Mission and Support Statement

Fertilizers provide the nutrients necessary to improve and maintain soil fertility by replacing the nutrients removed by harvested crops, and they are a primary component of a sustainable crop production system. As industry representatives and stakeholders we recognize the need to efficiently utilize the nutrients fertilizers provide. 4R Nutrient Stewardship is an innovative and science-based approach that offers enhanced environmental protection, increased crop production and quality, increased farmer profitability, and improved soil productivity and sustainability. The concept is to use the right nutrient source, at the right rate, the right time, and in the right place to support nutrient needs of crops.

To be sustainable, nutrient use must support cropping systems that provide economic, social, and environmental benefits. Three goals within the initiative include: promoting the 4Rs as a recognizable strategy for economic, social, and environmental sustainability; expanding the implementation of 4R Nutrient Stewardship on the farm, and increasing the awareness of efforts to boost adoption of the 4Rs among the general public and policy developers worldwide.

4R PARTNER SUPPORT

As agricultural industry representatives and stakeholders, we support 4R Nutrient Stewardship. Support of this initiative means:

- Embracing the 4R framework within our organization and our messaging as a recognizable strategy for economic, social, and environmental sustainability;
- Creating awareness and providing outreach for the initiative within our organization, to our stakeholders, to policy developers and to the public; and as applicable
- Implementing services or practices consistent with the 4R scientific principles, as defined below.
- Use concepts and terminology consistent with defined 4R scientific principles and evolving standards.
- Balance consideration of the three areas of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental.
- Provide site-specific recommendations addressing specific regional soil, climate and operational issues.
- Balance nutrition to ensure that N, P, K, secondary nutrients and micronutrients are in adequate supply to meet crop production expectations.
- Use appropriate tools such as soil testing, tissue testing, nutrient budgeting and knowledge of crop nutrient uptake demand dynamics to assess nutrient requirements.
- Consider all sources of nutrients (fertilizer, soil organic matter, manure, irrigation water, crop residual etc.) during the planning process.
- Comply with applicable nutrient management regulations in your region or community.
- Measure or evaluate the effectiveness of selected BMPs and use on farm or community based assessments to support continuous improvement in nutrient use efficiency and effectiveness to achieve crop yields and quality.
- Adapt to changes in proven crop production and soil and water technologies (e.g. fertilizer, seed, equipment, etc.) which support goals for economic, environmental, and social progress.
- Provide and maintain clear documentation of the nutrient management plan and its implementation.