

Communication on Engagement

Period covered: January 2015 – September 2016

August 10, 2016

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that IFA reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Charlotte Hebebrand
(General Director, IFA)

The International Fertilizer Association (IFA), a member of the Global Compact since 2014, is pleased to submit this description of strategic activities in line with Global Compact Principles and the Sustainable Development Agenda.

About IFA: **The International Fertilizer Association (IFA)** – www.fertilizer.org – is the only global fertilizer trade association with a membership of more than 500 entities, encompassing all actors in the fertilizer value chain: producers, traders, distributors, service providers, advisors, research organizations and NGOs. IFA promotes the industry's engagement in sustainable agricultural practices and the efficient and responsible production, distribution and use of plant nutrients to advance global food security and sustainable development goals.

IFA continues to impress upon its members the benefits of joining the Global Compact and a good number of IFA members have joined the Global Compact:
GPIC, Yara, Agrium, Sabic, PIC Kuwait, Fertilizantes Heringer, Engro, Sinochem, Oafco, GCT, K+S, SNC Lavalin

Part II: Description of actions

The International Fertilizer Association (IFA) has incorporated all Global Compact principles into its strategies while placing a particular focus on principles pertaining to the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030, with a particular focus on nutrient stewardship – promoting effective and balanced nutrient management in order to increase the uptake of nutrients by crops and minimize nutrient losses to the environment.

In support of the United Nations Global Compact Principles for Sustainable Soil Management (*"Soil Principles"*), the Principle 8 and 9 (*"Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies"*), IFA promotes sustainable soil management practices aligned to a comprehensive and integrated nutrient stewardship. Nutrient stewardship encourages farmers to follow the **4R principles** of using the right fertilizer source at the right rate, right time and right place so that fertilizer application can be managed to achieve economic, social and environmental goals. This entails applying concepts such as integrated plant nutrient management, balanced fertilization and site-specific nutrient management. FBMPs (Fertilizers Best Management Practices) should result in improved productivity, profitability and nutrient use efficiency. To be effective, farmers require access both to a timely supply of correct nutrients and knowledge transfer on their appropriate application. FBMPs are agricultural production techniques and practices developed through scientific research, continuously adapted in the fields to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits. They are aimed at managing the flow of nutrients in the course of producing affordable and healthy food in a sustainable manner that protects the environment and conserves natural resources while helping farmers to remain profitable and adapt to climate change. Through FBMPs, the benefits derived from fertilizers are maximized while the losses and negative effects of over/under/or misuse of fertilizers are minimized.

IFA provides help and support to public – private partnerships that facilitate the implementation of integrated soil and fertilizer management practices worldwide. Areas of promotion, communication and engagement are multiple and include multi-stakeholder partnerships between IFA, NGOs, government agencies and academic and research

institutions or, on more national basis, between IFA's member companies and local associations and governments.

Highlights of Actions in support of IFA's engagement in the UN Global Compact Principles, relating to SDG 1, 2 and 15

A. Programs & Initiatives & Partnerships

The fertilizer industry acknowledges the need to work together and endeavours to use the below listed multi-stakeholder partnerships to research and develop innovative techniques, practices and products, and to share knowledge, best practices and innovations globally.

- IFA supports outreach to smallholders on correct fertilizer use in Ethiopia, supporting a project by the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI). IFA supports outreach to smallholders on correct fertilizer use in Ethiopia, supporting a project implemented by the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), in partnership with the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). The project implements field tests in the main maize growing areas to update fertilizer recommendations consistent with the country's recent fertilizer strategy.
- IFA is an active member of Steering Committee of the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) – a platform that facilitates investment and credits for the development of fertilizer distribution centers, warehouses and agro-dealer support structures. AFAP offers monetary, technical and training support. Key initiatives are the ACP (Agribusiness Partnership Contract), which provides assistance in exchange for market development, and the AFVP (African Fertilizer Volunteers Program), which engages volunteer services from the private sector for capacity building and testing of new technologies in selected African countries.
- IFA provides financial support to an AFAP/COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) project aimed at helping 500 small and medium size enterprises involved in the fertilizer value chain in the COMESA region to have better access to finance and improve their performance in supplying smallholders. IFA's support helped to develop strategic plans for four countries and identify the first 20 SMEs that should be supported by the project.
- IFA is a member of the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) Governing Council. At the meeting of the AFFM Governing Council held in July 2015 in Addis Ababa on the occasion of the UN Conference on Financing for Development, IFA pledged financial support from the industry to AFFM and set forth the conditions for such support to be materialized. Support from and participation by the private sector was very much welcomed by the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank.
- IFA is co-founder and key sponsor of africafertilizer.org, a global initiative facilitating the exchange of information on soil fertility, fertilizers and good agricultural practices

in Africa. AfricaFertilizer.org is led by the International Fertilizer Development Center, in partnership with AFAP, FAO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and NEPAD.

- IFA supports the Sustainable Rice Platform, which gathers over 50 members from food business to NGOs, under the convenorship of UNEP, and focuses on capacity building for sustainable rice production.
- IFA supports the project “Bringing Climate Smart Agriculture practices to scale” implemented by Wageningen University under the umbrella of the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)’s Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Safety (CCAFS). The goal of this 3-year project launched in 2015 is to increase productivity of maize-legume smallholder farming systems in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania through implementation of the 4Rs nutrient stewardship approach.

B. Conferences

- IFA participated in the first conference of the recently-established East and Southern Africa Fertilizer Trade Platform (ESAF) and the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in September 2015, in Lusaka, Zambia. On that occasion, the Secretariat met the Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to discuss concrete opportunities for IFA, in partnership with AFAP, to support their initiative aimed at helping the development of 500 small and medium enterprises involved in the fertilizer value chain in the COMESA region.
- IFA co-organized the 4th International Zinc Symposium, held in September 2015 in Sao Paulo, an event that gathered 160 scientists from the academic and industry sectors to update knowledge on the benefits of zinc to improve crop production and human health.
- IFA organized a seminar on sustainable fertilizer management and soil fertility in Rome, in January 2016 which gathered over 80 business representatives and key note speakers from the FAO, IFAD, AFAP, WFO and the Earth Institute at Columbia University to reflect on the legacy of the International Year of Soils and identify future key strategic issues in relation to soil health management for the fertilizer industry.
- IFA co-organized a workshop on digital soil mapping in Africa with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the African Fertilizer & Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) in February 2016 in Marrakech. This event informed scientists, and industry agronomists and marketing specialists on the state of digital soil mapping under the leadership of the African Soil Information service (AfSIS). The workshop illustrated achievements in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania and provided a discussion platform for the development of business models to ensure the sustainability and adaptability of AfSIS to a wide range of African farms. This workshop was a first and very important step in getting the scientific and industry stakeholders to discuss issues of common interest, and IFA will seek to build on this momentum, with its partners, the Gates Foundation and AFAP.

- IFA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organize a “Workshop on Indicators of Fertilizer Access and Use for Smallholder Farmers in Africa” in September 2016 with the aim to develop a consensus on key fertilizer indicators as an input or policy oriented planning or diagnostic tool to inform public and private sector players on opportunities for improving access to and use of fertilizers by smallholder farmers in Africa.
- IFA organizes regularly a series of national seminars on sustainable fertilizer management to raise the awareness of the domestic industries in target countries, and share successful experiences in the rest of the world to improve fertilizer use efficiency and effectiveness. Seminars have been held in China in 2013, in India in 2014 and in Indonesia in 2015. In 2016, IFA supported seminars organized by partners in China and Pakistan. Additional seminars are planned in the years to come.

C. Publications- Extension Training Tools – Practitioner Guidebooks

IFA publishes each year a variety of reference guides to improve general understanding of the best management practices for fertilizer use throughout the world.

- *Managing Water and Fertilizer for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification* (co-authored by IFA, IWMI, IPNI and the International Potash Institute (IPI)
 - Based on the book: Policy brief for policy and industry leaders and infographics for the general public illustrating the key messages of the book
- *Fertilizers and their Efficient Use* (Harold F. Reetz) Managing Water and Fertilizer for Sustainable
 - Infographics illustrating key messages; a webinar with the author and interviews are published in 2016.
- *Nutrient Management Handbook for Practitioners* will be published on the occasion of COP22 by IFA, the World Farmers Organization (WFO) and Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

D. Communications Initiatives to Promote Global Compact Principles

On the occasion of the **International Year of Soils, 2015**, IFA launched “*Growing Smart Together*”, an awareness raising campaign highlighting the importance of soil fertility and soil health in fighting against nutrient depletion, land degradation and desertification. This initiative gives a voice to scientists, farmers, policy makers, NGOs and businesses to express their own experience, views, and knowledge on soils in the form of short video interviews.

IFA is one of the two co-chairs of **Farming First**, a multi-stakeholder coalition involving over 180 members (farmers, scientists, NGOs and business). Farming First promotes practical, actionable programs and activities to further sustainable agricultural development worldwide. Noteworthy activities for Global Compact principles were

- **Interactive Essay Collection “Celebrating Science and Innovation in Agriculture” (2015)** (www.farmingfirst.org/science-and-innovation): The essay series, produced by Farming First and the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers. The Washington Post journalist Tamar Haspal commented on Twitter “*If you only read one thing about improving ag in the developing world, make it this*”.
- **Climate Smart Agriculture: 28 case studies provide illustrations and examples of good management practices (2016)** : <http://www.farmingfirst.org/2016/06/gacsa-forum-making-agriculture-climate-smarter/#more-14729>

E. Participation in UN and Global Compact Leadership events

IFA and its members are committed to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The IFA Secretariat and IFA members participated over the past 18 months alone in 12 UN outreach missions to provide input to the SDG consultations and to the ongoing process of drawing up indicators to measure progress towards meeting the SDGs. IFA is a member of the Global Business Alliance to Agenda 2030 and served on the Steering Committee to the International Year of Soils in 2015.

IFA is part of the Steering Committee of the **Global Partnership on Nutrient Management**, which is hosted by UNEP and gathers 34 partners from the public and private sector.

As part of its commitment to the UN, IFA supports and promotes strongly Global Compact’s events and programs and ensures, whenever possible, that its member companies are aware them and can participate if time permits.

The Global Compact Anniversary 2015 and the Global Compact Leaders Summit 2016 had been attended by IFA’s Chairman Dr. Jawahery, CEO of GPIC.

Part III: MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

Objective / Goal	Performance Measure	Results (2015 – 2016)
Make a commitment to Global Compact and its principles	Output indicator: IFA and its members actively participate in Global Compact programs	<p>IFA has submitted a “Good Practice Note” in April 2015; IFA mission is aligned to the “Soil Principles” and is actively engaged in 2 UN soil initiatives;</p> <p>IFA promotes Global Compact events and programs: 12 member companies are member of Global Compact; 2 members have participated in Global Compact leadership events; 1 member (Agrium) has participated in the innovation pioneer initiative (Global Compact Canada)</p> <p>IFA participates in all major SDG related UN events</p>
Partnerships and conferences that promote greater environmental responsibility and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies	<p>Outcome indicator: mutually reinforcing activities</p> <p>Output indicator: number of activities to support principle 7-9</p>	<p>IFA organizes in average 1 major seminar every year and publishes at least 1 book in relation to Principle 8.</p> <p>IFA participates every months in at least 1 knowledge sharing initiative</p>