

## SUSTAINABILITY STORIES

### HANH NGUYEN, GLOBAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY, OCI

#### WHAT IS YOUR JOB AND HOW DOES IT SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY?

I am the Global Vice President for Sustainability at OCI, responsible for the development and implementation of OCI's sustainability strategy. At OCI, sustainability has become an integral part of our strategy to ensure long-term sustainable growth. Not only do we see it as absolutely critical to reduce our own carbon footprint, but we also see ourselves playing a critical role in enabling the energy transition by providing innovative low to zero carbon fuels and feedstocks for transportation and industry, as well as sustainable fertilizer solutions – low to zero carbon fertilizers and enhanced nutrient use efficiency fertilizers.

#### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK IN THE FERTILIZER INDUSTRY?

My passion for agriculture started during my freshman year in college in the Midwest. I believed then and still do now that advances in agriculture play a huge role in sustainable economic development and in solving the climate challenges. I went on to obtain a PhD in Plant Biology with a minor in Rural Development from Cornell University. Since then, I have spent the last 10 years in consulting (McKinsey & Company), management (Dummen Orange) and sustainability (Unilever) further deepening my experience up and down the agriculture value chain. In my previous role, leading the climate and water program implementation at Unilever, it became very clear to me that fertilizers are critical for agriculture, to feed an ever-growing global population sustainably. However, the way that we produce and use fertilizers today must change, which motivated me to join OCI as I believe that we are on the right path to tackle emissions from production and usage.

#### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED IN YOUR CAREER TO DATE?

It is important to have a dual vision – how to achieve short-term successes while keeping the ball rolling toward the long-term ambition. Short-term successes (or quick wins) allow you to keep motivation levels high across different stakeholders. For long-term successes, it takes vision, courage, empathy and a healthy dose of optimism to bring people from across the organization with you on the transformational journey.

#### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT OCI'S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY AND PLANS?

OCI is committed to driving decarbonization, diversity and inclusion with a focus on sustainable value creation and contributing



*Sustainability offers me an opportunity to contribute to ensuring the future of humanity, including my own children, on earth. It is also about progress and innovations, which motivates the inner scientist in me.*

to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, we have committed to:

- 20 percent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050
- Solutions to decarbonize downstream value chains including agriculture and food, fuels and industrial applications
- 25 percent female senior leadership by 2025, with a groupwide diversity and inclusion program launched in 2020
- An inclusive culture, where diversity is recognized and valued, and local talent is developed
- A robust governance and reporting framework to encourage best practices across our value chain.

We have demonstrated a track record of delivering improvements, which gives us confidence going forward. For example, our N<sub>2</sub>O emission is 90 percent below industry average and we improved the ratio of female-to-male hires by 16 percent in 2020 versus 2019. In the short-term, we aim to deliver decarbonization progress rapidly through operational excellence while leveraging strategic partnerships for long-term projects such as investing in innovative solutions for processes and inputs (e.g., different projects to develop blue and green ammonia, enhanced nutrient used efficiency fertilizers with next generation inhibitors and coatings, ammonia and methanol as low carbon fuels for transportation, etc.)

#### HOW DO YOU THINK FERTILIZERS AND PLANT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CAN HELP TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS FOR THE BETTER?

Our current food and agricultural systems

stretch planetary boundaries beyond their limits. The most pressing question for our generation to answer: How can we feed our growing global population and protect our planet for generations to come? I believe that regenerative agriculture is a critical tool enabling food system transformation. Regenerative agriculture leads to healthy soil, capable of producing high quality, nutrient-dense food. It improves rather than degrades the land and supports productive farms and healthy communities and economies. This helps safeguard farmers' livelihoods so they can grow the food we need now and in the future. It also protects our water sources and restores biodiversity in and around the farm. Mineral fertilizers produced in a sustainable way (e.g., low environmental impacts – GHG emissions, water intensity, zero waste) coupled with on-farm plant nutrient management (e.g., nutrient use efficiency) are key enablers for regenerative agricultural outcomes. As an industry, we need to become a solution provider for this transition through providing reliable and cost-effective products to farmers.

#### WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN TO YOU?

On a personal level, sustainability offers me an opportunity to contribute to ensuring the future of humanity, including my own children, on earth. It is also about progress and innovations, which motivates the inner scientist in me. On the professional level, sustainability offers the ultimate blueprint for the future value creation of any business. Therefore, it is important that sustainability is embedded in the culture and processes of the company.