



## Strategy for SOAR 2005-2010

*September 2005*

SOAR was approved as a Research School for Organic Farming and Food Systems on June 25, 2001, for an initial five year period. Organisational SOAR is located at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) in Denmark.

SOAR underwent a successful international evaluation in January 2005.

SOAR received funding support from the Danish Research Agency in June 2005 for another five year period.

This paper describes a strategy for SOAR in the coming 5 years.

As indicated above it builds on a longer process, and should be interpreted accordingly.

Activities will not be described as they are formulated on an annually basis.

### **OBJECTIVE FOR SOAR**

Within its disciplinary area of organic farming and food systems, SOAR wants to offer an international recognized research education at the highest level that attracts PhD students of both sexes and all nationalities in a variety of networks. This is done in a School that exceeds a critical mass of 30 enrolled students.

This research education seeks to provide a common platform for students and supervisors in their discussion of values and principles in researching Organic Farming and Food Systems. Such a critical academic discussion must supplement the disciplinary research focus of their research project.

#### **Deliverables**

1. SOAR graduates have attractive competencies and can continue an academic career within organic farming and food.
2. SOAR graduates have an international network within organic farming and food.
3. SOAR attracts all students working with organic farming in Denmark.

## **SPECIFIC AIMS**

- A. SOAR organizes Summer Schools at the highest international level that can enhance the quality of the PhD research education within organic farming and food systems.**

### **Deliverables**

1. Five International Summer Schools with external keynote speakers has been organized and run by 2010.
2. Announcement and recruitment via international contacts and via SOAR's homepage.

### **Indicators**

- 1.1 One International Summer School organized each year.
- 1.2 Five international well renowned experts as key note speakers<sup>a</sup> on each Summer School.
- 1.3 More than 80% of participants express satisfaction with the courses.
- 2.1 Participation of international students is 50% of all participants for all years.

- B. SOAR provides networks, courses, and information to support the individual student's career development.**

### **Deliverables**

1. Two seminars have been conducted annually in Denmark.
2. SOAR has distributed information material to all stakeholders
3. SOAR students have all made their findings available to the organic community in Denmark.
4. SOAR maintains a critical mass within each of the 3 themes that projects are organized within.
5. SOAR offers the highest quality supervision for all fellows working with organic farming and food systems around the School.

### **Indicators**

- 1.1 Each enrolled PhD student participates in more than 75% of the offered bi-annual seminars.
- 1.2 More than 80% of the participants express satisfaction with the bi-annual seminars.
- 2.2 Folders and flyers distributed to relevant stakeholders.
- 3.1 A new attractive homepage is developed and launched before June 2006.
- 3.1 All PhD defences and abstracts of PhD dissertations are communicated to DARCOF stakeholders.
- 4.1 SOAR attracts co-funding to a minimum of 10 projects pr year proposed by the supervisors<sup>b</sup>.
- 4.2 SOAR develop a plan for collaboration regarding joint research activities with the "Fund for Organic Agriculture (FØL)" in order optimize the use of research funds for applied purposes within Organic Food and Farming.
- 5.1 SOAR arrange one seminar on supervision quality every second year.
- 5.2 All renowned scientists working with organic farming and food systems are offering supervision within SOAR and participate in SOAR activities.

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<sup>a</sup> It was a particular recommendation by the evaluation panel to increase the involvement of international renowned experts.

<sup>b</sup> Only Research Schools can apply the Danish Research Agency for co-funding.

## **C. SOAR forms alliances and partnerships with relevant institutions involved in research education.**

### **Deliverables**

1. SOAR delivers a plan for establishing collaborates with relevant Research Schools in Denmark<sup>c</sup>.
2. SOAR formulates a plan for collaboration with Universities and higher research institutions in Europe that work with research education in organic food and farming.
3. The international recruitment for SOAR financed projects has been significantly improved<sup>d</sup>.

### **Indicators**

- 1.1 Plan ready by October 2006.
- 2.1 A visiting round to 6-9 institutions in Europe conducted before October 2006.
- 2.1 Plan developed and mutually accepted by December 2006.
- 3.1 An application to Marie Curie for a RTN submitted March 2007.
- 3.2 The Summer School 2006 is arranged in connection with the ECO-Conference in Odense May 2006, where many EU projects will be presented.
- 3.3 Positions announced by SOAR is all done internationally by December 2005 by active mailing to an international mailing list extracted from ISOFAR.

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<sup>c</sup> The possibilities for self-financing via a tuition fees are not yet fully developed at KVL:

<sup>d</sup> Currently we have no non-danish nationalities except for 2 internationalisation stipends and 1 KVL stipend. To attract more international applicants is based in the wish of enhancing the base for recruitment (Forskningsstyrelsen, Nov. 2003: Fra Forskerakademiet til FUR 1986-2003 + Data om dansk forskeruddannelse 2002)