



The GPNM Update

Chairman's review of the work of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

Highlights



Welcome to the new GPNM Chair!

Professor Ramesh Ramachandran is the new Chair of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM). Prof. Ramesh takes over from Dr. Greg Crosby who retired from the USDA at the end of June 2016. Prof. Ramesh is Director of the [National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India](#). His expertise includes coastal ecosystem biogeochemistry, nutrient management and coastal zone management. He has over 110 refereed publications to his credit and has authored and edited many books. Prof. Ramesh is the former Chair of [Future Earth Coasts](#). Read more about Professor Ramesh's views on addressing the nutrient challenge in his recent interview with [Nature India](#).

The GPA has a new Coordinator



As of 1st June 2016 Dr. **Habib N. El-Habr**, took over as **GPA Coordinator** ([Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities](#)). Previously he was the Deputy Coordinator of [UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan](#) based in Athens. Habib holds a Masters Degree in Public Health and a PhD in Freshwater Ecology.

UNEA-2: New Resolutions to Environment Protection The outlook for Sustainable Nutrient Management



The second session of the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-2\)](#) held over the 23 to 27 May 2016, at UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi Kenya, saw reaffirmed commitments of countries to protect the environment, with the adoption of several resolutions. The resolution on [Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) acknowledged

that further action is needed to address challenges posed by management of nutrients and their impact on the environment. The resolution on [Oceans and Seas](#) emphasized control of pollution of the oceans, recalling the 2012 Manila Declaration adopted by countries that mandated the GPA and UNEP to focus on managing pollution from excess nutrient loading into the marine environment. UNEA-2 was attended by thousands of delegates from 174 countries, 120 at the ministerial level, along with UN support agencies, national, regional and international partners, private sector and civil society. Summaries of UNEA events are available from [IISD Reporting Services](#).

UNEA-2 Green Room event: West Africa and Caribbean Sargassum Seaweed Invasion

A link between nutrient loading and climate change?

This special event was held during [UNEA-2](#) on 27 May 2016 at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The Green Room event brought to the attention of global partners attending UNEA-2 the severe challenges being faced by countries in the Caribbean and West Africa, associated with the recent heavy inundations of *Atlantic sargassum seaweed* along swaths of coastline. This has been affecting the fisheries and tourism sectors in particular. Nutrient loading and warmer ocean temperatures may be playing crucial roles. The event, organized by the Sierra Leone and Nigeria governments, the [Abidjan Regional Seas Secretariat](#) and the [GPA](#), sought to mobilize international support to address this new global environmental phenomenon. High-level officials from both regions provided accounts of country experiences and considered strategic directions and building partnerships in addressing the challenge. [Refer to the technical paper for more info.](#)

Green Room event participants



Development of a MOOC on Wastewater and Nutrient Management gets underway

The first Advisory Committee meeting of the GPNM and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I) to provide technical guidance on the development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on nutrients and wastewater management was held on 26 May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting established the conceptual approach, rationalized expectations, agreed on targeted audiences, scope of content, and partnership engagement modalities in the development of a Curriculum Sourcebook, and the production and delivery of the MOOC. This MOOC on nutrients/wastewater management follows a [MOOC on marine litter](#) also developed by the GPA.



Workshop participants

Nutrient management featured at the 8th GEF IWC

The [Eighth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference \(IWC\)](#) was held over the 8 to 14 May 2016, in Negombo, Sri Lanka. Participants came together to facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing. A key theme for this year's event was the Sustainable Development Goals where sessions were designed to focus on scaling up investments from source to the sea in the context of achieving the relevant SDG's. During the conference, UNEP/GPNM coordinated an interactive **Nutrient Management Training Roundtable** designed to engage GEF focal points, project managers, regional and national scientists and policy experts in use of the Global Nutrient Management Toolbox developed under the GEF-GNC Project. The toolbox serves as an information portal on the subject of nutrient management on best practices and policies being implemented around the world.

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) is a multi-stakeholder partnership comprising of governments, the private sector, the scientific community, civil society organizations and UN agencies committed to promoting effective nutrient management (with a focus on nitrogen and phosphorus) to achieve the twin goals of food security through increased productivity and conservation of natural resources and the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), provides the Secretariat of GPNM. Read more at www.nutrientchallenge.org.

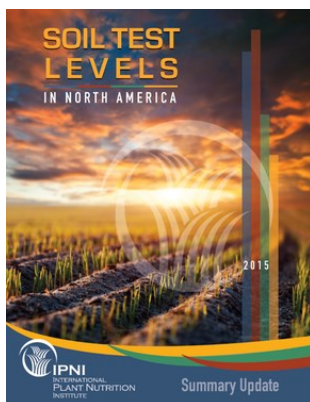
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News & Emerging Issues

2015 North American Soil Test Summary

Source: International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)



On February 24, 2016, the [IPNI](#) officially released the [summary of the extensive evaluation of the fertility of North American Soils](#). The 2015 summary marked the eleventh in the series since the study started in 1960's. Results were from over 7.5 million samples collected, which is an increase from the previous summary in 2010 of 4.3 million samples. In 2015 they used a Common Data Collection Protocol to test the status of nutrients and pH components of soil health which provided insights to sustainable farming practices. For the first time, IPNI has released the results of these four

most recent summaries within a web-based data analysis system. This website provides new opportunities to view, compare and contrast soil fertility data over this 15-year time period. The site also provides full access to a range of charts, maps, and tabular data sets. For more information [click here](#).

Phosphorus Resources Availability in India

Source: Dr. A. Subba Rao, Vice President, SCON, India

Phosphorus (P) is an essential macronutrient required for plant growth and the entire food chain that follows, including human food security. It is a key ingredient in NPK fertilizers, and is of particular importance to Indian agriculture. According to the [United Nations Framework Classification \(UNFC\)](#), the total resource of rock phosphate in India was 296.3 million tonnes in 2010. Of these, the reserves constitute only 34.8 million tonnes and 261.5 million tonnes were remaining resources. Grade-wise, rock phosphate that can be used in making P fertilizers is only 6%. Low grade account for 39%, followed by beneficiable (29%), soil reclamation (12%), blendable (9%), and unclassified and not-known grades (about 5%). Currently, exploitable reserves in India are present only in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Hence, conversion of low grade RPs into plant utilizable forms, would lead India towards self-reliance in P fertilizer consumption. Read the full paper [here](#).



- 5th [Sustainable Phosphorus Summit](#) (SPS 2016), 16-20 August, 2016, Kunming, **China**.
- Africa GPNM Platform meeting, October 2016. **Venue TBD**,
- [7th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference](#) in December 4-8 December 2016, **Australia**.

Nutrient Management Helps California Farmers Remain Competitive

Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

A group of ten farmers in Salinas Valley in California partnered with the [Agriculture and Land Based Training Association](#) (ALBA) to apply for a [Western SARE](#) on-farm research partnership grant titled "[Empowering Socially-Disadvantaged Farmers to Investigate Nitrogen Management in High-Value Vegetable Crops](#)." The research aimed to find more efficient use of farm inputs through improved Nutrient Management in order to increase productivity, reduce input costs and environmental degradation.

With the guidance of Nathan Harkleroad, Agriculture Education Program Manager at ALBA, the farmers were able to carry out their proposed research project on nitrogen management for two of California's high-value organic crops: cilantro and kale. The research found out that; cilantro grown in rotation with other crops may not respond to additional nitrogen fertilizer, indicating that a reduction in inputs could help to optimize cilantro production. The field trials also indicated that kale planted in strawberry beds would benefit from any excess nitrogen in the soil. This planting technique reduces ground preparation costs, increases recycling of nutrients, and produces high yields of fall and winter kale.



ALBA members packing fresh cilantro

As a result, the Salinas SARE Project encouraged farmers in California to conduct research on organic Nutrient Management on their farms; the work also raised positive awareness among the wider Salina's farming community. For more information [click here](#).

GPNM Partners Corner

As Dr. Greg Crosby, former Chair of the GPNM retired from the US Department of Agriculture in June 2016 after his stellar service to the GPNM over the past 3 years, the reins of leadership of the GPNM has now passed from the United States to India, with the succession of Prof. Ramesh Ramachandran to the Chair of the GPNM. His nomination to the GPNM has been affirmed by the Government of India through the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. This will no doubt serve to strengthen regional partnerships under the GPNM Asia Platform for Nutrient Management.

