

Meeting 2025 of the Scientific-Technical Commission (STC) of the International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) in Spalt



STC chairman and conference organizer Dr. Florian Weihrauch during the opening of the meeting on 30 June 2025

Every second year, hop scientists from around the world gather in a hop-growing region for a meeting lasting several days to exchange knowledge and experiences, and strengthen mutual cooperation. This time, the Scientific-Technical Commission (STC) of the International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) visited the traditional Franconian hop-growing region of Spalt, where 76 scientists from 15 nations gathered from 29 June to 4 July 2025 in the Strandhotel Seehof in Langlau on Lake Brombach, which provided the perfect conditions as a conference venue under the one roof. Once again, the number of participants was exceptional, with 76 researchers from 15 hop-growing nations, from the USA to Japan and from Argentina to Slovenia, meeting in Spalt. The scientific program was put together and the entire event coordinated by LfL scientist Dr. Florian Weihrauch as STC chairman. Dr. Frank Braun and Sandra Pogue from HVG Spalt were responsible for the excellent organization on site.

A total of 33 presentations were given in eleven sessions, covering the entire spectrum of hop research, from breeding to brewing. In addition, 15 posters were presented, including a brief oral presentation. All conference contributions are documented in the Proceedings on 141 pages, which each participant received as a booklet. The proceedings are also available online in electronic form here. A half-day excursion first took participants to the small hop town of Spalt and then to the Eckert organic farm in Hersbruck, where the field day ended with a homelike barbecue evening.



Seventy-six attendees from 15 hop growing countries followed the 33 oral presentations with great interest.



Impression towards the end of the official conference dinner. In the background, with a full white beard, is the local organizer, Dr Frank Braun.

With five STC conferences as chief organizer done and nearly a decade in office (2017-2025), Dr Florian Weihrauch stepped down as chair of the STC at the business meeting on 2 July 2025, due to his retirement in 2026. On his recommendation, Silvana Laupheimer (DHWV, German Hop Industry Association) was unanimously elected as the new chair of the STC.



Group picture of all participants of the STC 2025 meeting.



Dr. Florian Weihrauch and Silvana Laupheimer award the Order of the Hops in the rank of a knight to Dr Javier J. Cancela



Dr. Florian Weihrauch and Silvana Laupheimer award the Order of the Hops in the rank of a knight to Dr. Josef Patzak