

## **Message at the Global Fertilizer Day from Miná Dowlatchahi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in Pakistan**

Agriculture has been at the core of human society's survival through civilization, and has today a strategic role in ensuring enough safe and nutritious food for all people at all times on the planet and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Green Revolution opened the way for adoption of high yielding crop varieties complemented with enhanced use of chemical fertilizers both at small and large farms, in the 60s. Fertilizers are one of the inputs of modern agriculture that help to achieve higher crops productivity and soil health. Pakistan also benefited from an increased use of fertilizers however to lesser extent than other countries in the region. The balanced use of fertilizer for the type of soil along with appropriate application techniques has been an issue in the country, in particular for women and men smallholder farmers, for lack of knowledge and access to the right fertilizer. With time, this has contributed to increased production costs with comparatively low yields, soil exploitation, salinization and loss of soil quality.

Today this calls for collaborative efforts from public and private sectors, especially by the service providers and extension services, to educate, train, and facilitate farmers in soil testing and understanding how to use fertilizers more effectively. This would ensure proper investment of financial resources and would guarantee enhanced farm yield and better return to the farmers a prerequisite for sustainable agriculture, economic development of the sector and ensuring food security and nutrition in the country.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has been promoting the concept of **4Rs** Nutrient Stewardship initiative in collaboration with Federal and Provincial Governments as well as private sector fertilizer companies in all provinces of Pakistan. The 4Rs strategy consists in promoting the efficient use of fertilizers through a) Right Sources (quality assurance) b) Right Rates (balanced use), c) Right Time (application at appropriate crop stage) and d) Right Place (suitable method of application).

At the same time, FAO developed and published the Soil Fertility Atlases for the four provinces for adoption of 4Rs Nutrient Stewardship. These Atlases provide detailed data and information maps on cropping patterns, management practices, soil fertility status and trend of fertilizer use. In addition, information like advisory services and soil testing facilities available to the farmers in the provinces is included. These Atlases, and the database, can contribute to sustainable intensification of agriculture production through adoption of international best practice while maintaining soil health and environment quality, if appropriately and regularly used.

To ensure sustainable agriculture, food, and agriculture systems that help maintain biodiversity, and adapt to climate change, we have to change and consider Agro-ecology holistic approaches. By building synergies, agro-ecology can support food production and

food security and nutrition while restoring the ecosystem services and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture.

By focusing on biological synergies, agro-ecological practices enhance ecological functions, leading to greater resource-use efficiency and resilience. For example, globally, biological nitrogen fixation by pulses in intercropping systems or rotations generates savings in nitrogen fertilizers while contributing to soil health, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, about one fourth of the nitrogen applied to crops comes from livestock manure, highlighting synergies resulting from crop–livestock integration. There needs to be more attention on the use of organic fertilizers, more beneficial for soil health and their impact on biodiversity, and less costly in particular for smallholder farmers. To adequately exploit organic resources concerted efforts are required in research, and development, private-public partnerships along with setting up of a regulatory framework to promote organic fertilizer use.

I assure that FAO would be forthcoming to share knowledge and facilitate public and private sector in their endeavour in promoting the balanced and efficient use of fertilizers to achieve sustainable agriculture and a fair food system for the benefit of men and women small-holder farmers in Pakistan.



**Syed Fakhar Imam**  
Federal Minister

**D.O. No.**  
**Government of Pakistan**  
**Ministry of National Food**  
**Security and Research**

Islamabad the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

It gives me pleasure that Global Fertilizer Day is being celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 under the auspices of All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) IN Pakistan. Commemoration of the Day would draw attention of the general public towards significance of fertilizers on our food production to fulfill the daily need of people as well as animals.

2. Global Fertilizer Day marks the anniversary of Fritzes Haber's discovery of ammonia synthesis in 1098 which made revolution in the agriculture sector everywhere in the World. As we all know, fertilizers are essential nutrients for crops and are being used throughout the globe. Fertilizers enable us to get more food for more population and animals increasing day-by-day.
3. Pakistan is an agricultural country with best irrigation & agriculture structure having everything, vegetables, fruits, and sugarcane, wheat and rice crops. The country is one of the largest producers of raw cotton, growing cash-crop tobacco, enjoying milk, beef, mutton and other poultry products. Government is also regularly taking so many positive steps to facilitate farmers and agriculture.
4. Celebration of the day is encouraging in Pakistan. Information, education and communication on fertilizer lead towards awareness on growing requirements. I congratulate the Senior Management Team, APFDA for organizing global Fertilizer Day.

*S. F. Imam*  
(Syed Fakhar Imam)

Mr. Imran Saeed,  
Secretary General, APFDA  
Chairman Secretariat,  
Shakargarh Road,  
Zafarwal.



**Sahibzada Muhammad Mahboob Sultan**  
**Federal Minister**

**D.O. No. 1-5/2019-FM**  
**Government of Pakistan**  
**Ministry of National Food**  
**Security and Research**

## **MESSAGE**

I am happy to learn that All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) is celebrating Global Fertilizer Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 in Pakistan. Fertilizers are giving huge impact on the global food production and have completely changed the agricultural sector. They play vital role in supplying the essential nutrients to plants that enable farmers to produce more food and feed the growing population of the world.

Global Fertilizer Day marks the anniversary of Fritz Haber's discovery of ammonia synthesis in 1908, which sowed the seeds for the Green Revolution. Abundance of food grown around the world, for both people and animals, is made possible through the use of fertilizers.

Pakistan is an agricultural country and we have one of the largest irrigation systems to support our agriculture. Nature has gifted with us Cotton, Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane, Fruits, and Vegetables, in addition to Milk, Beef, Mutton, Poultry, Wool and thus agriculture for us is the main source of income and living in the country.

It is a matter of great pleasure that your association is celebrating Global Fertilizer Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at national level. Awareness & education on the benefit, uses fertilizers and availability essential nutrients from plants surely enable us to produce more food for our growing needs. Celebrating the Day with fervor would make All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) at-par with the other international fertilizer associations working around the world.

I wish you all success in your efforts.

**Sahibzada Muhammad Mahboob Sultan**





# Agriculture Department

Government of The Punjab


## Message from the Minister for Agriculture, Punjab

I am happy to learn that Global Fertilizer day is being celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 by the All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association. Celebration of the day would draw attention of the general public towards the importance of fertilizers on our production to and fulfill the daily need of people as well as animals.

Several techniques are being used by farmers to better understand plant nutrition and fertilizers are the best way to increase crops. They are the fertilizers which enable us to get more food for population and animals.

Pakistan is an agricultural country with best agriculture structure having everything, vegetables, fruits, and sugarcane, wheat and rice crops. Government is also regularly contributing towards the both, facilitating the farmers and agriculture.

Celebration of the day is encouraging in Pakistan. Information & education is essential to update knowledge about national & international developments regarding fertilizer. I congratulate the Senior Management Team, APFDA for organizing Global Fertilizer Day.

  
23.4.20  
**Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi**

Mr. Imran Saeed  
Secretary General, APFDA  
Chairman Secretariat,  
Shakargarh Road,  
Zafarwal.