

IFA Agriculture Committee

Advancing Sustainable Fertilizer Management

MISSION

Promote sustainable fertilizer management, conduct authoritative market analysis related to fertilizer demand, and monitor policy, scientific and other developments that may impact present and future demand.

OBJECTIVES

- to promote nutrient stewardship, including effective last-mile delivery;
- to promote and assist innovation related to fertilizer use and partnership with the scientific community;
- to develop timely, reliable and authoritative fertilizer demand statistics and forecasts;
- to address issues facing fertilizer demand, including nutrient management policies and fertilizer subsidies;
- to educate the public about the role and benefits of fertilizer in global food and nutrition security.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



Chairman

Agriculture Committee
Kapil Mehan, Zuari Agro
Chemical – India



Vice Chairman

Agriculture Committee
Mike Rahm, Mosaic – USA



Convenor

Working Group on Fertilizer
Demand Forecasts
Doug Hoadley, CF Industries – USA



Convenor

Working Group on
Special Products
Giuseppe Natale, Valagro – Italy



Convenor

Working Group on
Nutrient Stewardship
Hillel Magen, IPI – Switzerland



Complete list
of members:

[www.fertilizer.org/
AgricultureCommittee](http://www.fertilizer.org/AgricultureCommittee)
(access restricted to registered
web site users)



ACTIVITES

The Committee provides, twice a year, a report on the prospects for world and regional agriculture and fertilizer demand. The report presented at the IFA Annual Conference analyzes the outlook for the next five years, while the report presented at the IFA Strategic Forum updates the short-term prospects. These authoritative reports on the demand outlook are used by the IFA Production and International Trade (PIT) Committee for projecting the fertilizer supply/demand balances. Analysis of the factors affecting fertilizer demand, new agricultural developments and policy changes are also communicated to the members by inviting relevant experts to IFA's annual and regional conferences.

The Committee's statistical programme includes among others:

- The annual update of 'IFADATA online' with time series by country and by product from 1973/74 for the production, trade and consumption of the mainstream fertilizer products, and;
- The assessment of fertilizer use by crop type for the main fertilizer-consuming countries.

The Committee co-organizes events (conferences, workshops...) which address a mix of technical, economic and policy issues that relate to food, feed, fibre and bioenergy production, human health, the environment and market development. Recent events organized or co-organized by IFA addressed a wide range of issues such as nutrient performance indicators, fertilizer best management practices, last-mile delivery, slow- and controlled-release fertilizers, and micronutrients. The proceedings of all events are available online in the 'Library' section of the IFA web site.

The Committee prepares and disseminates publications and position/issue papers on issues relating to fertilizer use. Fertigation, slow- and controlled- release fertilizers, foliar fertilization, greenhouse gas emissions from crop production, fertilizing crops to improve human health, managing water and fertilizers for sustainable agricultural intensification, and managing fertilizers to enhance soil health are among the topics of recent publications.

The Committee contributes to the development and delivery of

fertilizer best management practices. The Committee developed the 'Global 4R Nutrient Stewardship Framework', a document summarizing industry's vision and strategy for developing fertilizer best management practices for delivering economic, social and environmental benefits. It provides a strong basis for developing practices in the four areas of performance (right product/source at the right rate, right time and right place) tailored to site- and crop-specific conditions. The Committee also encourages the development of new partnerships (with farmers' organizations and the food industry) and initiatives to improve outreach to the farmers.

The Committee is increasingly involved in the monitoring and analysis of fertilizer-related policies, especially in the field of fertilizer subsidies and of nutrient management regulations. Furthermore, IFA contributes actively to international discussions on indicators of nutrient management performance.

The Committee manages the IFA Norman Borlaug Award, which is granted on an annual basis to individuals for excellence in crop nutrition research or knowledge transfer.

AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

Managing Fertilizers to Enhance Soil Health (2015)

Managing Water and Fertilizer for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (2015)

Soil & Fertilizer: Expert Views (2014)

4R Nutrient Stewardship: A Policy Toolkit (2014)

Foliar Fertilization: Scientific Principles and Field Practices (2013) (also available in Spanish and Portuguese)

Fertilizing Crops to Improve Human Health: A Scientific Review (2012)

Fertigation: A Tool for Efficient Fertilizer and Water Management (2011)

Slow- and Controlled-Release and Stabilized Fertilizers in Agriculture: An Option for Enhancing Nutrient Use Efficiency in Agriculture (2010)

More agriculture publications are available at www.fertilizer.org/Library

HEALTHY SOILS FOR HEALTHY LIFE

Soil is the foundation for life. Soils help sustain life by fulfilling our needs for food, feed and fiber. IFA is celebrating the 2015 International Year of Soils through a year-long series of events and creative products.

The 2015 IFA nutrients4soils platform aggregates a series of resources on soils. Join the conversation, use and share the content and become a soil steward.

In April 2015 IFA launched an awareness raising campaign

highlighting the importance of soil fertility and soil health in fighting against nutrient depletion, land degradation and desertification. This initiative developed with the help of APCO Worldwide, gives a voice to scientists, farmers, policy makers, NGOs and business to explain their own experience, views, and knowledge on soils in the form of short video interviews. Please view and share these videos with your networks. Together we can do a better job in improving soils!



2015
International
Year of Soils



AGRICULTURE SERVICE



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