

## Industry Position on UN Sustainable Development Goals

### The Issue

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form the core of the UN's 2030 sustainability agenda and provide guidance to businesses, governments and society on how to solve global challenges.

### Position / Key Messages

**The fertilizer industry views the SDGs as a tool for promoting the more sustainable production and application of fertilizers.** For some IFA members this translates to setting targets and key performance indicators for their businesses that align with SDG commitments and with ambitions to transform agriculture and food systems to achieve environmental and social outcomes. For other members, who are at an earlier stage of their sustainability pathways, the IFA 2030 Agenda, developed with our members in 2019, is an appropriate framework.

**Our industry is working to manage a paradox.** By providing plants with concentrated, consistent and readily available nutrients that are vital for their growth, health and resilience to climate stress, mineral fertilizers are key for global food security and nutritious food. At the same time, the fertilizer industry is fully aware of fertilizers' contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (2.5 percent), as well as the potentially negative effects that an excess of nutrients in ecosystems can cause. The industry is committed to reducing its environmental footprint.

**To help tackle the 1.5 percent of global GHG emissions that come from fertilizer application, the industry endorses crop- and site-specific best management practices, consistent with the 4R Principles.** This helps ensure that farmers can grow more food on existing farmland and that nutrients are used efficiently, minimizing losses to the environment.

**Manufacturers of fertilizers are working to reduce the 1 percent of GHG emissions that come from fertilizer production, through increased energy efficiency methods and technologies, as well as reducing water use and increasing water recycling.** Since 2002, IFA has offered its members voluntary benchmarks to track their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions, energy efficiency, environmental performance and safety in the workplace. The benchmarks indicate that the overall efficiency for producing nitrogen fertilizers has greatly improved over the last decades for most. In 2019, IFA agreed to partner with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to develop a Low-Carbon Roadmap for the global fertilizer industry sponsored by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

### Background

- All 17 SDGs apply to our industry. The IFA2030 Agenda highlighted the following while some members focus on more or fewer: 2: Ending Hunger; 3: Good Health and Well-being, 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 7: Affordable and Renewable Energy, 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, 13: Climate Action and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.