

**D34/16: January – October 2016**  
**Diploma Course in Feed Manufacturing Technology**

## **Media Release**

### **Swiss Institute of Feed Technology: 14 freshly graduated Feed Production Engineers**

**Uzwil, November 11, 2016 – Fourteen students from three different countries were recently awarded the coveted Diploma of the renowned Swiss Institute of Feed Technology (SFT) in Uzwil, Switzerland. The 34<sup>th</sup> Specialist Course in Feed Manufacturing Technology was held in German. This year's best in class came from Switzerland.**

Of the 14 men and one woman who had started the 34<sup>th</sup> diploma course of the SFT beginning of 2016, all successfully completed their feed manufacturing engineering training with the exception of one. The road to success was not easy. It led the students "along a steep and winding path", said Daniel Müller, the SFT's School Director, at the diploma-awarding ceremony. Müller was highly pleased to announce that Maïke Junker (Bühler AG, Uzwil, Switzerland) was the tenth lady in the SFT's history to successfully complete the course: "This proves that feed production technology has ceased to be a matter purely for men."

#### **Reaching the top**

Following an intense ten-month period of training, Daniel Müller presented the graduates of this year's course their Diplomas in the Hotel Uzwil, qualifying them as Feed Production Engineers or confirming their attendance of the course. In his entertaining address, Daniel Müller emphasized the high significance of training and continuing education. He expressed his admiration for the students' decision to go back to school: "By making this far-reaching decision, you took up a challenge that you have now successfully met. Today, you have reached the top. With the knowledge you have acquired and your great commitment, you now have the right instruments available to satisfy the rigorous requirements of safe and economical animal feed production." He said that the goal was on the one hand to meet consumers' needs for hygienic feeds that are safe for humans and animals alike. On the other hand, he said that companies were increasingly facing the challenge of producing and marketing feeds more efficiently and especially more responsibly while meeting legal regulations and directives.

#### **A Swiss as the best in class**

Daniel Müller personally handed over the Diploma to each successful student, adding some amusing personal anecdotes from the class to his congratulations. In line with a long-standing Diploma ceremony tradition, the SFT always distinguishes the student who has achieved the best final score. This year's distinction went to the Swiss Eric Droz, employee at Albert Lehmann Bioprodukte AG in Gossau / Switzerland. Marcel Scherrer, President of the SFT Board, congratulated the best in class for his outstanding average grade of 5.63 out of 6, by handing over the traditional commemorative plate. Eric Droz outperformed the German Maïke Junker by six hundredth points, who ranked second.

#### **New concept**

The Diploma Course on Feed Manufacturing Technology was held for the fourth time on the basis of a new concept. The course starts beginning of the year with a 15-week preparatory correspondence course. This is followed by a four-week intensive course in Uzwil. During summertime and autumn, the second block is then held with a preparatory correspondence course of the same length and the final intensive block in Uzwil. In the two preparatory courses, the students must deal with 21 different subjects. During the two intensive courses, they must pass a total of 14 written exams. The highlight and completion of each individual block are the two verbal examinations in the core subjects in front of a panel of experts. The new concept reduces the students' absence from their jobs.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Specialist Course in Feed Manufacturing Technology will start in January 2018 and be held in English.

### **Focus on practice**

The SFT is a not-for-profit association that is recognized by the Swiss Feed Manufacturers Association (VSF) as an institution of training and continuing education. The goal of the SFT is to impart practice-oriented specialist knowledge on feed production to professionals from the feed manufacturing industry and related industries. Successful completion of the Diploma Course enables graduates to understand all the modern production processes in a feed manufacturing plant and to apply them meaningfully in practice. Bühler, the international Technology Group, is the partner of the SFT. More than 540 students from 69 countries have so far successfully completed the Specialist Course in Feed Manufacturing Technology.



Daniel Müller, School Director of the SFT (bottom left); Marcel Scherrer, President of the SFT Board and Head of the Bühler Business Unit Feed (bottom right); and SFT Members of the School Board Urs Wuest (rear left) and Peter Hofer (rear right) congratulate the best in class of the 34<sup>th</sup> Diploma Course, Eric Droz from Switzerland (center).



The 14 successful students of the 34<sup>th</sup> Specialist Course in Feed Manufacturing Technology with their instructors and the Managing Committee of the Swiss Institute of Feed Technology (SFT).

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