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IFADATA – Revisions of China’s consumption statistics (2005-2014)

Following a year-long investigation by CNCIC, and after receiving feedback from other experts, the IFA Secretariat decided to revise its historical consumption statistics for China for the decade 2005-2014. The Secretariat believes these new estimates better reflect Chinese fertilizer consumption and domestic market conditions.

As shown in the tables below, for all ten years, consumption of N was lowered significantly, whereas consumption of P2O5 was raised significantly. Potash consumption was also raised every year starting in 2010. Overall, annual fertilizer consumption estimates (N + P2O5 + K2O) were reduced by 1.3-6.5 million tonnes depending on the year; the average annual reduction was 3.9 million tonnes over the period.

China’s NEW consumption estimates – Nutrient totals (as of September 2017):

1000 t nutrients	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total N	25 743	28 004	27 161	24 867	26 863	25 058	26 503	26 692	27 961	25 154
Total P2O5	12 834	12 960	12 455	11 292	13 425	13 893	13 304	14 065	14 877	15 254
Total K2O	5 547	5 821	5 523	5 032	3 291	5 861	6 479	6 572	7 050	8 176
Total N + P2O5 + K2O	44 124	46 785	45 139	41 191	43 579	44 813	46 286	47 329	49 888	48 584

Changes brought to China’s consumption estimates – Nutrient totals (NEW minus OLD):

1000 t nutrients	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total N	-4 018	-3 806	-5 300	-7 655	-5 837	-7 155	-6 303	-6 354	-5 040	-7 714
Total P2O5	1 427	1 002	886	792	2 425	1 793	1 004	1 665	3 397	3 854
Total K2O	47	221	-957	347	-1 009	661	779	572	250	791
Total N + P2O5 + K2O	-2 544	-2 583	-5 372	-6 517	-4 421	-4 700	-4 520	-4 117	-1 392	-3 070

Product-wise, one of the main changes brought to China’s statistics was a reduction of **the consumption estimates for Urea, Ammonium Phosphates and Potassium Chloride, somewhat offset by an increase in the consumption estimates for NPK products**. Since it was not deemed possible to separate bulk blends from NPK compounds (chemical and physical), the NPK consumption estimates starting in 2005 **include both bulk blends and compounds**.¹

Changes brought to China’s consumption estimates – Main Products (NEW minus OLD):

1000 t nutrients	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
N										
Urea	-5 778	-6 465	-8 132	-10 266	-8 439	-10 155	-8 633	-8 448	-9 474	-12 137
Other N straight	-2 225	-1 756	-1 773	-786	-1 942	-1 879	-1 900	-2 333	-1 275	-1 793
Ammonium phosphates (N)	-479	-713	-751	-952	-933	-1 220	-1 470	-1 277	-1 313	-1 053
N P K compound (N)	4 821	5 460	5 588	4 671	5 774	6 479	6 102	5 996	7 337	7 637
P2O5										
Ammonium phosphates (P2O5)	-1 853	-2 437	-2 482	-3 623	-2 798	-3 886	-4 427	-4 319	-4 441	-2 592
N P K compound (P2O5)	2 945	3 290	3 508	3 054	3 445	3 813	3 714	3 458	4 249	4 546
K2O										
Potassium chloride	-4 398	-4 559	-5 272	-3 877	-2 579	-2 879	-3 343	-3 918	-4 345	-4 653
N P K compound (K2O)	4 290	4 600	4 283	4 088	1 637	3 719	4 261	4 389	4 425	5 137

¹ This is only applicable to China, not to other countries.