

# BOVA-NOVA Rector Meeting

October 14<sup>th</sup> 1999 in Kaunas, Lithuania

## Agreement of Co-operation

The Rectors/Deans of BOVA and NOVA met in Kaunas, Lithuania on 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1999 to review progress in collaboration between the agricultural universities of the Baltic and Nordic countries. As a result of these discussions, the BOVA and NOVA members agreed to the following.

### 1. Previous co-operation

Agricultural Universities in the Nordic and Baltic countries have, during the past years, significantly increased their collaboration within, and between, their respective regions.

The NOVA University – the Nordic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University – was formally established in May 1995 by an agreement signed by the Rectors/Deans of the Nordic veterinary and agricultural universities/faculties.

A NOVA priority was to develop stronger links with the Baltic countries. As a consequence, the NOVABA cooperation scheme was approved at a meeting of the Rectors from both Nordic and Baltic agricultural universities in Kaunas, Lithuania in December 1995.

A second Rectors' meeting was held in September 1996 in Tartu, Estonia, when a Letter of Intent for further collaboration was signed. A formal agreement was also signed by the Rectors of Baltic universities, thereby establishing BOVA. A third Rectors meeting was held in August 1997 in Jelgava, Latvia.

During the first phase of co-operation, focus was put on establishing personal links between the partners and increasing knowledge about the programmes and competencies of the participating institutions. During a number of meetings and frequent exchanges of teachers, students, researchers and administrators, a thorough mutual understanding of needs and possibilities for strengthened collaboration was developed.

A major focus has been the establishment of courses financially supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and other sources, both multilateral and national. During the 3-year period 1996-1998 a total of 23 short courses have been carried out with a total of about 500 participants – 6 courses in 1996, 6 courses in 1997 and 11 courses in 1998 – this year with a total of about 200 participants. In 1999, another 15 courses have been carried out and another three are planned.

The collaboration has also included a very successful project involving the libraries of the participating institutions.

## 2. Plans for the future

During the Rectors' meeting it was agreed to further strengthen the co-operation for mutual benefit. Plans for 2000 and beyond were discussed, and the tentative work plan is included as Annex 1.

The plans include further development of courses with emphasis on involving both students and teachers from all BOVA-NOVA members. Other examples include the continued collaboration between the university libraries and the pilot phase for RENAB – a Research Network for Sustainable Agriculture in the Baltic Region. Co-operation at the Ph. D. level will also be developed building on already existing courses and scholarships.

The need to involve students in the future planning was also stressed.

## 3. Future organisation of the collaboration

The Rectors/Deans agree that it is necessary to learn from past experience and adapt modalities for collaboration according to the needs of the future programme. The co-operation is based on regional agreements to form BOVA and NOVA, respectively. Rectors' meetings decide on agreements on overall policies and plans for future collaboration. The need for a co-ordination committee was discussed, and it was decided to charge the planning committee to develop details of the collaborative modalities based on the discussions during the meeting.

Given the past experience and the commitments of all parties to further develop and strengthen collaboration between the agricultural/veterinary universities/faculties in the Baltic and Nordic countries, the BOVA and NOVA Rectors/Deans hereby agree to continue this fruitful co-operation. It is understood that the BOVA members will use this co-operation also in support of their roles in preparing the Baltic States for prospective EU membership.

We are convinced that the BOVA and NOVA members have an important role in supporting the sustainable development of our societies through appropriate use of the natural resource base and its importance for rural development.

Kaunas 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1999

Rector Albinas Kusta  
LZUA



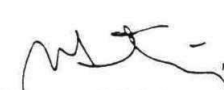
Rector Vidmantas Bizokas  
LVA



Vice-Rector Andres Koppel  
EAU



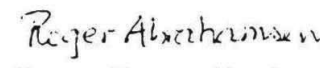
Rector Voldemars Strikis  
LLU



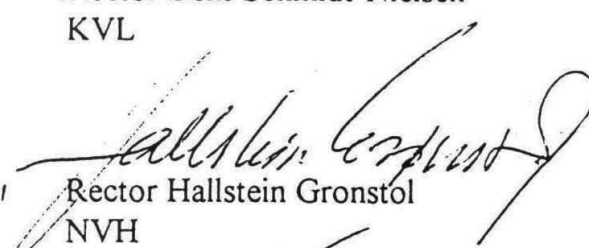
Rector Bent Schmidt-Nielsen  
KVL



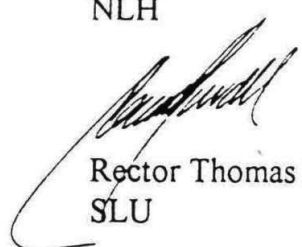
Rector Roger Abrahamsen  
NLH



Rector Hallstein Gronstøl  
NVH



Rector Thomas Rosswall  
SLU



Dean Kim von Weissenberg  
HU-AF



Dean Hannu Saloniemi  
HU-Vet (not present)

Magnus Jonsson  
Island (not present)

Rector Marten Carlsson  
NOVA

