

The Fertilizer Industry Addresses Food Crisis during IFA Annual Conference

There was near record attendance at the 76th IFA Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria, on 19-21 May. The fertilizer industry has been facing unprecedented scrutiny from policy makers, the media and other observers. At the conference, industry representatives discussed the current global food situation and how the industry as a whole should respond. The Executive Committee, following deliberations and informal consultations, recommended that short-term relief efforts are better handled by individual companies. It also suggested that such contributions are best made in cash rather than product donations, as in-kind contributions either put constraints on where donations can be used or may lead to sub-optimal fertilizer use.

IFA President Thorleif Enger stressed that the industry's primary focus in the short term should be on taking "every possible step to overcome production and logistical bottlenecks in order to optimize existing production capacity as much as possible. The next step is to work with partners to increase the efficiency of fertilizer use, which also stretches the available supply."

In discussing the combination of factors that have pushed fertilizer prices up during recent months, Thorleif Enger noted: "Crucially, the fertilizer industry's current revenue stream makes the necessary investments possible despite a challenging investment climate."

Throughout the conference, Thorleif Enger emphasized the importance of balancing short-



From left to right: L. Maene, H. Puchner, T. Enger, S. Mink, A. Dobermann

Photo: IFA/K. Sukalac

term relief efforts with the need to invest in agriculture in the longer term to prevent recurrences of today's crisis. In that light, concerns over the immediate difficulties faced by some groups should not prevent us from seizing the opportunities offered to farmers and agricultural policy makers.

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Food Crisis Turns Global Spotlight on Fertilizers

The global food crisis has dominated headlines for much of the first half of 2008. One result of the current food situation has been a welcome renewal of attention to the importance of investing in agriculture. Many observers have pointed out that the crisis is largely man-made: poor policy choices and underinvestment in agricultural productivity are more to blame than natural causes. A flurry of short-term responses have been proposed, many of which include emergency distribution of fertilizers and seeds in order to increase agricultural output quickly in the hopes of alleviating high food prices.

While justifiable where farmers do not have the means to purchase seeds and fertilizers on their own, subsidies are not a replacement for

the measures that will lay the framework for sustainable food security. These include basic investments in roads and education, affordable credit adapted to the agricultural cycle, market opportunities for farm output and appropriate policies. It is essential to help the world's numerous subsistence farmers become entrepreneurs and to seize the opportunity offered by the high incomes of commercial farmers to make the necessary reforms and changes today that will help prevent a recurrence of a similar crisis in future.

Because of the prominence of



K. Annan, former UN Secretary General and Chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) discusses how fertilizers can help relieve the current food crisis with IFA's Director General L. Maene (left) and President T. Enger (right).

Photo: IFA/K. Sukalac

fertilizers as a vital part of the short-term solution, there has been extensive scrutiny of and comment on the recent rise in fertilizer prices. In response, IFA has produced a short overview entitled "Market Drivers and Fertilizer Economics". This fact sheet is the first in a series called "Feeding the Earth: Fertilizers and Global Food Security".

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Bringing the Food Crisis into Sharper Focus

Interview with Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, IFPRI

Much ink has been spilled about high food prices, including the various contributing factors and many of the immediate consequences. Fertilizers & Agriculture talked with Joachim von Braun to explore some of the nuances of the current situation.

F&A: You have articulated an eight-action plan to alleviate high food prices. The steps are 1) expand emergency responses and humanitarian assistance, 2) eliminate agricultural export bans and restrictions, 3) undertake fast-impact food production programmes in key areas, 4) change biofuel policies, 5) calm markets with measures such as public grain stocks, 6) invest in social protection, 7) scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth, 8) complete the Doha WTO negotiations. If you had to choose just one as the starting point, which would it be and why?

JVB: Since the current food and agriculture crisis is complex in nature, it requires a comprehensive response. The eight actions can be grouped into two sets: an emergency package (actions 1-4 above) for immediate implementation to address urgent needs of food assistance and increased food availability, and a resilience package (actions 5-8 above) to phase in now for future impacts, in order to build a more resilient food system. A focus on just one starting point or emergency action would not address the root causes of the crisis. However, elimination of export bans, change of biofuels policy and undertaking fast-impact food production programmes rank at the top.



F&A: Other than increasing the amount that the poor must spend on food, are there other negative impacts that the current situation has on the world's poor? Are there significant differences between impacts on urban and rural groups?

JVB: In response to higher food prices, the poor are not always able to increase the amount spent on food. As a coping mechanism, they often go hungry and shift to even less-balanced diets, with potentially harmful effects on their nutritional status and health. Rising food prices also significantly erode the already limited purchasing power of poor households. This loss affects their ability to purchase other goods and services that are essential for their health and welfare, such as clean water, sanitation, education and health care. Three harmful effects with often irreversible consequences are of particular concern: (1) deterioration of the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and of preschool children; (2) withdrawal of children, especially girls, from school; and (3) distress sale of productive assets, which makes households even more vulnerable and unproductive in the future.

Significant differences exist between the impacts of high food prices on urban and rural groups and, further, within these groups. The negative impacts on the urban poor are most visible and politically sensitive due to their ability to organize, lobby and protest. In



Photos: IFDC

rural areas, many of the poor also suffer from high food prices because they are net buyers of food. In particular, landless rural workers are hard hit since their wages do not rise in proportion to food prices. Both in rural and urban areas, the actual impacts on the poor depend on their access to social protection mechanisms.

F&A: There are as many as two billion farmers in the world. Why aren't higher food prices good news for them?

JVB: For some of them it is good news. However, many small farmers are not able to benefit from the rising demand and prices for their products due to a surge in the cost of inputs such as fertilizers and high-yielding seeds, insufficient economies of scale and lack of access to markets. Increased investments in rural infrastructure, services, agricultural research, science and technology are required for farmers in developing countries to benefit from higher food prices. Short-term actions to provide access to seeds, fertilizers and credit, as well as long-term agricultural investments would be crucial to facilitate gains for the small farm sector. To increase the productivity of poor small farmers, temporary subsidies managed through the private sector for selected inputs should no longer be a taboo.

F&A: There has been controversy over how much of the rise in prices can be attributed to biofuel production, with estimates ranging from three to 30 per cent. IFPRI's estimates have been at the high end of the range. Why is that so when biofuel crops only account for a small share of global agricultural production?

JVB: The share in production is not so relevant; the main effect on price comes through the impact on surplus for trade. More than 100 million tonnes of grain is moving into biofuels in 2008 and that is more than the total internationally traded quantity of maize. IFPRI estimates suggest that the increase of cereal demand for biofuels has contributed 30 per cent to the total accumulated increase in the real world price of cereals from 2000 to 2007. The highest increase—39 per cent—was in maize. These results are based on a global multi-country and multi-commodity model, which is the only possible comprehensive basis for a realistic price estimate, due to market link-

An Italian Consortium Created to Meet REACH Requirements

by *Mariano Alessio Verni, Consorzio Sostanze Chimiche Fertilizzanti e Reach*

ages. IFPRI's estimates are comparable to the results of other studies and are even on the conservative side. For example, the World Bank estimates that the increase in biofuel demand led to 70 per cent of maize price increases by 2008. A USDA analysis shows that the global increase in maize-based ethanol production accounted for about one third of the increase in maize prices in 2007.

The crops used for biofuel production in industrialized countries are staple foods in many developing countries and are of primary concern as regards food shortages and food security for the poor. As demand for and prices of biofuel crops increase, they also affect other crops through two channels: 1) on the supply side, greater energy crop cultivation competes with the production of other crops for resources; 2) on the demand side, higher energy crop prices increase demand for other crops and put upward pressure on their prices as well. For instance, the increase in the price of maize due to the production of ethanol is a significant factor for the increase in prices of wheat and soyabean.



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty. IFPRI is one of 15 centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, an alliance of 64 governments, private foundations and international and regional organizations.

International Agricultural Research, an alliance of 64 governments, private foundations and international and regional organizations.

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Under the European regulation on the "Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances" (REACH), some 30,000 substances in use in the European Union must be pre-registered with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) between 1 June 2008 and 1 December 2008. If the manufacturers and importers of these substances do not meet the registration obligations under the regulation by December, the substances can no longer be legally manufactured, imported or otherwise placed on the European market, whether on their own, in preparations or incorporated into goods. It should be emphasized that substances which have not been registered (or pre-registered) will no longer be able to be provided to the supply chain. REACH therefore has extremely far-reaching implications for industry around the world.

The preparation of registration dossiers, including physico-chemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological information, is essential to meet the requirements of REACH. The expense of doing so is difficult to predict since this is an unprecedented process. In order to accomplish pre-registration in a timely and cost-effective manner and to avoid unnecessary animal testing, companies are encouraged by European authorities to form consortia to manage pre-registration for a group of affected businesses.

In May of this year, a Chemical Fertilizer Substances and REACH Consortium was founded in Italy. To date there are 19 members, all active in imports. The consortium's purpose is to respond carefully to relevant issues in order to achieve REACH's objective of ensuring a high level of human health protection.

The Italian fertilizer consortium allows participating companies to share the cost of studies, chemical safety assessments, reports and other activities. The consortium's Technical Director will assemble and be responsible for managing a large number of documents, studies and reports, as well as other types of information. The economies of scale provided through the consortium will help reduce the impact of REACH-associated costs being passed on to customers. This grouping is different from some other REACH consortia, which pool in-house resources to meet the

regulation's requirements. Instead, it unites a group of small and medium-sized enterprises which use the same language and handle large amounts of the same substances that need pre-registration, but do not have the means to compile technical dossiers and meet other REACH obligations. In such cases, outsourcing is the best option.

The consortium's Technical Director will provide services such as performing an initial audit to prepare the list of substances to be registered; studying commercial consequences during the transitional period; preparing letters and documentation to inform and educate the supply chain; maintaining relationships with other consortia and associations; and ensuring members' presence within relevant Substance Information Exchange Forums (SIEF).

During the coming months, the consortium will manage a "bulk" pre-registration, i.e. one operation for all participants, through the IUCLID 5 software. Further, the consortium and its members will participate in relevant SIEFs. Starting in January 2009, all participants will be informed, via a dedicated web site, about their position, the number of potential registrants and the status of registration for each substance.

REACH is a challenge, but also presents an opportunity to improve consortium members' market position. The regulation will have consequences for international trade starting in December, when customs authorities will be authorized to ask importers for their registration (pre-registration) numbers. Manufacturing controls are unlikely to be fully implemented until at least 2010.

A number of sources provide more information on REACH. One of the best is the web site of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which includes an encyclopedic Frequently Asked Questions document, at <http://echa.europa.eu>.

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from principle to practice

OCP's Carbon Strategy

by Saïd Mouline, Adviser to the CEO, OCP sa



Aware that environmental protection is a worldwide issue as well as a major concern within companies, OCP sa (formerly Office Chérifien des Phosphates) of Morocco has

integrated this issue into its overall planning as a matter of competitiveness. In particular, OCP is proactive in the area of climate change, having placed a carbon strategy at the heart of its operations.

As early as 1998, during the IFA Technical Conference in Marrakech, a presentation on energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during fertilizer production was made. According to the latest reports, it is 90 per cent certain that global warming is caused by anthropogenic GHG emissions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change--IPCC, 2007). Global warming is expected to affect ecosystems and to change the way people live. During the next 100 years, ambient temperatures are expected to become some 4°C higher and sea level is expected to rise by about 60 cm; there is less than 10 per cent uncertainty that there will be increased wave activity, as well as periods of intense heat and heavy rain (IPCC, 2007).

Efforts to mitigate climate change have been underway for some time. In a number of countries, such measures include steps towards greater energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as targets established for lower fuel consumption by vehicles. At the international level, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted to address this issue. Negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC increased the impetus for international policies and additional mechanisms were put in place to reduce GHG emissions. Climate change mitigation measures include: mandatory buying and selling of excess carbon credits (the best-known example being the European Trading Scheme); voluntary exchanges, which now exist throughout the world; and other "flexible mechanisms" to

reduce GHG emissions, namely the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI).

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows a country with a commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce or limit emissions to implement reduction projects in developing countries in exchange for saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits. Each CER represents one tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which can be counted towards meeting the industrialized country's Kyoto targets. Similarly, Joint Implementation concerns projects among so-called Annex I countries (those committed to reducing their emissions under the UNFCCC).

The daily activities of industries and service providers produce direct and indirect GHG emissions. Consequently, all sectors of the economy need to evaluate their emissions and take steps to reduce the impacts of these emissions. It is in this context that OCP developed its carbon strategy.

OCP has calculated the carbon footprint of its mining and chemical production facilities in Morocco, with the aim of identifying potential reductions. A preliminary list of projects has been drawn up, indicating both where emissions could be lowered and where energy consumption could be improved. With regard to mine sites, these projects include improving enrichment methods and using modes of transport that consume less energy. At chemical production facilities the projects include heat recovery systems and better-performing thermoelectric units.

OCP has also taken a proactive stance concerning renewable energy. The company is investing in large wind farms to produce some of its electricity and is planning to install solar panels at its headquarters. Finally, reforesta-

tion when mine sites are rehabilitated makes it possible to sequester significant amounts of carbon. Several of these initiatives will be submitted as potential CDM projects.

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Wind farms will provide some of OCP's power



Phosphate transport will be by pipeline



Concerns about Terrorism Result in Australian Regulations and Industry Code of Practice

by Nick Drew, Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia (FIFA)



On 12 October 2002, a terrorist group exploded a bomb in a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia. More than 200 people were killed, including 91 Australians. Some 200 people were also injured. The attack on the World Trade Center in New York the year before alerted the world to the growing threat of terrorism. For Australians, however, the Bali attack was much closer to home and produced a significant increase in public concern.

Early reports suggested that the Bali bomb was ammonium nitrate (AN) based. While this proved not to be the case, the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia (FIFA) arranged meetings with the Australian Federal Police and the Attorney General's Department to discuss the risk posed by fertilizer products as well as actions the industry could take to reduce that risk.

With the kind permission of The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), FIFA modified the "Be Aware for America" materials (which encourage retailers to draw up and implement security plans, record sales and alert law enforcement officials about suspicious activity) and distributed these materials throughout the industry. Pleased with these efforts, Australian authorities agreed to maintain a continu-

The image shows two documents. The left document is titled "Security Guidelines for Agricultural Distributors" and features logos for A.F.S.A., FIFA, and Agsafe. The right document is titled "Ammonium nitrate sales" and contains the following text:

Ammonium nitrate sales

'It is our policy to supply security sensitive* ammonium nitrate fertilizers only to customers who provide proof of identity. We will maintain the information as part of the sales record. The information retained will only be disclosed as required by law.'

*Security Sensitive ammonium nitrate fertilizers are defined as those fertilizers containing greater than 45% ammonium nitrate (liquid fertilizers are not included).

www.fifa.asn.au www.afsa.asn.au
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ing dialogue with the industry to monitor developments, although they gave low priority to product security at that time. A technical study of explosive precursors was started, with FIFA represented on the industry consultation group.

On 25 August 2003, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) presented a documentary film showing how easily the materials needed to make an AN-based bomb could be obtained. As a direct result, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet took over coordination of the country's security policy in regard to product control. FIFA was again consulted and a wider technical study of chemicals of security concern was initiated. Similar studies on biological and radiological threats were also commenced.

In response to the new "Be Aware" mate-

rial, a reseller actually notified police of the purchase of AN by the documentary film makers. They were also notified when a newspaper reporter preparing a related story tried to purchase AN.

On 11 January 2004, an unemployed electrician detonated an AN device in outer Sydney – apparently just out of curiosity! Once again, this put pressure on the authorities to explain how such threats were being managed. It was therefore decided to expedite controls on AN. On 25 June 2004, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reached agreement in principle on the regulation of security-sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN). (See box)

Despite the agreement, it was not until this year that all of the state governments finally had regulations in place for the control of SSAN. There have been significant problems concerning lack of uniformity, lack of recognition between states and lack of resources to manage implementation. FIFA has been able to assist by implementing a policy (on 11 October 2004) requiring members to sell SSAN only to recognized customers or those presenting positive identification.

The results of a wider study on security-sensitive chemicals are now the subject of a draft report to COAG. As a member of the Industry Consultative Committee, FIFA has provided significant input to the report, which recommends the use of industry-based measures, as far as possible, along with a strong focus on education and awareness.

SSAN (security-sensitive ammonium nitrate) refers to solid fertilizers that contain more than 45 percent ammonium nitrate. SSAN therefore includes straight ammonium nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate.

The regulations now adopted by all of Australia's states provide that:

- Anyone who has unsupervised access to SSAN must be licensed, including domestic manufacturers, importers, those involved in transport, storage and sale, and end users
- Licenses can only be obtained after submission of a security plan which is in compliance, thus ensuring:
 - Acceptable physical security
 - Acceptable inventory controls to detect losses
 - Acceptable controls to ensure that sales are made only to license holder, and that recipient details are recorded
 - Security screening of personnel who have unsupervised access
 - Licenses for importers include mandatory notification of cargos seven days prior to arrival

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The above-mentioned difficulties with implementation of the SSAN regulations have now specifically been addressed, with a recommendation to learn from earlier mistakes.

In the current report, potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate are the highest priority chemicals that are used as fertilizers. FIFA is developing a code of practice for managing the security of these products. This voluntary code of practice will be discussed with the authorities in the hope that the control provided will be sufficient and that further regulation will not be required.

Despite a range of views on which products are of real technical concern, the authorities' overriding concern is that a terrorist group may have an interest in one of these products. Misuse of a fertilizer product by terrorists would ensure that the product received urgent attention. The authorities constantly monitor and adjust the list of chemicals of concern. FIFA will respond with adjustments to its code of practice, in order to help ensure that security measures are effective and efficient and that they minimize disruptions to genuine use.

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F I F A

New IFA Web Site Delivers the Information You Want

To provide the information that users want in a timely manner, IFA has totally revamped its web site. The content has been reorganized in a more streamlined way to reduce the number of clicks needed to reach articles of interest. New content has also been added in response to frequent requests. The associated technology upgrade sets the stage for IFA to explore more customized delivery options in the future.

Highlights of the new site include:

- Easy-to-find market outlooks, statistics, conference proceedings and other vital business information;
- The latest news about IFA events, publications and statistics (on the home page);
- Resources related to key issues facing the industry;
- Committee home pages that provide a focus on each committee's central activities, committee news and internal navigation, adapted to the committees' priorities;
- A five-language glossary (Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish) with browsing by letter or using a search box;
- Photo galleries from conferences and other IFA events;
- Handy shortcuts to popular content from any page;
- RSS flows, so that users can receive updates on their favourite sections and pages;
- A shopping cart linked to details on users' orders;
- An improved search function.



IFADATA "Catches a Wave"

Users can now surf the IFA database – which contains historical fertilizer production, trade and consumption statistics by product and by country since 1973/74 (IFADATA) – online. IFADATA was previously available in cd-rom format only, with the data in Excel files. In the new searchable, web-based version, all figures are available with only a couple of clicks. So that IFA can improve this powerful tool and make it as user-friendly as possible, users are invited to send comments to Olivier Rousseau, rousseau@fertilizer.org.

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The fact sheet explains that underinvestment during lean years led to tight markets – which IFA predicts will last for at least three years – for all of the major crop nutrients. This situation has been compounded by a number of short-term factors that pushed demand upwards more quickly than anticipated.

Since most fertilizer plants are operating at or near record rates, bringing more capacity on-stream will require new production sites or the revamping of existing ones, both of which require significant time lags, especially since booms in global construction and ocean freight markets have made it more difficult to obtain the necessary materials.

IFA has had the opportunity to discuss these issues with policy makers on several occasions, notably at the 16th Session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Sustainable Development (early May in New

York City), the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security (early June in Rome) and in bilateral meetings. The topic is expected to remain high on the political agenda in coming months, especially in light of recent floods in the US Corn Belt. World leaders are expected to discuss it again at the UN General Assembly in September and practical solutions will be the focus of the 2009 meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Attendees Welcome First Ammonia Handling and Shipping Safety Workshop

ICIS, in partnership with IFA and the Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA), organized the first Ammonia Handling and Shipping Safety Workshop in Alexandria, Egypt, on 4 and 5 June of this year. Some 70 delegates from 14 countries attended the workshop, which was chaired by Antonella Harrison, Managing Editor, ICIS. Among those attending were Michel Prud'homme, Executive Secretary of the IFA Production and International Trade Committee, and Shafik Ashkar, Secretary General of AFA.

Participants shared best practices for the safe transport of anhydrous ammonia. Crucial safety and security concerns were addressed in regard to loading, discharging and shipping. The workshop included interactive sessions and a technical tour of the Abu Qir fertilizer plants in Alexandria.

Resource persons for the workshop were Antonella Harrison, Managing Editor, ICIS; Nicola Williams, Divisional Director, Clarksons Gas; François Detavernier, Maritime Executive, Yara Switzerland; Carlyle Marchan, Area Manager, PCS Nitrogen Trinidad Limited; Mulbarak Al Hadaf, Executive Shipping Representative, Liquid Marine Transportation, SABIC; Saleh Ali Al-Marri, Head of Safety, QAFCO; and Yusuf Kamal, Wharf Superintendent, GPIC.

This was the first workshop dedicated solely to the exchange of information on ammonia safety, handling and shipping. There was a general consensus that safety is a priority issue, beyond commercial or legal interests. Industry participants expressed their interest in sharing general guidelines or establishing recommendations on safety checklists related to loading and discharging operations.

While communication is key to product transfer operations, it is also important to



Photo: ICIS

improve the dialogue on tasks and responsibilities when incidents occur. When a potential emergency situation arises, the loading master has a dominant role in determining whether loading or discharging operations should continue. Any incident should be reported to the port authority.

Periodic emergency drills, as well as large-scale ship/shore mock drills, ought to be carried out. Special training should be provided to company representatives who deal with the media.

Feedback from participants on the workshop's programme and content was positive, as were their comments on the excellent opportunity to network and to discuss common issues with peers from different countries. They expressed a need for more professional networking in order to share company and industry best practices. Several people also suggested that additional emergency or technical case studies should be made available.

ICIS will consider expanding the coverage of such workshops, or organizing other workshops in the future, to foster networking and build on this first event.

More information on the workshop is available at www.icisconference.com/ammoniasafety. Alternatively, IFA members can contact Michel Prud'homme at IFA, mprudhomme@fertilizer.org.

IFA wishes to express its appreciation to the organizers (ICIS and our partner AFA), the IFA member companies that provided support to this very important initiative (AlexFert, Abu Qir Fertilizers Company, GPIC, PotashCorp, QAFCO, SABIC and Yara) and all the speakers.

Fertilizer International in partnership with IFA invite Nominations for the 2008 Pierre Becker Memorial Award

The invitation is open to:

- Engineers who have achieved advances in the efficient and economic processing of phosphate raw materials, as well as in the production of phosphate fertilizers and other downstream products.
- Nominations will be accepted from:
- Any individual, company, research institute, industry association or non-government agency. They may be drawn from the fertilizer industry, the public or private sector, or from research institutes and educational establishments.

In his lifetime, Pierre Becker was not only hailed as a world authority on phosphates and phosphate fertilizer processing technology, he was also revered by all who knew him as a man of unique talents and deep humanity. To perpetuate his memory and spirit of enquiry, *Fertilizer International* launched the Pierre Becker Memorial Award in 2003. This is the second year that IFA is acting as an official partner for the prize.

The recipient of the award will receive £1,000 and will be invited to attend a presentation in Paris in 2009.

The criteria for the award will be the originality of the work undertaken, its practical application, any associated improvements in fertilizer processing and application efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

The award decision will be made by the Editorial Board of *Fertilizer International*, together with a representative of IFA, and will be final.

Nominations should be sent in the first instance to:

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highlights



IFA's first-ever Global Safety Summit will take place in March 2009. It is designed for representatives of IFA member companies who are interested in today's leading issues in the areas of occupational safety and health and security in fertilizer production. IFA Senior Executives, along with experts in production safety, will share the latest management and technology solutions for creating and maintaining safe and secure production environments. For more information, or to receive the preliminary programme, please contact Ben Muirheid, Executive Secretary of the Technical Committee, bmuirheid@fertilizer.org.

IFA-IFDC Production Technology Workshops

IFA is again teaming up with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) to organize two production technology workshops for engineers in the nitrogen and phosphate sectors. The nitrogen workshop is scheduled for June 2009. The subsequent phosphate edition is planned for October/November 2009. These time-tested workshops are designed not only to provide participants with an in-depth view of fertilizer production technologies, in order to improve their skill set, but also to allow for discussions on hot-topic issues such as technology, economics, energy use, safety and environmental stewardship.

Details should be available on IFA's web site by early 2009.

IFA Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Award "Innovation and Distinction in SHE Performance in Fertilizer Production"

Invitation to nominate candidate production sites

In an effort to recognize and promote safety, health and environmental (SHE) innovation or enhancement in fertilizer production, the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) has initiated the IFA Safety, Health and Environment award, which will be given to a deserving production facility among the Association's global membership.

The award aims to recognize member companies that have shown significant achievement in one or more of the following:

- Improving safety, health and environmental (SHE) performance;
- Demonstrating a strong contribution to research, development or innovation to enhance SHE initiatives in the fertilizer industry;
- Demonstrating sustained excellence in SHE performance over at least a ten-year period.

IFA members are invited to **forward nominations to the IFA Secretariat by 15 September 2008**, for the attention of Sophie Palmié, spalmie@fertilizer.org.

Nominations will be judged by an independent selection panel on the basis of merit, a proven record in SHE performance and an evaluation of a submitted case study.

A representative of the winning site will be invited to make a presentation at the IFA Global Safety Summit, to be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 14 to 18 March 2009.

Key REACH Deadline Looms in December

Pre-registration of so-called "phase-in" substances will end in December 2008. This process is critical for fertilizer producers based in Europe and those that export to European Union markets, as it allows companies to benefit from staggered registration times as well as potentially establishing "Substance Information Exchange Forums" with producers of similar substances – thus reducing costs and minimizing animal testing. For further guidance, please contact Ben Muirheid, Executive Secretary, Technical Committee, bmuirheid@fertilizer.org.



IFA Members Are Encouraged to Nominate Candidates for the 2009 IFA Award

The nomination process for the 2009 IFA Crop Nutrition Award is now open. The 2009 award is for scientists from developing countries. **Nominations must be submitted to an IFA member by 15 January 2009.** These nominations are then to be forwarded to the IFA Secretariat by 31 January 2009. IFA members are encouraged to nominate senior soil and crop scientists whose work has led to improvements in the fields of fertilizer use efficiency, environmental sustainability, food quality and human health. For more information, please contact Sophie Palmié, spalmie@fertilizer.org or visit the Crop Nutrition Award on the web page at www.fertilizer.org.



Designed by the IFA Production and International Trade Committee for all IFA Members

The 29th annual IFA Production and International Trade Conference will take place in Mumbai, India, from 21 to 24 October 2008. It has been more than 20 years since a Production and International Trade Conference was held in India. The 2008 Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for interaction with senior industry representatives from the main international fertilizer producers and trading companies.

The conference programme consists of three half-day plenary sessions, open to all participants, starting on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 October and continuing all day on Thursday, 23 October. The programme is structured along four major themes: Indian Fertilizer Markets, Issues Affecting Global Fertilizer Supply, Fertilizer and Raw Materials Supply Strategies, and Fertilizer Markets Outlook.

The 2008 conference will showcase India by focusing on developments in the country's agriculture sector, profiling prospects for the Indian fertilizer market and highlighting possible implications of the recently adopted fertilizer policy. Other topics of prime importance include future trade prospects for sulphur, DAP and urea; trends in the supply and quality of phosphate rock; developments regarding potash projects and markets; dry bulk ocean freight; and environmental issues affecting fertilizer supply.

A series of presentations will focus on the Chinese fertilizer sector, notably nitrogen, phosphate and sulphur markets and supply. China has become a major exporter of urea and DAP in recent years, as well as an important sulphur consumer.

A technical tour of the facilities of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. (RCF) in Thal (Maharashtra) will take place on Friday, 24 October.

As usual, several functions have been planned to facilitate contacts and stimulate discussions among participants. There will be a reception for delegates, offered by IFA, on Wednesday, 22 October. A dinner will also be offered by the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) on Thursday, 23 October.

In addition to the plenary sessions, members of the Production and International Trade Committee will hold their annual meeting at the end of Wednesday morning (22 October), preceded by meetings of the Committee's four Working Parties (by invitation only) on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning.

Registration information, along with the preliminary programme, is available on the IFA web site.

Production and International Trade (PIT) Committee Publications

IFA PIT Statistics

- **Annual Statistics 2007**
Ammonium sulphate, ammonium nitrate (AN) and calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN)
- **Quarterly Statistics: January – March 2008**
Ammonia, phosphate rock, processed phosphates, sulphur, urea
- **Survey of Capacities 2004 – 2013 (Summary Reports)**
Ammonia, urea, processed phosphates

Other Publications

- "Global Fertilizers and Raw Materials Supply and Supply/Demand Balances: 2008-2012", M. Prud'homme, IFA Annual Conference, Austria, June 2008.
- "Summary Report: Medium-Term Outlook for Global Fertilizer Demand, Supply and Trade 2008-2012", IFA Secretariat, June 2008. Integrating both the global fertilizer supply and demand short-term prospects, this summary report is available to the general public.

Asia and the Pacific's Preeminent Fertilizer Event Comes to Australia



The IFA Crossroads Asia-Pacific 2008 Conference will take place from 16 to 18 December in

Melbourne, Australia. Focusing on the pivotal Asian region and the Pacific Basin, IFA's Crossroads Asia-Pacific is an extremely popular event attracting some 300 participants. This event is organized under the guidance of the Regional Vice Presidents for all members with an interest in Asia and the Pacific, as well as newcomers acquainting themselves with the Association with a view to potential membership.

Conference sessions on 17 and 18 December will embrace a wide range of issues. The programme will attempt to address the following topics:

- Adapting farming to climate change in Asia and the Pacific;
- The Australian fertilizer market;
- Fertcare®, the Australian fertilizer industry's environmental product stewardship training and accreditation programme;
- The future supply of ammonia-based fertilizer east of Suez;
- The outlook for the Asian potash market;
- The outlook for China's fertilizer trade;
- The evolution of fertilizer distribution in China;
- The fertilizer market in Bangladesh.

The panel discussion on 18 December will focus on fertilizer subsidy schemes in Asia. On this occasion, panelists from the main Asian fertilizer-consuming countries will exchange information on current schemes in their respective countries. They will also discuss prospects for their evolution.



continued from page 1

Annual Conference

Taking the right measures today could greatly strengthen agricultural productivity around the globe and help many more farmers to become profitable entrepreneurs.

Invited conference speakers provided additional insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by the industry and by agriculture in general. Stephen Mink, Lead Economist, Sustainable Development Department, Africa Region, at the World Bank talked about the Bank's re-engagement in global agriculture and the new directions it is pursuing.

During the First General Session, Marjatta Eilittä, Agribusiness Program Leader in the Africa Division of IFDC, discussed ways to prime the pump so that farmers can secure the inputs that increase their harvests enough to sell the surplus, which allows them to invest in fertilizers and other inputs in following years. During the same session, Tom Cushing, Vice President of the Chicago Climate Exchange, described opportunities for companies to add value in the carbon market. Alena Sabelova of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) presented an economic outlook for Central Europe.



From left to right: M. Eilittä, A. Shiram, A. Sabelova

The Vienna conference received generous support from Agrolinz Melamine International (AMI), which co-hosted the final evening and provided valuable logistical assistance throughout the planning process. At the opening of the conference, Hubert Puchner, Vice President, Marketing and Sales at AMI, gave an overview of the regional fertilizer market.

At IFA's Annual General Meeting on 21 May, Renso Zwiers, President of DSM Agro, was elected IFA Vice President for Western and Central Europe. In addition, Dadang Heru Kodri, President Director of PUSRI - P.T. Pupuk Sriwidjaja, was elected IFA Vice President for East Asia.

60 Companies Push IFA Membership over 525

Shattering previous records, IFA welcomed 60 new members from 32 countries during its Annual Conference in Vienna, bringing total membership well over the 525-mark. IFA's Council approves applications twice a year. Ordinary members are producers of nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, sulphur and compound fertilizers, their raw materials and intermediate products. Associate membership mostly includes the supporting players in the wider fertilizer industry, while affiliate membership is primarily designed for not-for-profit organizations associated with the fertilizer industry. Correspondent members are retired senior executives of member companies or organizations.

Ordinary members

- Abonos Colombianos S.A. (ABOCOL)
- Azotara d.o.o.
- China XLX Fertiliser Ltd
- Fauji Fertilizer bin Qasim Limited
- Fertemis
- Grupo Fertinal S.A. de C.V.
- Helwan Fertilizers Company (HFC)
- JSC "Gomel Chemical Plant"
- JSC "Grodno Azot"
- JSC Minudobreniya Rossosh
- Lonza AG
- Multigrain
- NPC Industria e Comercio de Fertilizantes S.A.
- Qinhuangdao Huaying Phosphoric Acid Co. Ltd
- Sichuan Kaiyuan Group
- Société Nouvelle des Phosphates du Togo (SNPT)

Affiliate members

- A.B. Foods Inc.
- Athabasca Potash Inc.(API)
- Australian Energy Company (AEC)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Fertilizer section)
- Ercros Industrial S.A.
- Notore Chemical Industries Limited
- Potash One
- Rhodia

Associate members

- ABB Grain Ltd (Fertilizer Division)
- Acta Fertilizers DMCC
- Agora International Trading Pte Ltd
- Agracity Ltd
- Agrotain International, LLC
- ASH DEC Umwelt AG
- Bery Maritime
- Britannia Bulk PLC
- Cantazaro Ltd
- Cerealtoscana Spa
- China National Chemical Information Center
- CS Additive GmbH

- Dragon Asia Fertiliser Ltd
- Fertisul International Ltd
- Interchem-Sulphur
- JSC NIIK Research and Design Institute of Urea and Organic Synthesis Products
- Legend International Holdings Inc.
- Lehman Brothers International (Europe)
- Louis Dreyfus Commodities Suisse S.A.
- Marubeni Corporation
- Neelam America Quimica Ltda
- New Victoria Agricultural Means of Production Co., Ltd
- Orascom Construction Industries (OCI)
- Polyfer Handels GmbH
- Rare Earth Commodities DMCC
- RHEWUM GmbH
- S.C.D. SAS - Stratégie Conseil Développement
- The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd
- United Promist Group Ltd
- Yantai Xingnong Agricultural Means of Production Co., Ltd
- Yingkou Magnesite Chemical Ind. (Group) Co. Ltd
- Young-Inh Trade Corporation

Correspondent members

- Bjarne Christensen
- Carlo Monesini
- John B. Skeen
- Khaled Tataï

Photos of the IFA Annual Conference are available on the new IFA web site.



Photos: IFA/K. Suklabac

**word: Association**

Taking Agriculture beyond Ideology



Luc M. Maene
IFA Director General

It would be understandable for anyone reading the newspapers in recent weeks to be confused about the cause of the current global food crisis. The local food movement will tell you that global trade is to blame, while the free traders will use this to argue that concluding the Doha Development round, including a deal on agriculture, is more urgent than ever. The organic movement will tell you that “industrial” agriculture is at fault, and agribusiness is calling for a wider roll-out of modern agricultural techniques and technologies.

These different groups resemble the blind men describing an elephant in the well-known metaphor. Since each one only touches one part of the whole, they are in disagreement about what an elephant is like. Similarly, the different groups commenting on sustainable agriculture each touch one part of the truth, which they too often defend as ideology.

In order to address the current crisis, we need to look at the entire “elephant”, under-

stand its complexities and develop appropriate responses. Global agriculture is a vast and diverse activity. Farmers across the globe are dealing with different crops, varying agro-climatic conditions and unique socio-political contexts. It would be foolish to expect a one-size-fits-all solution to be effective, and yet that seems to be the position of the ideologists in the debate.

Knowledge is the key to moving away from dogma. Agricultural researchers, extension agents and farmers all need to be open to new ideas and information and have the creativity to mix and match all the possibilities into appropriate, site-specific solutions. This is the approach adopted by integrated farming. Farmers start with on-farm sources of crop nutrients and supplement them with manufactured fertilizers. Pest management involves biological, physical, chemical and biotechnological controls. Truly modern farming combines traditional knowledge with laboratory discovery.

Unfortunately, policy makers have yet to fully understand and adapt to this new reality. Too often policies encourage piecemeal application of specific technologies (the current fad for fertilizer and seed subsidies is a case in point) or oppose different farming

methods (for example, by establishing specific funds for organic or “conventional” farming techniques).

It is time for policy makers to stop micro-managing the complexities of agriculture. Instead, they should establish results-based objectives and provide the framework for individual farmers to meet these objectives in ways that are best suited to local conditions. This means investing in transport, communications and market infrastructure, ensuring that appropriate credit facilities exist for farmers and agri-retailers and, above all, educating farmers so that they have access to a wide range of information about different farming techniques and the training to conduct on-farm experiments in order to identify what works for them.

For their part, providers of agricultural technologies and techniques should be aware of the rest of the “elephant” and promote their contributions as part of a broader solution.

Our current model for agricultural development needs to be re-built around the farmer as a competent professional and decision-maker supported by service and technology providers who are there to facilitate the farmer’s job.

NEW FROM IZA and IFA Zinc in Soils and Crop Nutrition

B. J. Alloway. Second edition, International Zinc Association, IZA and IFA, Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France, 2008. 136 pp.

This book contributes significantly to better understanding of the complexities of zinc dynamics in soil and plant systems. It contains very valuable basic and practical information for a wide audience, including students, agronomists and scientists who are involved in research, extension or education in soil science, plant mineral nutrition, plant physiology or human nutrition. Detailed information is provided on the prevalence and diagnosis of zinc deficiency problems for a number of countries and crop plants.

To order a copy, see order form page 12.



events

Calendar

To view the list of non-IFA conferences click on “Events” on IFA’s web site.

IFA - 2008

21 – 24 October

IFA Production and International Trade Conference #
Mumbai, India

[Registration deadline on 17 September](#)

18 – 20 November

34th IFA Enlarged Council Meeting #
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

[Registration deadline on 12 October](#)

16 – 18 December

IFA Crossroads Asia-Pacific
Melbourne, Australia

[Registration deadline on 12 November](#)

Restricted to IFA members

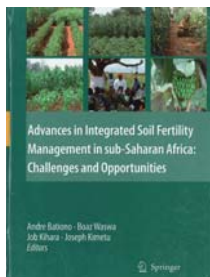


information resources

Advances in Integrated Soil Fertility Management in Sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

A. Bationo, B. Waswa, J. Kihara, J. Kimetu. Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2007. 1091 pp. ISBN 978-4020-5759-5

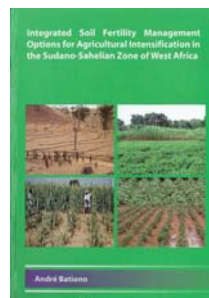
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www.springer.com/life+sci/agriculture/book/978-1-4020-5759-5



Integrated Soil Fertility Management Options for Agricultural Intensification in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone of West Africa

A. Bationo. Academy Science Publishers, Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility, March 2008. 204 pp. ISBN 9966-24-088-8
The book presents 25 years of research results by the author.

Contact
Academy Science Publishers
P.O. Box 24916
Nairobi, Kenya
asp@aascience.org
www.aascience.org



Dictionary of Soil, Plant Nutrition and Environment Chinese-English/English-Chinese

Ed. Xie Jian-Chang, Nanjing, China, 2007. 1265 pp. ISBN 7-5630-2305-4

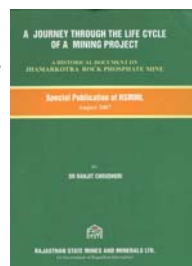
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A Journey through the Life Cycle of a Mining Project A Historical Document on Jhamarkotra Rock Phosphate Mine

R. Choudhuri, Special Publication of RSMML, August 2007. 216 pp.

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IFA comprises around 525 member companies in more than 85 countries and includes manufacturers of fertilizers, raw material suppliers, regional and national associations, research institutes, traders and engineering companies.

IFA collects, compiles and disseminates information on the production and consumption of fertilizers and acts as a forum for its members and others to meet and address technical, agronomic, supply and environmental issues.

IFA also sponsors research related to the efficient use of plant nutrients in agriculture, and liaises closely with relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, FAO, UNEP and other UN agencies.

IFA President
Thorleif Enger
Yara, Norway

IFA Director General
Luc M. Maene

IFA Request Form  September 2008

Please tick the box below and return to IFA by fax: +33 1 53 93 05 45 / 47

or send an e-mail to publications@fertilizer.org

Note: most IFA materials are available via the web site at www.fertilizer.org

- IFA Crop Nutrition Award Brochure
- Zinc in Soils and Crop Nutrition, IZA, IFA, 2008
- IFA Annual Conference Proceedings, Vienna, Austria, cd-rom *restricted to IFA members*

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