

Online Consultation for Developing the FAO Code of Conduct for the Management of Fertilizers

Given the global scope of the CoCoFe, do you think the objectives are appropriate? If not, how would you add to them or modify them?

Yes. Additionally, the gestation and implementation of the CoCoFe represents a great opportunity to highlight the notions of soil health and the ecosystems services and products it provides*, to better reflect the importance of the sustainable use of that natural capital, not only in terms of food production, but for the benefit of the environment and human wellbeing in the short and long term.

() among other contributions: biogeochemical cycles, hydrological regimes, disease control and regulation, reservoir of novel genes and biomolecules of biotechnological and pharmaceutical interest.*

How should the CoCoFe be structured to have the maximum positive impact?

Recommendations: elaborated in consultation with scientific and technical teams representing different agricultural regions and countries. Governance and Implementation: an international body overseen by FAO officials and comprising representatives from individual countries which, in turn, coordinate the harmonization and implementation of recommendation with the local agencies managing agricultural policy, industry sectors and organizations interacting with end users (extension offices, farmers associations, cooperatives, educators). The benefits of a rational use of fertilizers for all stakeholders and the environment should be highlighted.

Who would be the best audience for the CoCoFe to meet our objectives and how could we broaden and diversify this audience to increase its influence?

Direct communication with end users, provided by trusted partners, is crucial to the adoption of CoCoFe recommendations. Depending on individual countries, agricultural systems, production scales and local circumstances, extension officers, agricultural advisors, educators and community leaders are key information sources, supported by agencies managing and implementing agricultural policy.

What should the scope of the CoCoFe be? Which nutrient input sources should be included; only synthetic fertilizers, or also manure, biosolids, compost, etc.? Should other products such as bio-stimulants, nitrification inhibitors, urease inhibitors, etc., be included as well?

All nutrient sources, from manure to advanced formulations should be included, with recommendations based on scientific data.

Will the CoCoFe assist in promoting responsible and judicious use of fertilizers? Why or why not? What other suggestions do you have to help the CoCoFe meet our objectives?

Yes, it should seek inclusive dialogue and input from all stakeholders, elaborating and overseeing recommendations harmonized with individual national and subnational agricultural schemes and policy frameworks.

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