

# Tropentag 2024

Final Student Reporters Report

*Explore opportunities...*

*For managing natural resources and a better life for all*

September 11 – 13, 2024



Hosted by  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

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## Summary

Tropentag is an annual interdisciplinary conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management, and rural development. The conference is jointly organized by the universities of Berlin, Bonn, Göttingen, Hohenheim, Kassel-Witzenhausen, ZALF e.V. (all Germany), Ghent University (Belgium), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna (Austria), and the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research (ATSAF e.V.) in co-operation with the GIZ Fund International Agricultural Research (FIA). Last year, the conference Tropentag 2024 was organized as a hybrid ‘green event’ by BOKU in cooperation with ATSAF.

We, the student reporters, were an international group of 12 students from various universities and disciplines. Before the beginning of the conference, we attended two in-person workshops. The first workshop was an introduction to journalism, taught by Michela Cannovale where we had a chance to experience personally the myriad roles a reporter has to master by carrying out a role game and giving each other practical feedback. The second workshop further gave us technical insights on journalism and was taught by Felix Schlüssler, Mara Wüst, and Kevin Thellman. There we learned valuable skills relevant to creating photos, videos, social media posts, and blogs. The camera and videography teams had the chance to get used to the equipment and the blog team made a first broad plan of coverage, compiling all events they wanted to write about.

In total, we published 15 blog articles that received 211 views and uploaded 6 videos on YouTube that reached 539 views as of 05 December 2024. Additionally, we posted 33 posts of which 6 reels on Instagram that reached a total of 10.939 views and 841 likes as of 5 December 2024, as well as 6 videos on TikTok with a total of 4948 views as of 5 December 2024.

The day after the end of the Tropentag conference, we attended a final workshop in which we received feedback on our work and information about potential careers in journalism. This workshop was given by Lukas Bayer and Roland Altenburger, who not only helped us evaluate our efforts professionally but also shared their personal struggles and experiences in the area of Austrian and German journalism.

In this report, you find an overview of our work and suggestions for future reference.

# Media Coverage

## Social Media

### Instagram

Creating Instagram Reels and photo posts for a scientific or technical conference offers a unique opportunity to communicate complex information in a visually compelling and engaging way. For Reels, the focus should be on concise storytelling, using a maximum of 60-second videos to break down key insights or summarize presentations in a relatable and digestible format. This could include a quick explanation of a research finding, a time-lapse of a live experiment, or a “highlight of the day” recap. Incorporating trending audio, smooth transitions, and captions ensures the content is aligned with Instagram’s algorithm and accessible to a broad audience. To make the Reels stand out, include behind-the-scenes glimpses, such as a researcher preparing for their talk or during coffee breaks, which add a human element to the scientific context.

For photo posts, high-quality, visually striking images are key to capturing attention while reflecting the professional nature of the event. These might include close-ups of scientific equipment, visually appealing posters or slides, and candid moments of speakers or attendees interacting. Adding engaging captions that summarize the significance of the image helps to provide context, such as explaining the key idea behind a poster or sharing a quote from a speaker.

By combining engaging visuals, thoughtful captions, and interactive elements, Instagram can effectively showcase the conference’s highlights and extend its reach to a wider audience.

We have shared a total of 33 posts on the @ATSAF\_ev Instagram channel, from which 6 were reels.

Number of Posts	Type	Content
1	Photo	Welcome and Student Reports
3	Photos	Various workshops attended
2	Photos	ATSAF Assembly
1	Reels	First Day of the Conference
1	Photos	Keynote Speeches
1	Reels	Welcoming Plenary
1	Photos	Conference Stalls
2	Photos	Random Conference Activities
14	Reels and Photos	Poster presentations

2	Reels and Photos	Art Gallery
1	Photos	Hans H. Ruttenberg Award for Graduates 2024
1	Reels	Conference Dinner
1	Photos	Student Reporters
1	Photos	Final Day of the Conference
1	Reels	One Word about Tropentag 2024
<b>Total: 33</b>		

## Facebook

Creating compelling Facebook posts for a scientific or technical conference allows you to reach a broad audience while keeping a professional tone. Facebook's adaptable format enables the effective communication of complicated information through a combination of graphics, extensive descriptions, and interactive elements.

Keep video posts succinct and focused, ideally under two minutes, and summarize significant ideas, notable presentations, or daily highlights. Examples may include a description of a revolutionary scientific discovery, excerpts from a keynote speech, or a behind-the-scenes look at conference preparations. Adding captions or subtitles to videos improves accessibility and engagement. Using Facebook's tagging and connecting tools, you may connect your audience to related scholars, organizations, and resources.

For photo posts, focus on high-quality photos that are both professional and visually attractive. Showcase moments such as:

- Researchers who share their findings during sessions.
- The presentation of conference posters or presentations.
- During breaks, candid images of the networking sessions.

Pair the photographs with well-written subtitles that contextualize them. Captions may emphasize the importance of a presentation, incorporate comments from speakers, or offer significant points from an interactive session. Make sure the captions are entertaining and informative, making them appropriate for both a scientific readership and the general public.

By combining engaging graphics, clear and useful content, and interactive features, Facebook postings may successfully capture the essence of the conference and reach a worldwide audience.

Post	Post Reach	Engagement
1	384	47
2	646	96
3	368	104
4	212	38
5	196	22
6	299	58
7	324	419
8	88	22
9	280	31
10	111	6
11	303	47
12	268	75
13	499	160
14	245	220
15	128	75
16	134	75
17	176	156
18	178	131
19	132	96
20	906	297
<b>Total</b>	<b>5877</b>	<b>2175</b>

## LinkedIn

Post	Impressions	Engagements	Reactions
1	939	85	30
2	1659	186	68
3	3288	4081	120
4	1171	283	34
5	1037	619	31
6	1141	1649	32
7	921	68	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>10156</b>	<b>6971</b>	<b>338</b>

## TikTok

Our team continued the work initiated by the previous team in utilizing TikTok as part of our social media strategy. Building on their efforts, we further optimized the account and refined the content strategy to align with current trends and audience behavior (e.g., describing the

conference in just ONE word). By leveraging the foundation they established, we maintained a consistent presence on TikTok and explored new ways to enhance engagement and visibility.

It was not challenging making the videos because the same content on Instagram has also been shared across our TikTok and Facebook channels to ensure consistent messaging and broader audience reach.

While Instagram Reels cater to a visually engaging audience within a curated social network, TikTok, on the other hand, thrives on organic reach through its algorithm, which has the unique capability to randomly boost posts and provide them with thousands of views, even from smaller accounts. Creating engaging TikTok Reels for a scientific or technical conference like Tropentag 2024 requires balancing technical depth with accessibility and creativity. One effective strategy is to highlight key insights from the event. Complex ideas and research findings can be simplified into short, digestible content that resonates with a wider audience.

Behind-the-scenes content is another powerful way to bring people closer to the event and engage viewers. This could include snippets of the conference setup, informal interactions among attendees, or networking moments that showcase the collaborative spirit of the conference. Such content helps to break the formality of a technical event and provides a glimpse of the personalities and energy behind the science. Our advice: Make them fun and exciting to watch!

On-the-spot interviews can further enhance engagement. Quick, snappy questions like “What’s one discovery you’re most excited about?” or “Describe the conference in one word!” can create dynamic content that feels personal and insightful. A consistent format for these interviews, perhaps tied to a TikTok trend, makes them easily recognizable and shareable.

Storytelling is a particularly effective technique on TikTok. A “Day-in-the-Life” video of a researcher or an attendee, or a narrative about the journey behind a groundbreaking discovery being discussed at the conference, can captivate audiences. Pairing this with visuals from the conference or archival footage helps to make the content feel cohesive and engaging.

Interactivity is key to maintaining audience interest. Using TikTok’s native features, such as polls or Q&A tools, or making fun captions by asking the audience can make your content more engaging.

To further increase reach, leveraging TikTok’s trending features is crucial. Using popular audio tracks or content helps content align with TikTok’s algorithm. Creative transitions and effects

can make videos visually appealing, while features like duets allow for reactions to other scientific TikToks, creating a dialogue with the broader TikTok community.

Another important aspect is promoting upcoming sessions or events through TikTok Reels. Teasers featuring highlights from previous sessions or a sneak peek into keynotes and workshops can build anticipation. Countdown videos or mini-trailers also create a sense of urgency and excitement for viewers to tune in or attend.

Finally, post-event reflections and fast-paced recaps can provide closure and a lasting impression. Summarizing the best moments, top quotes, or key discoveries from the conference in a highlight Reel can keep the conversation going even after the event concludes. Attendee testimonials sharing what they learned or enjoyed most further add authenticity and relatability to the content.

In total, we have 6 TikTok videos with a total number of 4948 plays.

<b>Content</b>	<b>Views</b>
1. First Day of the Conference	910
2. Welcoming Plenary	990
3. Poster Presentations	935
4. Art Gallery	879
5. Conference Dinner	977
6. Describe Tropentag 2024 with ONE word.	257
<b>Total</b>	<b>4948</b>



## Interviews and Video

The video team, consisting of three student reporters, was formed during the pre-conference workshop. The team took on the responsibility of filming, editing, and publishing videos covering conference events, as well as conducting interviews.

During the workshop, we received extensive training in conducting interviews, shooting professional-quality videos, and using DaVinci for video editing. These skills were put into practice throughout the conference as we documented events and interviewed keynote speakers and organizers. Tasks such as recording, editing, and publishing were divided among the team, but we frequently rotated responsibilities to ensure a well-rounded learning experience.

We published a total of 6 videos on YouTube. These included self-scripted introductory videos about the Tropentag student reporters and a post-conference recap video. Our videos averaged 3.5 minutes in length, excluding the coverage of the opening ceremony. The intro video featuring the student reporters garnered the highest views, followed by videos showcasing the film screening on Pastoralism and highlights from Tropentag 2024. During the conference, we conducted two interviews, one with Dr. Andreas Melcher and another with one of the keynote Speakers Dr. Lerato Thakoli.

In addition to the 6 longer videos, we also published 6 short reels in the YouTube Shorts section, each with a maximum duration of 60 seconds. The shorts included a sneak peek into the first day of the Tropentag 2024, a glimpse of the welcoming plenary, a look inside the art gallery at Tropentag 2024, a snippet of the poster presentation section, and a glimpse of the amazing dinner experience as well as, a short clip of participants mentioning one word to describe the Tropentag conference.

No.	Video	Plays	Likes
1.	Intro Video of the Tropentag 2024 Student Reporters	278	10
2.	Film Festival at the Tropentag 2024: Perspective on Pastoralism	73	1
3.	Interview with Andreas Melcher \ Tropentag 2024	37	3
4.	A Glimpse of Tropentag 2024 in Vienna, Austria	66	3
5.	Interesting Interview with Keynote Speaker - Dr. Lerato Thakoli // Tropentag 2024	51	3
6.	Welcome Addresses and Opening: Tropentag 2024	35	3

No.	Youtube Shorts	Plays	Likes
1.	Here's a sneak peek into the first day of the Tropentag2024	59	6
2.	A glimpse of the welcoming plenary of Tropentag2024	7	3
3.	A look inside the art gallery	24	3
4.	Connecting minds and fostering collaboration at the poster presentation session	17	3
5.	An unforgettable dinner filled with Schnitzel, wine, beer, and plenty of laughter	67	3
6.	Welcome Addresses and Opening: Tropentag 2024	35	3

### Benefits:

1. Learned technical and soft skills through pre-conference workshops.
2. Gained experience with tech and processes we hadn't used before.
3. Strengthened teamwork and taking turns managing tasks independently.
4. Developed creative problem-solving under time- and resource constraints.
5. Networking with experts, young researchers, and students from various fields.
6. Enhanced storytelling and video editing skills for a global audience.
7. Boosted confidence in public speaking and professional interactions.
8. Created a lasting portfolio showcasing our work and expertise.

### Challenges:

1. Handling complex equipment and video editing software was challenging.
2. Occasional lapses in team coordination led to missed event coverage.
3. Frequent disagreements on formatting and event selection slowed decision-making.
4. Videos received fewer views than expected, affecting motivation.
5. Longer video recordings were shaky and lacked steady framing.
6. Feedback highlighted issues with low sound quality and missing subtitles.
7. There was a lack of promotion of the videos on social media platforms.

**Recommendations:**

For future video teams covering the Tropentag conference, it's essential to start by focusing on the training session and practice using the equipment and editing software, as it can save you a lot of time and frustration later. Make sure to create a clear plan and divide responsibilities so everyone knows their role, which will help avoid coordination issues and ensure all key events are covered. Take time to agree on event selection and formatting early on to prevent disagreements mid-conference. Using the tripod or stabilizer will make a big difference in the quality of longer videos, and using the microphone will solve the sound issue. You can also use your smartphone to record and edit videos with user-friendly apps like Splice and iMovie, which can simplify the process. Don't forget to add subtitles—they not only make the videos more accessible but also more engaging for viewers.

Lastly, actively promote the videos on social media and through partnerships to reach a larger audience and get the recognition your hard work deserves.

## Photography

Our role in capturing the essence of the event through photography was both a rewarding and challenging experience. This report reflects on our journey, highlighting the challenges faced, lessons learned, and recommendations for future photography teams.

### Roles and Responsibilities

As a part of the photography team, our primary responsibility was to visually document the conference. This included capturing keynote speeches, workshops, poster sessions, networking events, and candid moments. The goal was to create a comprehensive visual narrative that would complement the written reports and social media coverage of the event. Coordination with other student reporters and the organizing team was crucial to ensure we covered all key moments effectively.

### Challenges Faced

1. **Time Management:** With a packed schedule of simultaneous sessions and events, prioritizing which moments to capture was a significant challenge. Balancing between planned shoots and spontaneous opportunities required quick decision-making. Establishing a centralized communication platform, such as a dedicated group chat, can streamline coordination and updates. This approach ensures everyone stays in touch and can adapt quickly to the dynamic schedule.
2. **Technical Constraints:** Adapting to varying lighting conditions, from dimly lit conference halls to bright outdoor spaces, tested our technical photography skills. Knowing which pictures belong to which event, ensuring batteries are charged, and handing in qualified pictures to the other teams added another layer of complexity.
3. **Communication:** Coordinating with the rest of the team to avoid overlaps or missed coverage requires constant communication. It is essential to check the schedule and identify the events that need to be covered beforehand. Dividing events among team members ensures comprehensive coverage and minimizes confusion.
4. **Pressure to Deliver Quality:** The importance of producing professional-quality images for immediate use on social media and in reports added pressure to perform consistently.

## Lessons Learned

- **Adaptability:** The dynamic nature of the conference taught us to think on our feet and adapt to unexpected changes in the schedule or environment.
- **Collaboration:** Working closely with other reporters reinforced the value of teamwork. Sharing feedback and coordinating efforts enhanced the overall quality of our output.
- **Skill Development:** This experience sharpened our technical photography skills, particularly in event photography. We gained valuable insights into framing, timing, and storytelling through images.
- **Strategic Planning:** We learned the importance of pre-event preparation, such as scouting venues, understanding the agenda, and aligning with the event's goals.

## Recommendations for Future Photography Teams

1. **Pre-Conference Training:** It is important to learn how to work with cameras, understand what types of cameras will be available, and master techniques like framing to capture excellent shots. Exploring YouTube and the internet can provide a broad idea of photography in conferences and help team members prepare effectively. (At the end of this section, you can find some YouTube links that can be helpful).
2. **Clear Communication Channels:** Establishing clarity on priorities and responsibilities, such as through a dedicated WhatsApp group for real-time updates. It is crucial to stay connected with fellow photographers through a platform like WhatsApp to handle changes and cover different events spontaneously. It helps to manage the fast pace of the conference effectively and the team ensures everyone stays in touch and can adapt quickly to the dynamic schedule. Do not forget to be supportive of each other and share your feelings if you are tired or experiencing any sort of emotion. Since you will be working together intensively for three days, fostering open communication and mutual support is essential.
3. **Equipment Checklist:** Ensuring that team members have access to essential equipment, including spare batteries and memory cards is crucial.
4. **Defined Coverage Plan:** Creating a detailed coverage plan with assigned roles and priorities can help avoid duplication and missed opportunities.
5. **Quality check:** Since there isn't time to edit pictures during the event, you have to focus on capturing good-quality images and immediately erase low-quality ones to

ensure your outputs are ready for use. Considering this, it is important to focus on taking not many pictures, but rather good ones.

While working, remember that holding a camera gives you the right to navigate through crowded areas to get the best shots. If needed, adjust banners or props to fit your frame. For award ceremonies, ask individuals to pose briefly so you can capture these moments clearly. These activities require confidence and proactive behavior—do not be shy and keep your focus on capturing amazing shots.

In conclusion, being a part of the photography team at Tropentag was an enriching experience that combined creativity, technical skills, and teamwork. While there were challenges, they provided opportunities for growth and learning. We are grateful for the chance to contribute to the conference's success and hope these reflections will serve as a guide for future student reporters in similar roles. And last but not least, enjoy your time!

Conference photography:

<https://youtu.be/pahvRaHvbTA?si=RAT0-EcOYVmrPHWD>

<https://youtu.be/te0bpaj2bjM?si=Eo9ooDIX8q2sdM7v>

General functions of digital cameras:

[https://youtu.be/Edvpu\\_939l4?si=86CDwCF09frp\\_XK](https://youtu.be/Edvpu_939l4?si=86CDwCF09frp_XK)

<https://youtu.be/YojL7UQTVhc?si=TFE15fQ6qOXuQyow>

[https://youtu.be/Up0ezF8w8vw?si=zrNyeZ3PuTu\\_zAuZ](https://youtu.be/Up0ezF8w8vw?si=zrNyeZ3PuTu_zAuZ)

## Blogging

The blogs written during Tropentag 2024 were based on topics we considered essential to cover and topics that simply sparked our interest. We, for example, introduced ourselves in a blog post, wrote something about the opening ceremony of the conference, and gave some information on the conference’s keynote speakers. Additionally, we visited workshops and presentation sessions to our liking. These gave us the freedom to write on topics such as ethnobotany, arts in science, and agroforestry.

In total, 15 blog articles were published, written by 4 members of the team, and checked by one chief editor. As of 9.12.2024 ‘About us. The Team of 2024.’ was the most viewed article, followed by ‘Uniting Scientific and Existing Knowledge’, and ‘Approaches to upscaling agroforestry’. The numbers, however, do not accurately reflect the reach of the blogs because the view counter plugin had to be reinstalled which reset the view count before we wrote this final report.

Blog title	Views	Author
<b>About us. The Team of 2024.</b>	38	Bojidara Ilieva
<b>Uniting Scientific and Existing Knowledge</b>	31	Katharina Wahedi
<b>Approaches to upscaling agroforestry</b>	16	Anushka Mukherjee
<b>Why Gender Sensitivity Matters in Our Work: Embracing Diversity and Complexity</b>	16	Anushka Mukherjee
<b>Tropentag 2024 officially opened</b>	15	Katharina Wahedi
<b>The Role of Arts in Science</b>	15	Lisa Vissers
<b>Every leaf counts. The Key to Drought Tolerance.</b>	14	Bojidara Ilieva
<b>The Keynote Speakers</b>	11	Katharina Wahedi
<b>Going to the Source. Participatory research worthy of the Hans. H. Ruthenberg Award 2024</b>	17 (1 comment)	Bojidara Ilieva
<b>Unlocking the Potential of Baobab: A path to a healthier, sustainable, and equitable food system</b>	9	Anushka Mukherjee
<b>The Future of Tunisian Olive Groves: Challenges and Opportunities in Times of Climate Change</b>	15	Lisa Vissers
<b>Dietary and Environmental Diversity: Pathways to Healthier, Resilient Food Systems</b>	2	Lisa Vissers

<b>The Yield Gap: a thing from the past? Can organic become the new conventional?</b>	6	Bojidara Ilieva
<b>Agroecology: Bridging Traditions and Science for Sustainable Agriculture</b>	2	Lisa Vissers
<b>Can intercropping halophytes benefit salt-sensitive crops in saline soils?</b>	4	Bojidara Ilieva

Compared to previous blog teams that covered the Tropentag Conference, our team was the smallest with only 4 members, one of which was also part of the videography team. This, on the one hand, constrained our ability to cover all fascinating presentations and discussions, but on the other hand, gave us the possibility to focus on the topics of our interest and choose freely which ones to cover. From the start, we knew that it was not possible to achieve the statistics of previous years. Nonetheless, despite the freedom we had, organization and coordination between each writer and the photography team proved crucial for delivering the final blog posts.

It is helpful for the team to have an overall plan on the specific writers, their interests, and timetables in one big document so that the editor-in-chief can coordinate last-minute changes and people switches from one task to another. We remained always flexible and open-minded, which proved very helpful. This is also one major tip for you, our successor writers, to follow your interests, and if one article does not inspire you or does not go according to plan and takes you on a different path, remain impartial and at the same time flexible.

Our compiled top tips for future bloggers (the full list you can find below):

- **Do your research beforehand.** Get to know your topic before your scheduled interview, presentation, or discussion round, so that you are prepared for all different viewpoints and aspects.
- **Take notes.** The more the better. You are the only one who is going to have to go through and decipher them, so keep every important information written down. After a whole day filled with impressions, facts, and quotes, it is important to have everything in one notepad.
- **Find the best time and place to write.** After all, the main task of a writer-reporter is to tell the story truthfully and in context. To achieve this, it is important to schedule enough free time in a place appropriate for your writing process. Some of us used the reporter room, while others preferred to go to the hotel at the end of the day and find their muse there.



- **The task of the editor-in-chief.** In our case, we had a relatively small team, and all had their own writing style with no need for further editing. This made the role of the editor-in-chief a very rewarding one. It was mainly focused on discussing different approaches to a certain topic, the choice of photos when it proved challenging, or the distribution of tasks and coordinating with the photography team when time was of the essence. Editing at the end mainly requires less time than writing, but every author has to take it upon themselves to submit a ready-to-post draft and therefore calculate an additional 15% of their writing time to editing. The editor-in-chief is the one who gives final approval.
- **Conduct interviews.** Do not be shy to talk to your sources one-on-one. There is no better way to understand the facts that you are going to write about than to talk to the person who collected and analyzed them. This is also very practical for the inspiration behind the story you want to tell. Of course, not all stories can include an interview, but if you can reach out to the person behind the most important subject included in your story. People are generally very interested in personally explaining their discoveries.
- **Use a thesaurus for that one word you cannot put your finger on.** If you are like us (our team had no native English speakers) it is possible that after a long day of professional communication with various people, your brain will get tired beyond what a cup of coffee can fix. This is when a thesaurus, Grammarly, or other writing apps can prove very useful in putting down all your thoughts that remain otherwise unsaid.
- **Remain factual and keep it simple.** Everything else will follow from there.

In conclusion, all of us had a great time experiencing the role of a scientific blog writer and being given the trust and a platform to share the topics that fascinate us. We wish all of you, future student reporters, an awesome time with the written word, with the myriad stories you will get to hear, and the teamwork that has the potential to make everything possible.

We are eager to see which articles will catch your attention from Tropentag 2025 in Bonn!

## Future recommendations

During our cramped week as student reporters for the Tropentag 2024 conference, we learned a lot. The recommendations you find here are based on our feedback sessions as well as our own experiences.

### For student reporters

#### *General*

- Journalists are storytellers. Tell stories.
- Make your story relatable.
- Describe the atmosphere.
- Have a buddy system. To ensure seamless and efficient coverage of the conference, it is recommended to establish a **Buddy System** that pairs team members specializing in different aspects of event documentation. Specifically, **bloggers, photographers, and social media managers** should work in coordinated pairs or small groups throughout the event. It ensures synchronized efforts and maximizes the value of content produced during the conference. It is a practical approach to managing complex, real-time event documentation effectively.

#### *Photos*

- Think about the picture you want to take before you actually click the button.
- Create a scene that works best for the information you want to convey.
- Keep the rule of thirds in mind.
- Keep symmetry in mind.

#### *Videos*

- Make a storyboard.
- Create a schedule.
- Move from outside to inside or from inside to outside, do not mix it up. Or simply film either outside or inside.
- 70% pic, 15% audio, 15% text.
- Put the volume of the background music down to 10-20% when people start speaking.

- Keep the ambient noise when shooting video of the atmosphere, surroundings, etc.
- When filming an interview, the camera needs to be at eye level of the interviewee.

### *Blog*

- Sit down together to discuss what kinds of articles you want to write and pitch your ideas for a specific article.
- Pitch of three to four sentences (teaser).
- Do not just base the story on what you learned during a session at the conference but also include sources.
- Discuss when you deliver the story, how long it will be, and to whom you will speak.
- Verify the information given.
- Give (more) context to readers.
- Clear headline that makes the reader interested, make it precise.
- Tell stories, not topics.
- Write as if you are explaining your article topic to people at a party. Keep it to the point and interesting.

### *For ATSAF*

ATSAF did an amazing job at hosting us and provided us with great workshops, pleasant accommodation, as well as a cozy pre-conference dinner. The information we received was clear and our pocket money sufficiently covered food expenses. In our opinion, they have outdone themselves and we are very grateful for the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in journalism during such an interesting conference as the Tropentag. Thank you!

## Conclusion

As we reflect on the experiences shared by our student reporters team, it is clear that our journey has been one of growth, learning, and immense gratitude. Through dedication, hard work, and willingness to embrace new challenges, we hope to have contributed to our shared mission and also enriched our own personal and professional development.






To those who will follow in our footsteps, know that the path ahead is filled with valuable lessons and exciting opportunities, lots of coffee and cake, and many hours of editing and searching for the right words, hashtags, and photos to convey the right message. But it is all worth it! We hope that you, too, will approach this opportunity with the same passion and enthusiasm, knowing that every story you tell will not only shape you as a person but also help us achieve a better future where science is brought nearer to all who are interested.

There are numerous ways to tell a story, present facts, and acknowledge important scientific work. By keeping an open mind in learning the journalistic ways, you will get an opportunity to be part of something bigger, but also to remain professional in stressful, fast-paced situations which will test your ability to communicate successfully with one another. We wish you the best of luck and hope that our experience and recommendations support you along the way.

Thank you to all those who have been part of this journey, and we look forward to seeing the continued success and contributions of the future student reporters.

# Appendix

## Student Reporters 2024

PHOTO	NAME	UNIVERSITY	TASK
	Pavan Kumar Naik Banavath	University of Göttingen & University of Kassel	Social media, Videography
	Bojidara Ilieva	University of Hohenheim	Blogging
	Anushka Mukherjee	University of Bonn	Videography, Blogging
	Kishor Neupane	University of Hohenheim	Social Media
	Farzin Nourisamani	University of Hohenheim	Photography



Angela Nyakato

University of  
Kassel

Social Media



Tochukwu ThankGod  
Okafor

University of  
Greifswald

Social Media, Interview



Jekk Mickale Paderes

University of  
Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences

Social Media



Abul Bashar Polas

University of  
Kassel

Photography



Mallika Sitaula

University of  
Göttingen &  
University of  
Kassel

Photography

	<p>Lisa Vissers</p>	<p>Wageningen University &amp; Research</p>	<p>Blogging</p>
	<p>Katharina Wahedi</p>	<p>Wageningen University &amp; Research</p>	<p>Blogging</p>



The Student Reporters of Tropentag 2024