

National Soil Conservation Day: for an efficient use that safeguards the value of a key resource of the country.

Bahía Blanca, July 6, 2023 - Food production depends to a large extent on the health of the soil in which it is grown. Only 3% of the world's total area is arable land and humanity will reach 8 billion inhabitants in 2022. Moreover, according to the UN, 33% of arable soil is degraded. These four initial facts make it easy to draw an important conclusion: soil preservation is the key to feeding a constantly growing population.

It is estimated that by 2050, the world will need to be able to produce approximately 70% more food than today. In this context, the role of fertilizers is fundamental, since it is estimated that approximately half of the food generated globally depends on them.

In Argentina, Profertil produces 50% of the granulated urea that the countryside needs to grow -mainly- wheat, maize, and barley, as well as many other foodstuffs. Urea is the main fertilizer used to provide the soil with the nitrogen required by these crops.

Profertil's sustainable approach has always been that fertilizers should be applied following the best agronomic management practices, which essentially state that the right source should be applied at the right time, at the right dose and in the right way. These four requirements - known in the industry as the 4Rs - help in the care of soil health. That is why the company provides training to customers and producers, as well as permanent communications on the subject. In addition, the field and laboratory evaluation through tests and agreements conducted by Profertil generates scientific information on environmentally friendly products and the correct application of the 4Rs, in alliance with renowned technical institutions such as INTA, AAPRESID or AACREA.

"Our view is one of sustainability because it is increasingly clear that this is the only right way to do things: the work for the care of all natural resources is urgent and must be transversal to all actors in society", stated Marcos Sabelli, Profertil general manager.

Granulated urea, like other fertilizers, replenishes nutrients in the soil. These nutrients are taken up by the crops for growth, so each season the fields must be reanalyzed to determine what the soils of each plot will require for the next production. This task is especially relevant at this time, after a drought, as potentially there are nutrients available that the plants from the previous season could not take advantage of.

"The care of the soil, as we see, is the task of the entire agro-industrial chain and we are excited to see efforts in this direction in many customers, producers, suppliers and allies", emphasizes Sabelli.

A few days ago, Profertil signed an agreement with YPF Luz, by which 100% of the electric energy required by the Ingeniero White production plant will come from renewable sources. "Our role on the road to sustainability also implies thinking about how we produce. That is why this agreement is a historic milestone," says the general manager. In this way, some 11 million hectares of Argentine fields may be fertilized with urea produced with renewable electric energy, which implies that some 40 million tons of grain will be obtained thanks to this urea.

National Soil Conservation Day is celebrated in memory of Dr. Hugh Bennet, who dedicated his life to soil conservation. In his work, he traveled throughout Argentina and trained local pioneers in sustainable agriculture.

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