

## **Online Consultation for Developing the Code of Conduct for the Management of Fertilizers**

### **Written comments from the World Farmers' Organisation, WFO**

WFO is an international member-based organization whose mandate is to bring together farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives from all over the world, representing the global farming community: small, medium and large-scale farmers. Its mission is to represent and advocate on behalf of farmers in global policy fora and create the conditions for the adoption of policies aimed at improving the economic environment and livelihoods of producers, their families, and rural communities, giving prominence to rural women and youth. The main pillars of its activities are food security, climate change and value chain, but it deals also with other topics related to agriculture as livestock, women, youth, trade among others.

### **Comments from Federated Farmers of New Zealand, FEDFARM, member of WFO**

The organisation highlighted that the objectives of this initiative are good as farmers are the ones who will have to work within any code developed. All that is spread on the land in order to promote yield should be included as there may be some unintended contaminants included in all that is spread. DCD is a case in point. There may be a need to separate them out into such categories as urease inhibitors etc, as they may need to be dealt with separately. One would assume that the CoCoFe will give guidelines to manufacturers and farmers across the world about good management practices for fertiliser, which should give regulators across the world confidence that the land is being well cared for and food produced is safe. A sensible CoCoFe will mean that the industry can work under self-regulation, without government intervention. Farmers rely on manufacturers to supply them with a product that is true to label, fit for purpose and information about application rates etc. This CoCoFe should aim to deliver this.

### **Comments from Canadian Federation of Agriculture, CFA-FCA, member of WFO**

The organisation pointed out that the WFO, in partnership with the International Fertilizer Association (IFA) and the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), produced a nutrient handbook for farmers which is available at the following link:

[https://www.fertilizer.org/images/Library\\_Downloads/2016\\_Nutrient\\_Management\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.fertilizer.org/images/Library_Downloads/2016_Nutrient_Management_Handbook.pdf)

CFA-FCA thinks if that were to be revisited it would offer a lot of good information to be provided to the FAO. Furthermore, in Canada they have endorsed the fertilizer industry's 4R nutrient program: Right source, right rate, right time and right place. More information can be found here: <http://www.nutrientstewardship.com/4rs/> .

CFA-FCA is of the view that should the above-mentioned program should be taken into consideration by FAO as it refers to many of the themes of their proposed code of practice. Furthermore, CFA-FCA notes that one of the stated purposes of the FAO code of practice is to assist countries to design regulatory frameworks for fertilizer use. In this regard, the organisation would recommend that this should be revised to remove any reference to the development of regulation to govern fertilizer use by farmers. It is CFA-FCA's position that enabling policies, incentives, outreach, extension, education and other support services are a more effective means to promote sustainable use of fertilizers while recognizing the unique needs of each farm and the commodities it produces.