board also takes part in the planning of seminars, summer schools and the appointment and invitation of guest lecturers etc.
- Section 2** The Scientific Advisory Board (RVP) discuss and make recommendations to the draft for the yearly report, the proposed work-plan and budget prepared by the head of school. Furthermore, the Scientific Advisory Board facilitates contact with the research environments at the participating institutions, cf. par. 6 secs. 2 and 3.
- Section 3** The Scientific Advisory Board (RVP) organise an evaluation of the Research School at the end of the initial period.

EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH SCHOOL

Paragraph 9

- Section 1** The Research School is established for a period of five years. It expires on December the 31st 2006.
- Section 2** Nine months before the end of the initial period an evaluation of the Research School will be initiated by the Scientific Advisory Board (RVP). The evaluation report should be prepared five months before the end of the initial period. Thereafter, negotiations will start between KVL and other participating institutions represented by DARCOF for a prospective continuation of the Research School for an additional period.
- Section 3** If it is decided not to continue the Research School, the participating institutions are, however, obliged to continue all activities, including the leadership, for a period suitable for the Research School to meet its obligations to PhD students who have already enrolled.

AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES

Paragraph 10

- Section 1** The statutes of the Research School for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems may be amended by KVL's management on the basis of recommendation from the Scientific Advisory Board (RVP), FIU and the governing body of DARCOF.

EFFECTUATION AND APPROVAL

Paragraph 11

Section 1 Following the submission to the former KFP and the governing body of DARCOF, the statutes was approved in its original form in KVL's Senate's Executive Committee KFP on January the 23rd 2002. The statutes came into force on this date.

Section 2 Upon approval of the present and amended statutes the following revisions are acknowledged:

- Par. 1 sec. 1: In the 2nd paragraph *Forskningscentret for skov og Landskab* and *Fødevarøkonomisk Institut* are omitted. The two institutions are now a part of KVL.
- In connection with the approval of KVL's statutes on 20 January 2004 the following relevant changes have been made: the responsibilities of the former KVL's Senate's Research and PhD Committee (KFP) are now under the aegis of the Research and Innovation Committee (FIU). The responsibilities of the former Senate and the Senate's Executive Committee are now handled by KVL's management, including KVL's pro-rector of research.

Section 3 Until the date of effectuation, the organisation and leadership of the Research School was based on the proposition for the foundation of SOAR, received by *Forskningssekretariatet (now Forsknings- og Innovationskontoret)* on June the 14th 2001 and which was approved by the Senate on June the 25th 2001.

The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University

the / 2004

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Vice-chancellor