

Project: Förnyelse av digital lärobok Växtskyddets Grunder
(Renewal of the digital textbook Basics of Plant Protection)

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Report by Paul Becher (editor)

The aim of the project: The main goal of this *Best Practice* project was to develop a new edition of the text book “Växtskyddets Grunder” (Basics of Plant Protection) which became an essential teaching material for the education in plant protection within different programs at SLU.

The project was strategically important to ensure access to appropriate and up-to-date literature through a necessary revision of the existing, first edition of the book. The first edition of the book was published in 2014 and certain information (e.g. regulations, taxonomy) has changed since then. For the process of renewing the book, a main aim was to reflect about the content and need of the education in plant protection, and how this has changed over the last ten years. In connection to that, we wanted to add two new chapters on relevant aspects of plant protection, that had been missing in the first edition.

The process of the project: Challenging for revising and updating the book was that ten out of the 15 original authors either were retired or for other reasons no longer associated with SLU. The editors of the 2014 edition and the authors of all original chapters were contacted and asked about their opinion on updating the original text and, if relevant, approving co-authorship to new authors. With agreement on the update, the revision and writing process started. SLU library was contacted and provided advice with respect to publishing and copyright. An external graphic designer and layouter involved in the first edition of the book was engaged in the production. Based on discussion between teachers involved in the plant protection education, the decision was taken to write a new chapter on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and a chapter on weed control. Authors for those chapters were identified and committed to write those contributions. Recognizing that the available funds were not sufficient to cover costs and to compensate for a major part of time investments, a grant application for support of publishing costs was filed to The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA). Overall, the process was very much dependent on voluntary time investment of authors and other people involved in the update. Accordingly, the project demanded a fair level of flexibility with respect to the time for finalizing the project. The time investment and help of everyone involved in the new edition is highly acknowledged.

Conclusion and summary:

- A new edition of the book is in preparation and on the way of being published. The new version of the book is expected to be available to students for the autumn semester this year. The 16 chapters of the first edition of the book went through a careful revision process by editors, original authors, and/or new co-authors.

- Two new chapters, on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and on weed control, respectively, are added to the new edition.
- Through renewing of teaching material, the project met one of the main aims of the *Best Practice* initiative i.e. to develop the quality as well as the content and pedagogics in teaching at bachelor's and master's level.
- Ten new authors or co-authors respectively were recruited for revision or writing of chapters. After several of the original authors had retired or were for other reasons no longer available, the new authors also reflect a network of new experts and teachers in the field of plant protection, in majority involved in the current SLU education.
- Related to the previous point, the new team of authors involves experts from two SLU faculties, and from outside SLU. This includes authors from two LTV departments and the faculty office, four different departments at the NJ faculty as well as authors from the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket), the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), The National Organization of Recreational Cultivation (FOR) and the Rural Economy and Agricultural Society (Hushållningssällskapet).
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