



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The International Network on Fertilizer Analysis

Investing in harmonized
fertilizer quality standards for
sustainable soil management

INFA is an International Network on Fertilizer Analysis, which aims to build and strengthen the capacity of laboratories in fertilizers analysis and to harmonize fertilizer quality standards in order to promote the sustainable use of fertilizers worldwide.

What is INFA and why does it matter?

The design and implementation of solutions to avoid the misuse of fertilizers and impacts on soils, atmosphere, and water is a challenge, because once some nutrients reach these pools, extraction approaches are complex, expensive, or simply not feasible. At this point, preventive solutions are better alternatives to improve the knowledge of what, when and how we add amendments to the soil. Laboratory analyses are the first step in assessing the quality of fertilizers and amendments that have major impacts on soil quality. For this reason, the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) has been requested by its members and partners to also strengthen the capacity of laboratories carrying out fertilizer analysis. In December 2020, INFA was established as a sub-network of GLOSOLAN and in support to the implementation of the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers. The work of INFA supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the FAO mandate on food security and nutrition.

INFA

- **Strengthens** the performance of laboratories analyzing fertilizers through the use of standardized methods, protocols, classification and definitions;
- **promotes the harmonization** of fertilizer analysis methods and protocols;
- **advocates for the enhancement of national capacities** through technical cooperation;
- **cooperate** with national and international institutions and associations already working on the topic;
- now includes **almost 100 laboratories worldwide** that are doing or interested to do fertilizer analysis.



Start small, think big: Why join the network?

Joining the INFA network will strengthen your laboratory by improving its performance. You will participate in decision-making process for the development of global standards and best practices. You will learn from champion laboratories and others facing similar challenges. You will have free access to technical advice, training programmes, capacity building and educational materials. Your laboratory will be a part of an over-arching system that is committed to sustainable soil management (SSM) and can make a significant impact globally.

A unique opportunity to invest in quality fertilizer laboratory data for a sustainable and food secure world

Investing in more efficient laboratories and harmonized data has national, regional and global implications. INFA is an efficient and effective way to:

- provide reliable evidence to support better decision-making both in the field and at policy level;
- contribute to the development of international standards and indicators;
- contribute to the reduction of soil, water and air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by the misuse of fertilizers;
- contribute to the efficient use of nutrients in farming systems;
- contribute to the availability, stability and safety of food;
- assist companies manufacturing laboratory equipment to improve their products;
- identify research gaps and increase investment in research.

How do I join the network?

All laboratories that have received an official mandate from their government to carry out fertilizer analysis, that carry out fertilizer analysis on a voluntary basis, or that do not yet perform fertilizer analysis but are interested in the topic, are invited to join the INFA. Once your application has been processed, your laboratory will be indicated on the INFA's interactive map. All laboratories receive a certificate of registration when they register with INFA. Please note that there is no registration fee or any annual cost to join INFA.

Why GSP?

The GSP is a globally recognized mechanism composed of over 320 partners from 195 countries.

Our key objectives are to promote sustainable soil management and improve soil governance to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and support the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development. Capacity development is at the heart of the GSP mandate, as countries can reach the SDGs only by strengthening their local capacities.

International Network on Fertilizers Analysis

For more information:

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www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan/fertilizers-analysis-international-network-on-fertilizer-analysis/en/

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