



FERTILIZER CANADA

FERTILISANTS CANADA

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September 10, 2015

Bridget Schrempf
Stakeholder Relations Coordinator
Agricultural Institute of Canada
176 Gloucester Street, Suite 320
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6

Re: Response to the policy document, *A Canadian Agricultural Research Policy for the 21st Century*

Dear Bridget:

On behalf of Fertilizer Canada (formerly the Canadian Fertilizer Institute), thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Agricultural Institute of Canada's policy document, *A Canadian Agricultural Research Policy for the 21st Century*.

Fertilizer Canada supports the need to have a modern agricultural research policy that leads innovation and sustainability in Canada. Canada's fertilizer industry is science-based and is committed to research and innovation to ensure environmental stewardship when fertilizer products are being used.

Sustainability can be achieved by balancing the economic, social and environmental goals of our stakeholders, including farm groups, homeowners, researchers, conservationists, governments, industry members and communities. Fertilizer Canada promotes the adoption and implementation of 4R Nutrient Stewardship, an internationally recognized system with four key pillars for fertilizer application: **Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place®**. This science-based approach helps farmers understand how efficient fertilizer application improves profitability while reducing nutrient losses into the environment.

Fertilizer Canada has engaged with a number of stakeholder partners to develop a wide range of national and regional 4R-based programs. Engagement includes negotiating provincial agreements with watershed groups, farmers and governments; supporting demonstration projects to show the effectiveness of 4R best management practices to growers; rigorous training programs for Certified Crop Advisers and agri-retailers to support the foundation of voluntary 4R standards; and funding research programs to quantify the environmental, social and economic benefits of 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

In March 2015, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced \$1.1 million in funding for Fertilizer Canada's project entitled *A Canadian Research Network to Improve 4R Nutrient Stewardship for Environmental Health and Crop Production*. "The fertilizer industry is an important part of our growing economy. Investing in research to improve the efficiency of fertilizer use will help boost competitiveness and create new global market opportunities for producers and improve environmental sustainability."



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Fertilizer Canada and its members are providing an additional \$1.1 million to the project over the next three years. Under this project, 10 leading Canadian researchers are quantifying economic, social and environmental benefits resulting from 4R Nutrient Stewardship. We expect outcomes such as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen losses to the atmosphere and groundwater, phosphorus losses to surface waters and improved productivity, efficiency and profitability of production.

Delivering Canadian growers the information they need to enhance competitiveness, increase productivity and adaptability under the 4R framework to meet market needs while addressing the sustainable intensification of agriculture is a fundamental focus of the research. “Having soil scientists quantify potential environmental, economic and social impacts resulting from improved fertilizer application under 4R Nutrient Stewardship helps Canadian farmers by providing solid and credible data to show both our domestic and international customers that we are responsible stewards of the land. Sustainability is central to farmers as we work towards a productive future.” Gary Stanford, President, Grain Growers of Canada.

These research activities will assist to expand the 4Rs beyond being solely an industry outreach effort and towards becoming a viable, evolving strategy providing defensible benefits to improve cropping system productivity and reduce nutrient losses to the environment.

While Fertilizer Canada is committed to funding research, programming and awareness-building initiatives, there is more that can be done. We would appreciate the Agricultural Institute of Canada’s thoughts on our current programming and how we can work together to meet the goal of enhancing efforts in agricultural research in Canada to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture industry.

Sincerely,

Clyde Graham
Senior Vice President
Fertilizer Canada