



Committee on World Food Security

FAO, Rome, Italy

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# Fertilizing for Food that Improves Human Health

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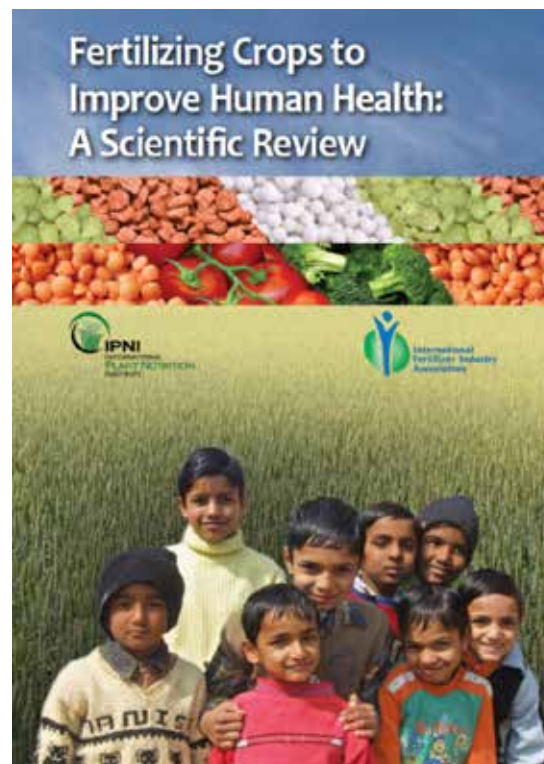
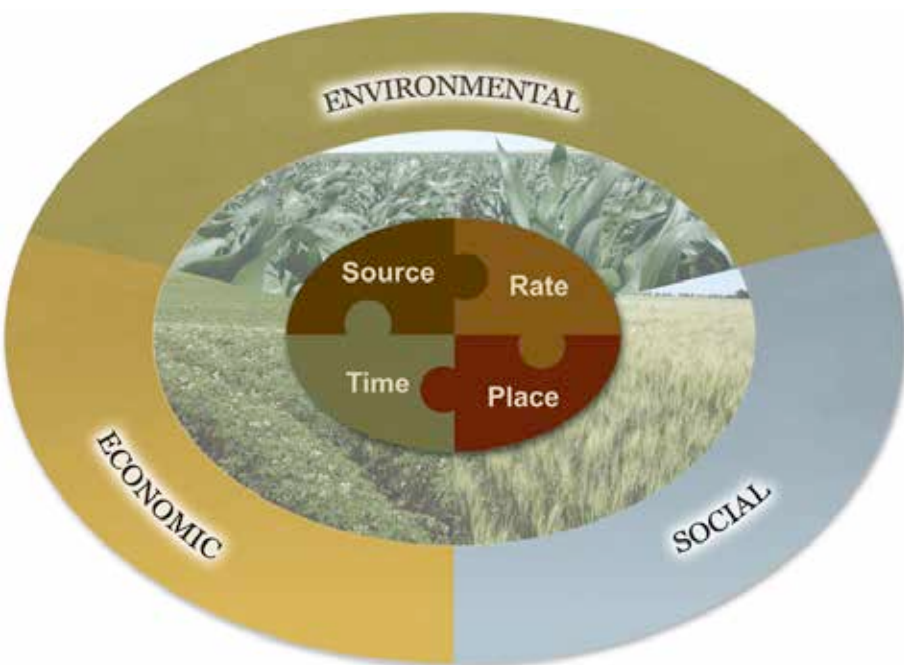
Uralchem



Uralkali

Formed in 2007 from the Potash & Phosphate Institute, the International Plant Nutrition Institute is supported by leading fertilizer manufacturers.

# 4R Nutrient Stewardship supports human health

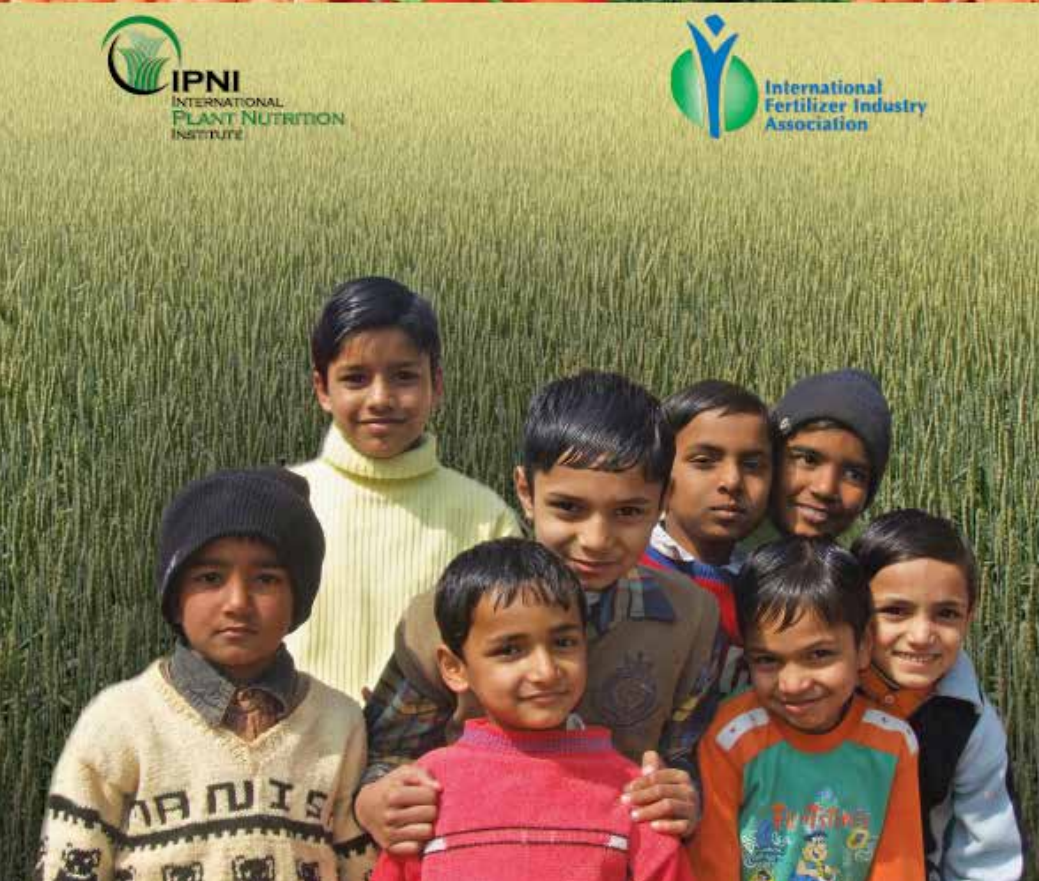


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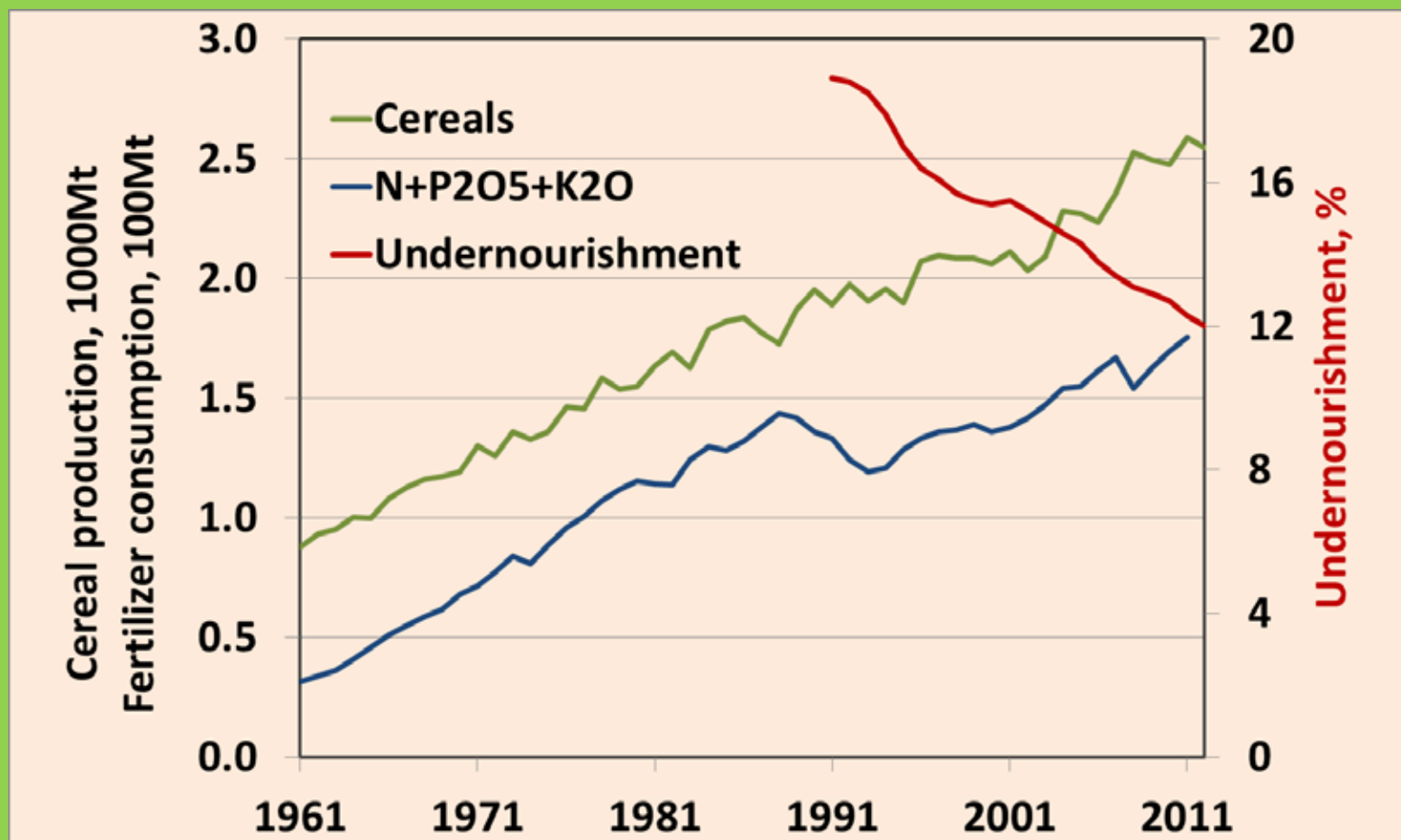
# Fertilizing Crops to Improve Human Health: A Scientific Review



## Topics

- Food security
- Micronutrients
- Vitamins
- Functional foods
- Proteins, oils and carbohydrates
- Plant disease
- Farming systems
- Remediation of soil contaminated with radionuclides
- 11 chapters

# Increased fertilizer use has contributed to cereal production growth and reduced undernourishment



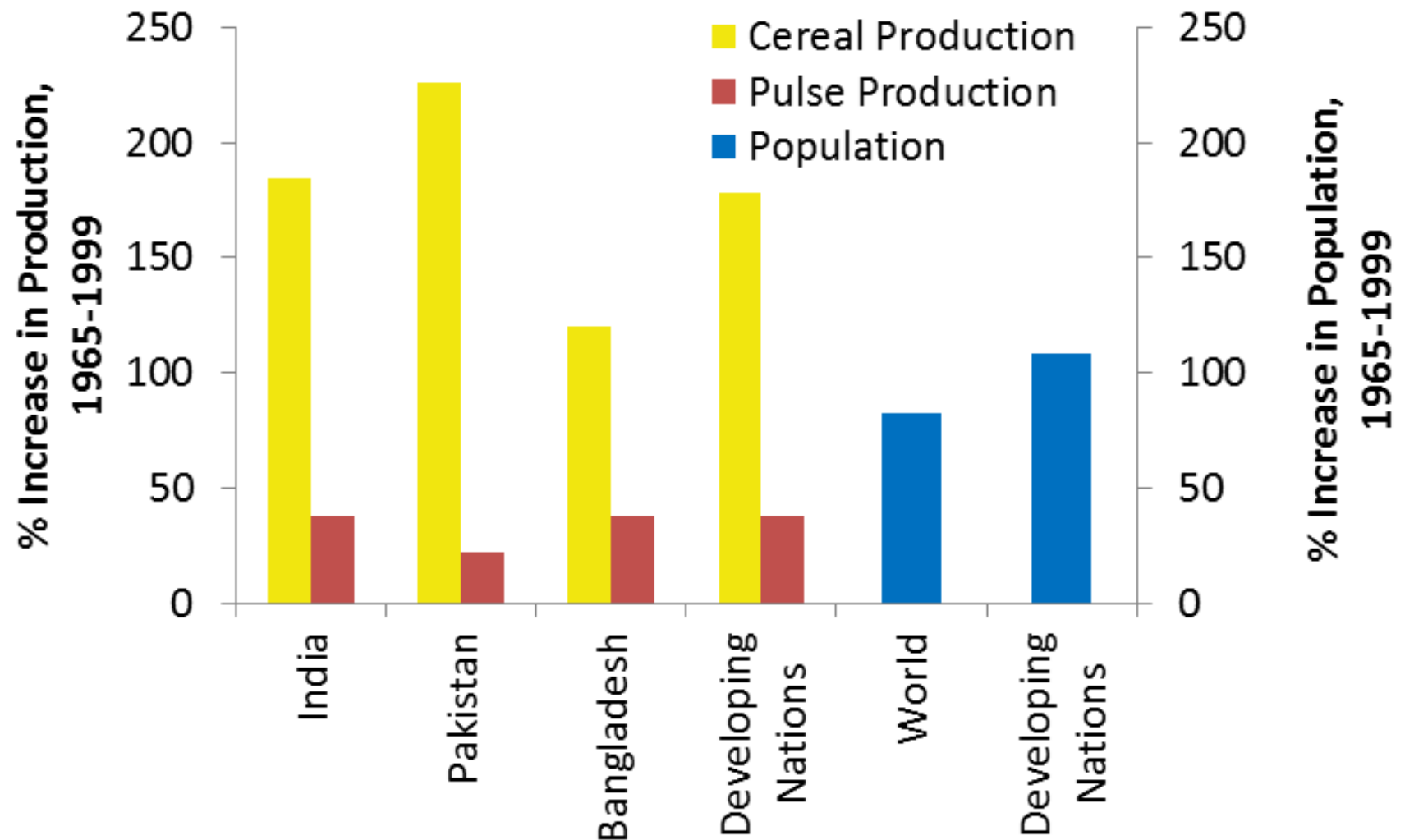




1986 – Bangladeshi farmers: *rabi* soybeans or *boro* HYV rice?



## Trend 1965 to 1999: more cereals per capita, less pulses





## Prevalence (%) of micronutrient malnutrition is high in developing regions and substantial in developed

Region	Zn	Fe	I	Vitamin A
North America	8-11	18-29	11	2-16
Latin America	13-37	18-29	11	2-16
Europe	6-16	19-25	52	12-20
Sub-Saharan Africa	13-43	48-66	44	14-44
Southeast Asia	27-39	46-66	30	17-50
South Asia	18-36			
Global	10-32	30-47	32	15-33





## Almost as many soils are deficient in Zn as in K

Table 1. Proportion of agricultural soils deficient in mineral elements (based on a survey of 190 soils worldwide – Sillanpaa, 1990).

Element	%
N	85
P	73
K	55
B	31
Cu	14
Mn	10
Mo	15
<b>Zn</b>	<b>49</b>

"...it is imperative that fertilizer technology be used to improve the nutritional quality of staple food crops that feed the world's malnourished poor. "



# Potassium (K) improves functional quality of fruits and vegetables

- Foliar K with S enhanced sweetness, texture, color, vitamin C, beta-carotene and folic acid contents of **muskmelons**
- In pink **grapefruit**, supplemental foliar K resulted in increased lycopene, beta-carotene, and vitamin C concentrations
- Several studies have reported positive correlations between K nutrition and **banana** fruit quality parameters such as TSS, reducing sugars, non-reducing sugars, total sugars and ascorbic acid, and negative correlations with fruit acidity



# Applying potassium (K) fertilizer increased the concentration of isoflavones in soybeans

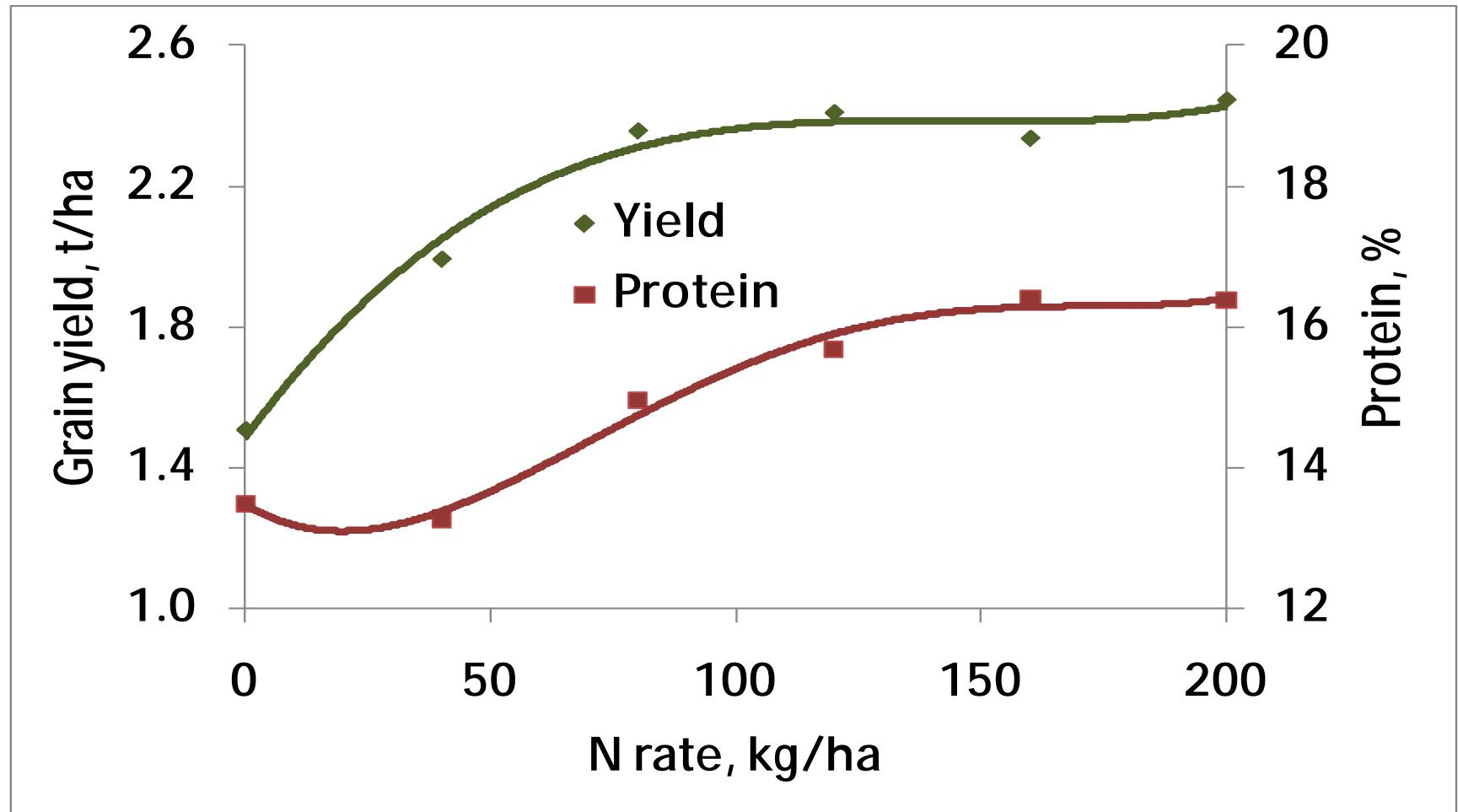
K <sub>2</sub> O application	Genistein	Daidzein	Glycitein	Total <sup>1</sup>
Spring banded	938	967	146	2,051
None	831	854	130	1,851
Increase due to K, %	13	13	12	13

<sup>1</sup> Total isoflavone concentration expressed as aglycone; sum of three components; parts per million (ppm)





# Optimum protein requires more N than optimum yield



Katepwa hard red spring wheat



# Potato starch and protein influenced by NPKS

N-P-K-S	Potato yield, g/pot	Starch, %	Crude protein, %	Protein biological value, %
2-3-3-3	124	70	8.3	89
4-3-3-3	317	72	12.9	80
6-3-3-3	266	69	15.9	75
4-1-3-3	134	68	14.9	74
4-4-3-3	454	74	10.3	81
4-3-1-3	50	59	22.9	65
4-3-4-3	332	68	11.5	82
4-3-3-0	173	65	14.7	45



# Plant nutrition suppresses plant diseases, reducing mycotoxins and increasing food safety

Crop	Disease	Toxin	Nutrient
Cereals	Ergot ( <i>Claviceps sp</i> )	Ergotamine (alkaloid)	Cu
Grain, peanuts	<i>Aspergillus</i>	aflatoxin	Mn + ?
Cereals	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> ( <i>Gibberella zeae</i> )	deoxynivalenol zearalenone trichothecene	Mn + ?

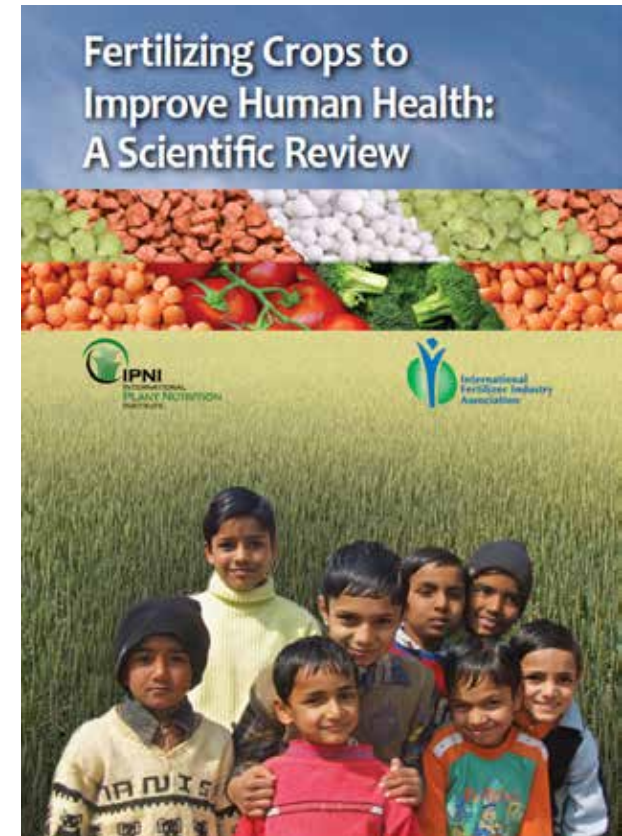


# Benefits of this publication effort

1. Compilation of benefits for public awareness.
2. Foundation to build on for further research and investment.
3. Builds relationships with research scientists.

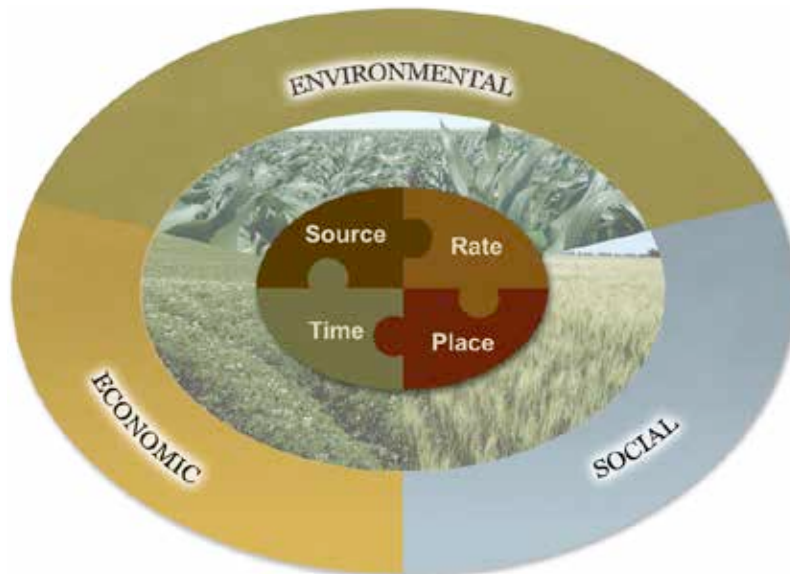
## Continuing efforts:

1. Encourage evaluation of impacts on human health in research supporting 4R Nutrient Stewardship.
2. Include human health impacts in messaging related to food and nutrition security.

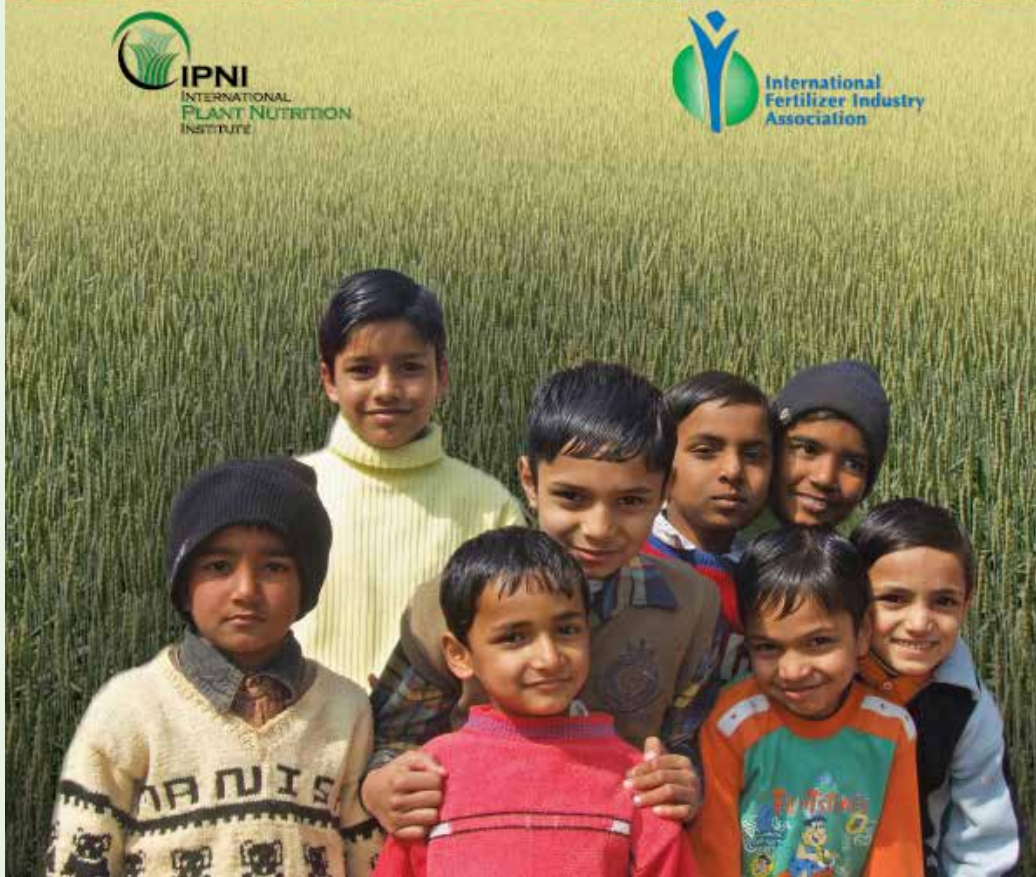


# Summary

- Fertilizer contributes immensely to the health and well being of humanity.
  - Quantity and quality
  - Protein, minerals, vitamins and nutraceuticals
- Research and investment supporting 4R Nutrient Stewardship has great potential to improve human health.



# Fertilizing Crops to Improve Human Health: A Scientific Review



**Thank You**

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