

20th AFA Int'l. Annual Fertilizer Forum & Exhibition
“Global Fertilizer Networking Forum”
Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt: 25 - 27 February, 2014

The city of peace, Sharm Al Sheikh, hosted during 25th to 27th of February 2014 the 20th AFA International Annual Fertilizers Forum & Exhibition, convened by **Arab Fertilizer Association** and supported by AFA Egyptian member companies, under the slogan:

“Global Fertilizer Networking Forum”

The International Annual Forum is considered the most prominent economic event on the level of fertilizer industry in the Arab region and Middle East. The Forum attendance is around 500 participants from chairmen of Arab and international fertilizers companies, heads of related international associations and organizations, senior experts, executives and general managers representing more than 141 companies and organizations from 35 countries: Egypt, KSA, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, UAE, Sudan together with UK, Belgium, Canada, Ukraine, USA, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Switzerland, Italy, Turkey, Holland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore ...

The Forum is receiving, since its outset in 1995, all support from the Egyptian Government and companies working in fertilizers production thus became a remarkable date on the agendas of people working and interested in fertilizer industry.

The Forum Main Subjects comprise the following:

- Fertilizers international policies
- Sustainability in fertilizers industry
- Fertilizer supply and demand balance
- Natural gas impact on fertilizers industry
- Shale gas impact on fertilizers industry

- Water security in Arab region
- Fertilizers role in supporting food security in Arab region
- Role of state-of-the-art technology in enhancing agricultural productivity and achieving food security

The rising demand on food, feeding materials, fibers and bio-fuel requires increasing the agricultural productivity, especially in the light of the availability of limited agricultural lands. This simply means that they are responsible for not less than 40% of the agricultural production, in general. Therefore, without using fertilizers many countries will lose the relative advantage of food self sufficiency, in the shed of the annual world population growth by an amount of 80 million people; world population is even expected to reach around 8 billion people by 2030.

Moreover, 2014 is witnessing a new cycle of increase in regional and international needs and fertilizer trade movement, accompanied by a rise in the international demand on agricultural products.

Hence, the challenges facing fertilizer industry and the rise in demand rate necessitates the provision of required amounts of different fertilizers and related materials, which will undoubtedly be met by the additional capacities witnessed by the commercial production during 2012/ 2013 in a number of countries, namely Qatar, Egypt, KSA, together with the expected capacities until 2016.

Arab fertilizer sector was capable of firmly establishing its status in the international market, due to the availability of raw materials, including natural gas, phosphate rock and potash. Fertilizer industry revenues represent a remarkable importance in the economies of Arab countries producing and exporting fertilizers and related materials. 90% of total Arab production is mainly export-oriented; this is ascribed to the low consumption rate of the Arab market. Therefore, the revenues of such an industry affirmatively contribute in the enhancement of economic and social development of the producing countries. To elaborate, Arab region total production of fertilizers and related materials in 2013 reached 80 million tons and exports exceeded 48 million tons.

Also, the Arab region represents 30% of gas international reserves and 70% of phosphate rock. The region further possesses around 34% of international urea

market, 79% of phosphate rock trade, 46% of tri-super phosphate, 57% of phosphoric acid, 34% of DAP, 4% of potash and 21% of sulfur international exports.

The Arab region importance will even rise in future as a result of currently launching various fertilizers projects in the Arab region.

The Forum was accompanied by an industrial exhibition, in which 24 Arab and foreign companies concerned with fertilizers industry, trade and shipping, participate, from different worldwide countries, that is to say Egypt, UAE, Lebanon, Germany, Holland, China, India, Italy and UK. These companies exhibit the latest products with regard to fertilizer industry.

It is noteworthy that AFA is an NGO, established in 1975, and is working under the umbrella of Council of Arab Economic Unity and Economic and is practicing the status of observer in the Social Council affiliated to Arab League.

AFA gathers Arab institutions and companies, working in fertilizers and related materials industry and trade. AFA membership comprises 175 Arab and foreign companies from 35 worldwide countries. AFA generally aims at coordinating and developing technical relationships between member companies, together with all issues related to fertilizer industry. AFA represents a framework through which Arab companies work to become acquainted with the latest technological developments in fertilizer industry. It further provides Arab companies representatives with the opportunity to strengthen relationships with international institutions, organizations and companies working in the field of fertilizer industry, trade and usage.

In addition, AFA calls for the best utilization of available natural resources, utmost achievement of added value, effective contribution in economic and social development, full integration of fertilizer industry, further support to constructive scientific research concerned with fertilizer industry and usage together with preservation of the environment and human beings. AFA mainly targets the development of fertilizer industry, materials and usage. It seeks the achievement of such a goal together with keeping environmental standards and requirements via intensifying and coordinating inter-cooperation efforts exerted in different fields and with related specialized bodies together with pinpointing an integrated and pioneering role played in supporting agricultural production so as to contribute in the achievement of food security.