

PLANT NUTRITION DAY

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WHAT DID FERTILIZER DO FOR US TODAY?

TODAY is Global Fertilizer Day.

One day set aside to acknowledge fertilizer's every day contributions.

Fertilizer is a primary source of plant nutrition. As a result, fertilizer's role in sustaining crop production is essential to providing our daily nutritional needs. Our farmers' ability to feed 7.5 billion people each day is impressive, but in some areas of the world this doesn't actually happen. Where ever soil fertility is lacking, farmers confront a failure to provide an abundant and nutritious food supply. Responsible use of fertilizer accomplishes this feat in an environmentally sound and economically viable manner.

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) is dedicated to the responsible management of plant nutrients from all sources. There is not nearly enough manure or on-farm resources to meet the global nutrient demand. Therefore, our scientists are involved in solution-driven research aimed at advancing the science of fertilizer use. The evidence of progress, like the following examples, is gathering with each day.

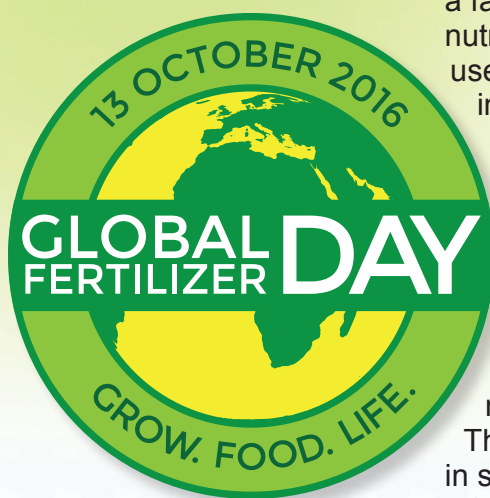
TODAY a resource-poor family growing coffee on the mountain slopes of northern Peru continued to build the fertility of their fields and harvested another good crop. This took them and their neighbors another step closer towards secure incomes, a stronger community, and better prospects for the next generation through plans for enhanced schools.



TODAY soybean farmers in Kenya and Uganda gained training in fertilization using the principles of 4R (right source, right rate, right time, and right place) nutrient stewardship. This training provides field-tested solutions to close yield gaps and establish these farmers as a reliable supplier of this important source of dietary protein in their communities.

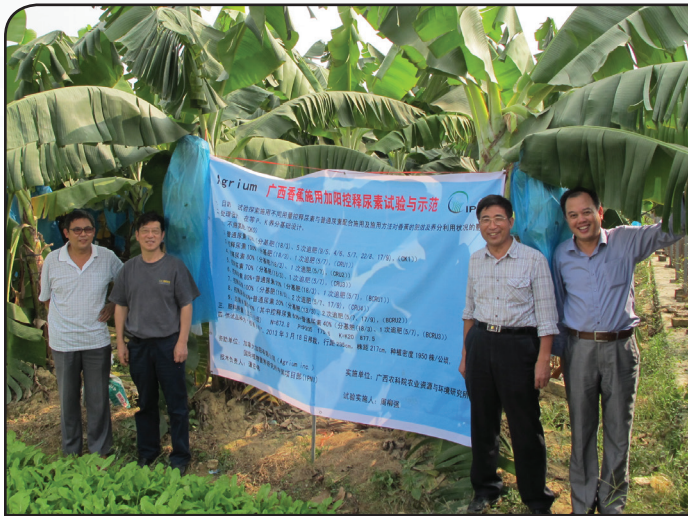


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TODAY banana farmers in Guangxi, China were able to reduce their total nitrogen loss towards emission to the air or leaching to groundwater, by adopting properly timed applications of controlled-release urea. These new nitrogen fertilizers better match the nutrient demands of bananas, giving farmers simpler, more efficient solutions.



TODAY a farmer in the Midwest U.S. is practicing 4R Nutrient Stewardship as he manages his method of phosphorus application to reduce losses from runoff. Keeping phosphorus in the field where it can be used by growing crops minimizes any potential damage to surface water.



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TODAY an oil palm plantation in Indonesia is developing practical fertilization techniques needed to support the efforts of its many smallholder planters. This avoids unsustainable area expansion into the surrounding natural forest. Smallholders can be confident that these new fertilization practices are designed to produce more palm oil per tree from their existing lands.



TODAY when you go to the market or grocery store ... remember fertilizer provides the nutrients that sustains life and those who produce it.

Learn more about **Global Fertilizer Day**
<http://fertilizerday.com>



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