

Vienna, June 19, 2023

## **World Soybean Research Conference 11 - statement**

For the first time ever, the World Soybean Research Conference will be held in Europe. This and the huge public interest (with over 700 conference participants) are demonstrating that the soybean plant is highly relevant for Europe. And at this moment, the soybean is in the center of public attention:

- Soybean is the most important protein and oilseed crop of the world utilized for livestock feeding, human food production, and various non-food products.
- At the same time, the massive expansion of soybean production was partly associated with increased greenhouse gas emission, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity.
- Man-made climate change is becoming clearly visible and is negatively affecting food security, while disruptions of global supply chains contribute to economic instability.

Therefore, the timely motto of the WSRC 11 is “*Soybean research for sustainable development*”. Leading scientists coming from all major soybean producing countries will present over 500 scientific contributions. And research and scientific collaboration are urgently necessary to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and to minimize the impact of soybean on the environment towards a fully sustainable soybean production in the near future. This includes a reduction of production inputs through improvement of agronomic and genetic efficiency, new pathways in livestock feed uses, and finally an enhanced direct utilization of soybeans in human foods. Various approaches to increased sustainability will be presented, including a better use of genetic resources, data-driven agro-technology, progress in weed and disease management, soybean for organic farming, new developments in feed and soy-food uses etc. All these topics will be addressed in over 30 scientific sessions, plenaries, workshops and poster exhibitions. So, 150 years after the Vienna World Expo, the soybean community is back in Vienna to find the urgent answers on how to meet the challenges ahead of us!

Dr. Johann Vollmann  
Chair, International Scientific Committee of WSRC 11