

## Invitation to support the **DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL PHOSPHORUS NETWORK**

The Global Phosphorus Research Initiative (GPRI) is seeking funding partners to support the development of an independent **Global Phosphorus Network** that will effectively and efficiently link researchers, practitioners, industry groups and policy-makers actively working on the various aspects of sustainable phosphorus use.

### **WHY A GLOBAL PHOSPHORUS NETWORK?**

Global phosphorus scarcity is likely to threaten the world's ability to produce food in the future if concerted efforts are not soon taken by policy makers, scientists, industry and the community. However it is not only high quality phosphate rock that is scarce – throughout the food system there is a currently a scarcity of effective management, institutional arrangements and data related to global phosphorus use<sup>1</sup>.

While some innovative strategies already exist, such as increasing phosphorus use efficiency in the agricultural & fertilizer sector and recovering nutrients in the sanitation sector, these sustainability initiatives are far from mainstream practices. Developing and implementing practical solutions to meeting the world's long-term future phosphorus demand will involve substantial technical and institutional challenges. Effective and sustainable solutions will require multi-sector participation, including new partnerships between government, industry, research representatives from the fertilizer industry, agriculture and food processing industry, nutrition & health, sanitation sector, solid waste management industry, environmental protection agencies and sustainable systems researchers and practitioners.

With the record price spike of phosphate commodities in 2008 coupled with unprecedented interest in long-term phosphorus security, there is currently a strategic window of opportunity to develop a global phosphorus network to advance understanding of this global dilemma and promote sustainable solutions.

### **WHAT WILL THE NETWORK LOOK LIKE?**

A virtual global communication platform for ongoing and timely networking, discussion and debate, sharing latest news, ideas, research findings, publications, and facilitating future partnerships between a broad range of sectors. The interactive space will complement existing phosphorus fora, efficiently filling a current gap in two-way communication by linking researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and industry groups working on various aspects of sustainable phosphorus use around the world. Categories covered may include:

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|---|---|
| A. Global phosphate rock reserves             | D. Phosphorus use efficiency/demand           |
| B. Phosphorus recovery                        | E. Phosphorus pollution and waste             |
| C. Phosphorus reuse in agriculture & industry | F. Phosphorus – general/integrated strategies |

### **WHO WILL DEVELOP AND MANAGE THE NETWORK?**

Researchers at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney ([www.isf.uts.edu.au](http://www.isf.uts.edu.au)) will lead the Network development and ongoing management. Strategic support and coordination will also be provided by the other members of the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative ([www.phosphorusfutures.net](http://www.phosphorusfutures.net)).

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK?**

For funding contributions of €2000, €5000 or €10000, or for further information, please contact Professor Stuart White ([Stuart.White@uts.edu.au](mailto:Stuart.White@uts.edu.au)) or Dr Dana Cordell ([Dana.Cordell@uts.edu.au](mailto:Dana.Cordell@uts.edu.au)).

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<sup>1</sup> Cordell, D. (2010), *The Story of Phosphorus: Sustainability implications of global phosphorus scarcity for food security*, Doctoral thesis. Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and Department of Water and Environmental Studies, Linköping University, Sweden. Printed by LiU-Tryck, ISBN 978-91-7393-440-4, Linköping.



## **About the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative**

The Global Phosphorus Research Initiative (GPRI) is a collaboration between independent research institutes in Europe, Australia and North America. The main objective of the GPRI is to facilitate quality interdisciplinary research on global phosphorus security for future food production. In addition to research, the GPRI also facilitates networking, dialogue and awareness raising among policy makers, industry, scientists and the community on the implications of global phosphorus scarcity and possible solutions.

The GPRI was co-founded in early 2008 by researchers at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), and the Department of Water and Environmental Studies at Linköping University, Sweden. Today, GPRI members also include the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in Sweden, the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada and Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

Relevant publications, ongoing news and events can be found at our website: [www.phosphorusfutures.net](http://www.phosphorusfutures.net). Here you can also find information on peak phosphorus and other aspects of phosphorus scarcity. We welcome your feedback, comments and questions – please email [Dana.Cordell@uts.edu.au](mailto:Dana.Cordell@uts.edu.au).