

Member of the National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB),

What a great last 2 months with the Annual Meeting happening in July in St. Louis, MO hosted by Bayer and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This was our largest Annual Meeting with 417 attendees. Our post conference survey had a 46% response rate with an impressive 92% of you rated the conference experience as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’. Another big thank you to the organizing committee that made this year’s meeting a great success!

I hope you all are looking forward to the 2025 Annual NAPB meeting hosted by the University of Hawaii on May 18-22, 2025 in the beautiful Big Island Kona, Hawaii. We look forward to see you all!

As we look into the next 12 months my personal commitments as NAPB President, as shared at the St. Louis meeting, are:

- Understand the DEI focus for us as NAPB,
- Continue to activate the Strategic Plan through our work and committees,
- Create a stronger Global Plant Breeding community and network,
- Grow students into young professionals as a strong organization foundation, and
- Be a stronger voice on advocacy for industry topics.

If you are interested to join me in a working group to see what we as a organization like to do in the next few years around DEI please send me an email (president@plantbreeding.org) I love to get you involved!

We also like to express our gratitude to our 2023-24 NAPB President, Thomas Lübberstedt, for his leadership and continues support as past-president this coming year.

As we prepare for the year ahead and our Annual Meeting just want to share our NAPB Code of Conduct as a reminder to all of us that we like to ensure a professional experience for all members where we can learn and have fun together.

(<https://napb.web.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NAPB-2024-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>)

Hope to see you all in Hawaii!

J.D. Rossouw
NAPB President