



economic contexts are needed to ensure food security and fight malnutrition. Access to finance, digital farming and further services to smallholder farmers are also crucial.

Much more needs to be done, though. Africa is a key focus of commitment for the fertilizer industry. Thanks to the renewed support of the International Fertilizer Association (IFA), the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and the African Fertilizer Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), I have produced the Africa Fertilizer Map 2019 to share available associations data but also to raise awareness of Africa's major development issues. The map is sponsored by OCP Group of Morocco, a world leading phosphate producer which works towards sustainably unlocking the African continent's agricultural potential by supplying agricultural needs, preserving the environment and supporting the communities in which it operates. OCP supplied 2.5m. tonnes of its fertilizer production to Africa in 2017 and is present in 20 countries of the Africa continent, either with an office, a foundation-led, agronomy or partnership project. Mostafa Terrab, ceo of OCP Group, has recently been elected as the new IFA chairman for the next two years, the first ever from an African country in the 90-year history of the industry association. "By scaling up improved soil analysis and nutrient best management practices, farmers in Africa can increase the efficiency and productivity of their farms and avoid the additional conversion of an estimated 80 million hectares of additional land to desert," said Terrab.

AFAP, a partnership of African development organizations set in 2012 on the back of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), offers a number of market driven business solution advisory and technical services to achieve ambitious agriculture development goals <https://www.afap-partnership.org>. AFAP, jointly with CRU, is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Fertilizer Agribusiness Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, 1-3 October <https://events.crugroup.com/eastafrica/home>.

The Africa Fertilizer Map 2019 can be viewed on IFA, IFDC and AFAP websites. If you want to have a digital copy of the map or have additional information on Africa, please contact me at [antonella.l.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:antonella.l.harrison@gmail.com)