

Press Release

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International Potash Institute

Industriestrasse 31 T +41 43 810 49 22
CH-6300 Zug F +41 43 810 49 25
Switzerland ipi@ipipotash.org
www.ipipotash.org

Twitter: twitter.com/IPI_potash
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IPIpotash

First National Potash Symposium in Tanzania entitled: “Potassium for Sustainable Crop Production and Food Security” 28-29 July 2015, Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania

The 1st Potash Symposium in Tanzania was held in Dar es Salaam between 28-29 July 2015. Over 60 scientists, extension officers, officials, and fertilizer industry and farm technicians attended along with chief guest, Mr. Peniel Lyimo, Deputy Chief Executive from the President's Office - President's Delivery Bureau, the United Republic of Tanzania.

The event was organized by the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) in collaboration with the International Potash Institute (IPI, Switzerland) and Mlingano Agricultural Research Institute.

Over five decades, potassium has been regarded as sufficient in most of Tanzania's soils. This generalization has led to little research work regarding soil potassium status, plant nutrition and fertilizer recommendations, which include potassium in fertilizer formulations. Tanzania has potassium-blended fertilizer recommendations for a few crops like tobacco, sisal and tea. Other crops depend on the inherent potassium supply in the soil, which is gradually declining due to inadequate supplies.

In recent years, it has been recognized that levels of potassium in some soils are lower than normally anticipated, and that deficiency symptoms are common in some major crops like maize, cassava, and rice. With such observed deficiencies, there is an urgent need to provide updated fertilizer recommendations to include potassium.

This Symposium aimed to support the sustainable increase in agricultural productivity by including potassium in fertilizer recommendations for various crops. This is envisaged by the following steps:

1. Obtaining baseline information of potassium research in Tanzania
2. Synthesizing the available information
3. Identifying research gaps to establish a potassium research agenda for Tanzania.



Chief guest: Mr. Peniel Lyimo, Deputy Chief Executive, President's Office, President's Delivery Bureau, the United Republic of Tanzania. Photo by IPI.



Three key-note papers and 13 papers were presented by experienced scientists around the following sub-themes:

1. Potassium distribution in the soils of Tanzania
2. Role of potassium for sustainable crop productivity in Tanzania

3. Trends of potassium levels in the soils of Tanzania
4. Formulation and packaging of potassium based fertilizers
5. Economics of potassium based fertilizers for sustainable crop production.

Outcome and recommendations

The major outcome of the Symposium was a road map to promote the use of potassium through research, extension, policy and public-private partnerships.

To see the presentations, please go to the [IPI website/Papers and Presentations](#).



About IPI: IPI is a non-governmental and non-profit organization with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Founded in 1952 by German and French potash producers, it is now supported by producers in Europe and the Middle East. IPI carries out the major part of its work through a network of Coordinators, which works closely with researchers, government offices, extension officers and agribusinesses in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. IPI's mission is to develop and promote balanced fertilization for the production of higher yields and more nutritious food, and ensure the sustainability of production through conservation of soil fertility for future generations.

Members of IPI: Cleveland Potash Ltd., Dead Sea Works Ltd., and Iberpotash S.A.