

INDUSTRY NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS

Reaffirming the overarching goal of helping farmers to improve nutrient use efficiency and effectiveness to optimize plant nutrient uptake and minimize nutrient losses to the environment,

IFA Members commit to:

- 1. Supporting greater outreach to farmers** (through advisory services and/or information material) to improve farmers' knowledge of fertilizer best management practices and access to customized (site- and crop-specific and real-time) recommendations on product types and application (rate, time, and place);

IFA Members without in-house fertilizer retail activities are advised to verify whether their downstream customers will pass on nutrient stewardship advice to farmers.

- 2. Supporting research to improve fertilizer management practices** -consistent with the principles of nutrient stewardship- to develop site- and crop-specific fertilizer recommendations;
- 3. Supporting innovation in the field of plant nutrition solutions** to provide farmers and their advisors with options to enhance nutrient management performance, including fertilizer products, analytical and decision-making support tools, precision farming, and biologicals;
- 4. Engaging in dialogue and partnership with stakeholders** -including policymakers, scientists, extension agencies, farmers' organizations, civil society and the food value chain- to identify challenges, gaps in knowledge, common priorities and develop joint projects to promote improved nutrient stewardship;
- 5. Implementing the widely-agreed principles of nutrient stewardship** to support efficient and effective use of plant nutrients, which encompass the principles of balanced fertilization and integrated plant nutrient management;

Nutrient Stewardship is defined as the efficient and effective use of plant nutrients to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits with engagement from farmers and other stakeholders. It encompasses the use of best management practices in the four areas of nutrient management, i.e. using the right nutrient source(s) at the right rate, at the right time, in the right place (known as the "4Rs").

- 6. Where appropriate, documenting their efforts to enhance nutrient management performance** -developing metrics, monitoring and reporting their progress over time through the implementation of the principles of nutrient stewardship- with a view towards identifying priority areas for action.