

SOAR Newsletter

No. 2, September 2010

Introduction

This is second Newsletter from SOAR in its new form. We do not really plan to make monthly Newsletters, but various decisions, changes and planning issues seem to call for a second Newsletter now. We send this Newsletter to PhD students affiliated with SOAR, as well as all who have shown interest in the activities of SOAR.

SOAR seminar 25th-26th October

The next SOAR seminar will be held on University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences on the 25th-26th October. The theme is Climate Change.

Bruce Campbell will present the CGIAR centre for Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS) <http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/>. We will have some presentations by PhD students, and discussions on climate change and organic agriculture. On the second day of the seminar we are planning for two sessions: One on visions and plans for the new SOAR, and the other on the PhD process with focus on 'mitigating drop-out'.

Programme will be sent out shortly.

SOAR PhD students who have defended or soon will defend their PhD thesis

Libère Nkurunziza: Phenology and Source Sink Dynamics in Relation to Management of the Perennial Weeds, *Cirsium arvense* and *Tussilago farfare*. Defended on September 3rd 2010.

Pernille Hasse Busk Poulsen: Examination of Microbial Diversity and Function in Waste Amended Soils and Chitin Amended Compost. Defended on September 10th.

Piotr Oleskowicz-Popiel: Combined biogas, bioethanol and protein fodder production in organic farming. Defended on September 16th.

Myles Oelofse: The Sustainability of Organic Farming in a Global Food Chains Perspective: The Agroecology of Organic Farming Systems. Defence on Monday September 20th at 1 p.m. at LIFE.

The first meeting in SOAR's scientific panel initiated initiatives for collaborating with other universities and research institutions

In August, we had the first meeting in SOAR's scientific panel, and it was a very constructive and creative meeting. We have started identifying relevant research institutions and universities to form international as well as national collaboration for high quality PhD courses and seminars relevant for research within organic food and farming systems, and also to stimulate and enable exchange of students between universities during their study.

Announcement of events of potential relevance for SOAR PhD students and their supervisors

4th October 2010: One day with research dissemination, workshops and discussions related to the finalising of research in the 3rd Danish research program under ICROFS (previously DARCOF). You can read about it on <http://www.icrofs.dk> – and the last day for signing up to participate is 20th September 2010 (the day where this newsletter is distributed via mail).

9th November 2010: One day workshop partly funded by Danish Development Research Network about collaboration between research and development in the organic sector, when collaborating with countries in the Global South. We attach a preliminary program. This workshop is in Danish (translation can be offered if needed), and the programme so far is in Danish.

SOAR Newsletter

If you do not want to receive SOAR newsletters please inform me by mail to mette.vaarst@agrsci.dk.

Kind regards

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SOAR