SAFER
PHOSPHATES™

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Safer Phosphates Founding Members Join Forces to Promote Sustainable and Safe Fertilizers

BRUSSELS – Today Safer PhosphatesTM officially announces its founding members, who have joined the alliance to promote the use of low heavy-metal phosphate-based fertilizers in order to limit the potential contamination of our soils, water and food, thereby reducing associated health risks. Arianne Phosphate, Foskor, Kropz and PhosAgro are the first companies to join Safer PhosphatesTM and provide support to its mission of improving access to information that supports decision-making about fertilizer use, environmental protection, food security and health.

Safer Phosphates was created in May 2017 with the purpose of promoting often inaccessible or fragmented information about the potential risks that heavy metals contained in fertilizers can pose to food security. Following the launch of its website www.saferphosphates.com, the network has published scientific research and expert interviews to help increase awareness of issues related to heavy metals content in phosphate-based fertilizers.

Currently, the European Union is considering introducing cadmium content limitations for phosphate-based fertilizers. Such limits would reduce the amount of cadmium introduced to the soil through fertilization, and help reduce risks related to accumulation of this hazardous material in food-producing areas. While such limitations would require certain fertilizer producers to make gradual changes to production processes over time, Safer PhosphatesTM believes that the potential benefits to environmental, animal and human health far outweigh the commercial interests of those opposing a reduction in heavy metals content.

The presence of heavy metals and other trace elements in phosphate rock and phosphate-based fertilizers has long been known, and has been a cause for concern. Cadmium (Cd) has been the source of greatest concern, followed by arsenic, lead, mercury, and chromium (VI). These elements may enter the food chain when fertilizers are applied to the soil, and have the potential to pose risks to human health.