

BACKGROUND

Over the past decades, the world witnessed increased fertilizer use. Overall, plant nutrient consumption increased from 138,7 million tonnes N+P₂O₅+K₂O in 2001/2002 to 149, 8 million tonnes, in 2004/2005 and is projected to amount to 163 million tonnes in 2008/2009.

During this period, world agricultural production showed also steadily increases. Cereal production, which represents about 60% of all fertilizer use by crops, increased from 800 million tonnes in 1960 to 2 billion tonnes in 2001/2002, and 2, 15 billion tonnes in 2004/2005.

These notable production increases would have been larger if balanced fertilization have been widely practiced, which would result to increased crop production responses to applied plant nutrients, to more efficient use of plant nutrients, and higher economic gains for farmers. The practice of balanced fertilization would contribute to increasing soil productivity and much reducing nutrients losses to the environment.

AFA, IPI and IMPHOS has decided to hold a workshop on the theme of balanced fertilization to extensively address several aspects of the above background.

OBJECTIVES

Acknowledging the growing importance of promoting a more efficient use of plant nutrients, the workshop will deal with the role of better assessment of crop requirements for plant nutrients in relation to soil nutrient contents, targeted yield, and economic returns for farmers.

The Workshop will address the critical importance of balanced use of plant nutrients for optimizing plant nutrition, increasing crop productivity, maintaining and improving soil fertility, sustaining crop production, and enhancing the environment.

This workshop will review the prospects for increased and responsible use of plant nutrients in many regions of the world and the challenges and opportunities associated with.

It will offer a forum for exchange and sharing of information on plant nutrients use and related specific issues such as sustainable crop production, soil and plant management for enhanced environment and sustainable economic growth, which is much needed in almost all developing countries that are presently facing increased population growth and demand for more diversified and better food quality.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

The workshop will consist of the two following sessions, with 3 to 4 papers to be presented in each session

Session I : Oral presentations

Chairman: T. Mrabet

Rapporteur: AFA

The critical role of phosphate fertilizer for achieving balanced fertilization, food security and sustainable agriculture. **B. Amar & L. Cisse, IMPHOS**

Opportunities and challenges for increased use of balanced fertilization to meet food demand of increasing population in Sub-Saharan Africa. **J. Poulisse, FAO**

Phosphorus and balanced fertilization in the WANA region. **J. Ryan, ICARDA**

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Session II: Oral presentations

Chairman: H. Magen

Rapporteur: IMPHOS

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Synthesis and Concluding Remarks

Chairman: S. Ashkar

Rapporteur: IPI

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

The workshop will be organized during one (1) day, **on February 8, 2007**, back-to-back the 13th AFA Annual Conference, in Sharm El.- Sheikh, Egypt.

Venue

Intercontinental Sharm El-Sheikh Hotel,
Egypt

Tel: + 20693600006

Fax: + 20693600009

W: sharmelsheikh.intercontinental.com

Organizing Committee

Three persons, one representative from AFA, IPI and IMPHOS will constitute the committee membership. This committee will deal mainly with organizing the sessions, following up the preparation of the communications in close contact with the speakers, and will have to decide on organizational matters, as they arise.

WORKSHOP OUTPUT

The set of the workshop papers will be disseminated by each organizer through its usual ways and means of communication (website, bulletin, booklets).

AFA : Arab Fertilizer Association

AFA a non-profit, non-governmental Arab International Organization established on 1975. AFA aims to coordinate and develop technical, commercial and managerial relations in the field of fertilizer industry, raw materials and fertilizer use and applications.

For further information, please contact: AFA
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Fax: +20-2 417-3721/+20 2 4172350

Email: info@afa.com.eg; **Web:** www.afa.com.eg

IMPHOS: The World Phosphate Institute Scientific, non-profit and non-governmental Institute founded in 1973.

IMPHOS mission is to promote worldwide development of phosphate use to meet the increasing food demand of humankind, on a basis that is technically sound, economically advantageous and environmentally responsible.

For further information, please contact: IMPHOS

3, Rue Abdelkader Al Mazini

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Email: imphos@casanet.net.ma

Web: www.imphos.org

IPI : International Potash Institute

IPI aims at disseminating and transferring the knowledge available on the effects of potassium (K) in soils and its impact on yield, quality and stress tolerance in plants.

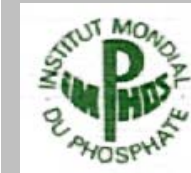
For further information, please contact: IPI

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Balanced Fertilization For Optimizing Plant Nutrition

A Joint Workshop Organized by:

The Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA)

The international Potash Institute (IPI)

The World Phosphate Institute (IMPHOS)