

Global panel of experts discusses current issues

Club of Bologna – Forum of Agricultural Engineers

Inspired by the idea of the legendary Club of Rome, in which experts from various disciplines work to create a sustainable future for mankind, the Club of Bologna (CoB) was founded in 1988 to focus specifically on the topic of agricultural engineering. CLAAS is also represented on this forum: The theses by Dr.-Ing. Christian Birkmann (2020), who works for CLAAS in CEMOS for Tractors, and Dr.-Ing. Marco Ramm (2016), who develops tractor drivelines with his team, were both awarded the CoB Pellizzi Prize. The prize is conferred on PhD students whose work has made an important contribution to agricultural machinery. Pellizzi Prize laureates receive a five-year associate membership in the CoB.

“Involvement with the CoB enables CLAAS to state its position on the most important topics of our time in the agricultural engineering segment, encourage ongoing development of agricultural machinery and benefit from an extensive scientific network with very close ties to agricultural engineering,” says Marco Ramm, who has since been nominated as a permanent CoB member. Christian Birkmann adds: “The CoB uses agricultural machinery as a means of stimulating global prosperity, especially in emerging markets.”

CoB topics therefore include global mechanisation within sustainable agriculture, the development and production of machinery and general aspects of agriculture, as well as education and training. For example, CoB members contributed to the “CIGR Handbook for Agricultural Engineering”, a 2900-page global manual of agricultural engineering with contributions from over 190 authors.



Representing CLAAS in the Club of Bologna: Christian Birkmann (on the left) and Marco Ramm.

Most members belong to the research and scientific communities, although some members come from the industrial sector and international associations (CIGR, FAO, CEMA, etc.). The two-day meetings are held alternately during the EIMA agricultural fair in Bologna and the Agritechnica in Hanover.

Around 100 agricultural engineering experts from 28 countries gather each year at the CoB.

