

Better online than just locked down



Dear Sir/Madam,

Last year, unfortunately, many face-to-face events had to be cancelled once again. For example, our student competitions.

The Helmut Claas scholarship award ceremony, however, was able to go ahead on a small scale, with the four award winners in the Greenhouse in Harsewinkel. Modern technology meant that the guests, who would otherwise have celebrated with us in person, were at least able to follow the award ceremony online in real time.

We were especially pleased to welcome Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser, who presented the prizes to the winners in person for the first time – just as her father had done many years before.

She took over the chair of the Board of Trustees a year ago, with the aim of giving the CLAAS Foundation significant support in the future and shaping its goals. This includes, for example, bringing agriculture to life and making it tangible, even as early as in the school classroom.

Identifying and promoting young talent will continue to shape our actions. After all, in an increasingly complex world, people are needed who can find answers to the questions of the future.

With warmest regards



Sylvia Looks

Frank Klüsener

CLAAS Foundation Executive Board



Sylvia Looks, Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser and Frank Klüsener shared in the joy of the Helmut Claas Scholarship winners.

2021 awards ceremony

€30,000 worth of prizes awarded

The CLAAS Foundation awarded its scholarships, bonus prizes and international student prizes to 15 up-and-coming talents in agricultural engineering in October 2021. Instead of holding an event on site in Harsewinkel, the awards were once again presented online – however, this time the four Helmut Claas scholarship holders had the opportunity to present their projects live from the Greenhouse. In total, the prize-winners from Germany, Hungary, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Russia, Romania, Slovakia and Poland received more than €30,000 in prize money from the Foundation. The scholarships and other prizes were presented by Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser. She has been Chair of the Board of Trustees since last year thereby continuing the family tradition.

Sylvia Looks, CLAAS Foundation Executive Board, was nonetheless visibly pleased that the prize-winners were once again able to attend the award ceremony in person: "These students really have done such great work within their academic fields – work with real added value for agriculture and agricultural technology. It is so lovely to meet them and once again present their prizes to them face to face."

The scholarships which formed the main prizes were awarded to the following winners:

1st prize: Julius Willmaring from Osnabrück University took first place with his work on topology optimisation and economic and functional potential analysis for the use of 3D printing in the production of agricultural machinery. This means that he will receive €7,200 in financial support.

2nd prize: Fynn Lammers won second prize, worth over €6,000. His thesis examined new methods of chemical crop protection by means of injection techniques. He too is a graduate of Osnabrück University.

3rd prize: Marcell Szalai, a student of Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Hungary), succeeded in securing third place, thereby receiving €4,800 in prize money. He carried out a scientific examination of the design of power harrows.

4th prize: Markus Stauder from the University of Hohenheim took fourth place with his paper on the challenges presented by mixed cultivation, with particular consideration given to different sowing methods. He received €3,600 in prize money.

An interview with Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser
"It is a privilege to be able to support young talents".

During the award ceremony in October 2021, Frank Klüsener had the opportunity to introduce Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Frank Klüsener: People know you as Chair of the Supervisory Board and the Shareholders' Committee of the CLAAS Group and now, as the successor to your father, you are also Chair of the Board of Trustees of the CLAAS Foundation. Could you briefly introduce yourself to our award winners and guests?

C. Claas-Mühlhäuser: I am not quite as well known as my father was. I am 46 years old. I was born here in Harsewinkel and grew up next to the site. I went to school here and completed an apprenticeship as an industrial clerk before heading off to university in Switzerland. I studied finance and capital markets at the University of St. Gallen. Afterwards, I worked for a few years at ABB, a company manufacturing electrical and automation equipment. I am also married and have three children.

Frank Klüsener: I have heard rumours and am wondering if it is really true that one of your first words as a child was "combine harvester"?

C. Claas-Mühlhäuser: "Combine harvester" is a very complicated word and my children couldn't pronounce it when they were very small, and neither could I. However, I had a strong attachment to agriculture, the product and the business from an early age. One must remember that ours is a seasonal business; the products pile up a little before the harvest and are then delivered to the customers. This gave me the opportunity to climb on all the combine harvesters with my friends, which was a great treat.

Frank Klüsener: The CLAAS Foundation Board of Trustees, now headed up by you, is made up of experts from agriculture and agricultural engineering. What significance does the CLAAS Foundation have for you from a company perspective?



Julius Willmaring won 1st prize in the Helmut Claas Scholarship – Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser extended her congratulations.



In conversation: while cows graze in the background, Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser and Frank Klüsener discuss personal matters and their thoughts on promoting up-and-coming talent.

C. Claas-Mühlhäuser: The CLAAS Foundation was always Helmut Claas' baby; he always wanted to support up-and-coming talent. This is why the mission is very emotional for me. He passed away in January 2021 and this award event, the ceremony and meeting everyone here, was always important to him. That being said, it is also a privilege to be able to support emerging talent and encourage interest in agriculture and technology.

Frank Klüsener: Which CLAAS Foundation topics are most important to you or where do you wish to focus?

C. Claas-Mühlhäuser: 20 years ago, agriculture still had this negative image of being old-fashioned. I believe that this image has long since disappeared, with the emphasis today on sustainability, which gives agriculture a meaning and makes it attractive – but we need to tell people about it.

We also have to increase interest in engineering and technology or other STEM subjects. We are talking about climate issues, we are talking about agricultural routines and we need other solutions – creative solutions. In the absence of up-and-coming talent, we are helpless, so we need to support students. But it begins much earlier, at school. The population in cities is on the rise, so fewer and fewer people are coming into contact with the world of agriculture and farming. This means that we have to get young people involved and give them hands-on experience.

Frank Klüsener: The Helmut Claas Scholarships are the centrepiece, the main award given by the CLAAS Foundation. What qualities and skills do students have to bring with them?

C. Claas-Mühlhäuser: We do, of course, primarily focus on the bachelor's thesis or projects that our independent jury evaluates. Yet we like to look at the person as a whole; we want to see extracurricular activities and a natural passion for agriculture. This is how we know that they share our values and that they are more than scientific experts.

International project with students

Cooperation between Hohenheim and LaSalle

The Chair of Agricultural Engineering and New Technologies at the University of LaSalle in Beauvais, France, and the Department of Agricultural Engineering Fundamentals at the University of Hohenheim are now collaborating together. They have been jointly running a cooperation project for student exchange and for cross-border cooperation between students on agricultural engineering topics since the 2020/21 winter semester, thanks to the support of the CLAAS Foundation.

As part of this project, three to five students from the Agricultural Engineering department of the Master's degree programme in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim, together with students from the French university, work independently on an agricultural engineering topic. In addition to the intensive technical cooperation, networking in the agricultural engineering sector and gaining international experience are also central to the students' work.

In terms of content, the students work on matters such as the protection of users of agricultural machinery or the use of drones in agricultural practice.



A meeting at the University of Hohenheim was able to take place at the beginning of January despite the restrictions. It further intensified the cooperation and also contributed to the students' personal development.

Achievements in the work of the association and in the foundation sector

Dr Hermann Garbers awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit



Dr Hermann Garbers was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by District Commissioner Rainer Rempe in Marxen near Hamburg on his 70th birthday. The Cross of the Order of Merit was granted by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in recognition of the decades of voluntary work by Dr Garbers in the trade association and foundation sectors.

Dr Garbers continues to be involved in the CLAAS Foundation as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, which seeks to inspire young people about modern agricultural technologies and related disciplines. He was instrumental in setting up the CLAAS Foundation in 1999 and was strongly committed to promoting STEM subjects in schools.

"He has been a valuable, trend-setting advisor to the Foundation from the very beginning," says Sylvia Looks (Executive Board of the CLAAS Foundation). With a doctorate in mechanical engineering (University of Braunschweig), he was quick to build up a network within the industry and the university and trade association milieu.

Dr Hermann Garbers (right) was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by District Commissioner Rainer Rempe.

Programmable robots and mini-tractors

Plans underway for upcoming school competitions

The CLAAS Foundation is taking a positive view of the future and is planning live events with schools for the coming summer. The Foundation has already equipped eight schools in the Warendorf district with "mbots" from Makeblock. The robots can be programmed by the pupils and can perform various tasks, such as following a predefined obstacle course.

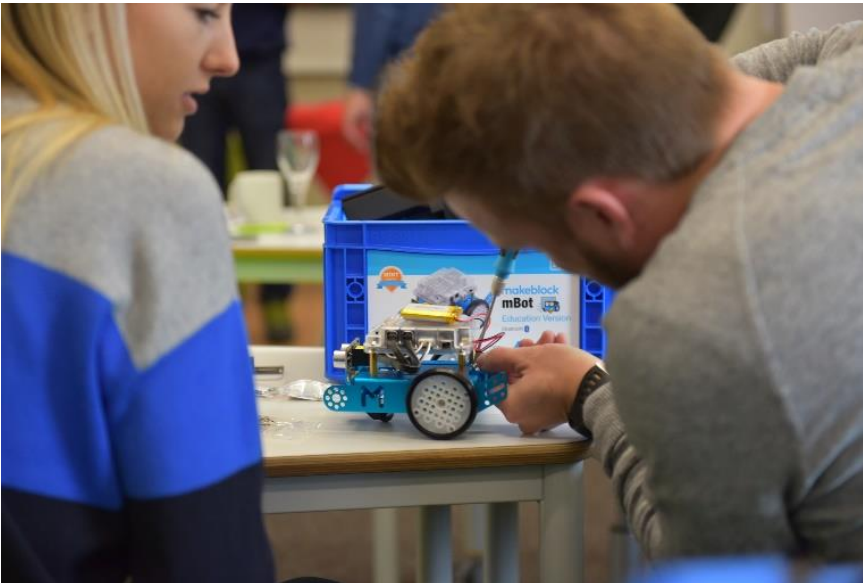
The teachers were first invited to a workshop in Harsewinkel last November so that they could familiarise themselves with the mbots and their functionalities. The CLAAS Greenhouse Team is now responsible for providing further support to the teachers and organising the "AgTech Competition". This event takes place in the Greenhouse, where each school participates with a maximum of two teams made up of two students.

+++ News in brief +++

+++ Prof. Dr. agr. habil. Sandra Rose, teaches agricultural engineering at Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences. She has been augmenting the German jury of the CLAAS Foundation as successor to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Büscher since January 2022.



+++ Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser has chaired the Board of Trustees since March 2021. In this, she follows in the footsteps of her father Helmut Claas, who passed away at the beginning of 2021.



How does the mbot work? Teachers found out at a training session at CLAAS in Harsewinkel.

The "Hands-on: Technology" competition is also entering its next round. Students of the 7th/8th grades will experience tractor technology in the classroom by means of the TRONICO metal construction kits. The TRONICO RC series has been specially designed for children and young model builders alike and is based on a ready-made plastic chassis. The radio-controlled model of a tractor is then assembled by the students in small groups and thoroughly tested and operated. The contest scheduled for June consists of several categories, such as a slalom run or agility course.



Students demonstrate their skills at obstacle course driving in the "Hands-on: Technology" competitions.



Fixing screws against the clock: in addition to driving skills, technical and manual skills are also in demand.

+++ Thomas Böck has been a member of the Board of Trustees since April 2021. In addition to his responsibilities as Chairman of the CLAAS Executive Board, he is also actively committed to the goals of the CLAAS Foundation.

