

Conference Report

The 2025 Meet & Greet Event with Alfred Werner Scholars at the Syngenta Stein Crop Protection Research & Development Center

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For the second time since 2017, Syngenta invited the Alfred Werner Scholars for the annual *Meet & Greet* event to its Research and Development Center in Stein (AG). As in previous years, the young visitors were invited to present themselves ‘Greet’ and interact with the host representatives ‘Meet’ during this one-day event. The Meet & Greet Program, introduced in 2016, was established to connect the scholars with the companies that support the program.

So far, eighty-eight scholars have been granted a stipend for their master’s studies at a Swiss university, about two thirds of them continuing their studies in Switzerland. Meanwhile there is a body of excellent students interested in looking for opportunities to work in the industry. This makes the young guests even more attractive and gives the event greater significance. In fact, there is an increasing number of scholars who are now employed by program supporting companies or who have had the opportunity to do an internship.

The group of twenty scholars enjoyed a truly exciting day with lab visits, presentations by the hosts, and personal testimonials from professionals in various roles across the department. They were also introduced to a field of chemistry that is becoming increasingly important in addressing the food demands of a growing global population and the challenges posed by climate change.

For two of us (D. O. and P. T. D.), this visit held special significance, as we both completed six-month internships in Stein. It was therefore a pleasure to be greeted by familiar faces of former supervisors and colleagues, while meeting many of our peers for the first time. While we were familiar with Syngenta’s daily operations, the visit was a great opportunity to

take a step back and discuss current trends and challenges in the agrochemical industry.

For example, we learned that Syngenta is very proactive in adopting and developing enabling technologies across their operations, such as high-throughput experimentation and synthetic electrochemistry. Gratifyingly, we were also able to see cutting-edge equipment firsthand during our site tour. Moreover, we had highly valuable exchanges on leadership and learned about the diverse career paths open to chemistry and chemical engineering graduates at Syngenta. Consequently, we left with renewed motivation and inspiration for our current academic research and future aspirations.

For Syngenta, the visit provided an excellent opportunity to engage with distinguished international scholars, and learn about their stories, motivations, and aspirations. Through presentations and informal discussions, the scholars gained a clearer view of Syngenta’s mission, scientific focus, and collaborative culture. The exchange highlighted shared values around innovation, sustainability, and cross-disciplinary teamwork. Overall, the event successfully fostered meaningful connections and mutual inspiration between the scholars and Syngenta’s teams.

At the end of the day, the students expressed a strong appreciation for the experience and felt motivated to take the next step in their professional paths. The discussions with Syngenta hosts during the Meet & Greet event helped connect emerging scientific talent with an attractive employer, showcasing the wide range of career opportunities within the company.



Fig. 2. The companies supporting the Alfred Werner Excellence Scholarship Program.

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Fig. 1. The Syngenta hosts and their Alfred Werner Scholar visitors.