

## Greetings from the President



Dear Young Scientists,

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Young Scientists Meeting! Another busy productive year of experiments and research has passed, and again it is time to share your new findings with your fellow scientists. Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Julius Kühn-Institut makes 2018 a special year. Even more so we are happy and proud that the young scientific community at our institute is vibrant and passionately advancing today's agricultural research questions and discoveries.

The fascination and enthusiasm that has inspired research on cultivated plants since the founding of our predecessor institution 120 years ago is mirrored in the skyrocketing number of registrations for this year's YSM. Almost 90 attendees are expected to make their way to the meeting and use this opportunity to network, to exchange research results and thoughts with their peers, to get inspired and to develop new concepts and ideas. For the first time, the meeting also welcomes attendees from external institutions (universities, botanical institutes, institutes for technology and Leibnitz institutes) who are collaborating with the JKI.

This year's meeting will be held in Braunschweig, where seven of the 17 specialized institutes of the Julius Kühn-Institut are based. Among them they house around 400 staff members including three new young heads of institute (BS, GF and EP) who were appointed over the last two years. In Braunschweig, the JKI shares its premises with several other federal institutions as well as important other research institutions, for example the BVL (Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety), the TI (Thünen Institute), the FLI (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute), the PTB (National Metrology Institute), the HZI (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research) or the TU Braunschweig (Technical University). Thus, Braunschweig may be seen as a hub for agricultural research and legislation.

These days, scientists face multiple challenges. One of the major issues will be addressed by our keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Joachim Schiemann: communicating research results to both the general public and other scientists. Prof. Schiemann, the former head of the Institute of Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology at the JKI, will talk about quality standards for scientific publications and how to overcome "fake science".

We continue the tradition of offering a soft skill seminar as an opener to the scientific meeting. This time it will focus on your future professional life, in particular on self-presenting yourselves during job-interviews and talks.

While talks, workshops and scientific exchange are at the forefront of the meeting, the social and networking aspects are no less important. You can look forward to a get-together featuring a BBQ and a biodiversity gaming night (prices included!) on the first evening as well as a dinner at the Parliament on the second night.

I wish all of you a successful and enjoyable meeting both scientifically and socially. Although I will retire by the end of this year, I will continue keeping an eye out for any prospective meetings and wishing you productive and inspirational discussions now and in the future.

Braunschweig, November 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Backhaus', written over a faint blue line.

Dr. Georg F. Backhaus, President of the JKI

Foto: Robert Zech