

## **SNS-Working group**

### **Long term field experiments in the Nordic countries**

#### **Minutes of the meeting**

##### **In Stockholm Aug 23**

#### Participants:

Jens Peter Skovsgaard, DK  
Antii Isomäki, FIN  
Gudmundur Halldorsson, ICL  
Fredrika von Sydow, SW  
Petter Nilsen, NOR

The chairman of SNS, Jan-Erik Hällgren gave a short introduction of the background and the task for the working group.

Petter Nilsen was "elected" as chairman for the group.

Each representative presented a short summary of the status of long term forest field experiments in their countries:

#### Sweden:

In Sweden they have worked with the priority and overviews of the existing experiments, and also analysed the need for new long term experiments, especially in the context of air pollution, biomass harvest - effects and counteractions (Report 18, SLU, Uppsala 1999).

An advisory group has been established at SLU and Fredrika has worked with gathering the information from all institutions responsible for long term experiments (experiments lasting more than 10 years). Approximately **1500 experiments** have been evaluated to be of future value. There is also a classification from 1 to 3 according to quality of the experiments, and one class D for demonstration purposes.

One single database with experiment information is in progress and is so far constructed in the program Excel.

Financial support for this work is 2 mill Swedish kr. per year.

#### Finland:

Altogether **7000 experiments** have been registered in Finland and approximately 6000 are still classified with a future value, as active.

Antti has worked with this in a 10 years period. The institutions responsible for the experiments have to give in basic documentation to a common database. This database is so far just available for the Finish Forest Research Institute.

A classification of the experiments according to status has been done: A-active experiments, B-resting experiments, C-closed (cut) experiments.

Denmark:

Jens Peter is responsible for this work in Denmark and **457 experiments** are today classified as long term (more than 5 years investigation period) by FSL (Forskningscentret for Skov & Landskab). In addition some experiments are under the charge of The Arboretum (Hørsholm) and the Agricultural and Veterinary University in Copenhagen.

There is an advisory board at the institution that shall approve the establishment of new long term experiments.

Old experiments are often small, one or a few plots, while new experiments have a sound statistical design and are much larger. Some new experiments within the topic of nature-like forestry are between 8 to 30 ha.

Financial support is 3 mill. Danish kr. each year, including reports from the experiments.

The data is organised in a Paradox database.

Iceland:

Gudmundur presented a list of **58 experiments** that could be classified as long term experiments in Iceland, classified either as provenance or as fertilisation (start fertilisation) experiments. Question was raised about culture experiments, if some of those later on would be long lasting experiments with other goals than the original.

It is also established 4 seed orchards in Iceland who also are the responsibility of the forest research station.

Norway:

The responsibility of the long term experiments at NISK is from 1996 centralised into one project, financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and with a budget of 1.6 mill. Norwegian kr. each year. Four persons are involved in this work at NISK.

On Internet (<http://www.nisk.no>) a list is available showing the existing experiments. Approximately 1000 experiments is present, but a large number of the genetic experiments are under evaluation and will be closed. Other experiments count appr. **660**. In addition the Forestry faculty of the Agricultural University has a restricted number of experiments.

A classification in three groups have been done for most of the experiments; A-high future value, B, lower value but with infrequent measurements, C, "sleeping" experiments where only the plot marks (boundaries) should be maintained.

Primary data is organised in SAS databases.

## **Discussion**

The presentation and the following discussion showed that there are striking similarities in organising the work with the long-term experiments in most of the Nordic countries.

The classification of experiments differs a little bit between countries, but this is mainly a question of definition or on which level one makes the classification. Denmark includes 5 year

old experiments (as Christmas tree experiments) while 10-20 year time horizon is used as minimum in Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Different aspect of a possible common database for the Nordic countries was discussed, as common classification, juridical restrictions (owners name, exact positions etc.), one central base or just links between the different country bases.

It seemed rather obvious that a first level of experimental documentation on a Nordic base should be possible to achieve without too large difficulties (however, not without some work). Jan-Erik clarified during the meeting that it was this first level of communication that SNS was searching for. Further harmonisation seems at present rather difficult (different methods for measuring, computing, different EDB programs, ownership to the data and so forth). The use of the results (or primary data) must anyhow be done as part of co-operating projects with responsible institutions and researchers involved (e.g. as co-authors).

**It was decided that Fredrika should work out a preliminary note on the point 1 and 3 in the task given by SNS and that Petter should make the same for task 2. The notes should be send to all participant in the group before the next meeting.**

Feedback on the notes should be given before next meeting and we will discuss this on the meeting. The plan for a continuing co-operation and financial support should also be discussed on this meeting.

#### **Next meeting**

**Next meeting will be held in Copenhagen Friday, Sep 24 from 10.00 a.m. Jens Peter will organise this meeting at SFL.**

Petter Nilsen  
25/8-99