

IFA proposal (s) for the FAO DG meeting on April 20, 2022

The agricultural sector is one of the most vulnerable sectors to environmental impacts and climate change with direct consequences for food security. Thus, a sole focus on emission and impact reductions without considerations for yield production, livestock, and soil fertility presents a major risk to nutrition, health, and economic development.

Cooperation and partnerships between the FAO and the private sector are powerful, as they can provide responses and solutions to the critical global policy question of a sustainability-driven transformation of our food systems. This becomes even more important in the current challenging times, precluding a major food crisis in many regions.

The recently signed MoU of IFA and the FAO address this problem literally at its roots, as the sustainable use of fertilizers is an integral part of the solution to hunger and malnutrition: As part of this partnership, the fertilizer industry is committed to fill information gaps of global fertilizer supply and demand, provide actionable data and knowledge to the FAO and its stakeholders on how to achieve higher Nutrient Use Efficiency through better management practices and help promoting and implementing the Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Management of Fertilizers.

With the overarching objective of sustainable improvement of farmers' livelihoods and informed policymaking on soil, water, and climate management in relation to better fertilizer use, IFA's main activities focus on the following areas*:

- 1. Closing the nutrient use efficiency gap by helping to develop country-specific targets and roadmaps for sustainable nutrient management.** Towards that end, IFA has set up joint projects with Wageningen University and Research and other universities to analyze nutrient gaps and overuse in agriculture to comply with water and air quality objectives at global scale.

IFA members are providing different forms of support to farmers through regional soil analysis projects and land-use conversion projects towards new, climate resistant crops and local research and training centers.

- 2. IFA's new Smart & Green platform for cutting-edge plant nutrition technologies**, such as slow and controlled release, bio stimulants, digital farming, nutrient recovery and recycling, has led to a successful joint sustainability webinar series with the FAO.

- 3. Nutrition-sensitive farming:** producing crops with higher nutritional value. This involves the targeted use of fertilizer products that deliver micronutrients of importance (zinc, iodine, or selenium) to crops and, in turn, to animals and humans. IFA is engaged in the Harvest Plus Consortium that develops biofortification and breeding into everyday food crops.

- 4. Nitrous oxide emission reductions from fertilizer use:** IFA has launched in 2021 a Scope 3 Emission Reduction Roadmap project, which assesses the potential for mitigation and best practices on six major global cropping systems and the needed incentives to encourage adoption.

Fertilizer companies are also in the early stages of planning carbon farming systems through strategic partnerships, with the objective to set up compensations schemes for farmers using climate-smart practices.

*IFA can expand on selected areas, according to the Four Betters (preferably Better Production or Better Environment)