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63rd International DWV-Congress **Conserving resources and vine cultivation 4.0**

The "Digitisation in the process chain" is the focus of the 63rd International DWV-Congress, which the German Winegrowers' Association (DWV) is holding from the 4th to 6th of November 2018 in Stuttgart. This theme explores a number of aspects that are increasingly playing an important role in the wine sector. DWV Secretary General and leader of the congress committee Dr. Rudolf Nickenig spoke with two moderators, in whose sessions the topics of "conserving resources" as well as the future of vine breeding are referred to and discussed.

The session, moderated by Dr. Dominik Durner, Professor at the Weincampus Neustadt, is dedicated to the procedures and measures that can be used to precisely regulate, for example, the consumption of electricity or water by using digital measuring devices. According to Professor Durner, digitisation opens up entirely new opportunities for efficient, resource-effective and quality-oriented grape and wine production. "The digital lab delivers energy data to us with little effort and in real time, mapping out procedures and quality parameters," Professor Durner explains. "And knowledge of operating processes and products is undoubtedly important in order to successfully produce and sell wine in the future, too. Anyone who wants to hear the latest information and benefit from the experiences of others should absolutely register for this session!" recommends Professor Durner.

According to Professor Dr. Reinhard Töpfer, head of the Institute for Grapevine Breeding Geilweilerhof at the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) in Siebeldingen, the breeding of vines is an area that can also benefit greatly from digitisation. "Sensor-based data is objective," says Professor Töpfer, explaining that it needs to be field-tested under very variable conditions and therefore requires standardisation. "Image-based datasets provide retrospective possibilities for the evaluation of vines, whereby the characteristic expression of a seedling from image data can be traced over the last few years," says Professor Töpfer. "From the detailed characteristics recorded within the context of the breeding procedure applications can be derived for the winegrowing process. In the foreseeable future, the sensor-based estimation of yields will be possible and thus lighten the planning for the wine cellar."