

Report from the Technical Commission meeting of IHGC Congress

The session of Technical Commission was held during this years hop congress in the city of Yakima in the center of largest hop growing area in the USA. A booklet with compiled lectures was published as a source for lectures and will be also available on the web-sites of IHGC.

- First lecture in our program was devoted to the quality of hops. Mr. Johan Portner from Wolzach presented this topic. The summery was, that brewing industry has various quality standards for hops. Most important are bitter and aroma compounds as well as polyphenols. Additionally, nitrate content and/or pesticide residues can be a decisive factor in the purchase of hops. If hops are harvested too early or too late or drying and conditioning are not done correctly, the quality of the hops will be affected negatively. In this presentation, the Bavarian Hop Research Centre and Advisory Service identifies the decisive factors on hop quality and gives guidelines for hop production in order to continually enhance the quality of hops for breweries.
- Second paper was devoted also to the quality, especially on hit of last years – ecological production and was presented by Dušica Majer and Majda Virant from Slovenia. The summery was. That in the last decade a lot of attention of Slovene hop-growers is focused on ecologically balanced production of hop and on the restoration of the system of hazard analysis and critical control points. One of the most important component of finding the critical control points for beer is also the control of plant nutrition and investigating the reflect of different nutrition levels in the quality of beer as the final product. The contents of nitrates in hop cones can be very different considering different quantities of added nitrogen fertilizer and the result is bigger or smaller content of nitrates in beer.
- The next paper, presented by Mr. Krofta from Czech Republic was devoted to changes in antioxidant properties of hops in the sense of drying, pelletizing and storage. This problem is discussed of recent years and according to my opinion is it a good argument for support for increasing of beer consummation.
- The last paper was presented by Mr. Roy: Evaluation of commercial hop varieties under low trellis.

Outsider of this year program of Technical Commission is there an agreement between the Technical and Scientific Commission of the IHGC about mutual information policy and this is already working. The Scientific Commission focuses more and more on scientific ways which will enable new directions mostly in breeding (eg. genetic engineering) and maintains high scientific standard, on the other hand Technical Commission tries to transform these results in accessible form to growers and hop processors that is to the end users of these findings. This is the reason why the chairman of the Technical Commission participates at the meetings of Scientific Commission. It is not always possible to secure the presentations according to original intentions. For example it is not yet possible to publish the work results of Mr. Hyser about the self-combustion of hops. We also had in plan a presentation about the hop growing industry in New Zealand while not all the participants of this congress had a chance to see this industry themselves. Unfortunately due to work obligation and also fault in communication it was not possible to arrange this presentation in time for the congress. This is also the reason why Mr. Krofta's presentation is included.

Jaroslav Urban, TC chairman