

Report of the Workshop Day 1 in Vietnam

Date: 2nd May 2013

Place: Institute of Fertilizer and Soil, Hanoi

Workshop with the science team

The main problems of the overuse of fertilizers in Vietnam	
Possible problems	Possible reasons
The farmer use too much chemical fertilizer	They have too little information about the characteristic of the soil of their land
Their traders do not know the right method to use the fertilizer (what kind for which kind of vegetation, the quantity, the time and on what kind of soil...) and do not consult the farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They did not receive appropriate training from the commune or from the agriculture extensions. • They just want to sell their products as much as possible to get profit although they know that it can harm the environment.
The farmers do not believe or follow the recommendation of the members of the agriculture extension	The method is not effective on a short-term basis.
The farmer want to buy as much fertilizer as possible when they have the money available or when they can buy at low price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not interested in the economical yield yet • Because of their habits • They think they get better quality and quantity of crops if they rather apply too much than too little fertilizers (the more the better)
The farmers do not know the method how to use the fertilizer (what kind for which kind of vegetation, the quantity, the time and on what kind of soil...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They prefer using chemical fertilizer over organic fertilizer (easy to use, less quantity needed...) • They want to get the highest possible quantity of crops (short term) • They are proud if their quantity/quality of crops are better than their neighbours.

Estimation of the science team:

- The farmer need an average of 250kg NPK/ 0.3 ha rice/ year (750 kg NPK/ ha/ year)
- 1 ton of NPK fertilizer in Vietnam is about 60-70 USD for 0.3 ha, whereas the world price is about 250- 300 USD/0.3 ha → the fertilizer in Vietnam is too cheap!
- The monetary yield is about 700 USD/0.3 ha/ year
- The soil testing costs only 2 USD/ test, instead they use too much fertilizer (lost of about more than 100 USD of fertilizer)

→ It is recommended to use 300-400kg NPK/ha/year and it is worth to pay for a soil testing

