

Online New Year's greeting – The International Fertilizer Industry Association is pleased to offer its best wishes for the New Year to colleagues and friends across the globe. This year's online message can be viewed on the IFA web site at www.fertilizer.org.

Fertilizers Can Help Fight Hunger

“The fertilizer industry has long been a recognized contributor to agriculture's economic growth”, stated Changchui He, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and FAO's Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, when he opened the 29th IFA Enlarged Council Meeting in Bangkok in December.

During a keynote address to the annual gathering of senior fertilizer industry executives, Mr He laid out the challenges facing the fertilizer industry, including misunderstandings about products and concerns about their misuse. The FAO official's remarks focused on Asia and the Pacific, where he called for a revitalized partnership at the regional level to achieve food security.

Mr He listed a number of concrete actions that the fertilizer industry should undertake to fulfill its role as a partner in the struggle to eliminate hunger:

- Invest in the agricultural sector in developing countries and promote fair trade;

- Support research and development of technologies that improve the efficiency of water and fertilizer use and help build the capacity to manage and utilize natural resources efficiently for sustainable agriculture, while protecting the environment;
- Facilitate technology transfer;
- Provide information to farmers and assist them in understanding the effects of excessive use of fertilizers and other stresses in crops;
- Promote environmental conservation and high ethical standards in agricultural development.

As well as highlighting efforts that the fertilizer industry could make independently, Mr He mentioned a number of things it could accomplish in partnership with governments and other stakeholders. These include:

- Developing and promoting more sustainable agricultural practices and a safe food supply system along the entire food chain. The challenge is to suit these good practices to local needs and make them

available to smallholders;

- Adopting policies that promote good fertilization and plant nutrient management;
- Promoting integrated plant nutrition management (IPNM) through science-based and judicious use of both mineral and organic sources of nutrients;
- Emphasizing the importance of water in sustainable agriculture. As water is a nutrient delivery medium, its availability is a key element in sustainable fertilization.

The IFA Secretariat, taking Mr He at his word, immediately began to discuss ways the two organizations could cooperate to translate and disseminate information IFA has collected about policies facilitating farmers' access to crop nutrients, best fertilization practices for given crops under varying agroclimatic conditions and reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases from agricultural land. Many of the IFA publications that present such information were jointly produced with the main FAO office in Rome. ●



Changchui He, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and FAO's Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, seeks cooperation with the fertilizer industry at the Enlarged Council Meeting in Bangkok.

European Commission Reacts to Industry Comments on its Cadmium Proposal

As a result of the compelling and science-based arguments submitted by IFA and nearly fifty other fertilizer-related organizations, the European Commission has revised its draft proposal to regulate cadmium in phosphate fertilizers. The new proposal is more flexible than the original document, but concerns remain that it is too complex and sets regulations that do not meet the stated objectives. IFA and its

partner organizations will continue to work with the Commission to ensure that the final text addresses the European Union's environmental concerns without unduly hurting agricultural production or phosphate producers across the globe.

The comments submitted by IFA were based largely on the outcome of the September workshop on risk assessment and the management of envi-

ronmental cadmium, organized by the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), an international group of scientists with which IFA has a constructive relationship.

The comments submitted by IFA and numerous other fertilizer industry-related organizations can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/chemicals/legislation/fertilizers>. ●

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Making the Environment Work for Humanity



Sarah Porter, Environmental Economist of the World Conservation Union, explains the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to delegates at the IFA Enlarged Council Meeting

Traditional ecological discourse focuses on the need to preserve the environment as an end in itself. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) turns this logic upside-down. Starting from the premise that the environment provides a number of the goods and services necessary for human survival, the Assessment seeks to understand better the current state of affairs, trends and how we can interact most effectively with the world around us.

The architects of the Assessment hope it will lead to improved government policies, better business decisions and more enlightened individual interaction with the environment.

Ecosystems produce food, timber, genetic resources and medicines. They also provide water purification, flood control, carbon sequestration, waste treatment, soil generation, disease regulation, good air quality and aesthetic/cultural benefits, to list just a few of their functions. However, the evolution of these systems affects their ability to perform such functions. Human activities influence the state of the environment and are affected, in turn, by changes in natural ecosystems.

The MA was launched by the United Nations to carry out an extremely ambitious audit of the world's ecosystems at local, watershed, national, regional and global levels in order to provide information needed for better decision-making. Gaps in existing data will be identified. The list of participating institutions reads like a Who's Who of international policymaking. At least two fertilizer industry-related institutions-IFDC and the Potash and Phosphate Institute

(PPI)-have contributed data to the Assessment.

Business involvement is vital for the Assessment's success

Involvement of business and industry is considered vital to the process. As important consumers of environmental goods, their activities often have an impact on ecosystems. Business and industry also have the capacity to help implement policy options and to define plausible future scenarios. The Assessment recognizes that companies and their associations are key sources of data, expertise and methodologies that could enrich the exercise.

During the design phase, business representatives helped identify ways the Assessment could benefit private sector participants. The audit aspect of the MA will produce useful benchmarks against which businesses can assess the effects of their activities. Methods developed through the MA process could be applied to site-specific assessments and cost/benefit analyses for potential business projects. The MA will also help business leaders better understand how daily operations are influenced by environmental considerations.

Active involvement can help companies leverage the results.

There are a number of ways industry can shape the MA to ensure that it provides the data needed for business decisions. One of the planned outcomes is a synthesis document to cover critical private sector issues and concerns. Business representatives can join the review group that is developing the outline of this document and identifying key questions. It is also useful to have business perspectives on the scenarios to be applied. Private sector actors are eligible to become peer reviewers of draft reports.

For more information or to learn more about opportunities for participation, please **contact**

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Doubt Hangs over Climate Change Talks

Uncertainty was a major aspect of the ninth Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at the beginning of December, as questions still remain about whether enough countries will ratify the agreement. Before the protocol can come into force, 55 parties representing at least 55 per cent of emissions from developed countries (the so-called "Annex I" states) must ratify it. President George W. Bush has already announced that the United States does not intend to ratify. Early in the latest round of negotiations, an advisor to President Vladimir Putin stated that there is no economic imperative for Russia to ratify the protocol "in its present form". Many national delegations dismissed this statement as a tactic to obtain additional economic aid.

However, Russia's reluctance does raise questions concerning a number of issues related to the climate change regime. Business and industry are being encouraged to earn carbon credits by transferring clean technologies to developing countries and creating carbon sinks in forests, yet it is uncertain whether companies will be able to cash in on these credits if the protocol falls through. If the deal is sealed, the fertilizer industry could earn credits in several ways: by helping improve the environmental performance of polluting production facilities in developing countries and by supporting agricultural training programmes that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from agricultural land through improved fertilizer use management. Agricultural sinks are currently excluded from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) because the methodology of accounting for smaller stocks of carbon and for temporary storage ending at harvest is considered too complex.

At this time, neither national delegations nor the climate change secretariat will admit that the Kyoto Protocol might fail. "There is no Plan B" was the position of a number of officials. Business planning is also dogged by the refusal of governments to begin talks on what will happen during the "second commitment period" after 2012. ●



The Agricultural Industries Confederation

Jane Salter, Head of Policy, Agricultural Industries Confederation

Representation of the British fertilizer industry is changing significantly, following the recent merger, under the name the Agricultural Industries Confederation, of the Fertiliser Manufacturers Association (FMA), the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA) and a group of leading crop protection distributors.

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) has been created with the intention of preserving the best elements from the former organizations while creating an expanded and collaborative working structure, more fitting for today's challenges and the necessity to pool resources and efforts.

The main challenge is to keep the memory of AIC's predecessors alive while creating a new broader culture and identity to reflect a level of influence commensurate with a 6.5 billion pound agricultural supplies industry and its connections in the food supply chain.

Change is one of the few constants in today's dynamic world, and agriculture is constantly adapting to meet the demands of an increasingly discerning and educated population. For more than 150 years, the combined efforts of FMA and its allied associations have helped to meet and surpass the challenges of change but the time is now right for a more coherent voice for the industry. AIC will be capable of stronger dialogue, representation and understanding with governments and the public, making it

more suitable for the new situations and structures of today's commercial world.

On October 10th, the FMA vote to collaborate was unanimous on the understanding that the services to the fertilizer sector would be maintained, its position strengthened and that the team of four staff from FMA would hold key positions in the enlarged organization. David Heather, the former Director General of FMA, now acts as Head of Fertilisers and Deputy Chief Executive to newly installed David Caffall. Jane Salter continues her work in fertilizers and heads wider policy issues. Ros Lightfoot and Mel Randall also have new posts serving the administration unit.

The hope is that the Confederation's structure – currently representing the fertilizers, seeds, feeds and crop protection sectors – will be joined by other groups that see the benefit of sharing office costs and working together more effectively on issues where there is common ground.

AIC manifesto

The AIC's six-point manifesto has been developed in consultation with the new members, of which there are 365. It is the platform for change and for supporting the agricultural production that this country will need if it is to prosper in the enlarged European Union as well as to compete successfully with the rest of the world.

- AIC will raise the standard of food safety

and quality, through collaboration with partners in the food chain, both nationally and internationally, to build consumer confidence in the quality of UK-produced foods.

- AIC will champion high standards in agricultural practices and work to ensure that the UK is maintained as an excellent environment for producing and processing food.
- AIC will promote the development of technology and innovation in agribusiness and provide the facts to influence and develop future policy.
- AIC will lobby for legislation that supports agribusiness and meets the demands of society. It will address the pressures facing members' businesses to promote their place as major players in the food chain.
- AIC will promote the interests in Europe of its members by strengthening its links with EU bodies and taking a lead in developing policies. It will act as a catalyst for free and fair trade, food safety and the development of global food standards.
- AIC will act as a major partner in implementing change launched by the UK Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food, as well as contributing the expertise of its members to ensure safe, plentiful and healthy food products. ●

The new combined AIC team



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 **from principle to practice**

This article is part of a series that explores how IFA members integrate concepts like sustainable development into their business strategy and daily activities.

Cargill Crop Nutrition and Ecosystem Management Team Permitting

Cargill Fertilizer mines and manufactures phosphate fertilizer in west central Florida in the United States. Looking to the future, Cargill developed a long-term plan in 1998 to match the life of its mining operations (30 years) to the capacity of its manufacturing plant in the town of Riverview. This plan included an expansion of Cargill's existing phosphogypsum stack system to increase the company's capacity to store gypsum, a by-product of phosphate fertilizer production. While preserving a 238-acre cooling pond area, the plan called for a 90-acre expansion of the phosphogypsum system. Under the new permit, the closing level was extended to 250 feet (77 metres) high, and the stack was scheduled for closure in 2037.

To fulfill its plan, Cargill recognized that it must assure the community that this expansion would protect people and the ecosystem in the area surrounding the operations. The company made a commitment to design, construct and operate this extended storage area in a manner that would meet or exceed all federal, state and local laws, rules and requirements. In seeking to obtain a long-term and integrated operating permit, Cargill voluntarily applied for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Ecosystem Management process.

In order to ensure a supply of crop nutrients over the long term, the company embarked on an intense two-year permitting process. This Ecosystem Management Team Permitting (EMTP) process is a multistakeholder approach for reviewing large-scale project proposals. Created by the Florida Legislature, EMTP enhances work-

ing relationships between regulatory agencies, business and the public. It gives the public an earlier and more active role in the permitting process. At the same time, business and regulatory agencies can work together to maintain the area's economic welfare and to protect and enhance Florida's environment.

"The Ecosystem Management Team Permitting process was designed to create a more sustainable environment in Florida", said Ozzie Morris, Vice President for Environment, Health and Safety at Cargill Crop Nutrition Worldwide. "The process worked for Cargill during the phosphogypsum stack system expansion because Cargill believed in the process and strived to work with all partners".

Cargill believes its participation in EMTP could be a model for how a Florida company can have sustainable and major economic impacts on its community's economy while protecting and enhancing the environment. By applying for the EMTP process, Cargill demonstrated its continued dedication to the community and the environment.

To qualify for Ecosystem Management Team Permitting, the applicant must show that the results will be significantly better for Florida's environment than a conventional regulatory review, providing what are called "net ecosystem benefits (NEBs)". When Cargill's application was reviewed, all relevant agencies and jurisdictions recommended this type of review and agreed to participate in the process.

Some of the projects that have already been realized and that enhance the environment and make the area a better place to live, work and play, thus providing NEBs are:

- A community food garden in Progress Village;
- A restoration project on Delaney Creek;
- A donation to the Riverview library and the Gardenville Recreation Center;
- The building of an educational centre on Cargill property where students can learn about the local environment.

Continuously updated information on the project and NEBs can be found at www.cargill-neb.com.



Cargill's partners in the EMTP process have included:

- the public and local communities;
- the Florida Department of Environmental Protection;
- the Florida Department of Community Affairs;
- the Southwest Florida Water Management District;
- the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council;
- the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission;
- Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management;
- the United States Army Corps of Engineers;
- the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission;
- the Florida Department of Health.

Members of these organizations and Cargill employees worked together for just over two years, leading to unanimous approval of the project by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners in June 2000.

Cargill is committed to meeting and exceeding environmental regulations, thereby setting a high standard for the phosphate industry.

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The community food garden

Palm Oil Initiative Reflects Growing Supply Chain Controls

During 2002, a number of organizations involved in the global supply chain for palm oil began to discuss how production could be rendered more sustainable. Participants in the process admit that the concept of sustainability is itself somewhat contentious, as individuals emphasize the various environmental, economic and social aspects differently.

This exchange of views led to the inaugural meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, held in Kuala Lumpur in August 2003. Because of the importance of palm oil production in the region, the event was widely covered by the press, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Roundtable is indicative of a general trend in agricultural production – especially in developing countries – to bring together stakeholders ranging from farmers to food processors, consumer groups and environmental advocates. Such initiatives aim to define broad sustainability guidelines for specific crops. Very often, such efforts are also intended to help ensure that agricultural producers meet the requirements for importing their products into industrialized nations that have sophisticated food safety regulations.

Fertilizers are, of course, a key input into global agricultural production. The industry therefore has a role to play in defining the practices that promote responsible and balanced fertilization, which can help farmers meet exacting sustainability guidelines. This is good for the environment and contributes to farmers' economic well-being.

The next step of the Roundtable is to garner support around a “statement of intent” that presents the initiative's vision and seeks expressions of support.

For more information on the initiative, please visit www.sustainable-palmoil.org.



Courtesy K.G. Soh

FAO Admits that Agricultural Development Begins from the Ground Up



Over the past two years, IFA has worked diligently to improve its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Following a successful joint conference in March 2003 on the role of sustainable fertilization in achieving global food security, IFA worked constantly to communicate the recommendations from that event in policy circles. The result has been a renewed acknowledgement of the need for fertilizers to provide adequate crop nutrients to support global agriculture.

During the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations that discussed integrated rural development in July, a number of governments emphasized the importance of fertilizers. National poverty reduction plans, especially in Africa, are increasingly

including access to fertilizers. Fertilizers will be an agenda item of the forthcoming FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

In November, FAO's Director-General Jacques Diouf wrote to IFA and expressed his belief that fertilizers are vital. “Fertilizers are, indeed, a key input for food production,” he said, “and their availability and appropriate use have a direct impact on both farmers and consumers”. Mr Diouf also noted that fertilizer issues are included in a number of FAO programmes and that partnership with the fertilizer industry is important to increase farmers' access, especially under the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

A high-level delegation from IFA is expected to visit Mr Diouf in early 2004.

IFA Monitors Water Quality Work

IFA regularly interacts with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on policy issues affecting fertilizer production and use. While OECD membership is restricted to industrialized countries, its work often influences laws and regulations in developing countries.

As an intergovernmental think tank, OECD is widely considered a useful source of analysis of policy-relevant questions. It was therefore considered critical that IFA participate in the recent OECD expert meeting on Agricultural Water Quality and Water Use Indicators. As the dates of this meeting conflicted with the 2003 IFA Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, IFA asked the New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association (Fert Research) to attend on behalf of the industry.

The two associations jointly developed the key messages to be presented at the meeting. IFA also encouraged Fert Research to highlight the positive experience of the New Zealand fertilizer industry, which has worked closely with government authorities to develop a voluntary Code of Practice for Fertiliser Use that is legally recognized.

Such cooperation between two fertilizer industry-related organizations responds to requests from our members for greater collaboration and coordination on policy issues. This partnership will continue at the OECD expert meeting on Farm Management Indicators and the Environment in March 2004, when the IFA delegation will also include representatives from Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Hydro Agri and Incitec Pivot Ltd.

Password for “Members Only” Site to Change

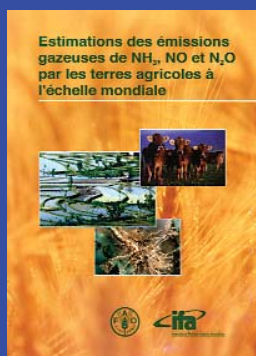
To safeguard information that is reserved for members, IFA regularly changes the password needed to log on to the “Members Only” section of the web site. Please note that the Username remains the same. The new password will be sent to IFA Main Contacts as well as members of committees and working groups in January. The new password becomes effective on 1 February. If you do not receive the password notification by that date, please **contact** Aline Bortot at abortot@fertilizer.org or by fax (+33 1 53 93 05 47). For security reasons, only written requests can be answered.

Information resources

IFA/FAO publication

Now available in French

Estimations des émissions gazeuses de NH₃, NO et N₂O par les terres agricoles à l'échelle mondiale



FAO, IFA, 1st edition, Rome, Italy, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 92 5 204689 5
 Les plantes absorbent seulement 50 pour cent de l'engrais azoté appliqué aux terres agricoles. Une partie de cette inefficacité est le résultat des émissions d'ammoniac (NH₃), de protoxyde d'azote (N₂O) et de monoxyde d'azote. La quantification de ces émissions est importante, tout d'abord en tant qu'élément d'une tentative d'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'utilisation des engrais et ensuite de leurs effets sur les écosystèmes, la pollution atmosphérique et l'effet dit de serre. Ce rapport fournit une vaste revue de la littérature au sujet des émissions de NH₃, de N₂O et de NO, et examine les facteurs de régulations, les techniques de mesure et les modèles. Il réunit ces données et produit des évaluations globales d'émission qui peuvent servir de base pour aborder par la suite les questions d'efficacité et d'impact sur l'environnement.

Copies are available from IFA (see order form page 12).

A Spanish editon will be available in the second quarter of 2004.

Oil Palm Management for Large and Sustainable Yields

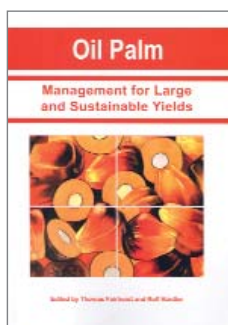
T. Fairhurst (PPI/PPIC) and R. Haerdter (IPI), 2003. 382 pp. ISBN 981 04 8485 2.

Price: USD 24.

In 15 chapters, this book deals with all aspects for the successful management of oil palm ranging from botany and genetics, to land selection and agronomic practices, to nutrition and fertilizer requirements, to optimizing yield and financial returns.

The conduct of fertilizer experiments, the use of residues and the possible application of the concepts of precision agriculture are also covered, together with an appendix on methods of measurements, sampling and analysis.

Written by scientists and acknowledged experts, Oil Palm is a very rich source of information and advice for students, researchers, extension agents and farm managers.



BALCROP Balanced Fertilization for Better Crops in Vietnam

A project funded by IFA

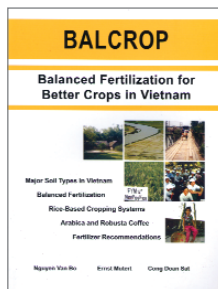
N.V. Bo, E. Mutert, C.D. Sat, Handbook Series, PPI-PPIC, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 981 04 8485 2.

The Balcrop project promotes the environmentally friendly and economic use of fertilizers for sufficient agricultural production, with the objective of optimizing crop performance in Vietnam. Since 1994, the project has developed cooperative activities in more than 20 provinces in Vietnam, involving the country's major crops and soils. The continuing adaptation of the principles of balanced fertilization has resulted in a change of crop productivity and the NPK nutrient consumption pattern in recent years.

Contact

For information on these two books or matters related to tropical crop production and plant nutrition:

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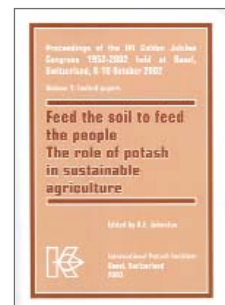


Feed the Soil to Feed the People. The Role of Potash in Sustainable Agriculture

Proceedings of the IPI Golden Jubilee Congress 1952-2002, Volume 1: invited papers

Ed. A.E. Johnston, IPI, Basel, Switzerland, 2003. 369 pp. Price: USD 25.

This volume contains 18 invited papers and six regional reports on potash use. The speakers from international research institutions and universities covered policy, economic and social issues related to food supply and the environment, the importance of plant nutrients for sustainable agriculture and the role of potassium in yield development, crop quality and the resistance of plants to stress. Volume 2 which summarizes the poster presentations is under preparation.



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Decision Support Tools for Smallholder Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa

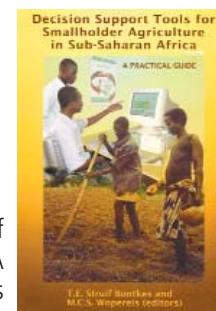
A Practical Guide

Ed. T.E. Struif Bontkes and M.C.S. Wopereis. IFDC, CTA, 2003.

194 pp.

ISBN 0 880090 142 X.

This book is the result of a COSTBOX project (A Client-Oriented Systems Tool Box for Technology Transfer Related to Soil Fertility Improvement and Sustainable Agriculture in West Africa). Its objective is to help agricultural researchers and extension staff in the selection and application of tools that facilitate decision-making to improve soil fertility management and agricultural production.



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Soil Fertility Decline in the Tropics

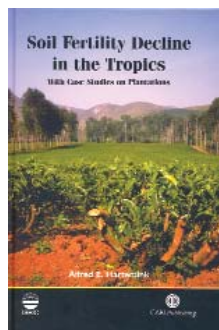
With Case Studies on Plantations

A.E. Hartemink,
CABI Publishing, UK,
2003. 384 pp.
ISBN 0851996701
Price: USD 120.

This book focuses on soil chemical changes under different land-use systems in the tropics. These include perennial crops, annual crops and forest plantations. Two case studies, on sisal plantations in Tanzania and sugar cane in Papua New Guinea, are presented for detailed analysis. The author demonstrates that soil fertility decline is also a problem on plantations.

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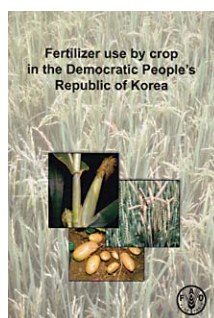
Fertilizer Use by Crop in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

FAO, 1st edition,
Rome, Italy, 2003.
34 pp.

In recent years agricultural production has fallen sharply in DPR Korea. There is little arable land and increased production must come from higher yields, which require an adequate supply of production inputs such as fertilizers. All inputs are in short supply and there is a lack of items such as spare parts for machinery and irrigation pumps.

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The publication can be downloaded from FAO's AGL on-line database at www.fao.org/ag/agl/oldocs.jsp
Some copies are available from IFA (see order form page 12).



Current World Fertilizer Trends and Outlook to 2007/08

FAO, Rome, Italy, 2003. 55 pp.
This report represents world nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilizer medium-term supply and demand projections for the period 2002/03-2007/08.

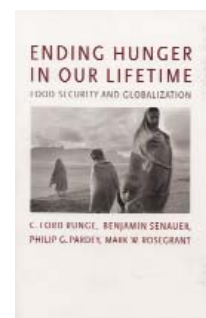
The publication can be downloaded at www.fao.org/ag/agl/oldocs.jsp

Ending Hunger in our Lifetime Food Security and Globalisation

C.F. Runge, B. Senauer,
P.G. Pardey, M.W.
Rosengrant, IFPRI,
Washington, DC, USA,
2003. 288 pp.
ISBN 0 8018 7725 3.

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IFPRI, Washington, DC, USA
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www.ifpri.org
or www.press.jhu.edu



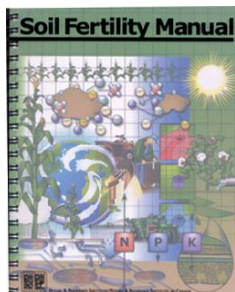
Soil Fertility Manual

PPI, USA, 2003.
200 pp. ISBN
0 9629598 5 5.
Price: USD 33.

First published by PPI in 1978, the manual was revised and updated in 2003. It still features the basic principles of soil/plant relationships and fertilizer/ag lime use. The Manual serves as a practical and modern resource on soil fertility, including the primary and secondary nutrients and micronutrients, soil sampling and testing, plant analysis, other diagnostic techniques and more. The publication now contains 11 chapters, plus a glossary and new appendices containing tables of conversions and reference lists, as well as colour photos of various nutrient deficiency symptoms in crops. The new version also has an index of topics. The presentation style of the manual continues to be practical and easy-to-grasp, making it adaptable to use by agronomists, farm advisers, students, farmers, and others. It is suitable for classroom use, meetings, and individual study.

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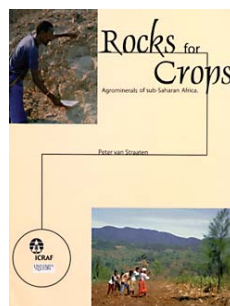
Rocks for Crops Agrominerals of sub-Saharan Africa

P. van Straaten, ICRAF, University of Guelph,
Canada, 2002.
338 pp. ISBN
0 88955 512 5.

This book introduces the applied, natural resource science called agrogeology. Agrominerals are naturally occurring geological resources for the production of fertilizers and soil amendments. The inventory of indigenous agromineral resources from 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa shows the potential of developing the known agrominerals and finding additional mineral resources for use in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and agroforestry.

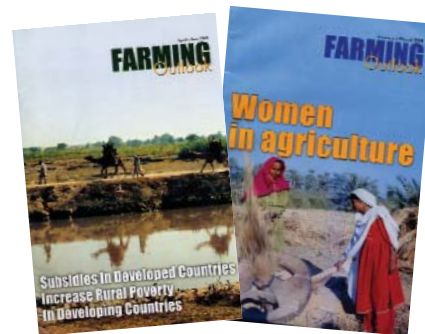
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Farming Outlook

A quarterly education magazine on policy and developments of progressive agriculture



Ed. Tahir Saleem, Islamabad, Pakistan. 32 pp.
ISSN 1680 5984

The review gives updates on the latest developments in agriculture in Pakistan and abroad. Readers are encouraged to send their contributions on any relevant aspects of agriculture (policy, environment, plant protection, etc).

Contact

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Fax: +92 51 4440900
tahir.pak@comsats.net.pk

Items are included on this page as a matter of information.

Inclusion does not constitute an endorsement by IFA.

Highlights from the Agriculture Committee

IFA was actively involved in the workshop on the risk assessment and management of environmental cadmium organized by the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) from 3 to 6 September 2003 in Ghent, Belgium. The workshop was attended by some 40 scientists and industry representatives from across the globe. The recommendations arising from the workshop pro-

vided a scientific basis for IFA's suggestions for the revision of the draft European Commission (EC) proposal to regulate cadmium in phosphate fertilizers.

The IFA Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held from 6 to 8 October 2003 on Cheju Island, Republic of Korea, attracted almost 300 participants. There were lively discussions, particularly during the half-day workshop on fertilizer use efficiency in Asia and the panel session on biofertilizers.

The papers presented are available on the IFA website (at www.fertilizer.org/ifa/news/2003_16.asp) and on cd-rom.

The programme of the IFA International Symposium on Micronutrients, to be held from 23 to 25 February 2004 in New Delhi, India, is taking shape. The symposium will include presentations on agronomic, health, economic and market issues, as well as posters and a field visit. The deadline for registration is 22 January 2004.

The call for nominations for the 2004 IFA Crop Nutrition Award has been widely circulated. Following modification of the eligibility criteria by the Agriculture Committee, at its meeting in Philadelphia, the 2004 Award will be given to a scientist based in a developed country, in a country with an economy in transition or at any international agricultural



research centre, regardless of the host country. IFA members are strongly encouraged to nominate senior soil or crop scientists who have demonstrated excellence in their field.

The annual IFADATA cd-rom, updated with figures for 2001/02, is now available. New features have been incorporated to make the cd-rom more user-friendly. ●



Highlights from the Conference Service

IFA closed its 2003 conference programme in Bangkok with the yearly Enlarged Council Meeting, held from 9 to 11 December.

Some 70 participants heard Changchui He, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and FAO's Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific discuss the role of industry in FAO's

International Alliance against Hunger in the region. He was followed by Sarah Porter, Environmental Economist at the World Conservation Union (IUCN), who presented the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and explained opportunities for industry engagement in that initiative.

IFA's Regional Vice Presidents reported on the situations in their respective regions. The

IFA Secretariat presented the short-term prospects for world agriculture and fertilizer use as well as the short-term outlook for the supply of and international trade in the main fertilizers and raw materials.

For more details on the following IFA events in 2004, please visit www.fertilizer.org.

IFA International Symposium on Micronutrients

23-25 February
New Delhi, India
Open to non-members of IFA
Registration deadline:
22 January 2004

IFA Technical Conference

20-23 April
Beijing, China
Limited to IFA members
Registration deadline:
17 March 2004

72nd IFA Annual Conference

24-26 May
Marrakech, Morocco
Limited to IFA members
Registration deadline:
16 April 2004

IFA Production and International Trade Conference

3-5 October
Dubai, UAE
Limited to IFA members

30th IFA Enlarged Council Meeting

1-3 December
Santiago, Chile
Limited to IFA members

IFA Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

14-16 December
Auckland, New Zealand
Open to non-members of IFA ●

IFA Annual Conference Schedule to Change

At the request of its members, the International Fertilizer Industry Association has reduced by one day the length of its Annual Conference, which will run from 24 to 26 May this year. Consequently, members are kindly requested to note that the timing for the traditional presentations by the Secretariat on supply and demand outlooks has changed. "The Global Agricultural Situation and Fertilizer Demand" will be presented on the afternoon of Wednesday, 26 May, during the Second General Session. It will be followed by "Fertilizers and Raw Materials Supply and Supply/Demand Balances" during the Third General Session.

Highlights from the Technical Committee



Jean-Louis Besson, Director General, Grande Paroisse SA, commits his company to uphold the safety principles in the presence of Saif Al-Ghafli, Chairman of the IFA Technical Committee (left), and Luc Maene, IFA Director General (right).

2003 Committee Meeting and Forum

The joint meeting of the Technical Committee and Sub-Committee in Abu Dhabi attracted some 50 participants from 20 countries. Among key decisions taken was the transformation of the Emissions Task Force, which had reached the end of its mandate, into an Environment Working Group. The Environment Working Group will cover broader environmental issues during production. The meeting also provided an occasion to launch the Safety Certificate scheme.

A forum with seven presentations followed, in an effort to increase attendance at Committee meetings. The topics were diverse, i.e. use of agricultural run-off water for potash production, fluid bed granulation of urea, purity of phosphoric acid, product stewardship, safety and technical solutions for replacement of ammonia loading lines, and repair of rotor damage caused by electromagnetic shaft currents.

A site visit to FERTIL's operations in Ruwais was organized. IFA extends its gratitude for the hospitality shown.

2004 Technical Conference, Beijing, 20-23 April

Seven papers of general interest will be presented during the plenary session. A day each will then be devoted to topics relating to phosphates and nitrogen. Some nine papers have been selected to provide insights into the state of technology in China. Topics will include coal-based ammonia production, innovations for

DAP and NPK fertilizers, modernization and revamping strategies, and SO₂ emissions trading.

There will be a plant visit to the SACF facilities in Qinhuangdao, north-east of Beijing.

Safety benchmarking survey shows strong performance

A total of 67 companies from 40 countries (with 75 reporting units) participated in the 2002 Safety Benchmarking Survey. The overall LTIR was 4.38 for 206.1 million hours worked, compared with 4.35 for 160.1 million hours in 2001. The 45 companies involved in the 2001 exercise improved their performance, reducing their LTIR to 3.92 from 5.63 for a similar number of hours worked. Figures for contract workers were less positive. However, they were significantly skewed by results from just five of the reporting units.

2002 environmental report

Approximately one third of the global industry (in terms of tonnages of key products or intermediates produced) participated in the 2002 emissions survey. A total of 66 members from 42 countries responded. Two years ago, 52 members from 35 countries took part in the survey. Overall, the industry appears to have progressed towards meeting the best available technique (BAT) levels for permissible emissions. Compared with previous results, some 30 indicators showed positive changes, 18 were negative and 4 remained unchanged.

The next survey is planned for 2005. ●

Highlights from the Production and International Trade Committee

Potash Working Party

The Committee continued its restructuring with the selection of a new Convenor for the Potash Working Party, following the retirement of Mr Bernhard Wiechens of K+S Kali GmbH. Mr Anatoly Lomakin of International Potash Company Ltd agreed to become this Working Party's Convenor. A new advisory group comprising the Committee's Chairman and Convenors held its first meeting in St. Petersburg.

2003 and 2004 Production and International Trade Conferences

This year's Production and International Trade Conference, held in St. Petersburg in September, included a Regional Conference for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. There were 23 presentations on topics addressing fertilizer supply and markets in the region. The papers and presentations delivered at the event are now available to members on cd-rom or in hard copy.

After consideration of several venues, Dubai has been chosen as the site of the 2004 Conference, which will take place during the first week of October.

Priorities for 2004

The Production and International Trade Committee and its Secretariat will focus on four major priorities in 2004:

- Improving the compilation of data on industrial uses of ammonia and urea. Better coverage will enhance the quality of global supply/demand balance forecasts;
- Revisiting the parameters that determine capacity and operating rates;
- Expanding the analyses of regional supply and demand balances and ensuring improved coverage of production and trade in key parts of the globe;
- Further monitoring and assessment of the trade impacts of technical measures and regulations.

Statistics released

IFA members may now request quarterly statistics, covering the period from January to September 2003, on ammonia, phosphate rock, processed phosphates, sulphur and urea. ●



word: Association

Safety First

Like all industries today, the fertilizer industry needs to manage a number of issues that are outside its core competence of producing plant nutrients to support global food



production. Our industry needs to take into account growing societal demands for high standards in the ethical and environmental spheres, among others. One of the most basic responsibilities of the industry is to protect the health and safety of its workers.

Beyond the basic undeniable value of human life, workers are also a rich source of expertise and innovation. Protecting them has both an ethical and a business sense.

IFA's Technical Committee and its Safety Task Force make this a priority area for work. At the end of 2002, the Association adopted its Principles of Safety in Fertilizer Production. All member companies are encouraged to commit to these 11 points and to share them with all employees, both for educational purposes and to communicate the company's commitment.

The Association's second safety benchmarking exercise has just been finalized. The results demonstrate an overall high level of safety across IFA members' operations. Companies that reported for a second year showed improvement. Newcomers had a slightly lower performance level, which

probably indicates that the first round of participants were those with the most confidence in their safety performance. The slightly lower score this year may result from a wider range of companies that took part, with the goal of catching up with the industry leaders.

The continuing strong response this year is also encouraging because significantly more working hours were covered. However, it is still difficult for the Association to report on sector-wide trends when only a portion of the members report. We therefore urge all fertilizer producers to participate in the next round of safety benchmarking, which is scheduled to start in February.

Companies that have participated in the benchmarking surveys carried out thus far are eligible to receive a safety certificate from IFA. These certificates list the 11 principles of safety in fertilizer production and include the company's commitment to respect them. Both a member company representative and myself sign the certificate.

Although the original certificate is in English, companies are encouraged to translate the certificate into local languages and to display it prominently so that employees can take note of the commitment. To date, translations exist in some 25 languages.

Together we can make the fertilizer industry a positive example of ensuring worker health and safety. ●

New Membership Directory

Members trying to find colleagues in other companies can now access an updated version of the IFA membership directory, which was released in September. Due to frequent changes and the cost of printing, the directory is only available in pdf format. Members may download it from the IFA web site (www.fertilizer.org) or request a copy on cd-rom (publications@fertilizer.org).

IFA Fact Sheets Speak Multiple Languages

Having difficulty finding the right words to explain the benefits of belonging to IFA?

The fact sheets that constitute IFA's presentation materials are now available online in English and Russian, with Chinese forthcoming. Members interested in contributing a translation of any or all of the sheets into their local languages should contact the Information and Communications Service.

The on line sheets cover the following topics:

- About the International Fertilizer Industry Association
- About fertilizers and the industry
- IFA members
- Benefits / responsibilities of membership
- Publications reserved for members
- IFA's activities
- IFA's structure

GPIC Safety Record Earns Top Honour

Following ten consecutive Gold Awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) was honoured as the joint winner of the 2003 RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Award for the Chemical Industry. GPIC's good practices were highlighted in the September 2003 issue of *Fertilizers & Agriculture*.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is a registered charity that was established more than 80 years ago. Providing information, advice, resources and training, RoSPA aims to campaign for change, influence opinion, contribute to debate, educate and inform.

RoSPA believes that one of the best ways to

promote safety and encourage best management practices is to reward those who head the field and lead by example. Since 1956 RoSPA has maintained a prestigious award scheme to recognize excellence in health and safety performance by private and public sector organizations.

The fundamental purposes of the programme are:

- to help motivate health and safety performance improvement in organizations by providing them with a rising scale of targets (the bronze, silver and gold awards that are the core of the scheme);
- to provide a means of recognizing and celebrating health and safety achievement;

- to provide examples of good practice, ensuring that there is an ever growing number of positive role models to follow.

The RoSPA programme judges a broad portfolio of evidence about the development and performance of an entrant's health and safety management systems. It looks at inputs and outputs and considers the health and safety culture as well as the number of days lost.

RoSPA is now building on this approach by developing further guidance on best practice in setting corporate health and safety improvement targets. For more information, please visit www.rospace.com.



Calendar

IFA - 2004

23 - 25 February

IFA International Symposium on Micronutrients New Delhi, India

Registration deadline: 22 January 2004

20 - 23 April

IFA Technical Conference Beijing, China #

Registration deadline: 17 March 2004

24 - 26 May

72nd IFA Annual Conference Marrakech, Morocco #

Registration deadline: 16 April 2004

3 - 5 October

IFA Production and International Trade Conference #

Dubai, UAE

1 - 3 December

30th Enlarged Council Meeting Santiago, Chile #

14 - 16 December

IFA Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Auckland, New Zealand

Restricted to IFA members

Non-IFA - 2004

20 - 22 January

10th AFA International Annual Conference Cairo, Egypt

Fax: + 20 2 4172347 info@afa.com.eg www.afa.com.eg

1 - 4 February

Fertilizer Marketing Business Meeting New Orleans, USA

Fax: + 1 202 962 0577 lmabee@tfi.org www.tfi.org

10 - 12 March

FMB 1st Asian Fertilizer Conference and Exhibition

Bangkok, Thailand

Fax: + 44 20 8979 4573 fmb@fmb-group.co.uk www.fmb-group.co.uk

16 - 19 March

10th Congress of Soil Science on Management of Natural

Resources for Food Security Tandojan, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 221 765300 ksmemon@hyd.paknet.com.pk

17 - 19 March

2nd New Ag International Conference and Exhibition Rome, Italy

Fax: + 44 (0)20 8744 1705 conference@newaginternational.com

21 - 23 March

9th Symposium on Sulphur Markets-Today and Tomorrow

London, United Kingdom

Fax: + 1 202 293 2940 sulphur@sulphurinstitute.org

www.sulphurinstitute.org

While every attempt is made to provide accurate information, IFA cannot guarantee the details for non-IFA events. Contact the organizers for confirmation.

21 - 24 March

International Nitrogen 2004 Conference Munich, Germany

Fax: + 44 20 7903 2432 conferences@crugroup.com

www.britishtsulphur.com

23 - 25 March

International Horticultural Fertilizer Expo China

Fax: + 86 10 65918986 linda@ccpit-ssa.org.cn

www.ccpit-ssa.org.cn/eng/plant/p-index.htm

1 - 4 April

IFPRI Conference on Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in

Africa by 2020 Uganda, Africa

Fax: + 1 202 467 4439 r.pandya-lorch@cgjar.org

www.ifpri.org/2020AfricaConference/index.htm

11 - 15 April

12th International Symposium on Iron Nutrition and

Interactions in Plants Tokyo, Japan

Fax: + 81 3 5841 5236 isinip@eagle.ocn.ne.jp

www.knt.co.jp/tyoec/ironsymp2004

19 - 23 April

***IFDC International Training Program on Integrated Soil Fertility**

Management Lomé, Togo

26 - 30 April

***IFDC International Training Program on Innovative**

Management Practices for Nitrogen Use Efficiency

Dhaka, Bangladesh

17 - 26 May

Assessing Crop Production, Nutrient Management, Climatic Risk and Environmental Sustainability with Simulation Models

Griffin, Georgia, USA

Fax: +1 770 228 7218 gerrit@griffin.uga.edu

www.ICASA.net/events/dssat2004.html

23 - 26 May

IFS Annual Study Tour Northern Italy

Fax: + 44 1904 492700 secretary@fertiliser-society.org

www.fertiliser-society.org

31 May - 4 June

***IFDC International Training Program on Indigenous Resource**

Development for the Fertilizer Sector Dakar, Senegal

7 - 10 June

International ISHS Symposium "Towards Ecologically Sound Fertilisation Strategies for Field Vegetable Production"

Perugia, Italy

Fax: + 39 075 585 6344 ishs2004@unipg.it www.unipg.it/ishs2004

11 - 15 July

8th ESA Congress on European Agriculture in a Global Context

Copenhagen, Denmark

Fax: + 45 3528 3384 seja@kvl.dk www.esaCopenhagen2004.kvl.dk

25 - 28 July

7th International Conference on Precision Agriculture - CALL

FOR PAPERS Minneapolis, USA

16 - 20 August

***IFDC International Training Program on Agricultural Input**

Regulatory Systems Pretoria, South Africa

Members Are Responsible for Protecting IFA's Data

The information that the Association makes publicly available can be re-used for non-commercial purposes, provided the source is properly attributed. IFA nonetheless retains the copyright on this information.

On the other hand, passwords, statistics and other information reserved for members should not be shared with non-members. Requests for permission to redistribute such protected information outside a member company should be directed to the IFA Secretariat. Guidelines for the decision on whether to give permission include whether the value of doing so would benefit the sector as a whole. If you are not sure who to contact for permission, please write to publications@fertilizer.org. Your request will be directed as appropriate.

Surveys show that senior executives in the fertilizer industry are aware of their responsibility to protect the value of IFA's original work, and therefore of their membership. However, this message is not always communicated throughout member companies. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that the message is widely broadcast within your organization. Companies are legally responsible for employees' use of copyrighted material in the workplace.

Companies should note that IFA's member associations do not have the right to share IFA data with their own members unless those companies also belong to IFA.

Display your IFA Pride

Members of the Association are encouraged to mention that they belong to IFA on letterheads and web sites. In these instances it is appropriate to mention the category of membership (for example, "Associate member of IFA") under the logo. Logos in colour or black and white can be downloaded in high resolution (for printing) or in a web-friendly version in the Communications section of the "Members Only web site. Guidance on using colours is provided online. For assistance, please contact Kristen E. Sukalac, ksukalac@fertilizer.org, Head of Information and Communications at the IFA Secretariat.

Members' News is Good News

Members are encouraged to share their news with IFA for inclusion in *Fertilizers & Agriculture*. Short news items, such as awards earned for safety or public outreach, are especially appreciated. Companies may wish to submit an article for inclusion in the series "From Principle to Practice" (see page 4 of this issue for an example). Associations, research institutes and similar affiliate members can be the subject of a "Focus on..." article (see page 3). For more information, please contact Kristen E. Sukalac at the IFA Secretariat.



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- Fax: +33 1 53 93 05 45 / 47
- ifa@fertilizer.org
- www.fertilizer.org

IFA comprises around 450 member companies in more than 80 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

John Van Brunt, President
Agrium, Canada

IFA Director General

L.M. Maene

Mailing list

Subscription to F&A is free of charge. Send full address details to be added to the mailing list. Additional copies may be supplied to organizations to circulate on behalf of IFA.

Letters

We invite your contributions of letters, documents, articles, photographs, etc.

-Editor: Kristen E. Sukalac

-Layout: Claudine Aholou-Pütz

-Design: Dora Maltz

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IFA Request Form agriculture January 2004

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

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

- Fertilizer Use by Crop in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Estimations des émissions gazeuses de NH₃, NO et N₂O par les terres agricoles à l'échelle mondiale
- IFA Regional Conference papers cd-rom
- IFA Council Meeting papers cd-rom *restricted to IFA member companies*
- IFADATA Statistics 2001/02 cd-rom *restricted to IFA member companies*

Name

Company/Organization

Address

E-mail Web