

# **SUSTAINABLE** FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

This year marks the

#### **5**<sup>TH</sup>ANNIVERSARY **OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.**

Achieving the goals from the accord will require a significant reduction in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, ideally 40% to 50% by 2030.



The fertilizer industry is committed to playing its part to reduce GHG emissions and the general environmental footprint from the production of fertilizers and has already made great strides.

14,5%

85% N<sub>2</sub>0

## **REDUCED** NITROUS OXIDE (N<sub>2</sub>O) EMISSIONS

processes,

Since the implementation of technological innovative solutions in advanced catalytic fertilizer some achieved producers have aggregate reduction of an over 85% of  $N_2O$  emissions (and a potential of 90 to 95%) could be achieved with a more widescale implementation).

## REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Since 2004, IFA's voluntary benchmarks have observed a 14.5% reduction in the CO emissions rate per tonne of ammonia produced by participating members mainly due to investment in plant revamps as well as new and efficient capacity coming online.

#### 30% **IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Plants built today with the best available technologies use 30% less energy per tonne

# CO2

#### **CARBON CAPTURE AND REUSE**

The capture and re-use of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by fertilizer plants has enabled production sites to measurably and consistently reduce their GHG emissions

of ammonia produced compared to older plants; while older plants have also shown tremendous progress in cutting their energy requirements through improvements and upgrades on their production sites.

from fertilizer production. IFA members around the world successfully capture hundreds of thousands of tonnes per year.

#### NUTRIENT RECOVERY



Phosphorus

IFA members are actively pursuing phosphorus and nitrogen recycling to save energy compared to mining and transport while supporting sustainable agriculture. Several plant scale trials are under way to replace mined phosphates by recovering phosphorus from meat, bone and sewage sludge ash and as well as struvite.

### LAND RE-USE

Phosphate and potash producers have a range of schemes in place to reclaim land used for mines and other productions purposes, many of which help to sequester carbon in soils. In 2017, for example, producers operating in the U.S. reclaimed 1,172 hectares of land.

#### CARBON **NEUTRAL** PRODUCTION

Academic institutions, R&D centres, and IFA members are working on techniques produce to Green Ammonia entirely from sustainable, carbon-neutral inputs, like biomass or renewable electricity, with a growing number of pilot projects, currently in operation or announced, including 12 IFA members.



#### **PHOSPHOGYPSUM RE-USE**

The fertilizer industry is also pursuing the total reuse of phosphogysum (PG), a byproduct of phosphoric acid production that can be used as a multi-nutrient fertilizer and soil amendment to improve plant yields and increase soil organic carbon capture as well as a construction material. Some **30% of annual** global production, estimated at 60 million tonnes, of PG is now reused, with countries such as **Belgium and** Brazil already reusing 100%.

#### **A LOW-CARBON** FERTILIZER INDUSTRY **BY 2050**

ARBON

In 2019, IFA formally agreed to partner with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to develop a Global Technology Roadmap for the Nitrogen Fertilizer Sector to pursue a pathway towards a more sustainable energy sector and a lower carbon footprint.