

BALANCED FERTILIZATION – THE KEY TO FOOD SECURITY

One of the cornerstones of IPNI programs around the world is demonstrating the role of balanced nutrient management in crop production.

Our history in South Asia is no different, with a long list of scientific articles, extension publications, videos, and illustrative posters developed over the past 23 years. While this approach may sound rather simple, the current food security challenges in South Asia are crying out for just that—demonstration of the impact of balanced nutrient management.

Recent research results in India clearly demonstrate that a future heavily based on N and P use is wrought with challenge. IPNI has recently summarised a number of research projects across the country to show that insufficient K, secondary, and micronutrients are holding back productivity. The yield results are clear, and the economic benefits to correcting these imbalances are also clearly in favour of the Indian farmer.



Moving from research results to practical tools in the field must continue to be our focus for moving forward. Research results provide us with the confidence to take the necessary steps in advancing the practice of agronomic, economic, and environmentally sustainable nutrient management. The challenge so often remains this actual move, or as we in IPNI often call it the “translation” of research results into action in a farmer’s field. We at IPNI are very excited about the recent progress we have made in the adaptation of decision support tools like Nutrient Expert® for maize and wheat in India. These tools have the potential to put into the hands of farmer advisors a site-specific nutrient recommendation program that has proven to address the issues related to unbalanced nutrient management.

Did you know that 1 + 1 + 1 can sometimes = 10! Over the last several years our programs in IPNI have placed a major emphasis on collaboration with past and new partners. These collaborative efforts in research and development have resulted in an empowering growth of our own staff, as well as many of our partners. Most of us are focused on the same ultimate objective...achieving a process that will guide South Asia forward in meeting future food security challenges. If our current activities are any example of the potential for collaboration, the future looks very positive.

At IPNI we are moving forward...sticking to the basics of balanced nutrition, supporting it with sound research results, developing an appropriate delivery mechanism to engage the largest number of stakeholders and doing all this in a collaborative environment.

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CROPS**

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