IPNI Board of Directors Elects New Officers

New officers of the Board of Directors of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) were elected in May 2014. The election took place at the IPNI Board meeting held in Sydney, Australia, in conjunction with the 82nd Annual Conference of the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA).

Mostafa Terrab, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, OCP Group, Morocco, is the new Chairman of the IPNI Board for a two-year term. Mr. Jim T. Prokopanko, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mosaic Company, Plymouth, Minneapolis, was elected Vice Chairman of the IPNI Board. Mr. Oleg Petrov, Director, Sales and Marketing, Uralkali, Moscow, Russia, was elected Chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Stephen R. Wilson, who retired as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of CF Industries Holdings Inc. as of January 1, 2014, also concluded his term as Chairman of the IPNI Board of Directors and was recognized for outstanding leadership and service in his role.

Annual IPNI Program Report is Now Available

IPNI has released its annual Program Report for 2014 titled 4Rs: From Theory to Practice.

The concept of 4Rs—applying the right source of plant nutrient, at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place—as a means of sustainable nutrient management was developed over many years as the fertilizer industry worked closely with our colleagues in the scientific community.

What IPNI did in 2007 was re-introduce the idea of 4Rs to the global fertilizer industry at an International Fertilizer Industry Association workshop on fertilizer best management practices (BMPs) and suggest a context of how 4Rs can be applied globally.

Agronomists know what yield to expect with a given rate of fertilizer, how split applications, placement, or balanced fertilization can impact efficiency, the relative availability of one fertilizer source compared to another, and much more related to these BMPs. These fertilizer BMPs have and are routinely used and put into practice.

But what happens when all four rights are implemented together … what are the interactions? We can make educated guesses based on past experiences and we can theorize what should happen, but we can’t always give a definitive answer about what will happen. Society wants to know if 4R Nutrient Stewardship is implemented, what is the measurable or documented impact going to be on our water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, or air quality? What is the impact on fertilizer use efficiency, on food production, on farm economics? What are the social impacts? These are the types of questions we will need to answer. What are the metrics or performance we should be measuring to answer these questions?

As 4R Nutrient Stewardship is being discussed, evaluated, adopted, and being looked at as a solution to environmental concerns related to nutrient use, it’s now time to move from theoretical implementation to practice. This is the phase IPNI is entering … as 4Rs become implemented and put into practice; IPNI needs to show their application is the best way to manage plant nutrients sustainably.

This year’s report provides an update on the progress and plans as 4Rs go from theory to practice, plus much more. 4Rs are a common thread of all IPNI agronomic programs, but these programs are diverse and include other activities.

This report is available from the IPNI website: http://www.ipni.net/programreport.