



The Fertilizer Institute

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THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE PARTICIPATES IN WORLD AGRICULTURAL FORUM

TFI Chairman Michael L. Bennett Highlights Role of Fertilizers in Global Agricultural Challenges

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) Chairman and Terra Industries CEO Michael Bennett participated in the opening panel discussion of the 2009 World Congress World Agricultural Forum in St. Louis, Mo., this week. The panel discussion titled “The Agricultural Challenge During the Global Financial Crisis: The Nature of the Challenge?” focused on issues related to agricultural research and development; the role of government and public policy in food production; and the opportunities that exist for agriculture to contribute to the development of climate change solutions.

During his opening remarks, Bennett described the importance of adequate soil nutrition in meeting the growing world population’s demands for food, fuel, feed and fiber. “The world’s options for increasing food production are limited both by the supply of land and water, and in order to keep up with the world’s food needs, we must make certain that soil nutrients are replaced after each harvest,” stated Bennett. “Only by doing so, will we ensure that our soils remain a reservoir of food production and the agent for a food-secure world.”

This was the first year that TFI attended the three-day session, which brings together agricultural leaders from around the world who represent various governments, private and private-public partnerships and non-governmental agencies. TFI President Ford B. West also attended the event and noted that it represents a valuable platform for discussion of key issues for leaders in world agriculture, highlighting that fertilizer companies have a crucial role to play in these discussions as their contributions will be essential in continuing to provide for a world population that is estimated to reach nine billion by 2050.

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“Events like the World Agricultural Forum are crucial in facilitating discussions between agricultural leaders from around the world and fostering the type of information sharing and collaboration that is necessary in order for agriculture to meet the challenges associated with alleviating world hunger and developing more sustainable agricultural practices,” said West. “Fertilizers are currently responsible for 40 to 60 percent of the world’s food supply and TFI members have a great story to tell about how they fit in to the big picture of expanding agricultural growth rates in an environmentally sensitive manner.”

You may view a copy of Bennett’s remarks by clicking on the following [link](#).

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The Fertilizer Institute represents the nation’s fertilizer industry. Producers, wholesalers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.