

Communication on Engagement

Period Covered: January 2017-October 2018

October 17, 2018

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that the International Fertilizer Association (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)



About the International Fertilizer Association:

The [International Fertilizer Association](#) is the only global fertilizer 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 efficient and responsible production, distribution and use of plant nutrients to enable sustainable agricultural systems that contribute to a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

IFA is a member of the Global Compact since 2014 and is pleased to submit this description of strategic activities in line with Global Compact Principles and the Sustainable Development Agenda.

IFA continues to impress upon its Members the benefits of joining Global Compact, and several of them have become participants: Nutrien, Grupa Azoty, TIFERT - Tunisian Indian Fertilizers, Agrifields DMCC, BASF S.E, Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited, Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), Solvay, Tata Chemicals, Yara International, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), Engro, GCT - Groupe Chimique Tunisien, K+S Aktiengesellschaft, and SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.

Part II. Description of actions

IFA has incorporated all Global Compact principles into its strategies while placing a particular focus on those pertaining to the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1 (*End poverty in all its forms*) Goal 2 (*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*); Goal 6 (*Sustainable Management of Water*) and Goal 15 (*Life on Land*).

In support of the Global Compact's Principles 7, 8 and 9 (*Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies*); as well as Global Compact's work on the key pillars of food and agriculture (*which are aligned with the five elements of the Zero Hunger Challenge: (1) Sustainable Food Systems; (2) Rural Poverty; (3) Loss and Waste of Food; (4) Access to Adequate Food and Healthy Diets; and (5) Ending Malnutrition*), IFA promotes **sustainable soil management practices** and **nutrient stewardship**.

Nutrient stewardship entails promoting the effective and balanced nutrient management in order to increase the uptake of nutrients by crops and minimize nutrient losses to the environment. It encourages farmers to follow the **4R Principles**: using the right fertilizer source at the right rate, at the right time and in the right place. This framework allows for the application of fertilizers to be carried out in a way that achieves farmers' economic, social and environmental goals.

Nutrient stewardship entails applying concepts such as **integrated soil fertility management**, balanced fertilization, and site-specific nutrient management. Fertilizer Best Management Practices (FBMPs) should result in improved productivity, profitability, and nutrient use efficiency.

Highlight of Actions undertaken by IFA to support the UN Global Compact Principles, relating to SDG Goals 1

A. Outreach and awareness raising through programs, partnerships and initiatives.

IFA participates in several public-private partnerships that facilitate the implementation of integrated soil and nutrient management practices worldwide. Below are several multi-stakeholder partnerships IFA has taken part in that further research in plant nutrition topics and allow the exchanges of best practices and innovations.

- In 2018, IFA joined the **World Farmers Organization's Climate Change Alliance**, a multi-stakeholder initiative that promotes a "Farmers' Driven Climate Change Agenda". The agenda promotes a new approach that places farmers at the heart of decision-making on agriculture at local, national and international levels. The farmers' driven climate change agenda has the intent to propose tailored solutions for each country, based on the NDCs, but also for each sector of the farming system: horticulture, livestock, fisheries, forestry.
- In 2017, IFA joined the consortium of the **UNEP's Science-Policy-Business Forum**, a high-level advisory group to empower policy decisions. The UNEP Consortium aims to strengthen the wider interface between the private and the policy sector by promoting innovative green solutions to address global environmental threats. On 1-3 May 2018, Yvonne Harz-Pitre, IFA's Director of Communications & Public Affairs, spoke on "New Public-Private Partnership models – Achieving transformative agriculture in cooperation with governments" at the Meeting of the Managing Consortium of UNEP's Science-Policy-Business Forum.
- In March 2017, IFA became one of **the founding members of the "Global Business Alliance for Environment", GBA4E**, with the objective to facilitate and promote the engagement of the private sector at UN Environment. In December 2017, GBA4E held a "Business Forum" at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3): this first event of its kind was inaugurated by Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UNEP, and marked the growing recognition of business' role and responsibility in achieving the SDGs.
- IFA is an active member of the 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. In February 2017, **IFA partnered with AFAP and IFDC** (the International Fertilizer Development Center) **for a roundtable** about establishing and strengthening national and sub-national fertilizer trade and agribusiness associations in Sub-Saharan Africa, which attracted a high number of participants.
- IFA supports outreach to smallholders on correct fertilizer use in Ethiopia through a project led by the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), in partnership with the Ethiopian Agricultural Agency (ATA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) ending in 2018. 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 a Member of the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) Governing Council.

- 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 (IFDC), in partnership with AFAP, FAO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and NEPAD.
- 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). This three-year program, ending in 2018, has the objective to increase productivity of maize-legume smallholder farming systems in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania through implementing the 4Rs.

Conferences

- IFA co-organized the **5th International Zinc Symposium**, held in Leuven, Belgium in September 2018. The event gathered 74 participants from the academic and industry sectors to update knowledge on the benefits of zinc to improve crop production and human health.
- In September 2017, **IFA co-organized a side-event at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)** with IPNI, IPI (International Potash Institute), IDFC, AFAP and IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) on “science-based balanced fertilizer recommendations for smallholder farms in Africa”.
- Since 2013, IFA regularly organizes a series of national seminars on sustainable fertilizer management, aimed at addressing national/regional nutrient management issues, with the involvement of key stakeholders and foreign experts. In October 2018, IFA partnered with the Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA), the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and Arab Potash to organize a **Regional Seminar on Nutrient Stewardship for the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region in Amman, Jordan**. The focus of the Amman Seminar was to improve fertilizer management in the WANA region for higher yields and greater nutrient and water use efficiency. In September 2017, **IFA organized a nutrient stewardship seminar in Moscow**, in collaboration with IPNI and the Russian Fertilizer Producers’ Association (RAPU).
- In October 2017, IFA’s Director General Charlotte Hebebrand moderated the panel “*The African Fertilizer Summit- 10 Years Later*” at the **Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium** in Des Moines, USA. Former President of Nigeria, H.E Olusegun Obasanjo and the 2017 World Food Prize Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, who runs the African Development Bank, both took part in the panel.

Publications- Extension training tools- Practitioner guidebooks

- In 2018, IFA’s popular **Nutrient Management Handbook** was translated into Chinese and IFA Chinese Members sponsored the printing of 42,000 copies. The Handbook will be further translated into Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- IFA has launched a series of **educational webinars** on plant nutrition topics since 2016:
 - *Fertilizers and their Efficient Use* with Harold Reetz, September 2016;

- *What does it take to achieve the triple wins: Productivity, Sustainability and Resilience*, April 2017;
- *Towards Solutions-Oriented Future*, October 2017;
- *Achieving SDG Goal 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation"*, April 2018;
- *Measuring Fertilizer-Related GHG emissions: scheduled in November 2018*
- IFA published a backgrounder on **Integrated Plant Nutrient Management** in July 2018, that addresses some common misconceptions about organic and mineral fertilizers, examines their similarities and differences and explains why they should always be used together when possible.

Communications Initiatives to Promote Global Compact Principles

- In 2017 IFA launched a new SDG-focused Series of backgrounders **"Agenda 2030: Transforming Our World"**. Each issue of the series focuses on a specific Sustainable Development Goal, disseminating Fertilizer Best Practices and industry actions undertaken for that specific goal. Two have been published, *on Plant Nutrients and Ocean Health (Goal 14)* and *Plant Nutrients and Clean Water (Goal 6)*.
- In 2018, IFA published a brochure entitled **"The important role of plant nutrients in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda"**, listing the important roles fertilizers played in achieving the SDG Goals 1 (No Poverty); 2 (No Hunger); 5 (Gender Equality); 6 (Sustainable Management of Water); 9 (Sustainable Industrialization); 13 (Climate Change); 14 (Clean Oceans) and 15 (Life on Land).
- IFA is one of the two co-Chairs of **Farming First**, a multi-stakeholder coalition involving over 189 members (farmers, NGOs, scientists and businesses). Farming First promotes practical, actionable programs and activities to further sustainable agricultural development worldwide.
 - In 2018, Farming First organized two campaigns: one on **rural women** (launched ahead of International Women's Day, (8th March) and another on **agroecology** (rolled out throughout 2018 at strategic events with the support of Farming First supporters).
 - In 2017, Farming First organized a campaign on **the five targets that make up SDG2 on ending hunger** ahead of the High-Level Political Forum in New York, and another around **Women Feeding the World**. It also updated its climate change portal with new case studies of **Climate-Smart Agriculture**.

Participation in UN and Global Compact Leadership Events

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

Between January 2017 and October 2018, the IFA Secretariat and IFA Members participated in over 12 UN outreach missions, including:

- Consultations on defining indicators to measure the progress towards meeting the SDGs
- **The High Level Political Forum:** In 2017, IFA co-organized the HLPF's Agriculture Day, its High-Level lunch and the business forum. In 2018, IFA led a large delegation of Members, and attended the HLPF Business Forum and several side events to hear how companies are implementing the SDGs into their corporate strategy and where they see transformative power and added value for their economic growth.
- **The Committee of World Food Security:** In 2017, IFA and WFO organized a side-event on the role of farmers as stewards of the environment.
- **The World Ocean Health Conference** in June 2017,
- **The UN Environment Annual Assembly (UNEA)** in 2017, where IFA played a driving role in organizing the Global Business Alliance for the Environment (GBA4E)'s ground breaking first ever "Business Symposium" on December 3. The event marked the growing recognition of businesses' role and responsibility in reducing its environmental footprint and was distinguished at the highest level with an inauguration by the Executive Director, Erik Solheim, the H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the UNGA and H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez, President of UNEA. IFA was also proud to be a founding member of the Governing Consortium of the UN Global Science-Policy-Business Forum, held the day before.

IFA is part of the Steering Group of **the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management**, hosted by UNEP and gathering partners from the public and private sector.

IFA is a Member of the Global Business Alliance to Agenda 2030, the UN Global Science-Policy-Business Forum and the Global Business Alliance for Environment" GBA4E.

III. Measurements of outcomes

Objective/Goal	Performance Measure	Results
Attract new participants to the UN Global compact through outreach efforts and awareness raising	Outcome: IFA and its members participate in Global Forum programs	IFA promotes Global Compact events and programs to its Members: 16 member companies are also Members of the Global Compact, with two new between 2017 and 2018.
Organize learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability	Outcome: number of activities to support Principles 7-9	IFA organizes regularly educational webinars and publishes annual backgrounders in relation to Principles 8 and 9.

<p>Engage their members in collective action efforts on Global Compact related issues</p>	<p>Outcomes: mutually reinforcing activities</p>	<p>IFA organizes 1 regional seminar on nutrient stewardship a year to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices (Principles 8 and 9).</p> <p>In addition, IFA has developed voluntary benchmark for its members to track their Employees' Safety, and Environmental Performances. (Principle 7) In 2018, for the first time, all benchmarks were available to members at the same time.</p> <p>Over 50 IFA Member companies are also "Protect & Sustain" certified. This certification measures IFA Member's implementation of Product Stewardship, i.e. to the industry's Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) management (Principles 7 to 9).</p>
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