

Preface

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure welcoming all of you to the 12th International Working Conference for Stored Product Protection on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Government. I am glad that Germany has the opportunity to host this important event for the first time. Facing challenges as the ever increasing world population, climate change and unrest in many places of the world, securing sufficient food supply is a crucial task in order to ensure food security.

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that approximately one third of the harvest gets lost before consumption. This is by far too much, and improvements are direly needed. Concerted research efforts and international cooperation are needed to find solutions in all fields of stored product protection from better conditions for on-farm storage to save and degradable food packaging. Therefore the purpose of the conference is to exchange new findings and ideas in order to improve stored product protection.

Sustainable intensification of crop production and improved stored product protection are two key approaches to improve the productivity of our agriculture. Both lead to better food supply and better protection of natural resources like bio-diversity, water, air and fertile soils. By contrast food losses are wasting resources and they are unethical. The broad and comprehensive range of topics at the conference underlines the diversity of challenges we are facing. We urgently need the exchange of thoughts and ideas amongst researchers, administration, civil society and entrepreneurs. I am convinced that the German Capital Berlin offers an excellent platform for your deliberations.

More than 60 nationalities take part in this conference. Thus, you resemble a large portion of this world's population and certainly take home some incitements for your important work and contacts for future collaboration. This conference could be realized because of the support and sponsorship of many organizations. Thank you very much to all of them. My special gratitude addresses the FAO and the WFP as well as the BMZ and the GIZ, who were strongly committed to this event. Last but not least I'd like to thank the President of Julius-Kühn-Institute and his staff for organizing the 12th IWCSPP in an excellent manner.



Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Germany