Global policy issues, risks and opportunities for the global fertilizer industry

Charlotte Hebebrand, Director General

Outline of presentation

- Overview of IFA
  - Role and activities
  - Advocacy
- Priority Policy Issues
  - Nutrient Stewardship
  - Product Safety & Security
Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA’s role and activities

Membership, legitimacy and diversity

540 members  85 countries

VISION
The fertilizer industry contributes to global food security through the efficient and responsible production, distribution and use of plant nutrients on a world-wide basis.

IFA’S MISSION
IFA promotes fertilizers through four key activity streams

Statistical & Market Intelligence
Business Networking
International Engagement
Benchmarking & Best Practices

APPROACH
IFA provides a framework for collaboration within the fertilizer value chain on areas of common interest, platforms to discuss the complex issues facing the sector and a structure for agreeing common positions and joint actions.

... To feed the world, one must first feed the crops...
NORMAN BORLAUG

... a few billion people would have to die if we hadn't come up with fertilizer...
BILL GATES

Fertilizing Crops for Food and Nutrition Security

Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA's role and activities
Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA's role and activities

- Eutrophication
- Acidification of ecosystems
- Loss of biodiversity
- Climate change
- Stratospheric ozone depletion
- Particulate matter formation (dust) and photo-oxidant formation
- Nitrate in drinking water and food
- Soil nutrient mining
- Soil fertility degradation
- Erosion
- Low productivity
- Food insecurity
- Malnutrition

Nutrient Stewardship

Calls for improved efficiency are not new...

“We need to develop new products that will deliver just the nutrients that the growing plants require and diminish environmental externalities,...to invest in advanced fertilizer research,...and coordinate with advanced plant genetic research so that we can achieve synergy between more efficient use of available nutrients by plants and more efficient delivery of nutrients.”

Dr. Norman Borlaug, 2008
Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA’s role and activities

...and multiplying
Reactive N initiatives and relative influence

...and multiplying
Reactive P initiatives and relative influence
Environmental concerns

- Improve nutrient use efficiency (NUE) by 20% by 2020
- Establish a global intergovernmental framework on the nitrogen issue

Sustainable solutions....
Nutrient stewardship

- Focuses on nutrient end use (contrary to product stewardship)
- Refers to nutrient management practices that improve social, economic and environmental sustainability through implementation of scientific management principles
- Recognizes economic, social and environmental goals vary regionally and from farm to farm
- Development and adoption of site- and crop-specific best management practices are critical to achieving the performance improvements logically embedded in any nutrient stewardship system

IFA will promote end use nutrient stewardship efforts recognizing the minimum principles of applying the right use of nutrient source, rate, time and place and of last-mile delivery.

Promoting Stewardship Programs
Effective last-mile delivery

- Improving the efficiency in farmers’ use of agricultural inputs
- Developing improved crop varieties
- Heavily investing in agricultural research and development
- Closing existing "yield gaps"

Special products

- Slow- and controlled release fertilizers
- Stabilized fertilizers
- Fertilizers supplemented with micronutrients
- Soluble / liquid fertilizers (fertigation, foliar sprays)

- Mostly used on specialty crops
- Constrained by price differential
- New products could alleviate the price constraint
- Virtual Fertilizer Research Center (launched in 2010 by IFDC): creating the next generation of fertilizers
Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA's role and activities

Promoting product safety

West (USA), 2013

Toulouse (France), 2001

Product security

GLOBAL TASK FORCE

Review areas include topics like:

1. Fertilizer coloring
2. Detonation prevention
3. Rigorous standards
4. Awareness and education

- Stakeholder outreach (JIEDDO, World Customs Organization, …)
- Local Task Forces (Europe, US, …) and events (Central Asia, …)
- Local cooperation (Europe, US, Pakistan, …)
- Individual company leadership (Russia, …)
Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA's role and activities

Product Stewardship
Protect & Sustain

12 SHE Principles
IFA developed 12 guiding principles for SHE (Safety, Health and Environmental) management.

→ More efficient workplaces = increased productivity
→ Risk mitigation = < few incidents < less remedial expenses
→ Safe and secure workplace = improved business performance

In summary

We have a great story to tell
Increasing scrutiny on nutrient losses and on safety & security
Business as usual is not enough: we need proactive engagement
Partnerships! Partnerships! Partnerships!

Global policy issues, risks and opportunities: IFA's role and activities