



# **4R Nutrient Stewardship**

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### IPNI is supported by leading fertilizer manufacturers and industry associations





### **4R Nutrient Stewardship**

- Technical start- 1980's; as a process in 2007 (Brussels)
- A science-based approach that offers increased production, enhanced environmental protection, increased farmer profitability and improved sustainability
- Recognizes that sustainable nutrient use must support cropping systems that provide economic, social and environmental benefits



### Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place

4 Rs are interconnected ... changing one often causes changes in others



### **Principles of 4R Nutrient Stewardship**

- Stakeholders choose goals
- Producers choose practices (S-R-T-P)
  - Specific to site (crop, soil, weather, system, etc.)
- Science links practices to goals





#### Universal scientific principles lead to best practices to accomplish management goals 1. Assess plant demand 1. Supply in plant available forms 2. Assess soil nutrient supply 2. Suit soil properties 3. Assess all available indigenous 3. Recognize synergisms among nutrients nutrient sources 4. Predict fertilizer use efficiency 4. Blend compatibility Source Rate All four all the time Time Place Recognize root-soil 1. Assess timing of crop uptake 1. 2. Assess dynamics of soil nutrient dynamics supply Manage spatial variability 2. 3. Recognize timing of weather Fit needs of tillage system 3. Limit potential off-field factors 4. 4. Evaluate logistics of operations transport



### **Examples of potential practices for each category**

#### **Right Source**

- 1. Balanced fertilization that meets crop needs for macro and micronutrients
- 2. Appropriate form ammonium, nitrate, urea

#### Right Rate

- 1. Yield goal evaluation
- 2. Appropriate **soil testing** and plant analysis
- 3. Consideration of crop removal
- 4. Recognition of **spatial variability** and variable rate application

#### **Right Time**

- 1. Fall N only on appropriate soils and at appropriate temperatures
- 2. Slow and controlled release fertilizers
- 3. Urease and nitrification **inhibitors**

#### **Right Place**

- 1. Fertilizer bands appropriately placed for crop roots
- 2. Applicator calibration and maintenance
- 3. P management modified for critical source areas within a watershed (P Index)



# The role of adaptive management in 4R nutrient stewardship – focusing on <u>your</u> "right"





### **4R Plant Nutrition – Decision Cycle**





#### Right Source at Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place









- Diversified cooperative
- 3 southern states; 46 branches
- 17,000 members; 460 employees



EVOLUTION OF THE AREA UNDER NO-TILLING IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL



0.0 Veiani 50 82 84 86 88 90 92 94 96 98 00 02 04 06 08 "Areas of rice, soy beans, corr, and wheat

besides improving the quality of water

No-tillage is environmental preservation and social sustainability





Decreases carbon emissions in the atmosphere

and restoring natural biological activity.



And, rice yields in the region are increasing over 4% per year – the highest rate in the world

**4R Nutrient Stewardship?** 





- Putting members' products on supermarket shelves
- Guaranteed origin
- Sustainably grown for world markets



Cooplantio is responding to stakeholder (customer) concerns



### For more information on 4R Nutrient Stewardship

### http://www.nutrientstewardship.com/



### http://www.ipni.net/4r



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The 4Rs: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place

## 4R PLANT NUTRITION A Manual for Improving the Management of Plant Nutrition ENVIRONMENTAL Source Rate ROOMONIC Tim Place SOCIAL IPNI INTERNATIONAL PLANT NUTRITION INSTITUTE

#### Foreword

Chapter 1	Goals of Sustainable Agriculture
Chapter 2	The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Concept
Chapter 3	Scientific Principles Supporting — Right Source
Chapter 4	Scientific Principles Supporting — Right Rate
Chapter 5	Scientific Principles Supporting — Right Time
Chapter 6	Scientific Principles Supporting — Right Place
Chapter 7	Adapting Practices to the Whole Farm
Chapter 8	Supporting Practices
Chapter 9	Nutrient Management Planning and Accountability
Symbols and Abbreviations	
Glossary	
Review Answers	





# **Thank you for attention!**

International Plant Nutrition Institute EECA program

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