

# Bio's Steering Group

## Nat Page



Nat Page studied Zoology at Oxford University. He worked 14 years in a UK diplomat, in various overseas postings including Romania, before studying agriculture (1994-5) and returning to his original farming and nature conservation interests. Since 1996 he has been owner and manager of a 65 hectare livestock farm in the west of England. In 2003 he helped to establish Fundația ADEPT Transilvania, dedicated to protecting Romania's High Nature Value farmed landscapes, and supporting the survival of the small-scale farming communities that created them and live within them. He is also involved in agriculture policy development and advocacy at national and EU level. He sees

territorial cooperation as having important potential use in improving the viability of the small-scale farming landscapes typical of Eastern and Southern Europe.

E-mail: [npage@copac.org.uk](mailto:npage@copac.org.uk)

## Sven Defrijn

Sven Defrijn graduated in 2005 as a Bio-engineer in Land Management at the University of Leuven (KULeuven). After doing research projects on land management, sustainable agriculture and innovation at the KULeuven and the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research Institute (ILVO), he began working in 2008 at the Farmers Union Boerenbond on the project Eco<sup>2</sup>. He was one of the architects of collective agro-environmental approaches in Flanders and was there from the outset of the first agro-environmental cooperations (AEC's): local farmer groups working on landscape, nature or water management.



Today some 25 AEC's are active in Flanders (number increasing each year). After completion of the project in 2012, the agrobeheercentrum (ABC) Eco<sup>2</sup> was established both as and a centre of excellence on (collective) agro-environmental management and as an umbrella organization of AEC's in Flanders, supporting the development of existing and new AEC's. At ABC Eco<sup>2</sup>, he now coaches a team of regional consultants on developing projects with (groups of) farmers in the field of landscape management, water management, biodiversity, renewable energy, climate change,....

E-mail: [sven.defrijn@agrobeheercentrum.be](mailto:sven.defrijn@agrobeheercentrum.be)

## Henk Smith

Henk Smith's farms is in the north of the Netherlands where he mainly grows winter wheat and some sugar beet, Agricultural nature conservation is also a part of his way of farming. After completing his study in Plant Science in Dronten, he worked at his farm and as an agricultural financial consultant until 2011. Off farm he is now an active board member of the Groningen



Association for Agricultural Nature Conservation, where he was involved in a pilot program for collective, territorial biodiversity management in relation to the new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

His Nuffield Scholarship (study topic 2011 “Marketing biodiversity in the new Common Agricultural Policy”) strengthened him in his understanding of the value of knowledge. Much can be achieved by connecting international knowhow to local problems. Farmer to farmer communication brings simple answers to complex issues. Therefore he is currently involved in a pilot in the Dutch ‘Veenkoloniën’ area, an area known for its many starch potato growers and heavily depending on CAP-subsidies. With foreign (also Nuffield) farmers he focuses on a brighter future without subsidies through enhancing biodiversity.

E-mail: [henk\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:henk_smith@hotmail.com)

### **John Brennan**

John has a 30 ha mixed organic livestock farm in Ballyleague, County Roscommon, Ireland. He keeps cattle (some rare breeds) and sheep supplying directly and to supermarket contracts. He also own 15 ha of forestry.

He completed Agriculture College in 198. At a later age he went on to complete an MSc Organic Farming 2009 at the Glasgow University Besides running his farm, John is also manager of the Leitrim Organic Farmers Co-op.

He’s also director of the Tattie Hoaker Organic & Health Food Business, the Western Organic Network for Organic Training and Development and the National Organic Training Skillnet, the National Organic Training Programme.



E-mail: [johnb@leitrimorganic.com](mailto:johnb@leitrimorganic.com)

### **Pierre-Francois Vacquié**



Pierre-Francois is director of FNCUMA. FNCUMA is a French umbrella organisation of Farm Machinery Cooperatives. Its aim is to promote the collective investment and joint use of machinery, building, workers for farming activities. FNCUMA is composed of small autonomous cooperative groups that seek to improve productive conditions and increase farm productivity for its members. FNCUMA is now involved in the implementation of the GIEE’s, Economic Environmental Interest Groups, a new legal form to organise and implement agro-ecological practices under a new French Law.

E-mail: [pierre-francois.vaquie@cuma.fr](mailto:pierre-francois.vaquie@cuma.fr)