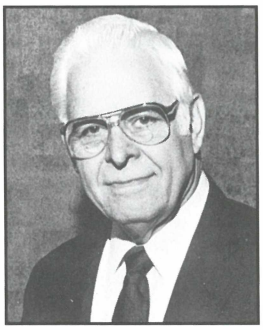
Robert E. Wagner Award Expanded by PPI

THE ROBERT E. WAGNER AWARD is being broadened in scope to better reflect the Institute's expanding international role. Established by the PPI Board of Directors in 1988, the Award recognizes distinguished contributions to advanced crop yields through maximum yield research (MYR) and maximum economic yield (MEY) management. The MEY concept, also known as most efficient yield, can provide a solid foundation for better meeting world food needs.



Dr. R.E. Wagner

The Award honors Dr. Wagner, retired President of PPI, for his many contributions to agriculture, to the fertilizer industry and to society in general. He is widely recognized for originating the MEY management concept . . . for more profitable, efficient agriculture.

In its new form, the Award will allow for worldwide candidate nominations and will have two categories . . . one for a senior scientist, one for a younger scientist under the age of 40. The recipient in each category will receive a $5,000 monetary award.

A committee of noted international authorities will select recipients of the Award on an annual basis. The Award will recognize outstanding achievements in research, extension or education. The focus will be on efficient management of plant nutrients and their positive interaction in fully integrated farm production systems. Such systems improve net returns, lower unit costs of production and maintain environmental quality.

The format for preparation of nominations for this Award can be obtained by contacting the Potash & Phosphate Institute, 655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110, Norcross, Georgia 30092-2821; phone (404)447-0335 ext 203, fax (404)448-0439. Private or public sector agronomists, crop scientists and soil scientists from all countries are eligible for nomination.

The first recipients for the Award will be selected in 1995. ■

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much greater problem than in China, and the average yields are also much lower, as shown in **Table 5**.

Whether in China, in India, in Canada or in the U.S., wherever increased yields are a necessity, the only way that balanced fertilization and sustainable high yields will be achieved is through the increased supply of commercial fertilizer nutrients.

Nutrient Balance: Beyond NPK

Nutrient balance discussions are often confined to nitrogen (N), P and K because of their major importance in crop production. Also, they are most often the limiting factors that need to be addressed in solving nutrient deficiencies. Balance, however, goes beyond NPK. For instance, in a survey of soils throughout China, 22 percent were deficient in sulfur (S) and 13 percent deficient in magnesium (Mg).

Clearly, nutrient balance goes beyond NPK and will not be achieved without adequate availability of commercial fertilizer nutrients.

Summary

In order to meet all objectives of sustainable agriculture . . . increased food, feed and fiber, profitability, efficiency of input use and an appropriate concern for the environment . . . a balance of adequate levels of nutrients is the key component. It is critical that nutrient balance, including the ready availability of needed commercial fertilizer nutrients, be an objective rather than a casualty of policy decisions.

PPI's role is to ensure that plant nutrient P and K are recognized as a part of and not apart from sustainability and that they are managed in balance with other nutrients and production inputs. ■