



**Knowledge grows**

# **Fertilizer Industry Handbook 2025**

April 2025



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What is fertilizer?

# Fertilizers are plant nutrients, required for crops to grow

Crops need energy (light), CO<sub>2</sub>, water and minerals to grow

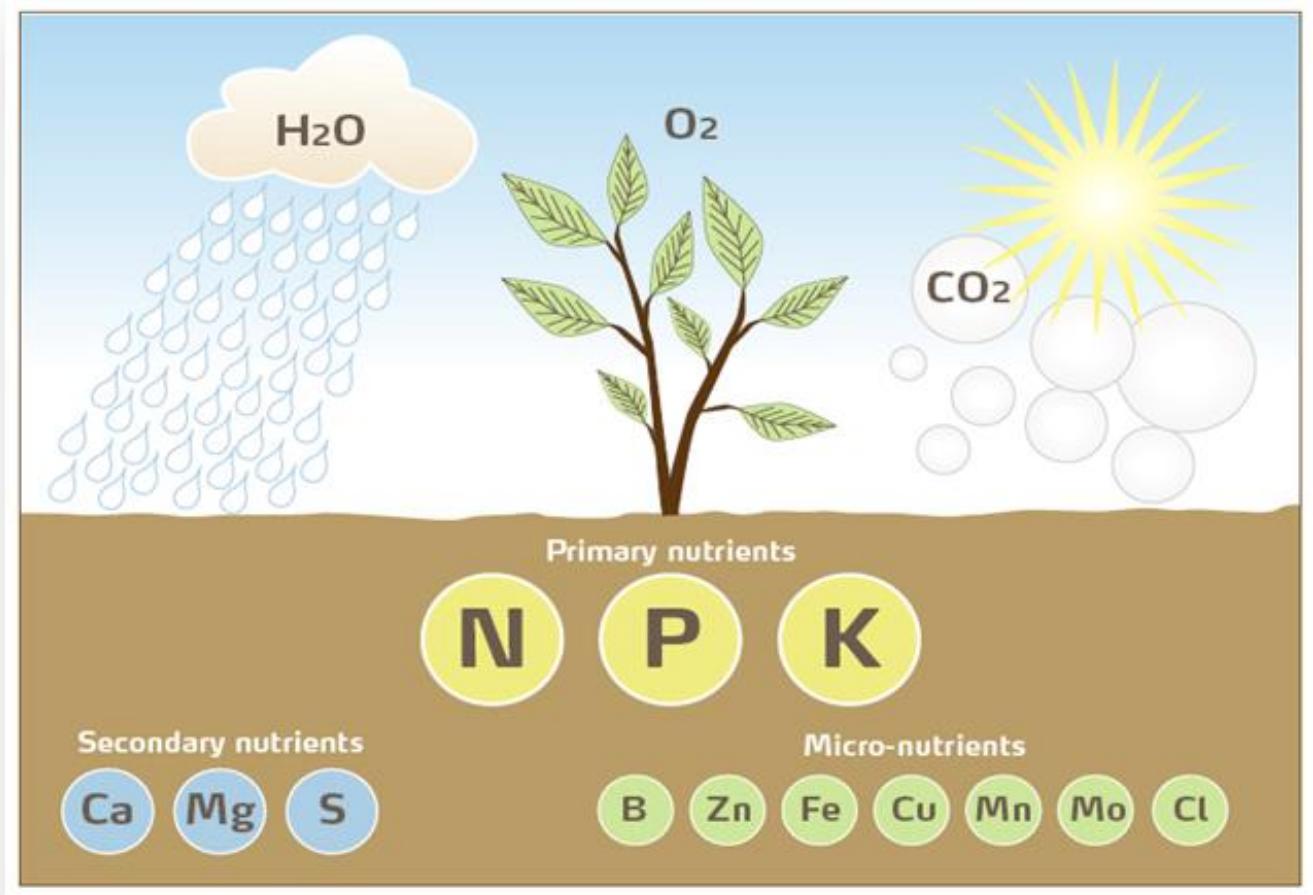
The carbon in crops originates from CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed through the leaves

Crops absorb water and plant nutrients from the soil

Plant nutrients are building blocks of crop material. Without nutrients, the crops can not grow

Mineral fertilizers provide plant nutrients for crops

Three main nutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium are primary nutrients



# Mineral fertilizers are produced from natural elements, into a form which makes them easily available for plants

## Nitrogen (N)

Nitrogen originates from the air (78% of the earth's atmosphere is nitrogen). The most common process in nitrogen fertilizer manufacturing is to create ammonia from a mixture of nitrogen from the air and hydrogen from natural gas

## Phosphate (P)

Phosphate is sourced from insoluble calcium phosphate rocks. Rock phosphate is made available for the plant usually through a chemical process to create plant-friendly fertilizers

## Potash (K)

Potassium is sourced from old sea and lake beds formed millions of years ago. Since potassium sources are often located far below the soil surface (1-2km depth), plant roots are unable to reach them naturally

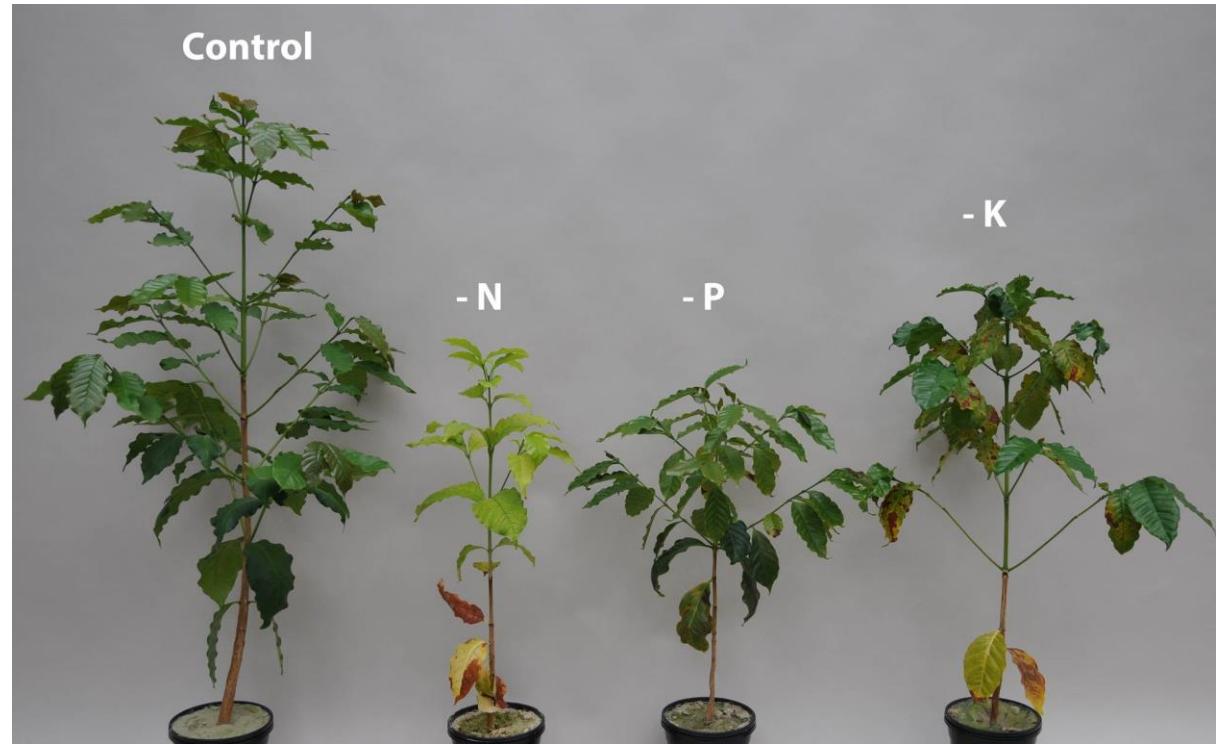
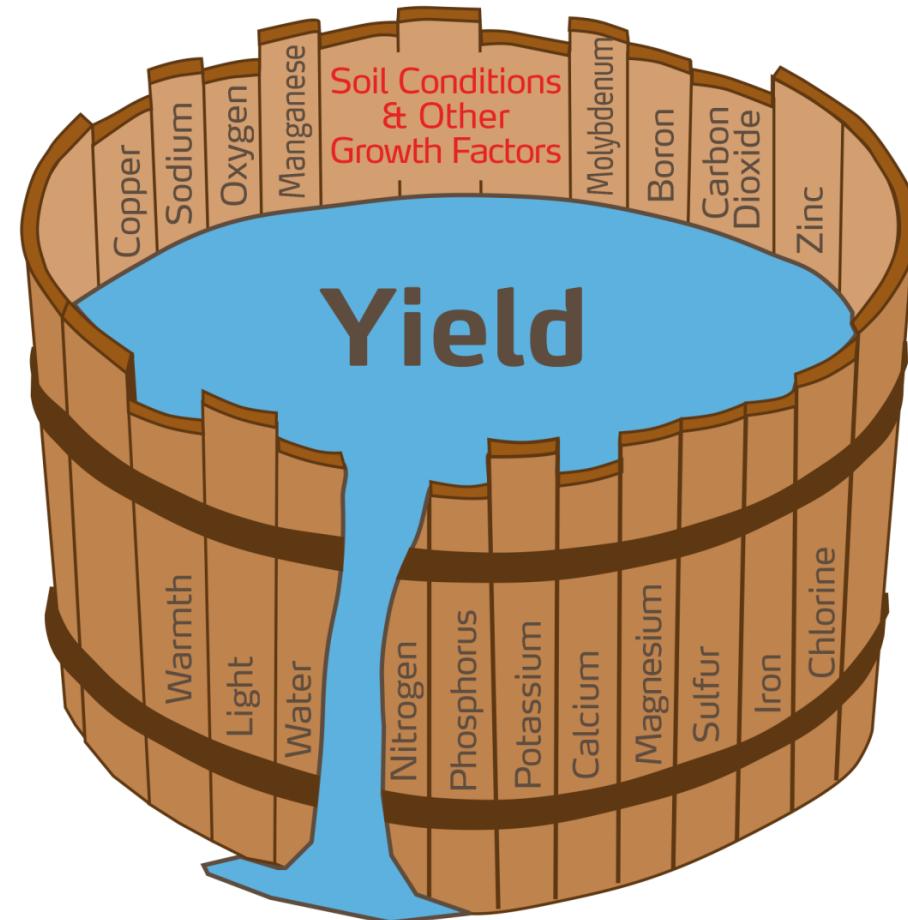


Illustration: lack of either N, P or K typically leads to plant deficiencies including reduced crop growth, reduced crop quality and/or lower resistance to drought and diseases

# Principle of crop nutrition: crop growth is limited by the most deficient nutrient

- Law of the Minimum (Liebig, 1843): “Crop yields are proportional to the amount of the most limiting nutrient.”
- Plant nutrients have **specific** and **essential functions** in crop metabolisms
- They **cannot replace** each other, and lack of any one nutrient limits crop growth
- It is therefore **essential** to focus on balanced nutrition of all plant nutrients

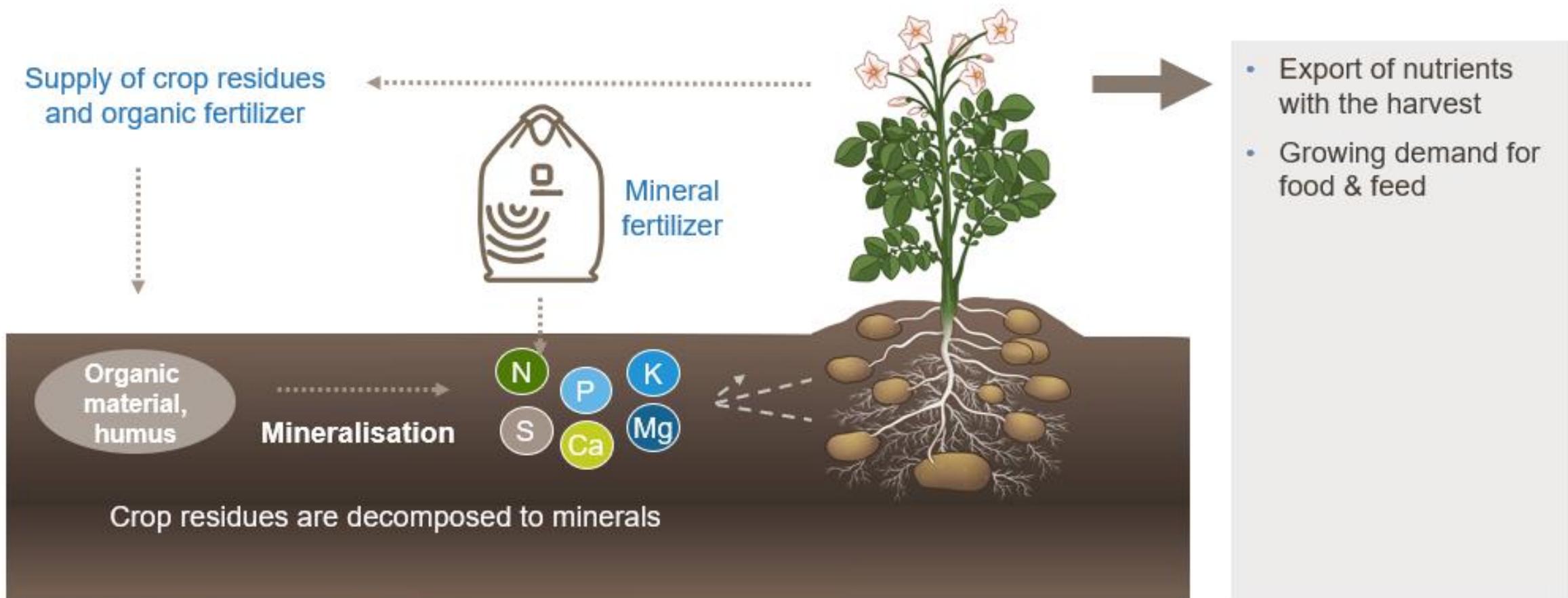


JUSTUS VON LIEBIG 1803 - 1873



## Why mineral fertilizer?

# Mineral fertilizers replace nutrients removed from the soil with the harvest



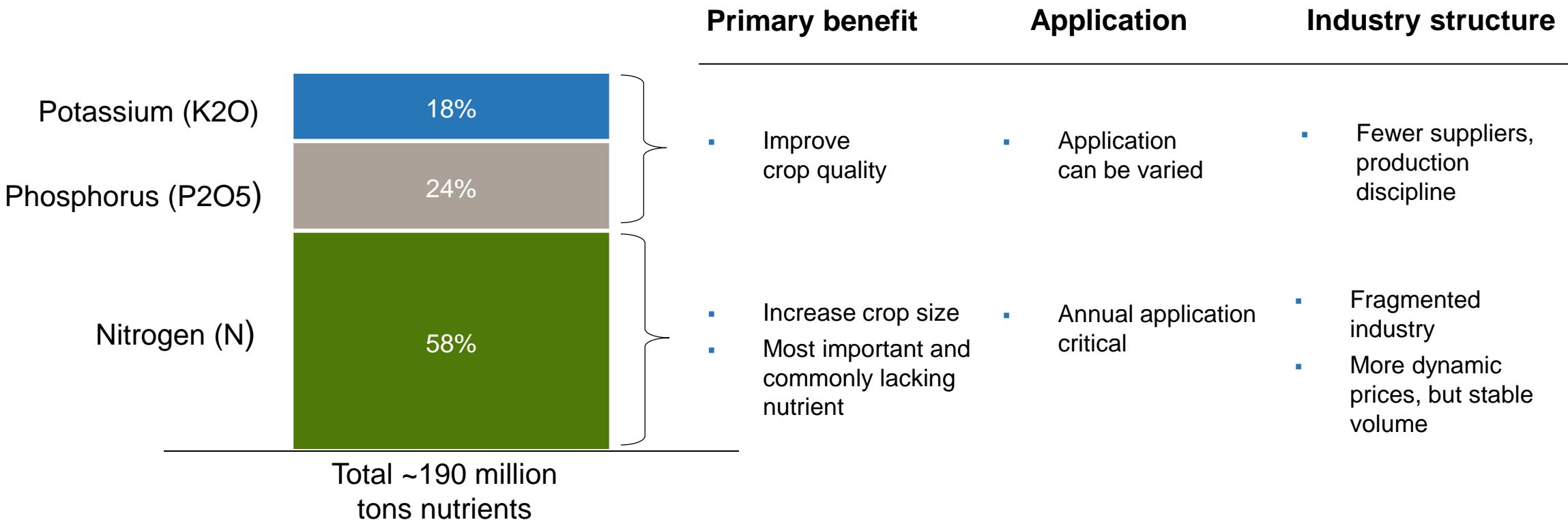
# Mineral and organic fertilizers supply the same inorganic molecules to crops, but have different characteristics

Characteristics	Mineral fertilizer	Organic fertilizer
<b>Nutrient source</b>	Nitrogen from the air, Phosphate and Potassium from deposits / mines	Crop residues and animal manures, other organic material
<b>Nutrient concentration</b>	High nutrient concentration Low logistical cost	Low nutrient concentration High logistical cost due to large volumes to transport and store
<b>Nutrient availability</b>	Immediately available for the crop	Variable, organic material needs to be decomposed to release nutrients
<b>Quality</b>	Traceable and consistent	Often inconsistent Dependent on source

- Plant productivity achieved by supplying only organic matter is on average low compared with mineral nutrients supplied in the form of fertilizers.
- However, mineral and organic fertilizers are not mutually exclusive. When using the right source, at the right rate and time and in the right place, both can improve farmers' livelihoods, support soil health on the farm and protect the environment.

# Nitrogen – the most important nutrient

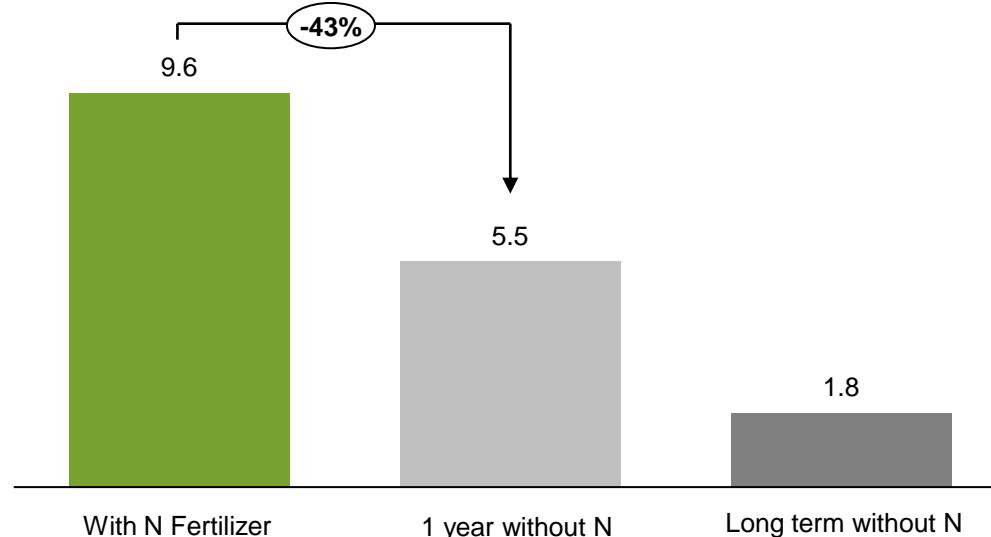
## Nutrient characteristics



# Regular nitrogen application is required in order to maintain yields

## Annual N-application is critical for yield

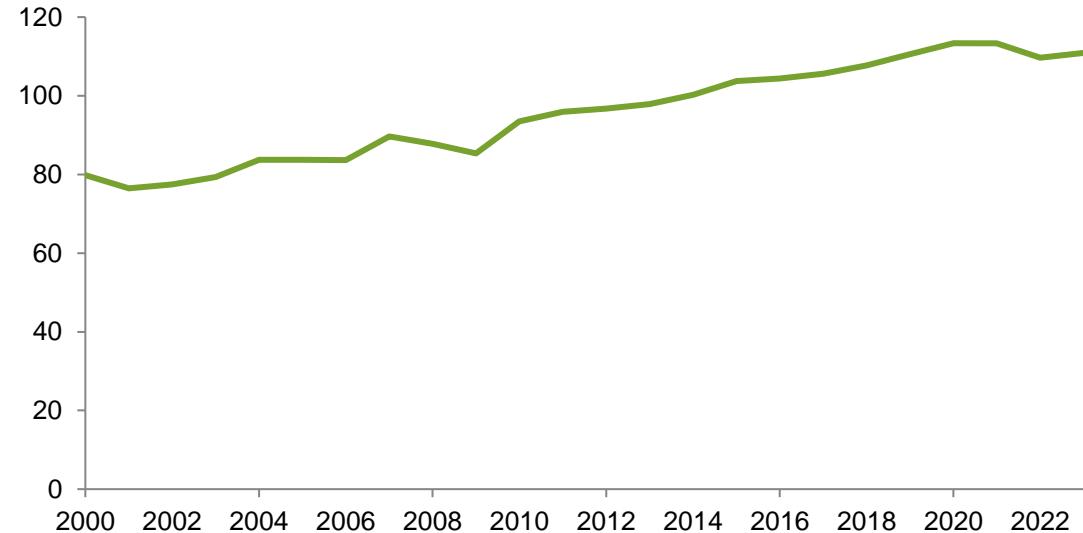
Grain yield from Nitrogen fertilizer  
Ton per hectare



Source: Broadbalk long term trial Rothamsted UK

## Stable global nitrogen consumption pattern

Million tonnes of nitrogen (ex China)



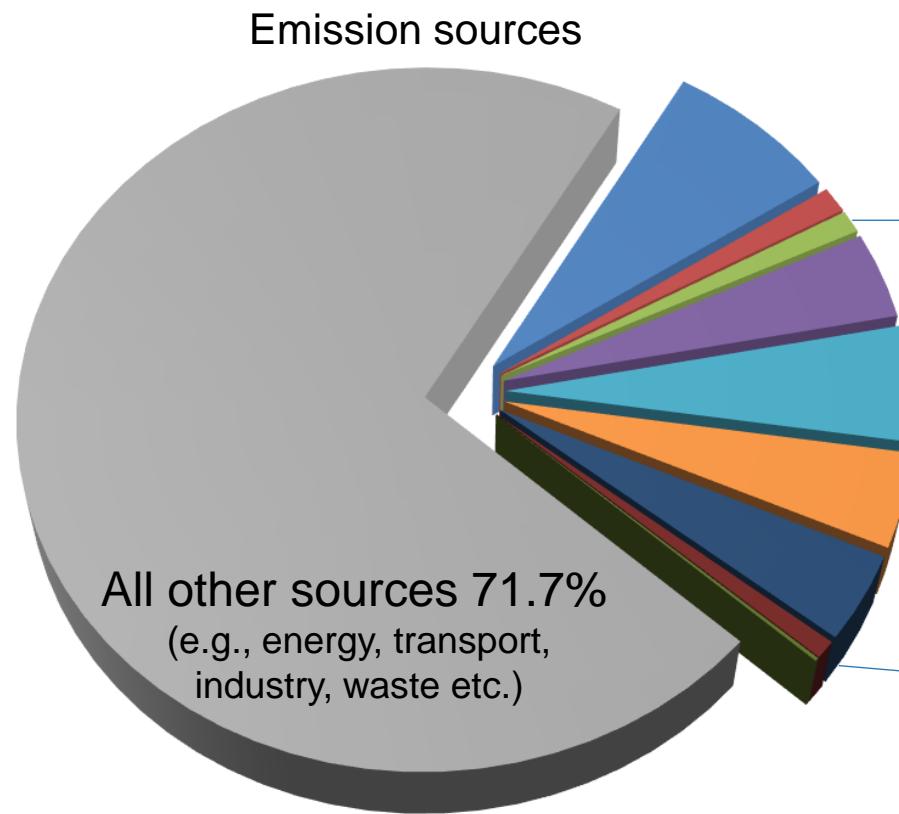
Source: IFA, August 2024



# Fertilizer CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

# The agri-food system is responsible for <30% of global greenhouse gas emissions

Fertilizer production and use represent <2% of emissions



7.4% Livestock and manure	
1.2% Rice	
<b>1% Mineral fertilizers (use)</b>	
4% Others (e.g., residues, org. soils, energy use)	Farm gate 13.6%
5.3% Agricultural land use change	Agricultural land 19%
4.3% Food consumption and waste	
4% Food processing and retail	
<b>0.8% Fertilizers production</b>	
0.2% Pesticides production	Agri-food system 28.3%

Total emissions in 2022: 57.4 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e\*

# Fertilizer reduces the carbon footprint of farming

## Fertilizer - an efficient solar energy catalyst

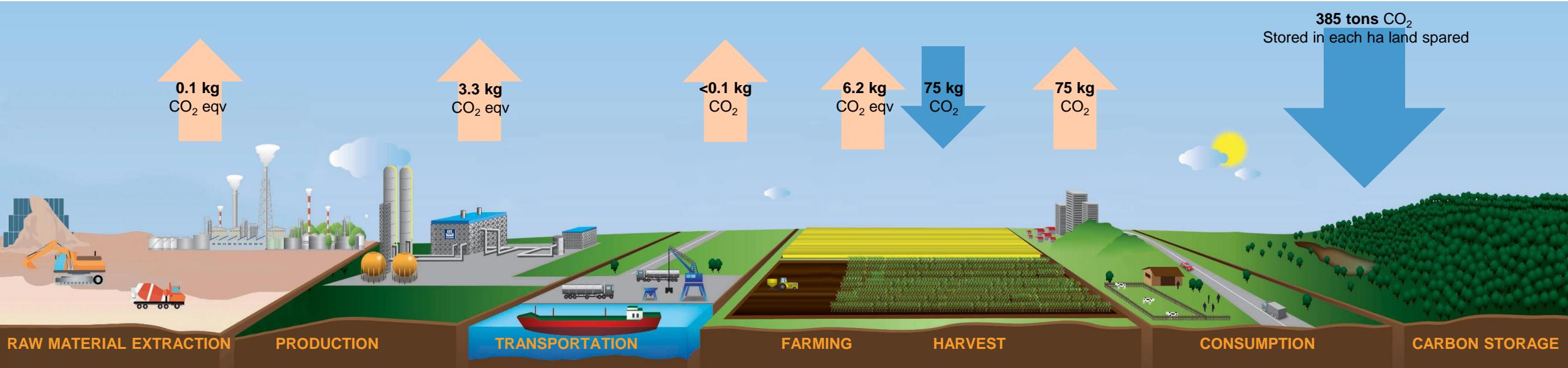
- Production is a marginal part of the carbon footprint; efficient application is more important
- Huge positive effects of fertilizer use, since higher yields enable lower land area use

## Production

- Yara's production is more energy-efficient than the competitor's average

## Application

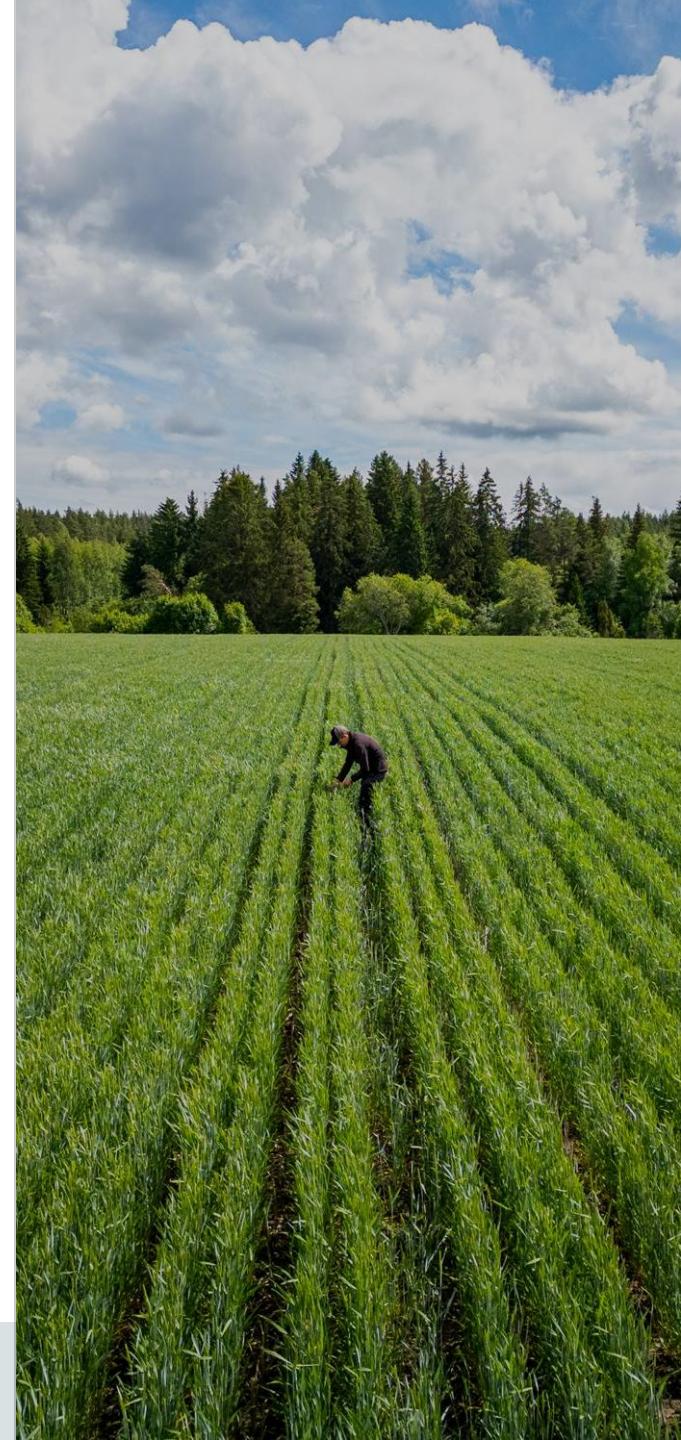
- Higher efficiency with nitrates
- Precision farming tools



Numbers show emissions as CO<sub>2</sub>eqv per kg Nitrogen in fertilizer product for Calcium Ammonium Nitrate 27%

# More than half of total GHG emissions from fertilizer take place in the field

- More than half of total emissions in the fertilizer industry comes from fertilizer use – Scope 3 category 11 emissions from
  - Direct N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (nitrification and denitrification)
  - Indirect N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (ammonia volatilization and nitrate leaching followed by nitrification/denitrification)
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from urea hydrolysis
- In-field N<sub>2</sub>O emissions occur when nitrogen, either as mineral fertilizer or organic matter, is applied to the soil and transformed by different soil microbes in the natural nitrogen cycle. The activity of the microbes depends on several environmental variables, making the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions hard to predict and manage.
- Key mitigation levers are:
  - Inhibitors
  - Climate-smart fertilizer management
  - **Nitrogen use efficiency**
  - Carbon sequestration
- Per April 2025 there does not exist a specific target-setting framework for the fertilizer industry to align with the 1.5 degree goal of the Paris agreement
- **An ideal target setting for scope 3, category 11, is a crop intensity-based target setting.** This approach can better support collaboration across the food value chain, and it can be developed so that it does not jeopardize food security.
- For more information, please check out [Yara's latest Integrated report](#):



# Increasing N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from the agriculture sector

- Atmospheric abundance of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) has increased by more than 20 per cent since the pre-industrial era due to human activities
- Increase in nitrous oxide abundance is primarily being driven by globally increasing emissions from agriculture
- Nitrous oxide's current contribution to warming is about 0.1° Celsius ( C ), and is growing. Because it has a long atmospheric lifetime (around 120 years), its warming effect accumulates and will last long time
- Nitrous oxide is currently the most significant ozone-depleting substance emitted and poses a serious threat to stratospheric zone
- Emissions from adipic acid and nitric acid production can almost be eliminated by adopting relatively low cost abatement measures
- Through installation of Yara's own catalyst technology Yara had by the time of the Paris agreement negotiations eliminated nearly half of its scope 1 GHG emissions.

## Examples of nitrogen abatement measures per sector

Sector	Measure
Agricultural sector	<b>Nitrogen testing:</b> Soil and plant nitrogen testing  <b>Nitrogen application:</b> Split application using controlled-release fertilizers; urease and nitrification inhibitors; reduced application rates; and increased manure recycling  <b>Crop management:</b> Integrating nitrogen-fixing crops in rotations; reduced tillage; and the use of cover crops  <b>Livestock diets:</b> Optimizing protein intake  <b>Grazing:</b> Rotational grazing  <b>Manure storage/process:</b> Solid/slurry separation; storage under dry conditions and rapid drying; anaerobic digestion.  <b>Drainage control:</b> Buffer strips  <b>Planning:</b> Integration of crop and livestock production
Chemical sector	<b>Adipic acid production:</b> Catalytic reduction and thermal destruction  <b>Nitric acid production:</b> Catalytic reduction and thermal destruction
Waste sector	<b>Wastewater:</b> Process optimization to increase the N <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> O ratio

# Emissions in the production process occur mainly in the ammonia production step, catalyst technology invented by Yara has almost eliminated N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

Standard fertilizer production		
Emissions	1.8-.2.4 mt CO <sub>2</sub> per mt ammonia *)	0.03 -0.2 mt CO <sub>2</sub> e per**) tonne nitric acid
Decarbonization routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carbon capture and storage (blue ammonia)</li><li>• Replace fossil fuel with hydrogen from electrolysis (green ammonia)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catalyst abatement technology</li></ul>

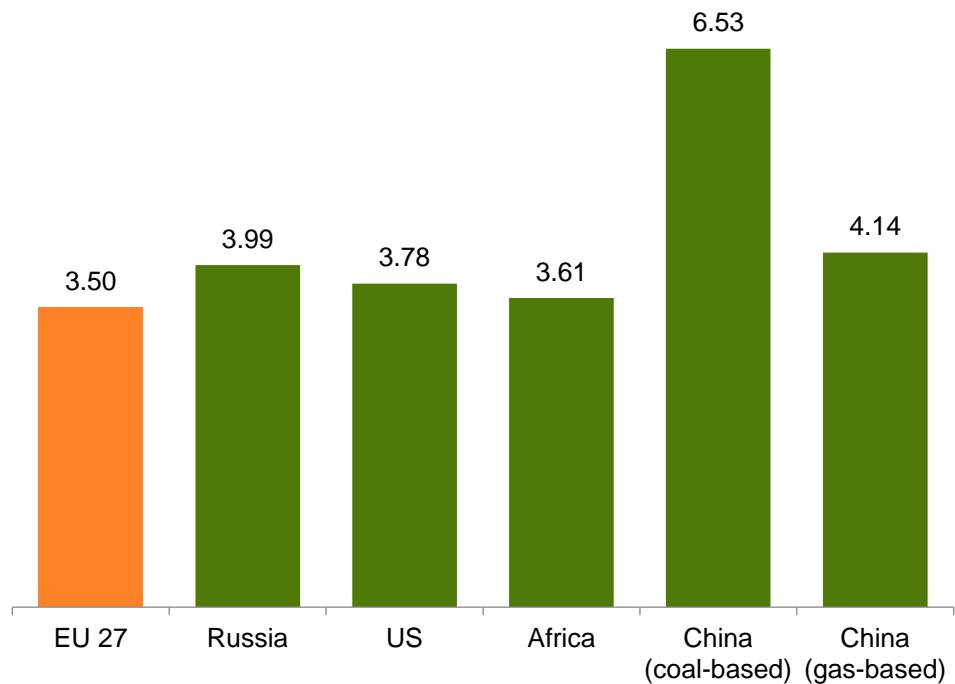
\*) Source: IFA

\*\*) Source BAT (Best Available Techniques) Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals Ammonia, Acids and Fertilizers (2007) new plants

# Carbon footprint of fertilizer production differs by region - Europe is the most efficient

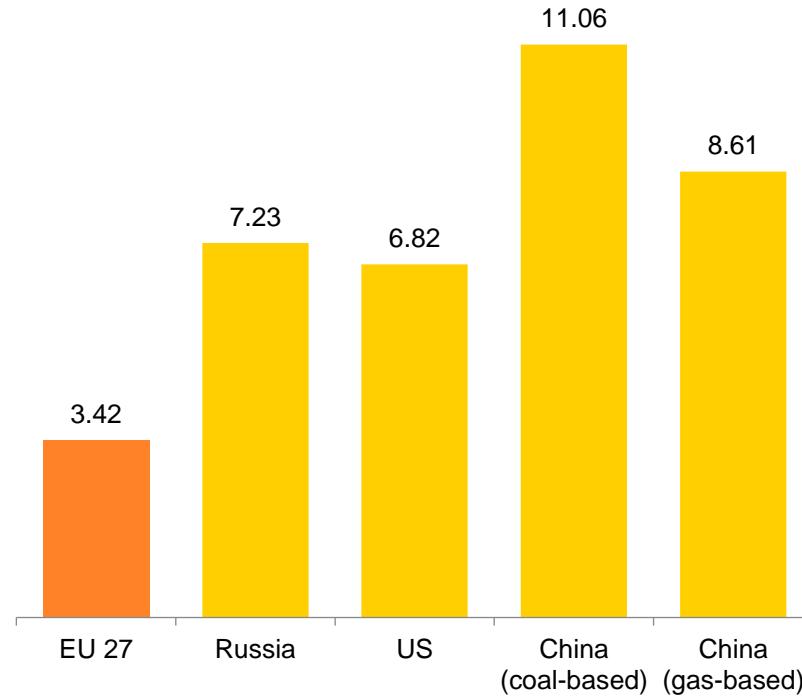
## Urea

kg CO<sub>2</sub> per kg urea nitrogen (including CO<sub>2</sub> embedded in Urea)



## Ammonium nitrate

kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per kg AN nitrogen

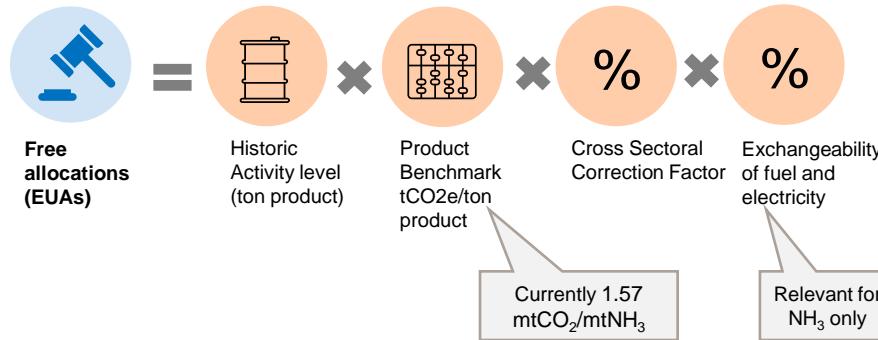


Source: Fertilizers Europe (2016) for production in 2014

# Carbon cost exposure to increase as free allocations are gradually reduced

## Free allowance currently covering majority of EU ETS cost for European producers

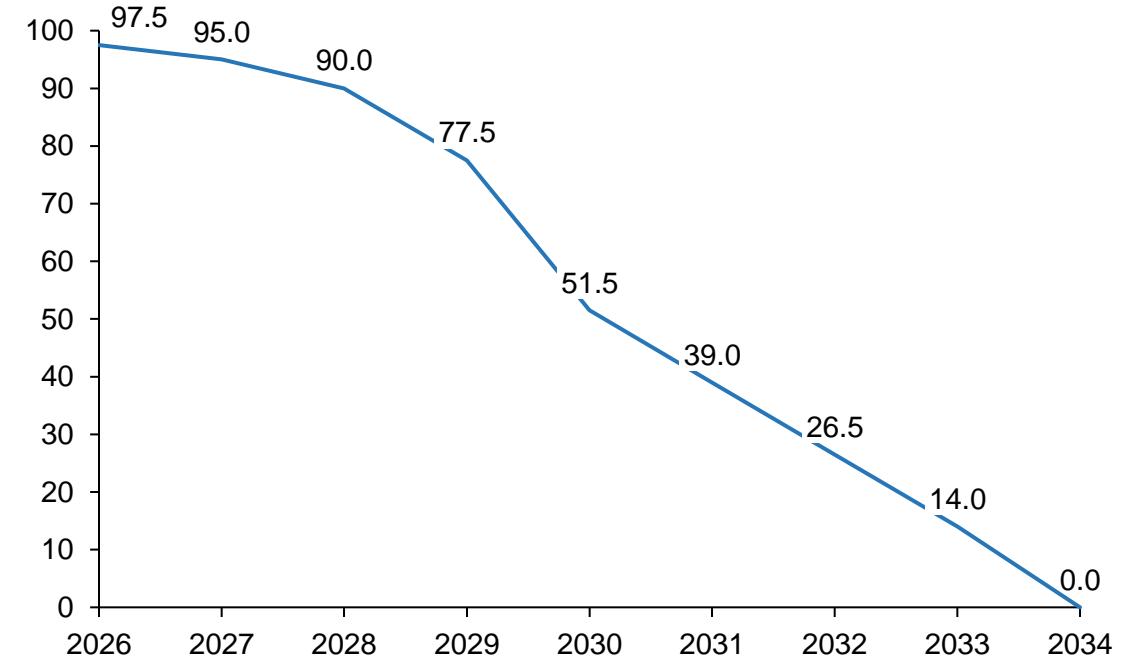
- European ammonia production is exposed to a carbon/EU ETS cost, while imported ammonia and other fertilizer products are not
- Producer located in Europe currently receives free allowances based on:



- With the implementation of CBAM from 2026-2034 both EU produced and imported products will be subject to the same carbon costs

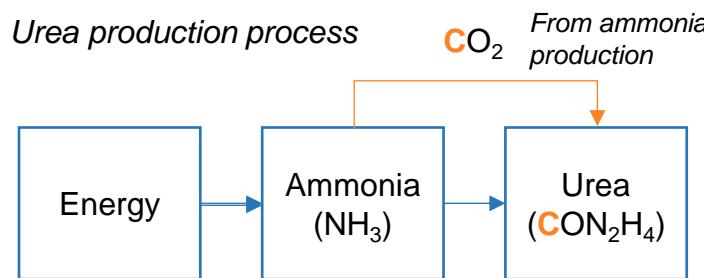
## Phased implementation of CBAM will mirror the gradual phase-out of free allocations

### Free allocation (% of original allocation)

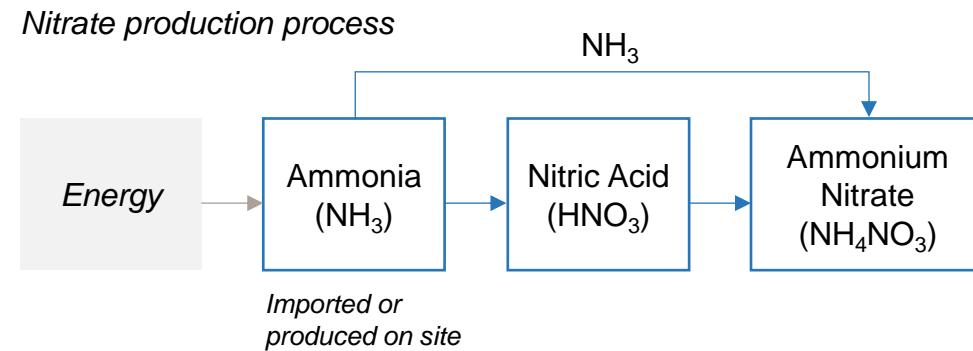


# Nitrates and NPK are ideally suited for decarbonization

## Urea contains carbon and can not become carbon free

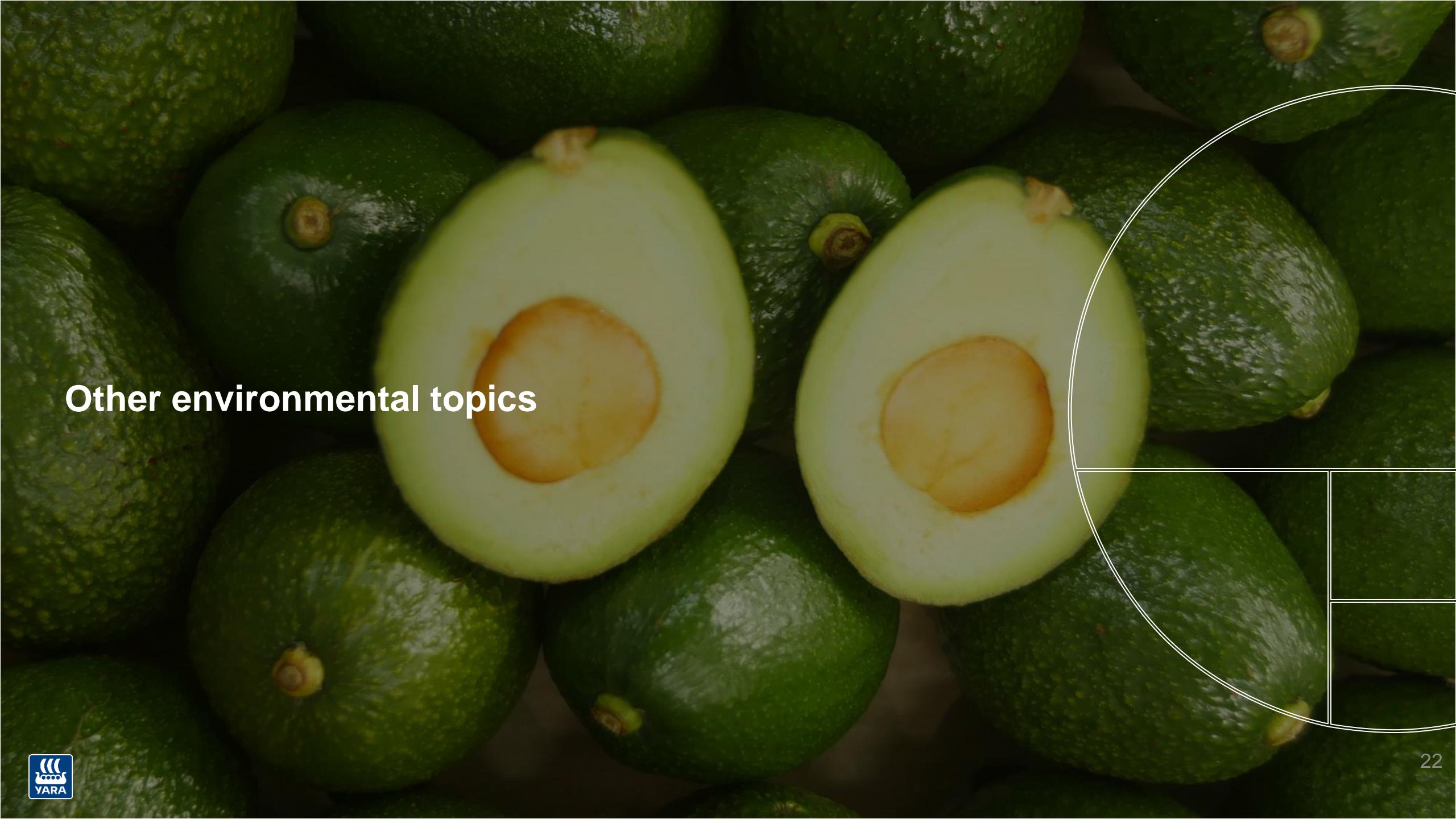


## Nitrates and NPK do not contain carbon



- Urea ( $\text{CON}_2\text{H}_4$ ) is carbon-stabilized ammonia and can not become carbon free
  - ~0.7 tons  $\text{CO}_2$  per tonne urea is emitted when urea is applied on the field
- Access to renewable carbon is required to decarbonize urea. Renewable carbon can stem from organic waste materials or  $\text{CO}_2$  captured from biogenic sources. However, these sources are limited, geographically dispersed and challenging to scale
- Urea plants are located next to an ammonia plant as the  $\text{CO}_2$  in the ammonia production is used to produce urea

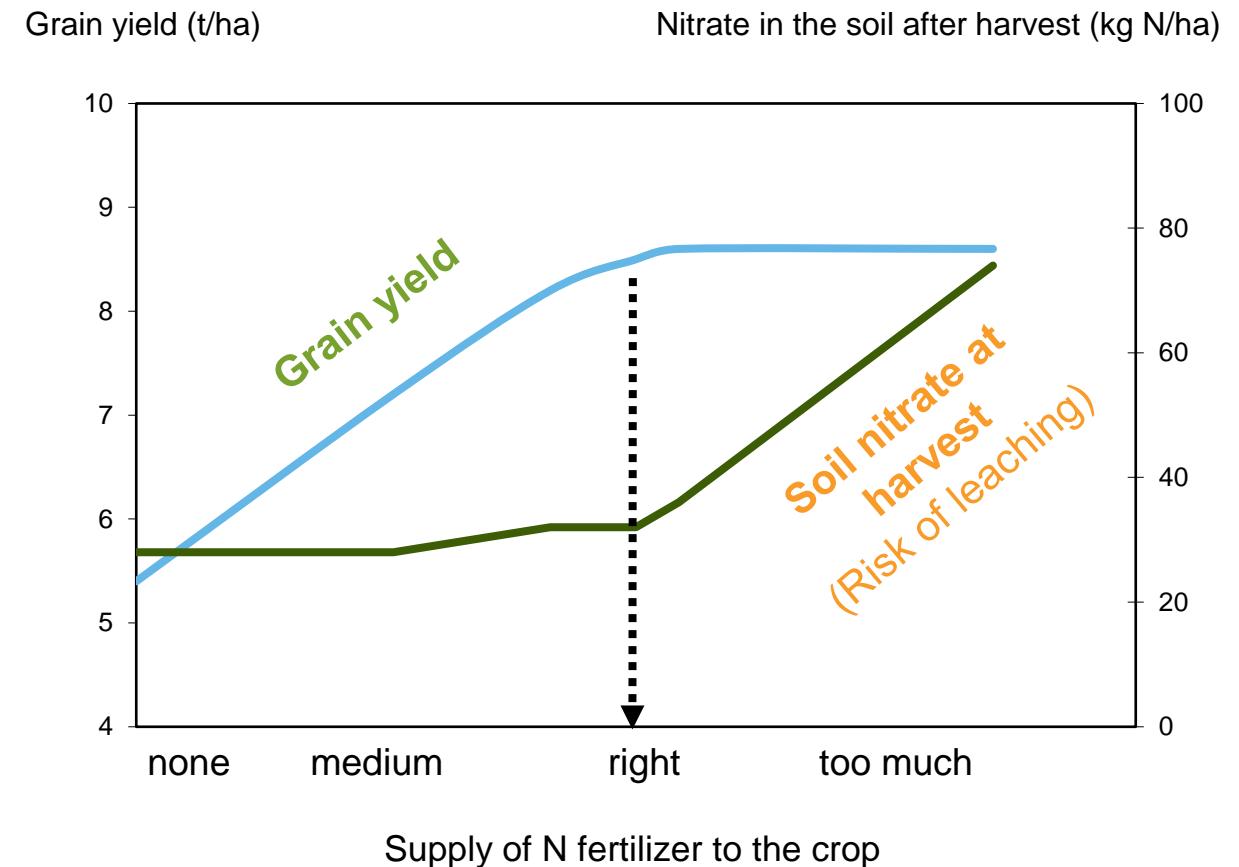
- Nitrates ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ) and NPK<sup>1</sup> do not contain carbon and carbon is not an integral part of the production process
- Nitrate and NPK plants are often operated as stand alone plants as the production process is not dependent on having an adjacent ammonia plant (or another source of  $\text{CO}_2$ )
- The molecules of low-carbon ammonia are the same independent of production process and as such, the production of nitrates and NPKs can be decarbonized by upgrading from low-carbon ammonia



## Other environmental topics

# Leaching: The right nitrogen fertilizer rate is key to avoid nitrate leaching

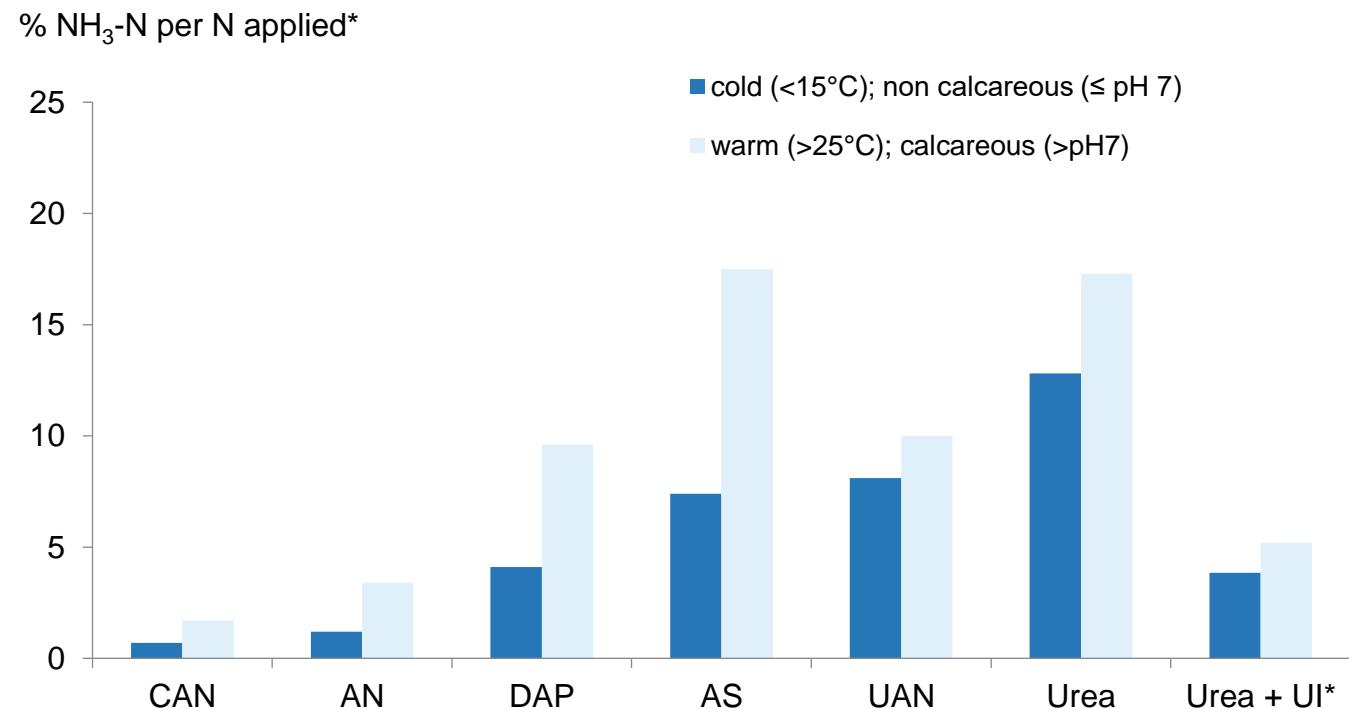
- Leaching of nitrate into groundwater affects water quality and can contribute to eutrophication<sup>1</sup>
- Oversupply of organic and mineral nitrogen fertilizer is the main driver for nitrate leaching
- Nitrogen fertilizer application according to crop demand does not increase the risk of nitrate leaching
- The risk of nitrate leaching increases only when too much N fertilizer has been applied



1) Excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or another body of water

# Ammonia volatilization: Choosing the right nitrogen fertilizer is key to avoiding ammonia volatilization losses

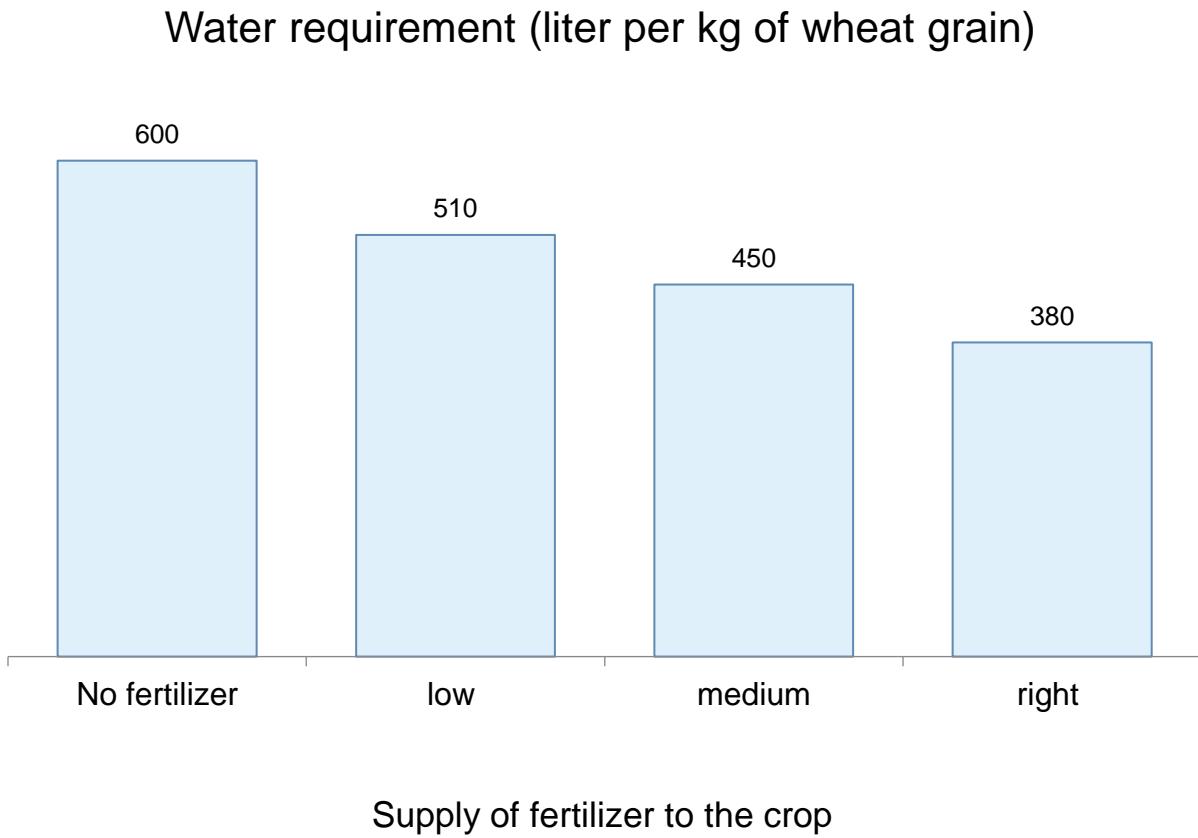
- Volatilization of ammonia gas affects air quality and induces soil acidification
- The use of organic or urea-based nitrogen fertilizer is the main driver for ammonia losses
- Nitrate-based N fertilizer or immediate incorporation of urea into the soil avoids volatilization losses
- Urease inhibitor is a chemical compound which delays the conversion of urea to ammonium



\* Urea + Urease Inhibitor (Urea + UI) assuming 70% reduction of ammonia emissions

# Water: Good crop nutrition enables increased water efficiency: “more crop per drop”

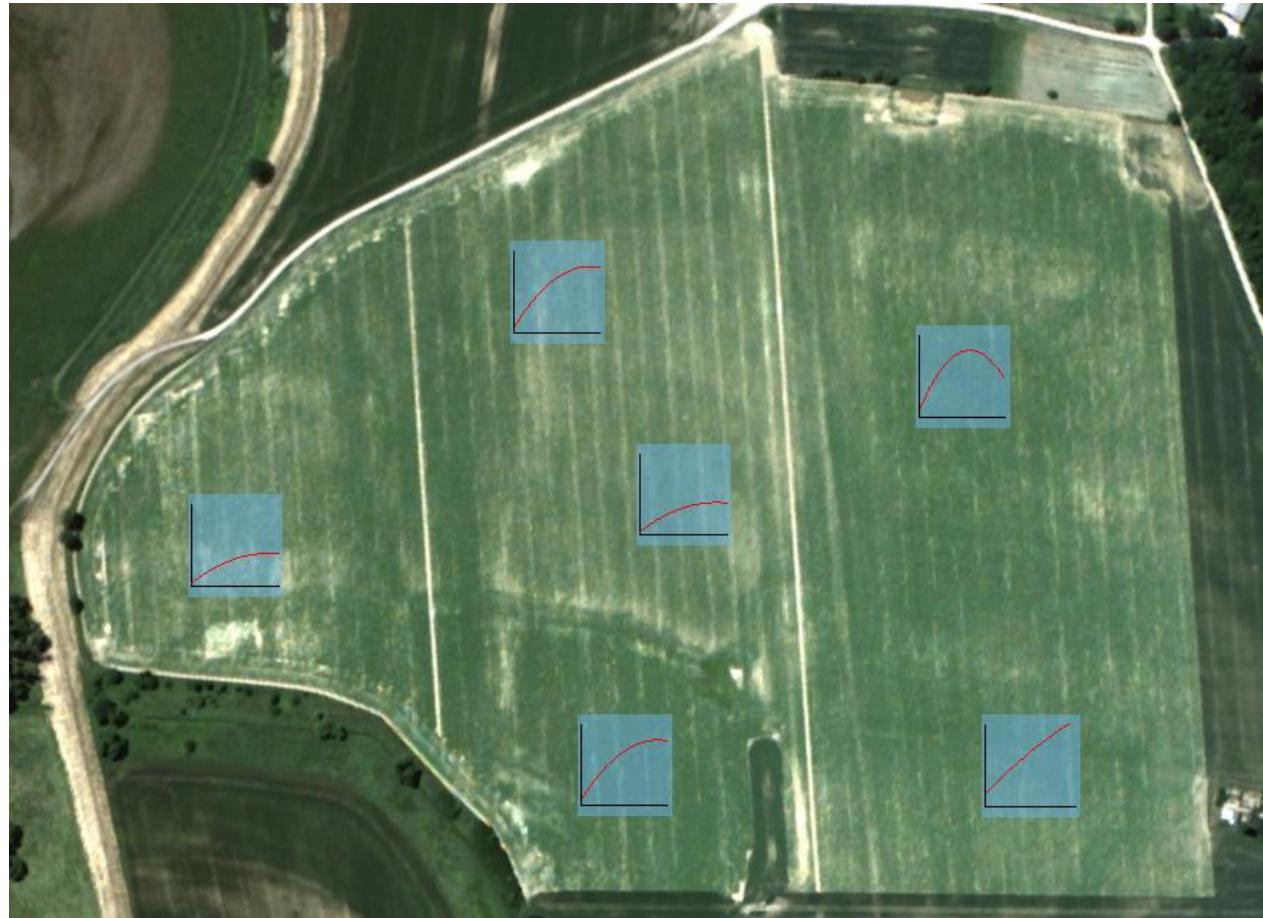
- Water is a key input for crop growth
- About 70% of global water consumption is for agriculture
- Optimized crop nutrition improves water use efficiency, mainly because a well-nourished crop creates a soil cover which reduce evaporation of water from the soil





# Precision farming

# Precision farming: applying the right nutrients in the right quantity at the right time



- Growth conditions within fields are heterogeneous, affecting the crop yield and fertilizer demand
- Estimation of the nitrogen status of crops is a requirement to respond to this heterogeneity
- Digital tools enable growers to estimate the nitrogen status of crops and use this information to determine how much fertilizer to apply and when to apply it

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- **Benefits of precision farming** include higher yields, improved crop quality, lower emissions and other environmental impacts and cost savings for the farmer

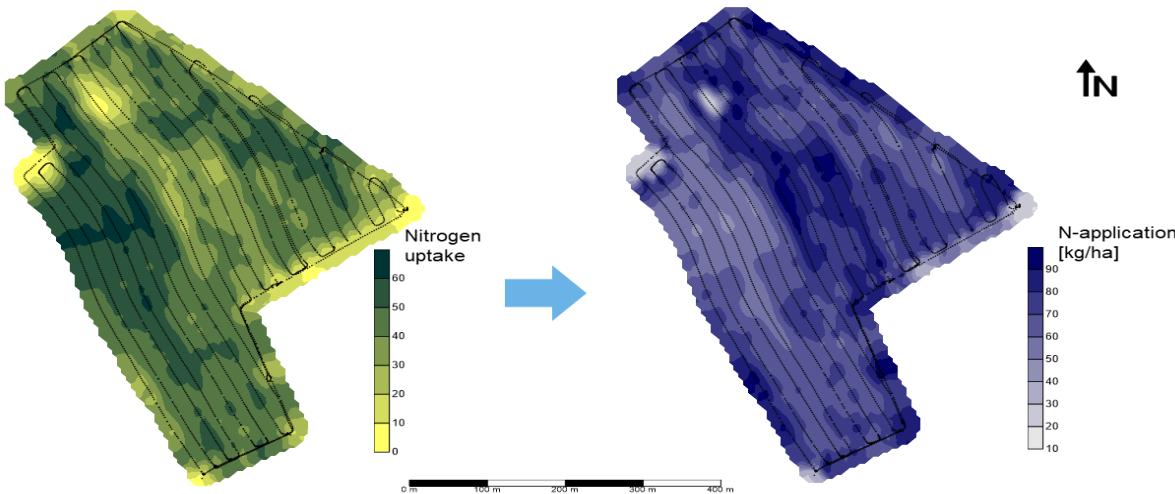
# Digital crop sensing tools enable variable rate nitrogen application



# Examples of digital solutions provided by Yara

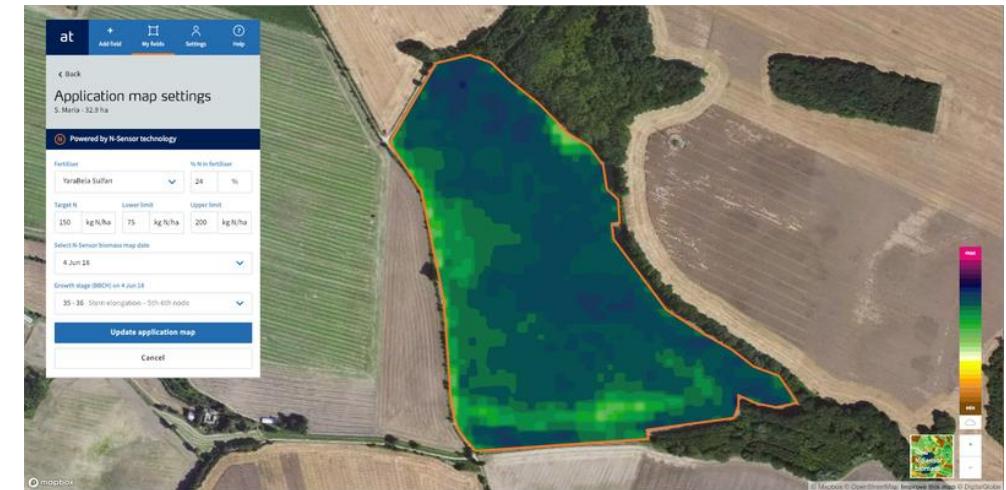
## N-sensor

- Measures crop nitrogen uptake and creates a prescription map for variable rate application



## AtFarm

- Atfarm uses state-of-the-art satellite imagery combined with Yara's expertise and products to create variable rate fertilizer application maps.
- Proof points; up to 6% yield gain, up to -12% fertilizer use<sup>1</sup>, up to -20% carbon emissions from fertilizer<sup>1</sup>



1) By using best practices and solutions that exist today, farmers\* can already in average reduce nutrient losses by 20%, increase yields and incomes by 5-7% and reduce their carbon footprint related to mineral fertilization up to 20%\*\*

\*Assumption are built with major crops in major EU countries (e.g. cereals)

\*\*CFP considers mineral fertilizers produced with BAT-Best Available Technology, as mineral fertilizers without BAT may have around +30-40% carbon footprint. It does not consider the potential of using carbon sequestration farming practices

# Repeated field trials confirm that variable rate nitrogen fertilization has multiple benefits

Replicated trials to estimate the effect of variable rate nitrogen fertilization compared to a uniform nitrogen fertilization

## Trials: Winter wheat

Yield:	+3.6%
Nitrogen rate:	-2%
Nitrogen surplus:	-10 kg/ha

## Trials: Winter oilseed rape

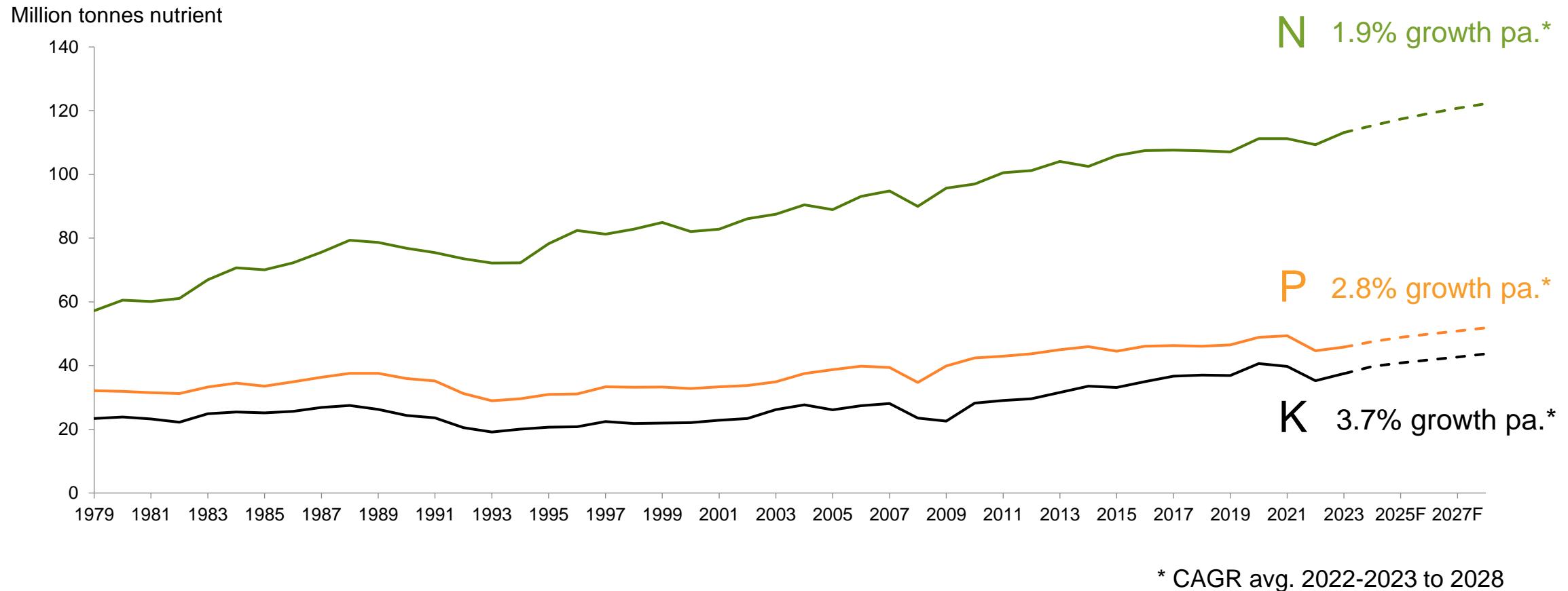
Yield:	+4.4%
Nitrogen rate:	-6%
Nitrogen surplus:	-18 kg/ha

→ Improved crop yield, reduced nitrogen fertilizer rate and higher nutrient use efficiency



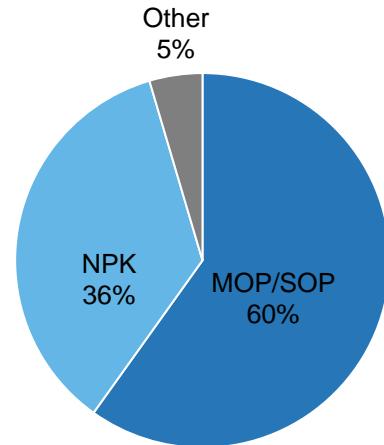
## The fertilizer industry

# Global consumption trend per nutrient



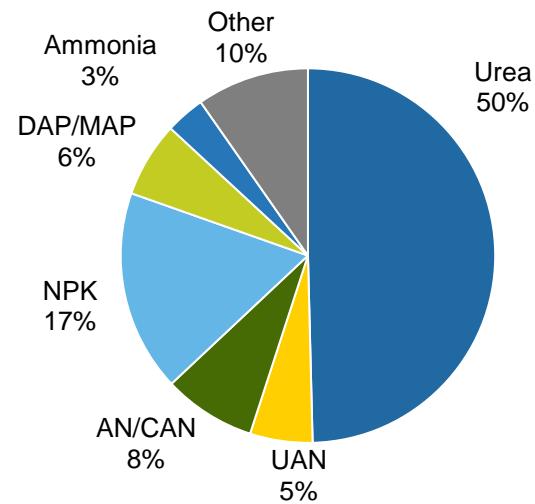
# Key global fertilizer products

Potash K<sub>2</sub>O



35 million tonnes

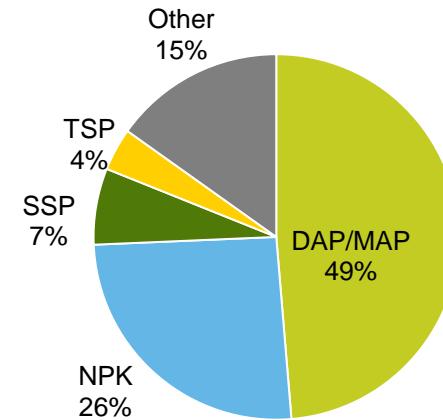
Nitrogen N



109 million tonnes\*

\* Does not include industrial nitrogen applications

Phosphate P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

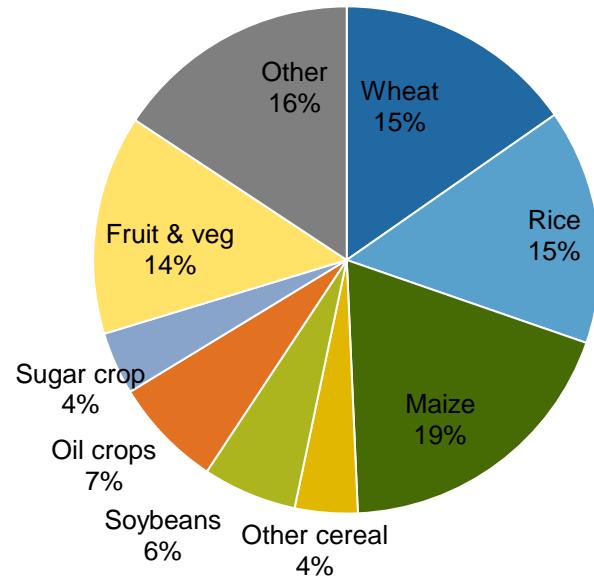


44 million tonnes

# Nutrient application by crop

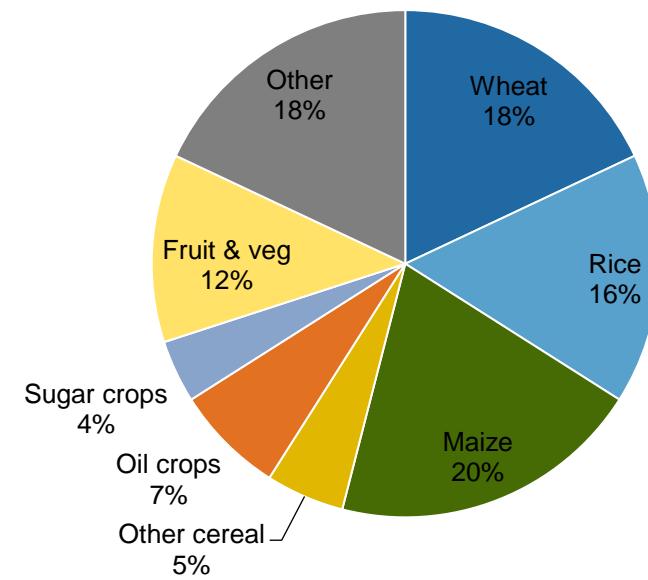
N + P + K

By tonnes nutrient



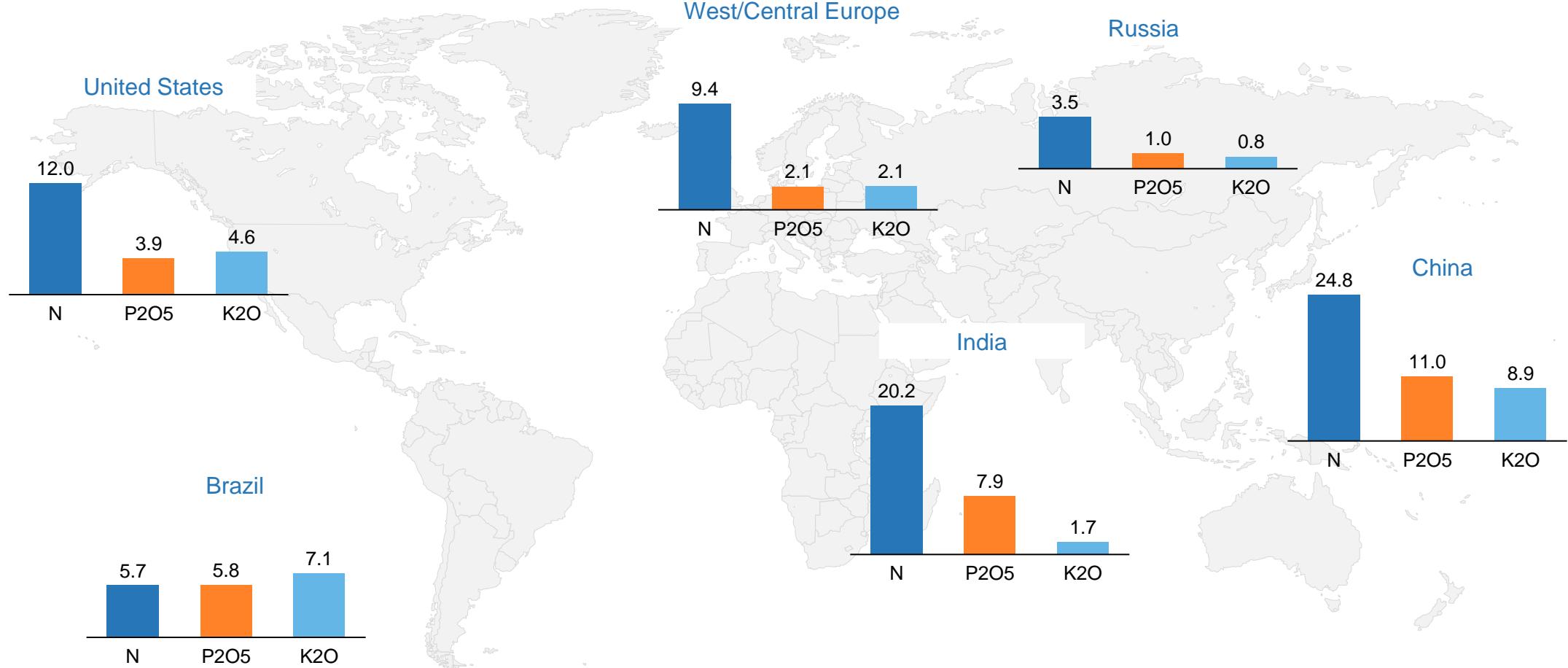
Nitrogen

By tonnes nutrient



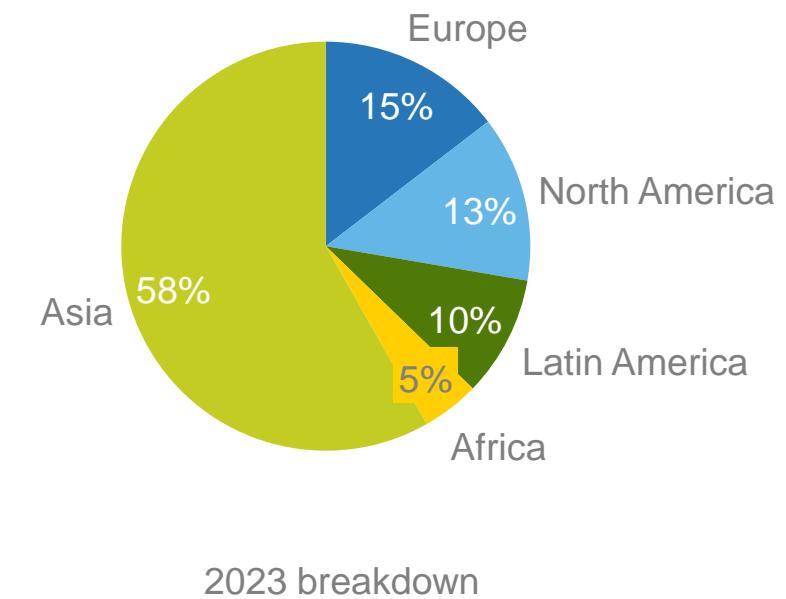
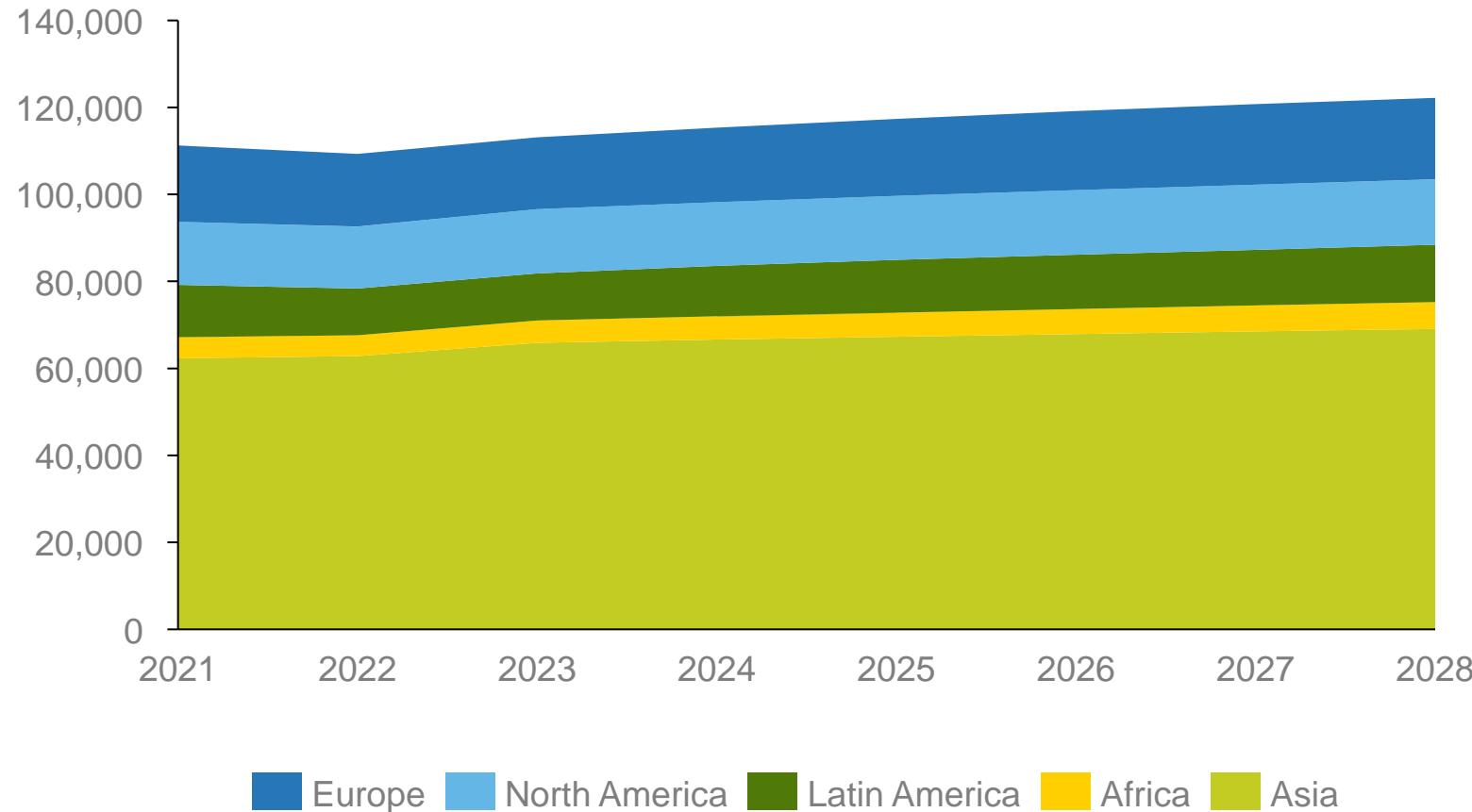
# Fertilizer consumption by region – 5 key markets

Million tons nutrient consumption



# Nitrogen consumption in key regions

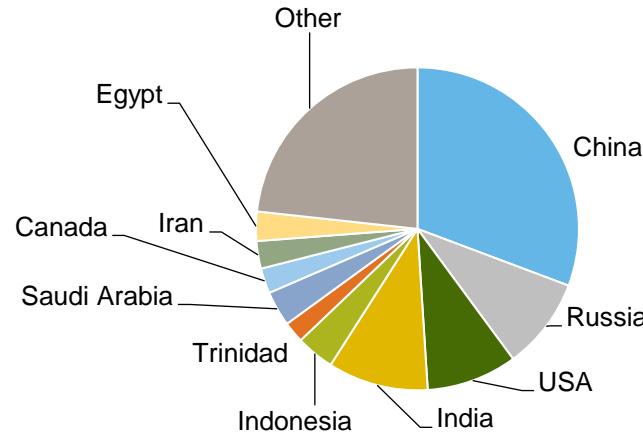
IFA consumption forecast, kt nitrogen



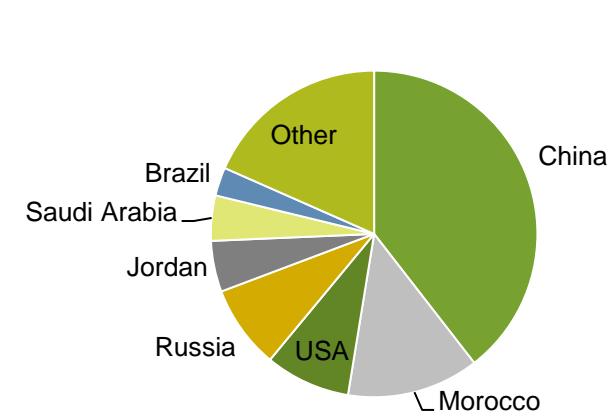
# The N industry is fragmented, while the P and K industries are more concentrated

2023 figures<sup>1</sup>, share of produced nutrient

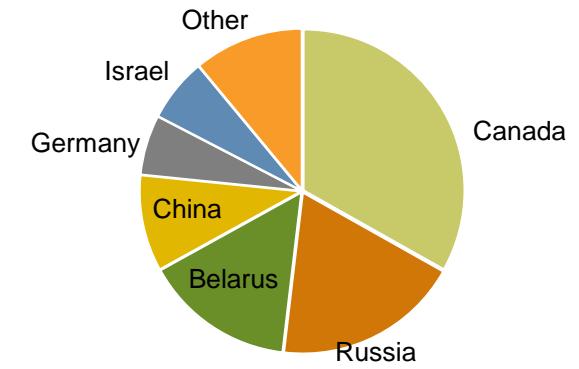
Nitrogen (N)



Phosphate (P)



Potash (K)



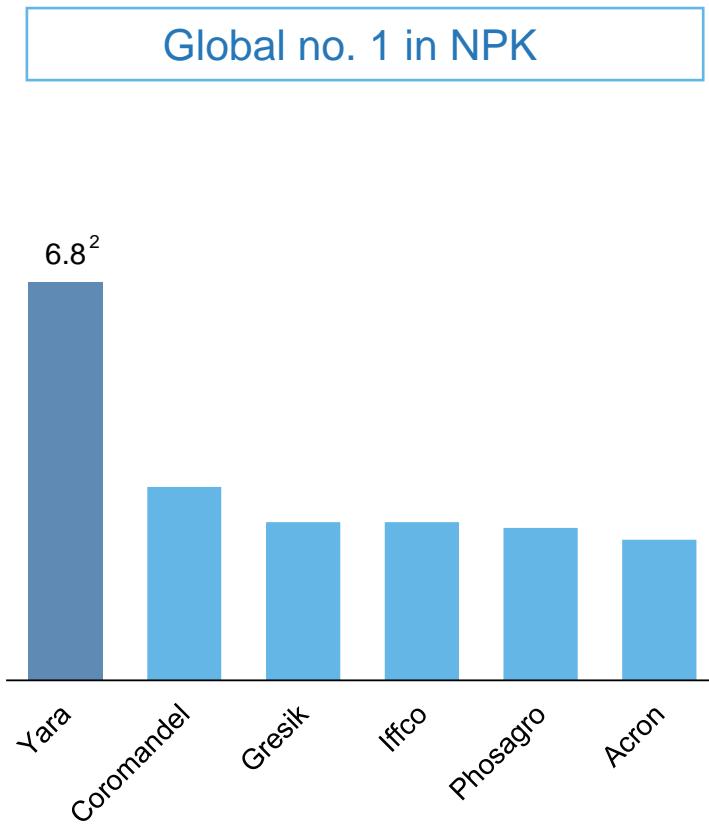
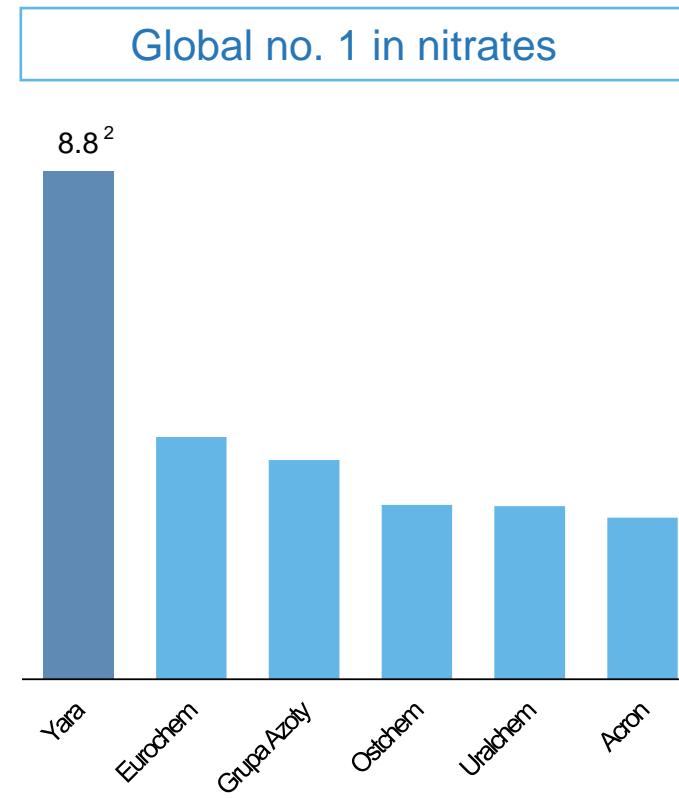
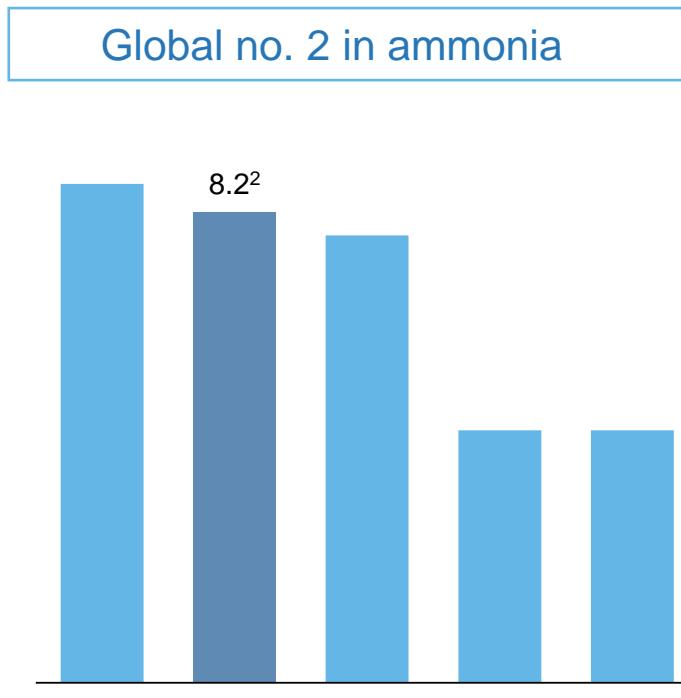
- Despite a consolidation trend, the industry is still highly fragmented
- The world largest nitrogen producers are CF, Yara, Nutrien, Ostchem, Adnoc/Fertiglobe, TogliattiAzot, Koch and Eurochem

- More concentrated than N-industry
- The biggest producers are Guizhou Phosphorus Chemical Group in China, Nutrien and Mosaic in USA, OCP in Morocco, Ma'aden in Saudi Arabia and Phosagro in Russia

- Highly concentrated industry, with top 3 producing countries representing appx 70% of global market
- The main producers in Canada are Nutrien and Mosaic, Belaruskali in Belarus, Uralkali in Russia and K+S in Germany

# Yara – the leading crop nutrition company

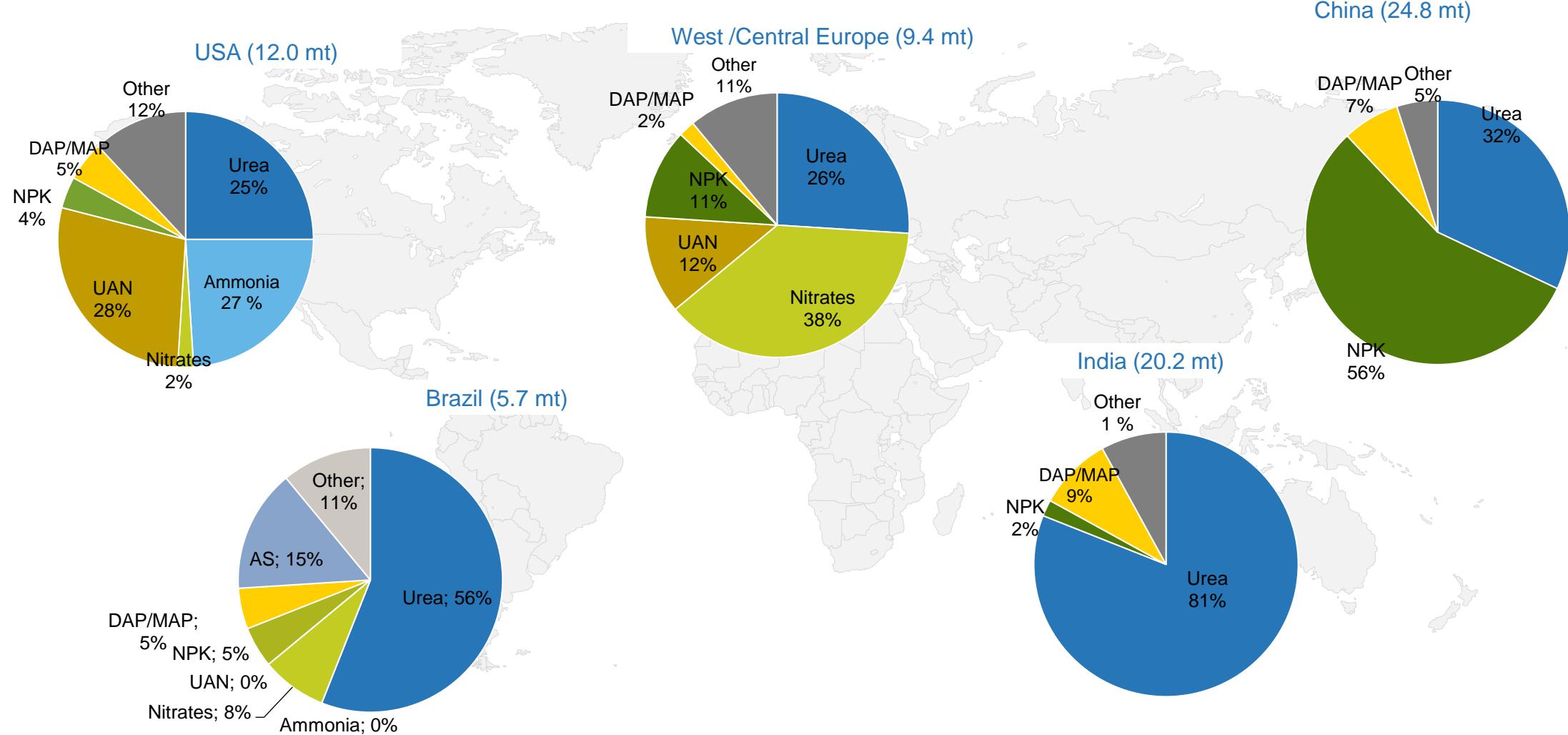
2023 production capacity, excl. Chinese producers<sup>1</sup> (mill. tonnes)



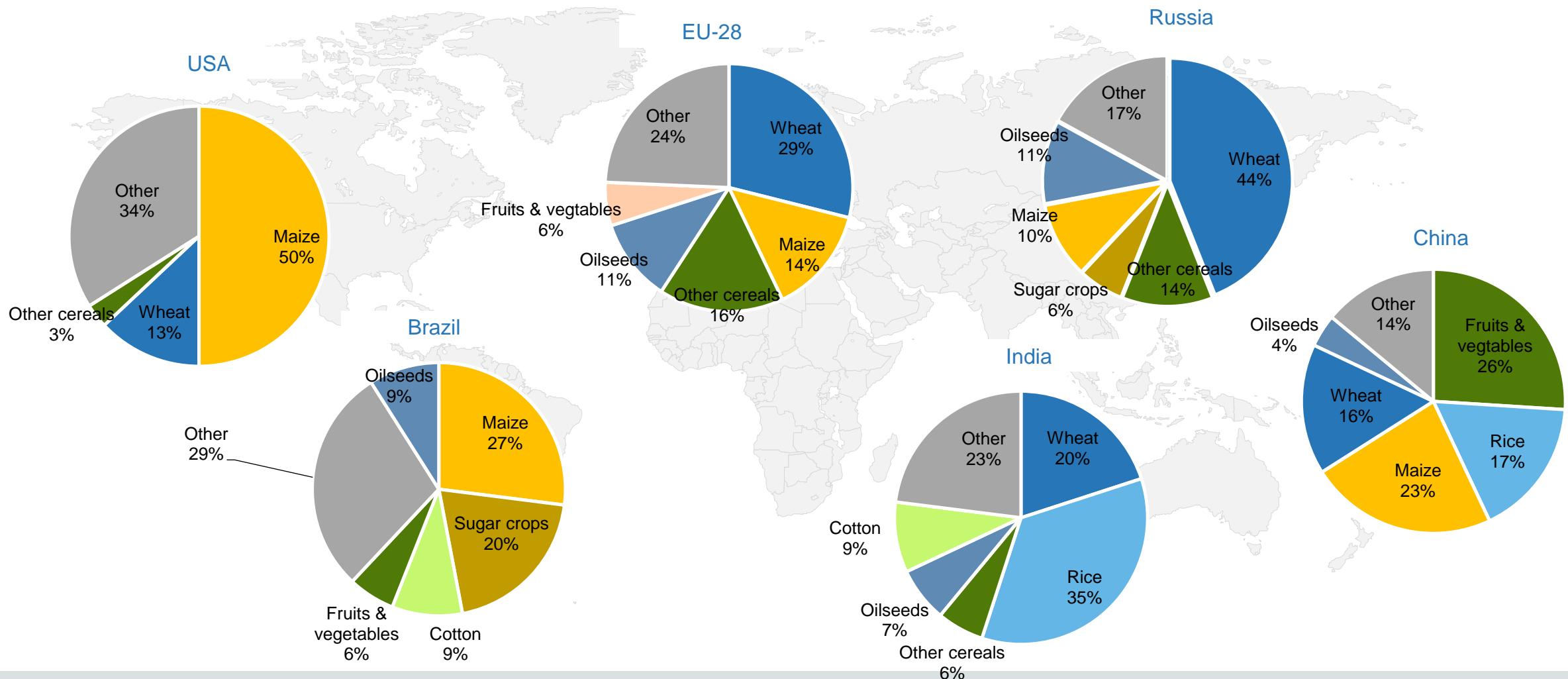
\* Incl. TAN and CN

\* Compound NPK, excl. blends

# Nitrogen fertilizer application by region and product



# Nitrogen fertilizer application by region and crop

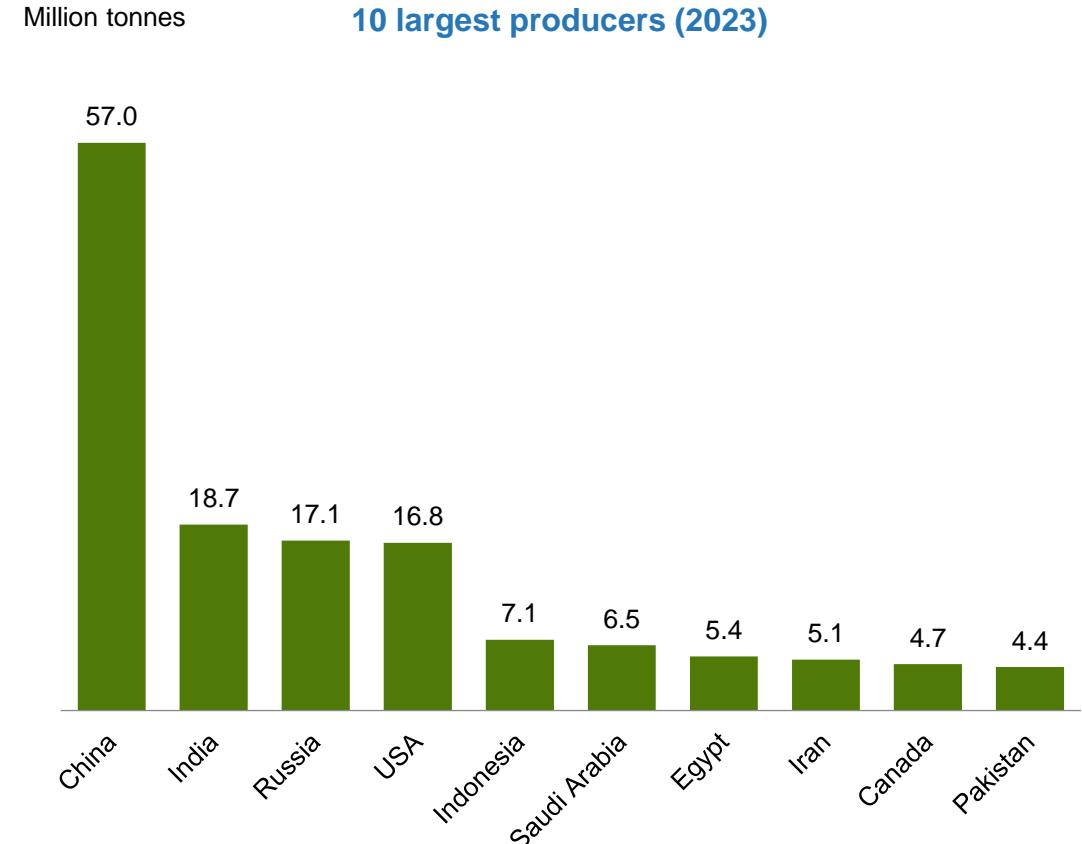
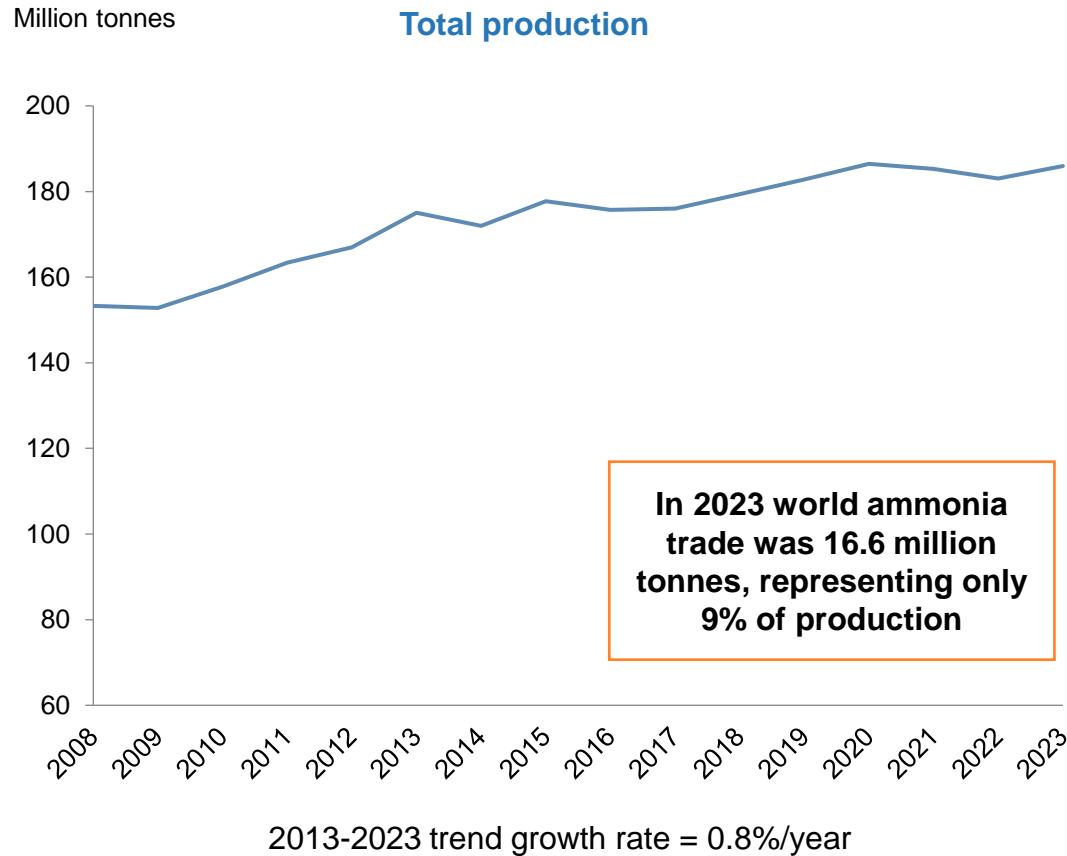




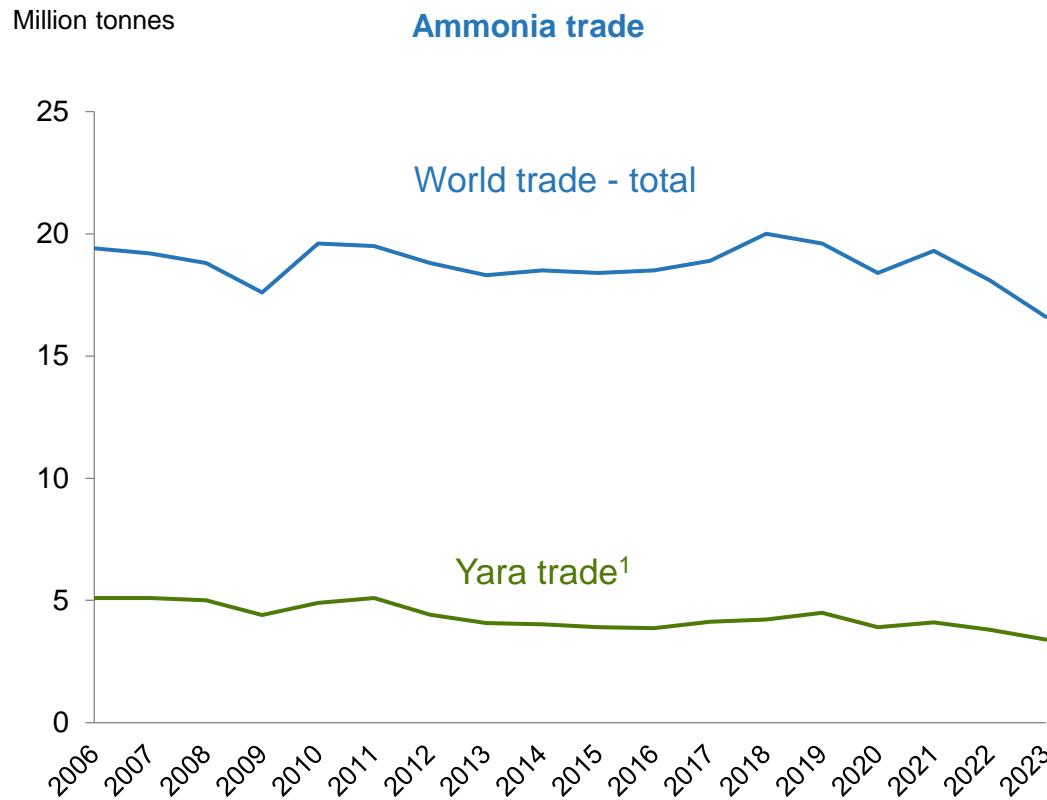
Ammonia



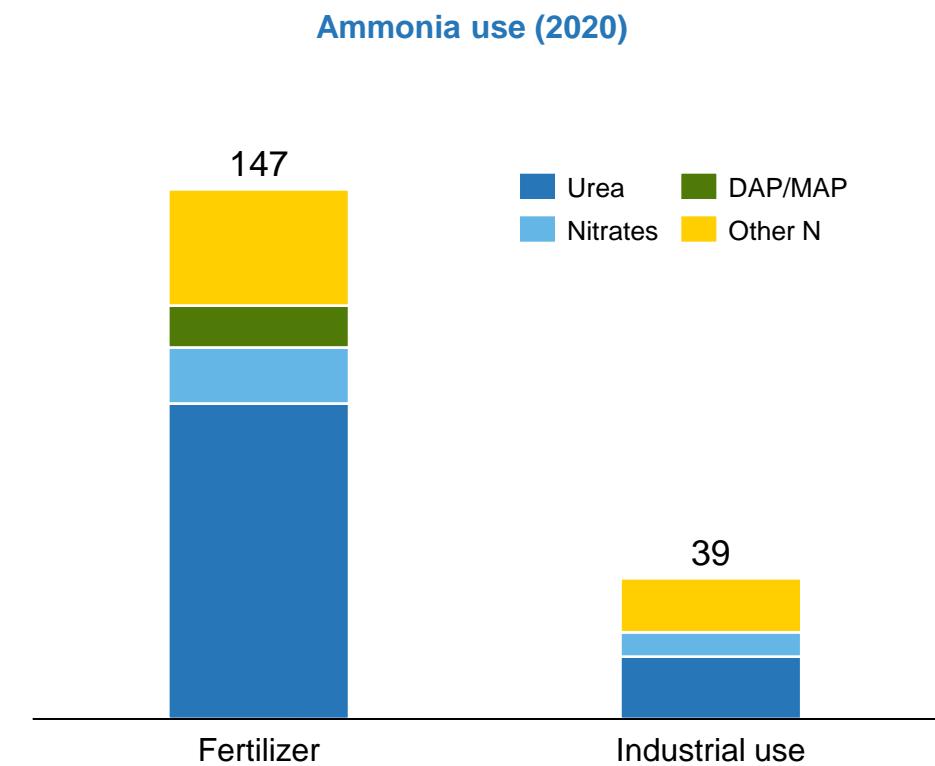
# Global ammonia production was 186 million tons in 2023



# Most of global ammonia production is upgraded to urea and other finished fertilizer, only 9% of production is traded



Source: Yara, IFA



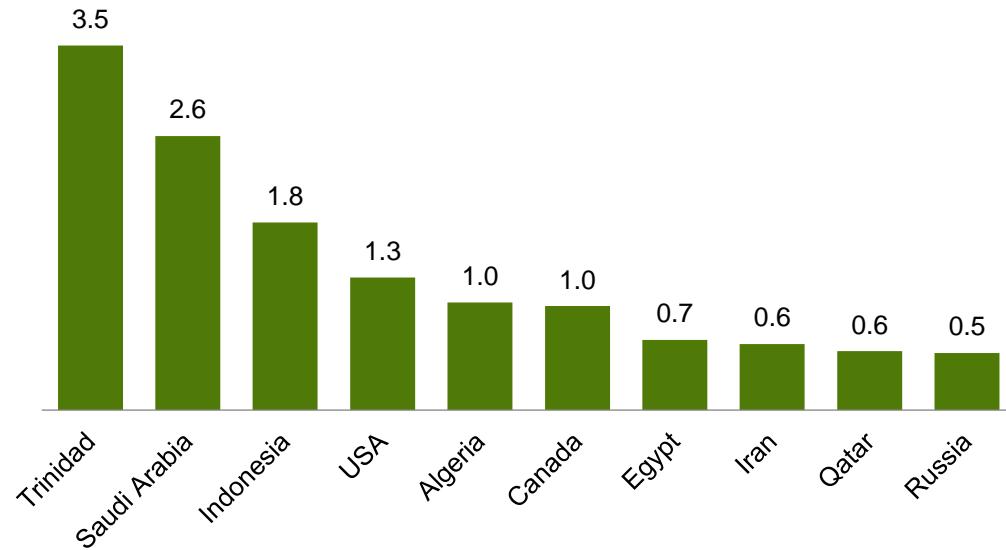
Source: Fertecon

1) From 2019 Yara trade is based on sales volumes in the Yara Clean Ammonia ("YCA") reporting segment, which leads to some minor variations compared with previous years.

# Global ammonia trade

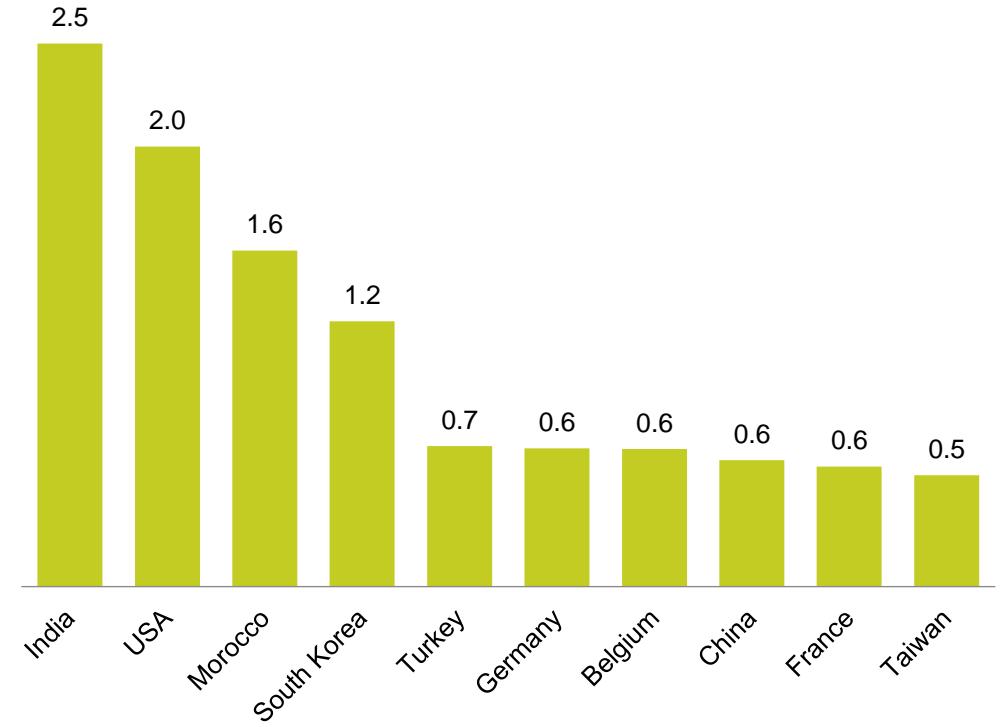
Million tonnes

**10 largest exporters (2023)**

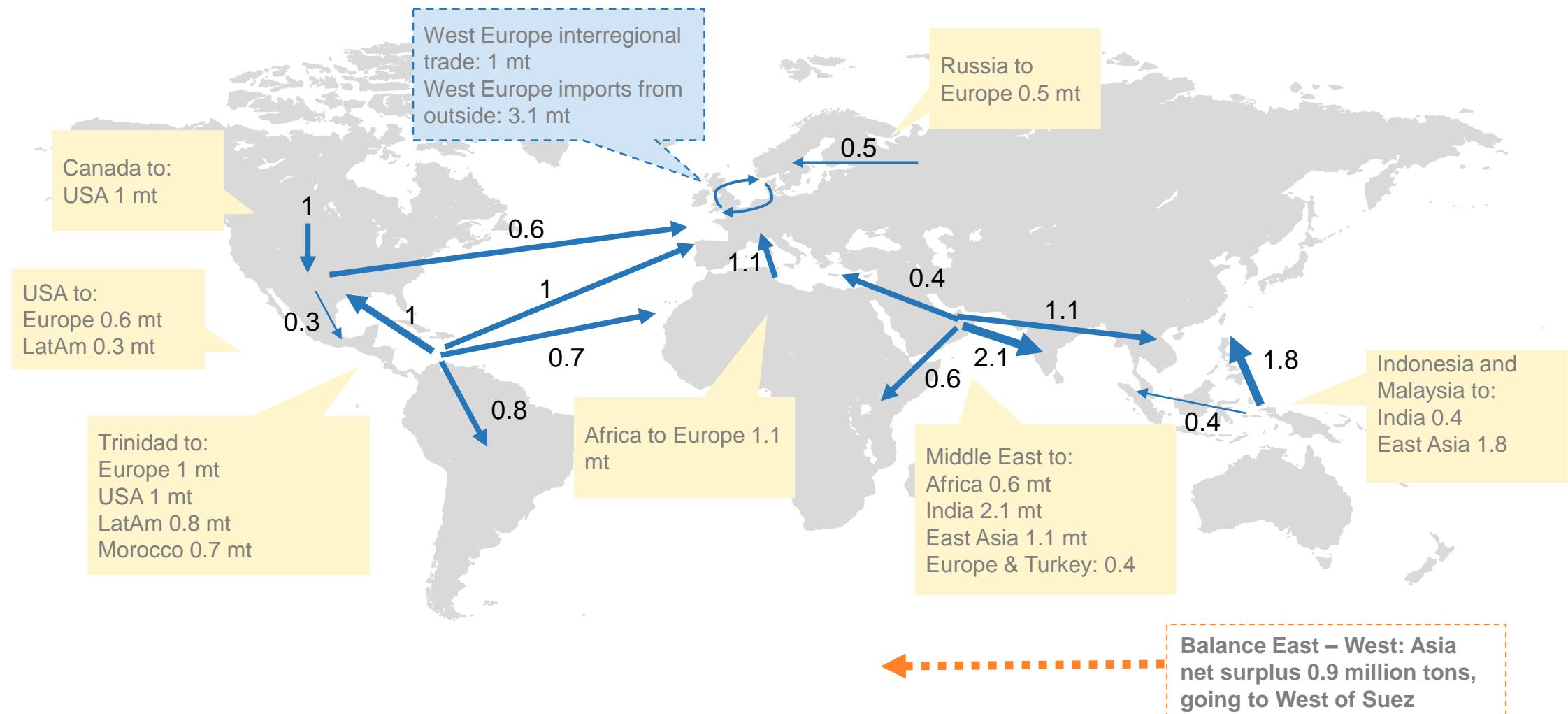


Million tonnes

**10 largest importers (2023)**

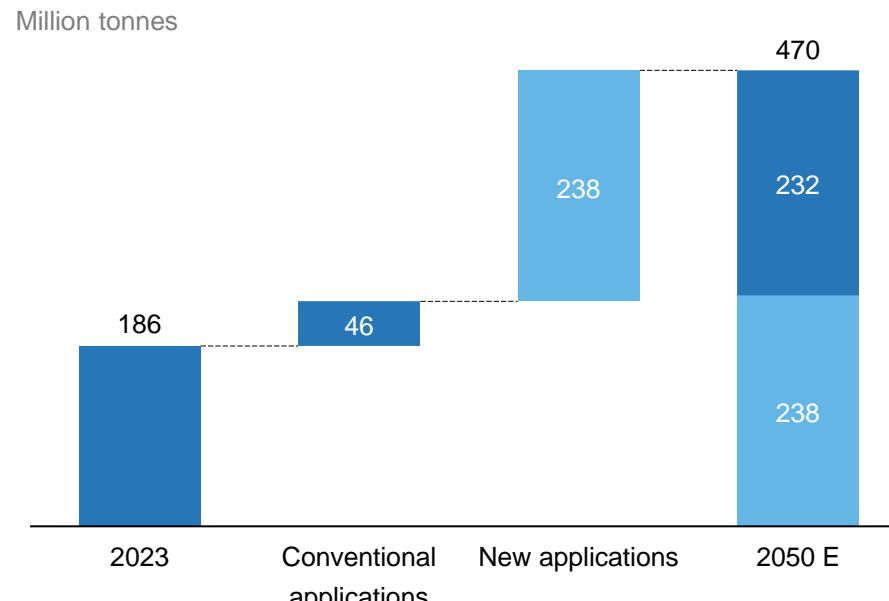


# Main ammonia flows 2023



# Significant expected ammonia demand driven by a mix of conventional and new applications

Demand for ammonia is expected to grow significantly



- Global ammonia production was 186 million tons in 2023
- The majority of produced ammonia is further upgraded to different finished products
- World ammonia trade was 16.6 million tons, representing only 9% of production

Strong regulatory drivers supporting demand growth

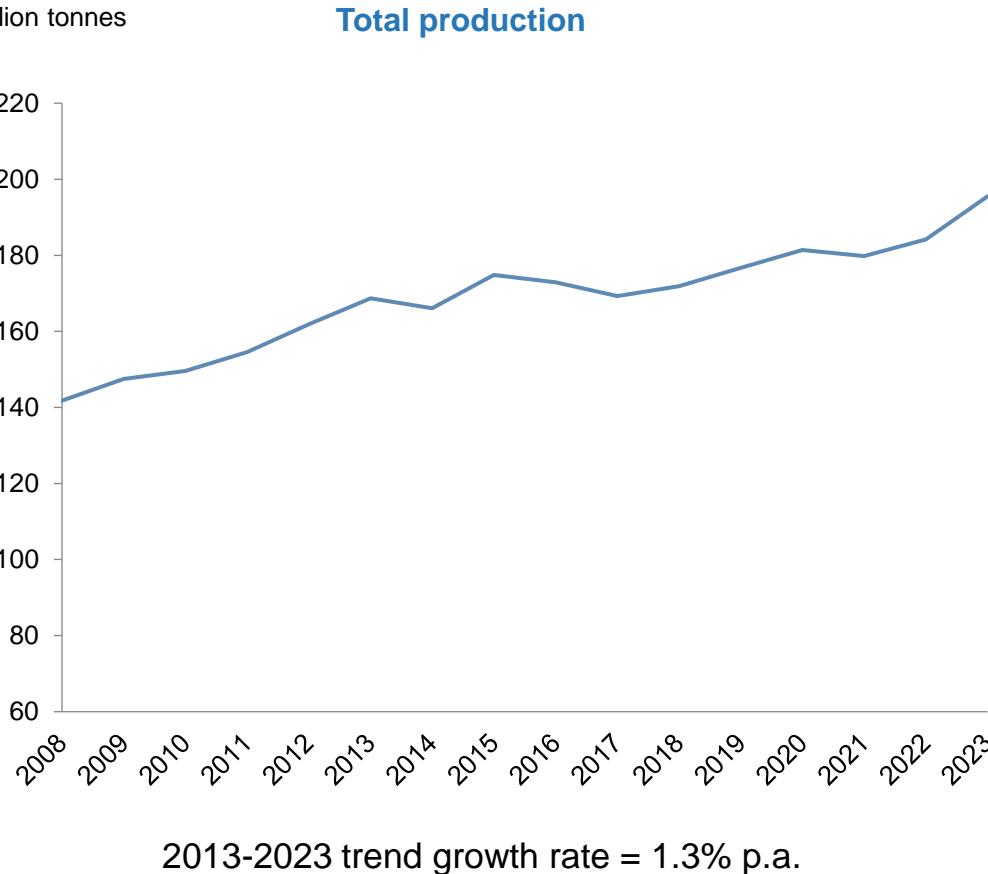
	Main customers	Customers needs	Key drivers
 <b>Global Shipping Fuel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulk and container</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonize shipping fuel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FuelIEU Maritime</li> <li>• IMO</li> <li>• Voluntary / end-user</li> </ul>
 <b>Asian Power generation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Generation companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonize power generation</li> <li>• Replace coal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gvmt CfD (Japan)</li> <li>• Gvmt Auction (South Korea)</li> <li>• Voluntary / end-user</li> </ul>
 <b>European fertilizers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilizer producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonize</li> <li>• Produce fertilizers with lower carbon footprint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBAM</li> <li>• RED III industry target</li> <li>• Voluntary / end-user</li> </ul>
 <b>European industry and cracking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ammonia crackers with refineries as their end customers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonize refinery process and the refined products, avoid penalties</li> <li>• Potential heat and power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RED III transport target</li> <li>• CBAM</li> <li>• Industry target (steel)</li> <li>• Voluntary / end-user</li> </ul>



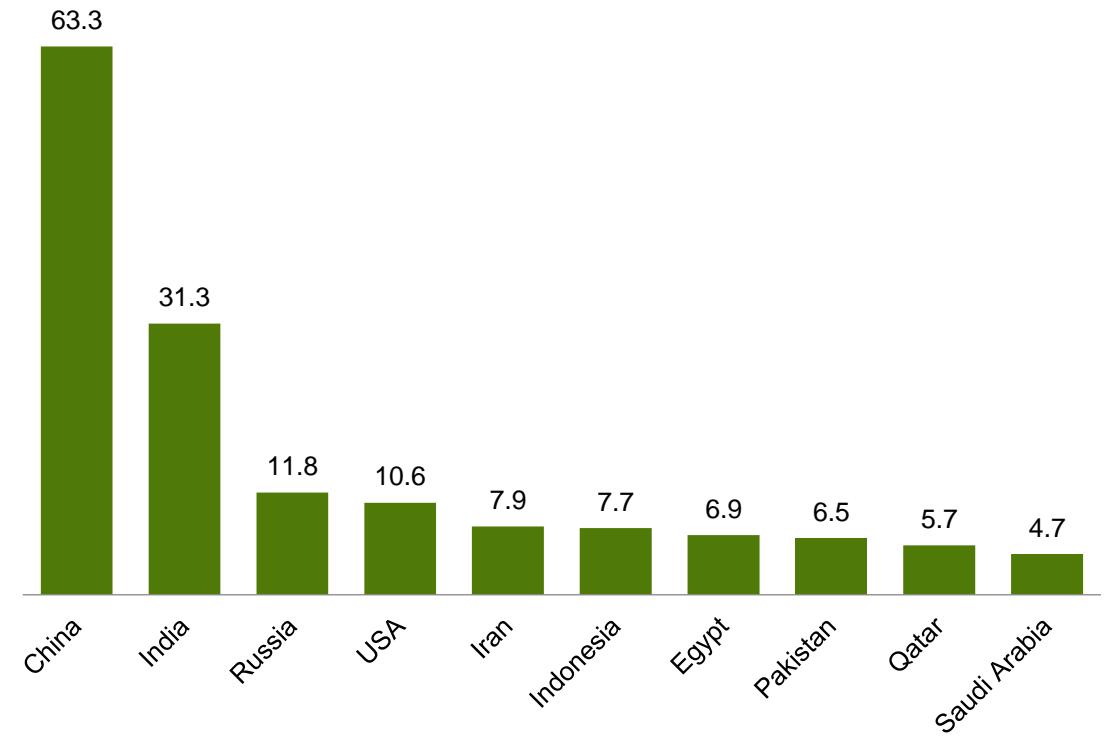
Urea

# Global urea production

Million tonnes

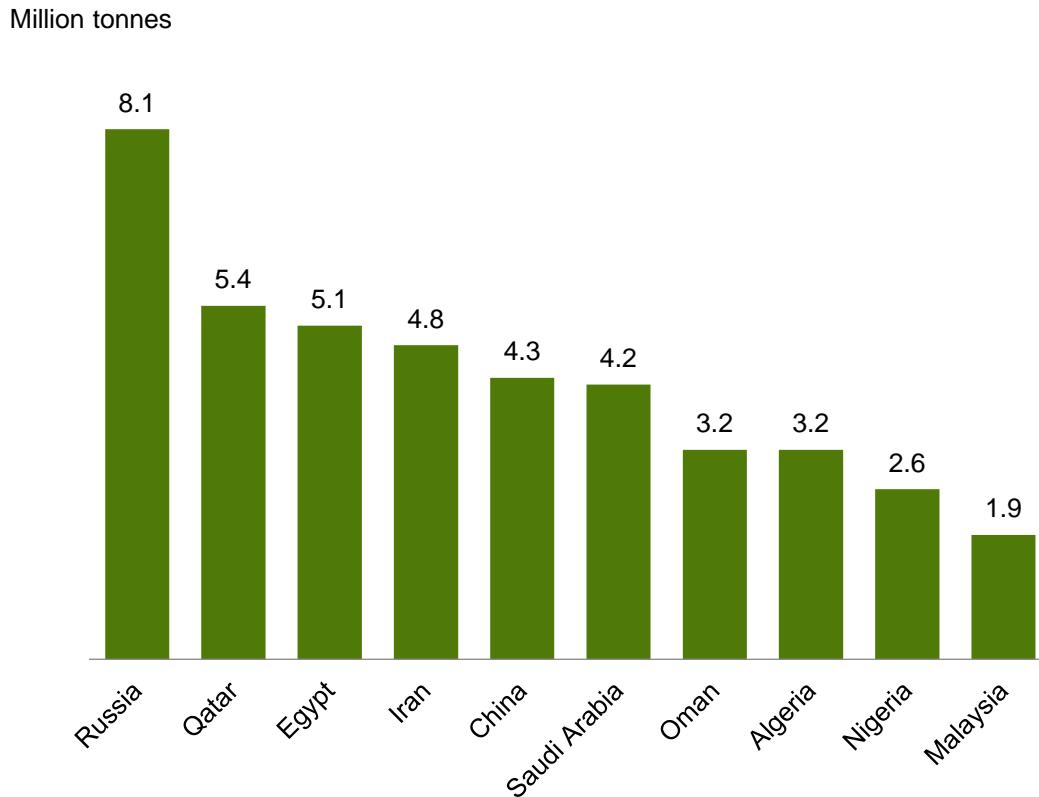


**10 largest producers (2023)**

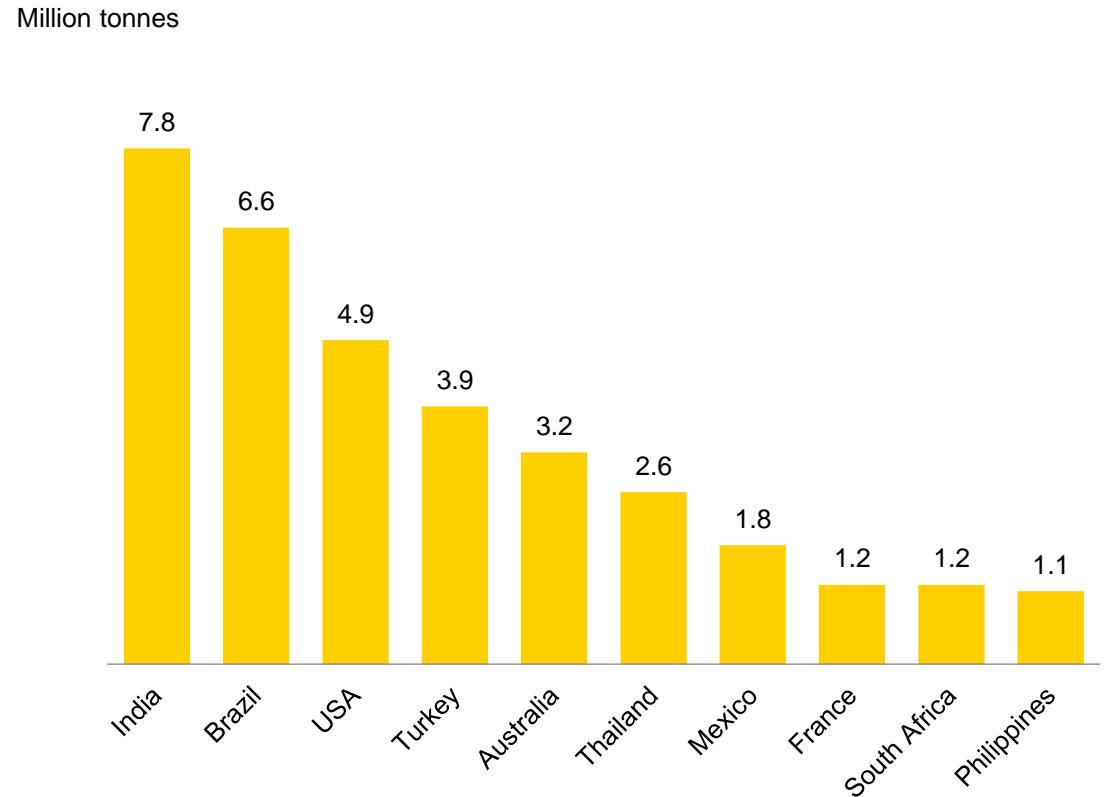


# Global trade of urea in 2023 was 55.1 million tonnes

10 largest exporters (2023)

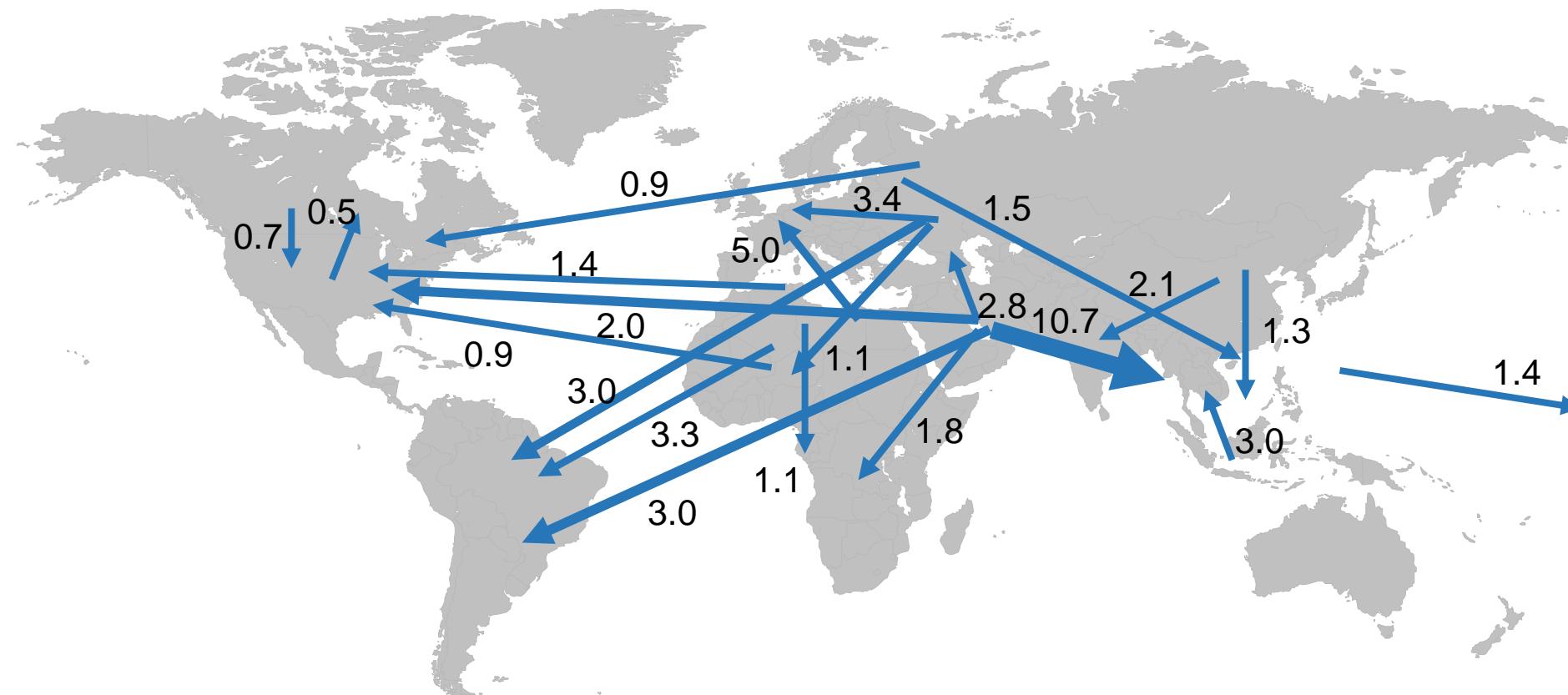


10 largest importers (2023)



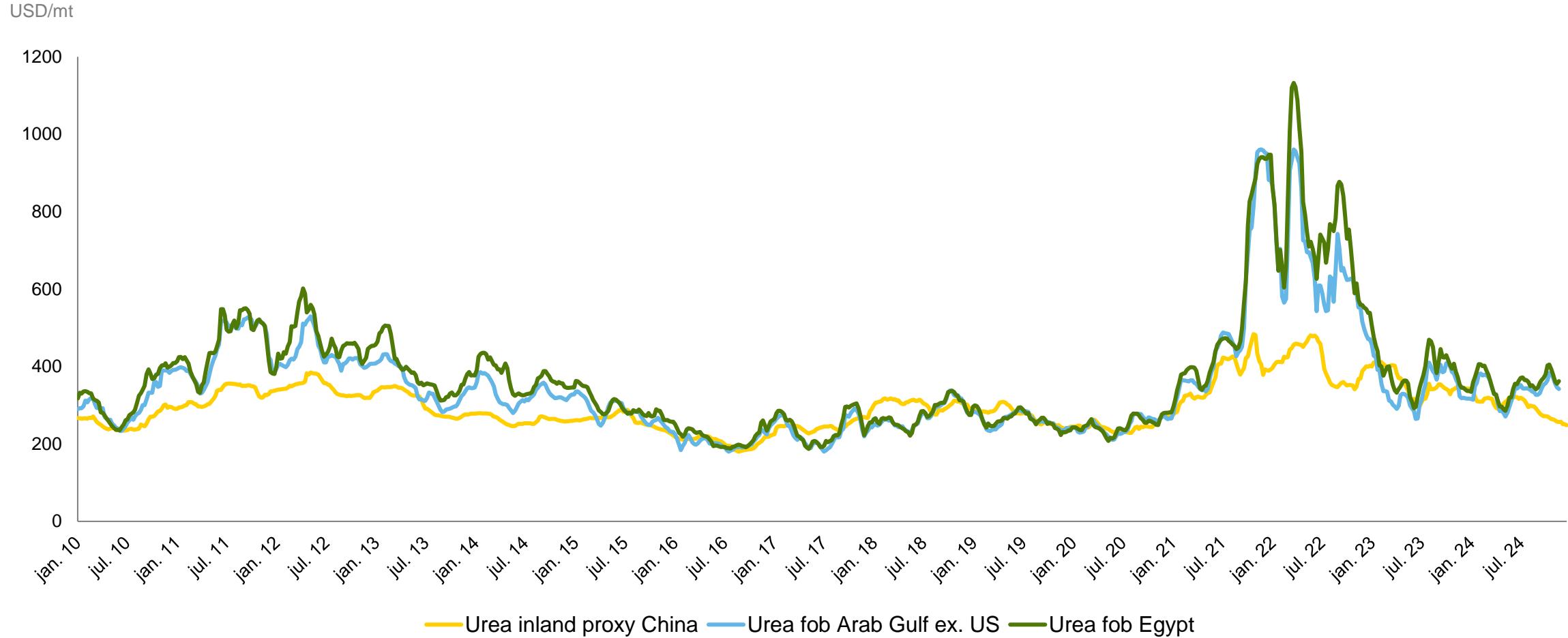
# Main urea flows 2023

Million tonnes



Source: IFA 2023, 91% of total trade shown

# Urea prices remain high, but down from exceptionally high levels in 2022



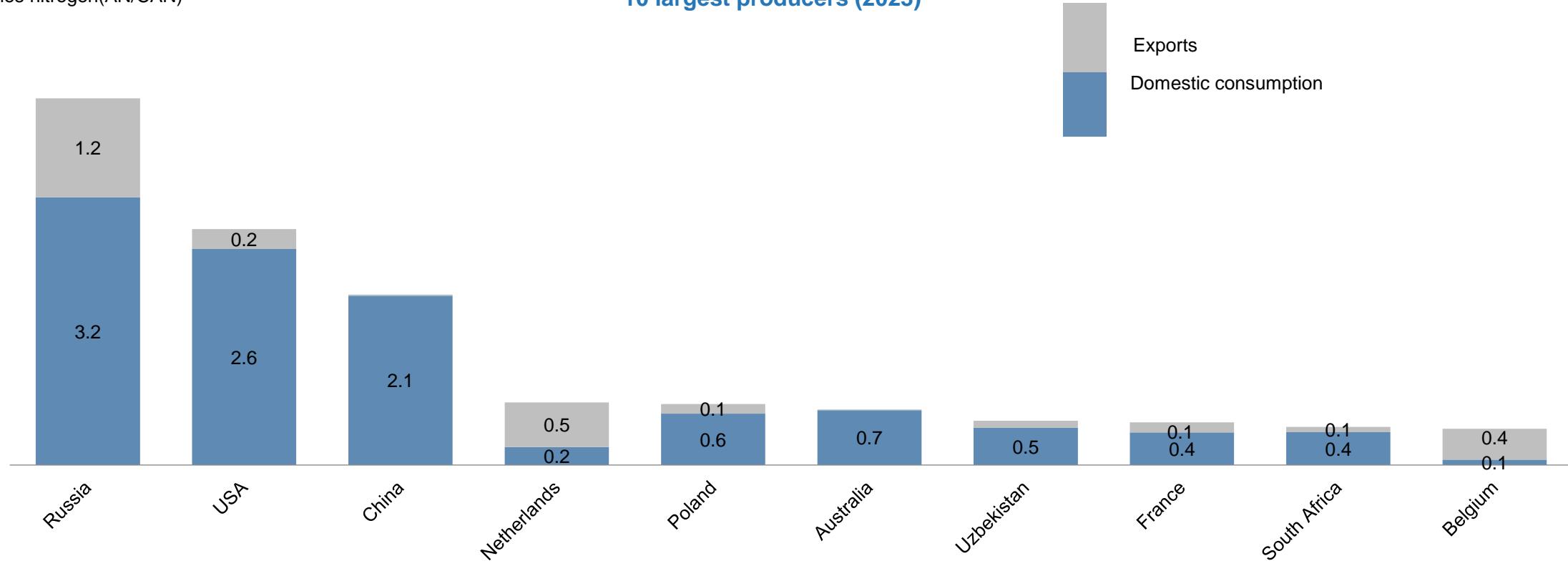
# Nitrates



# Global nitrate production was 19.1 million tons of nitrogen in 2023

Million tonnes nitrogen(AN/CAN)

10 largest producers (2023)



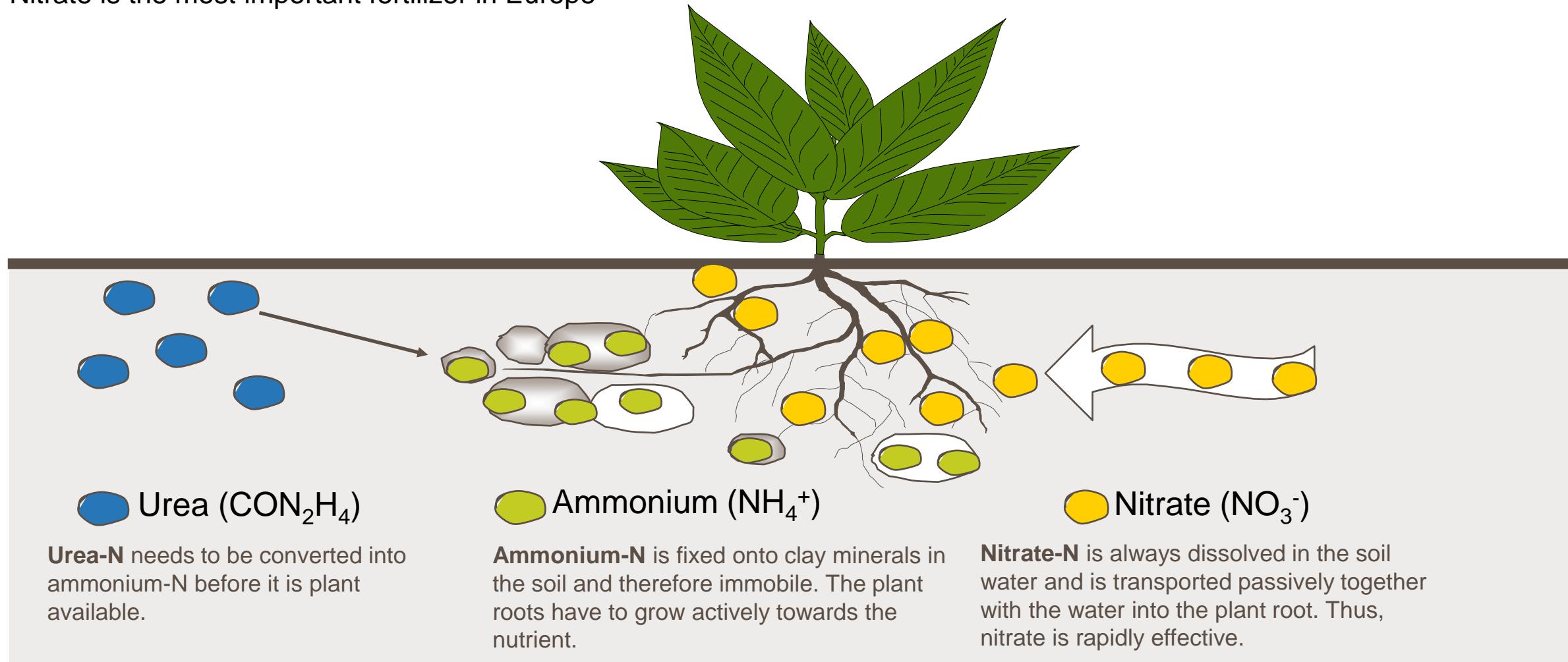
Source: IFA, AN/CAN including nitrate part of UAN, as are industrial grades

# Nitrates are products with a nitrate content of 50 % or more

N fertilizer	N content	Nitrate (% of total N)	Other nutrients
CAN (calcium ammonium nitrate)	27%	50%	4% MgO
AN (ammonium nitrate)	33.5%	50%	
NPK	various	about 50%	P & K
CN (calcium nitrate)	15.5%	93%	19% Ca
Urea	46%	0%	
UAN (liquid urea ammonium nitrate)	28%	25%	
ASN (ammonium sulfate nitrate)	26%	25%	13% S
AS (ammonium sulfate)	21%	0%	24% S

# Nitrates vs. urea

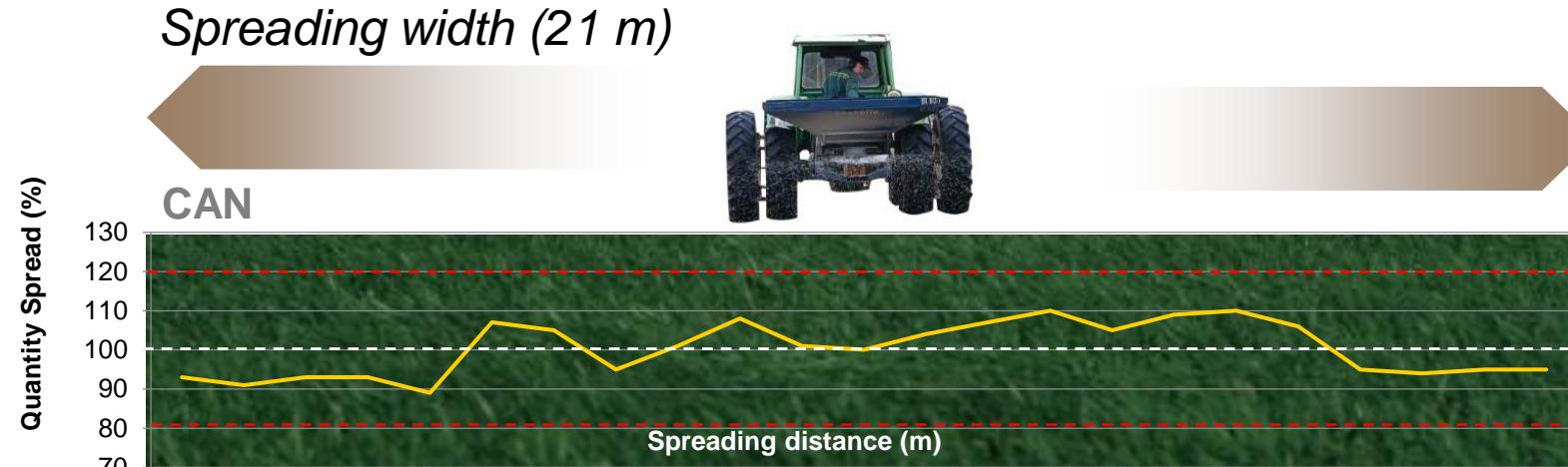
Nitrate is the most important fertilizer in Europe



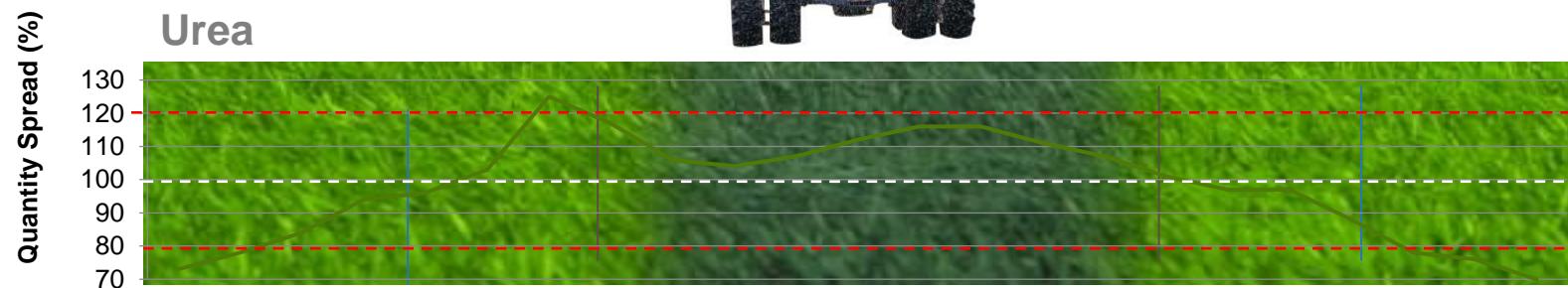
# Better spreading with nitrates

The poor spreading patterns with Urea cause striped fields and considerable yield loss

Good  
uniformity  
with CAN:



Lower  
uniformity  
with Urea:

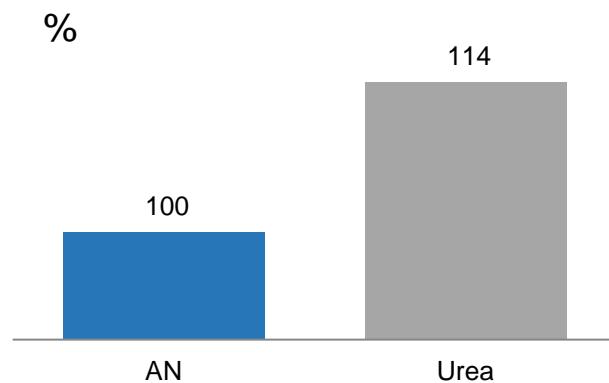


Due to better  
spreading quality of  
CAN a higher yield  
equivalent is  
achieved in field  
trials

# Nitrate outperformance compared with commodity nitrogen products

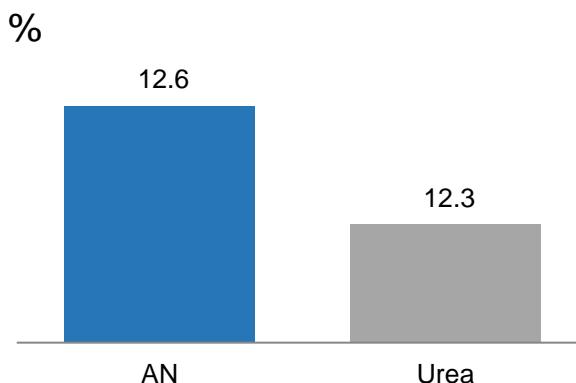
Trial results for arable crops (cereals, UK)

**Extra N required for same yield**



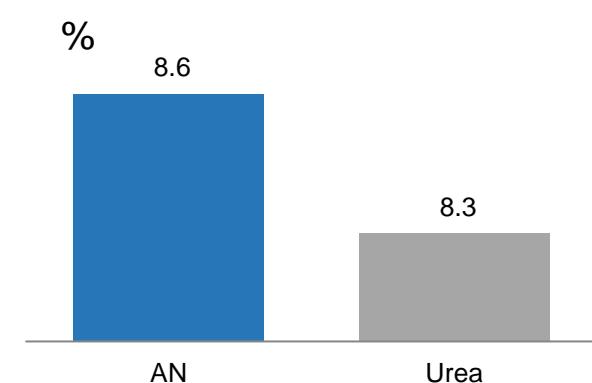
To maintain the same yield, significantly more nitrogen was needed from urea than from ammonium nitrate

**Protein content at identical N rate**



Protein content was significantly lower on fields fertilized with urea than with ammonium nitrate

**Yield at identical N rate**

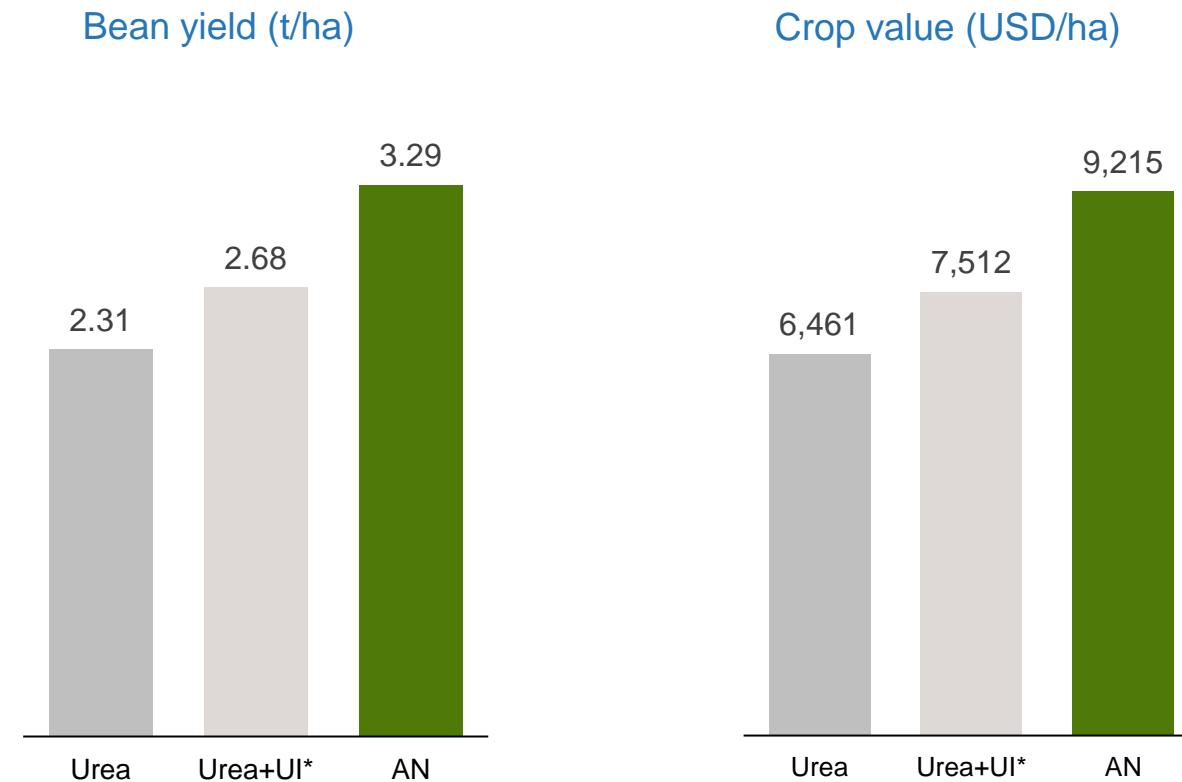


Yield was also significantly lower with urea than with ammonium nitrate

# Yield advantages with nitrates in tropical climate

Trial study in Brazil, higher coffee bean yield with nitrates as compared to urea

- Research shows that the benefits of nitrates are even more pronounced in the tropics than in colder climates
- Nitrates provide direct and efficient uptake of N



\* UI = Urease Inhibitor

Source: trial 2018/2019 - Lavras University, Minas Gerais, Brazil & Yara Research

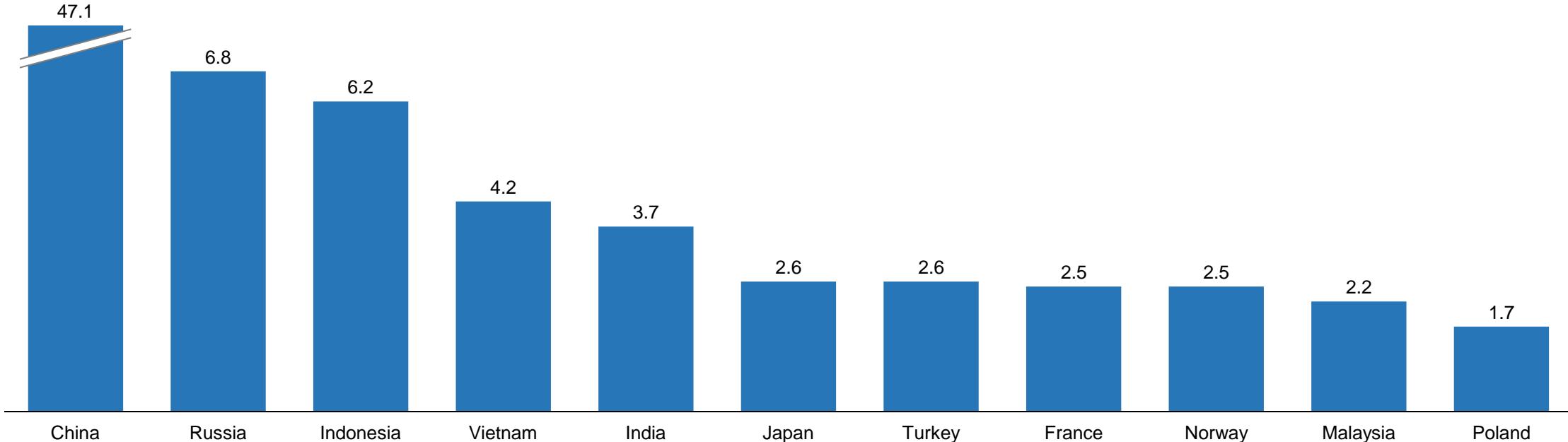
NPKs



# Global compound NPK capacities

Million tonnes

10 largest countries by capacity



# Compound NPKs contain all nutrients in one particle

## Compound NPKs

All nutrients in each and every particle



Even spreading of all nutrients

## NPK bulk blends

A mix of products with different spreading properties



Risk of segregation and uneven spreading

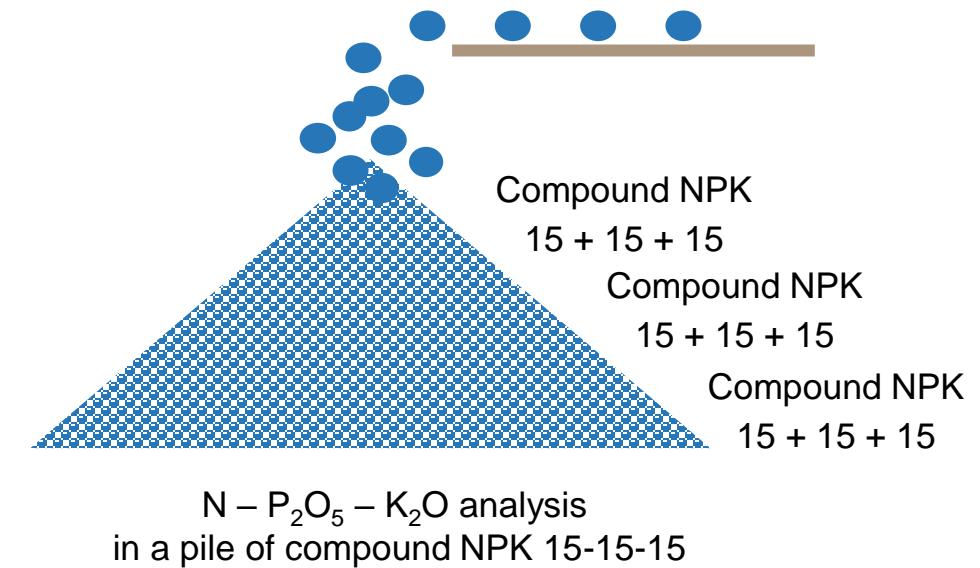
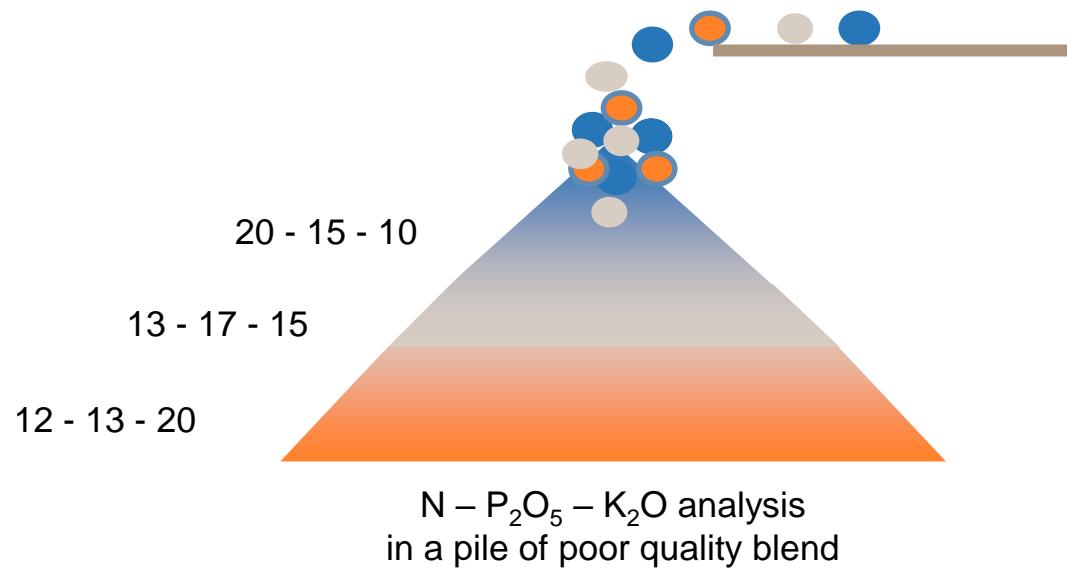
# Bulk blend segregation during loading and unloading

Urea + DAP + MOP

15-15-15

Compound NPK

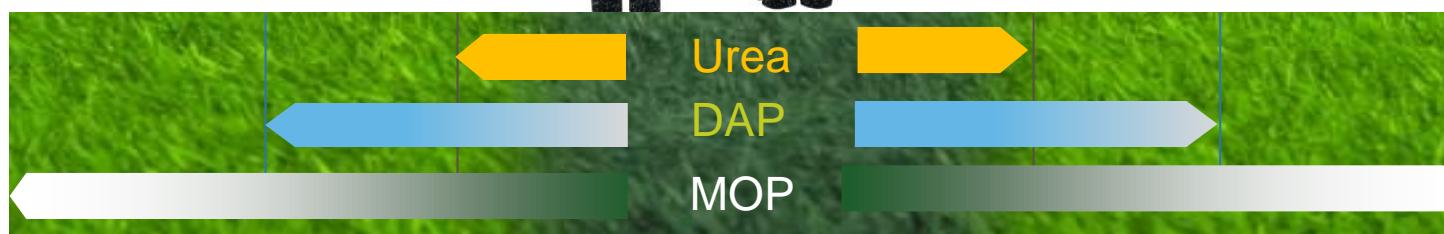
15-15-15



Segregation due to differences in specific weight and granule size

# Better spreading with compound NPKs

*Spreading width*

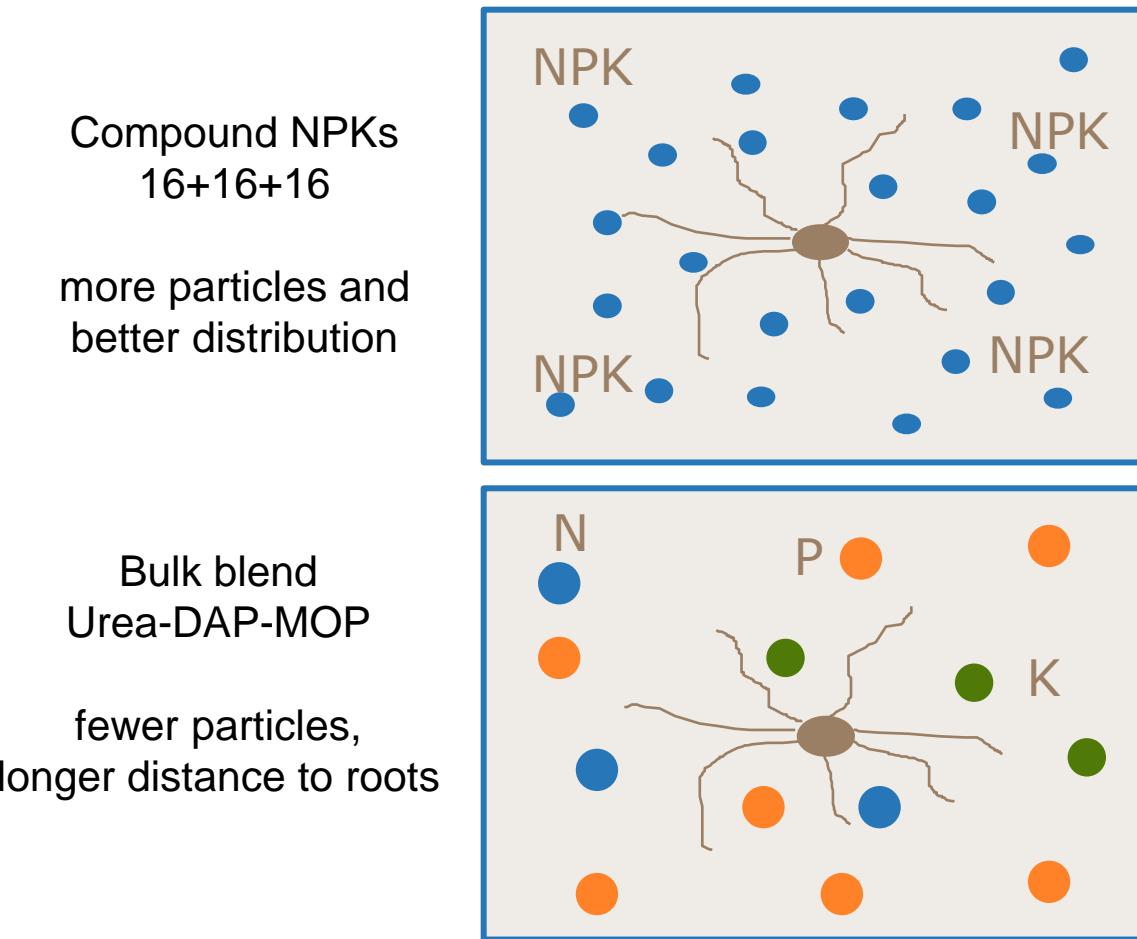


The spreading width of light particles like **Urea** is less than those of **heavier particles like DAP and MOP**

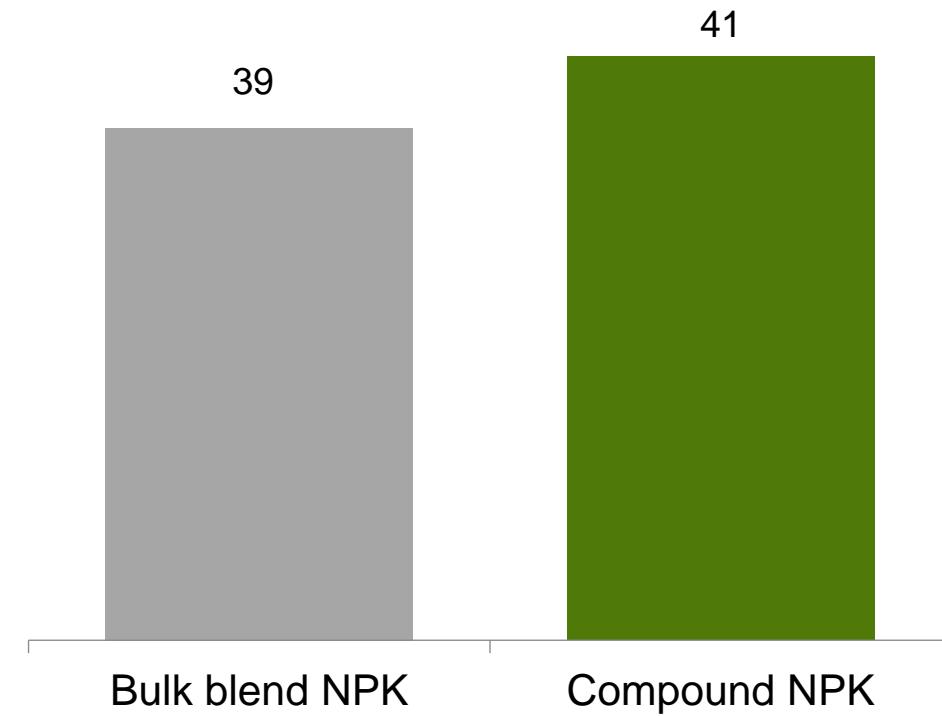


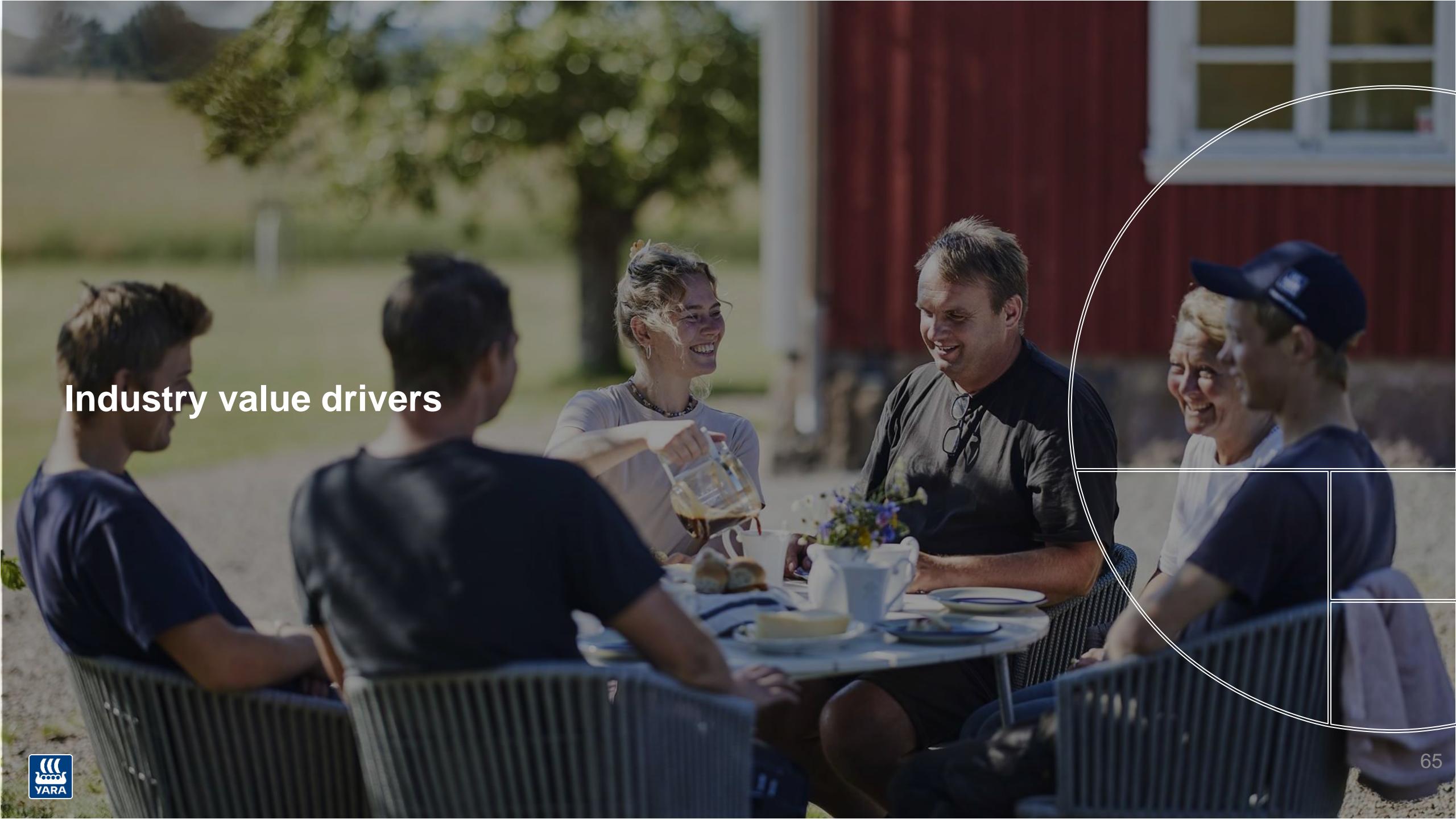
**Poor spreading patterns cause striped fields and significant yield losses**

# Compound NPKs give excellent spatial distribution of nutrients and higher crop yields as a result



Potato yield, tonne per ha

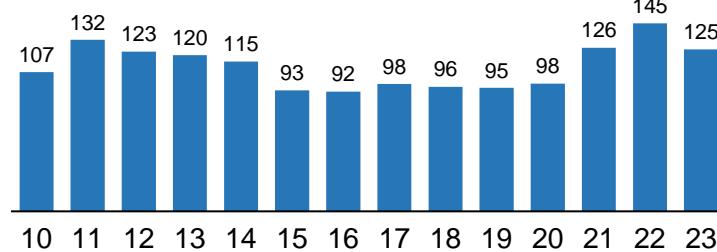




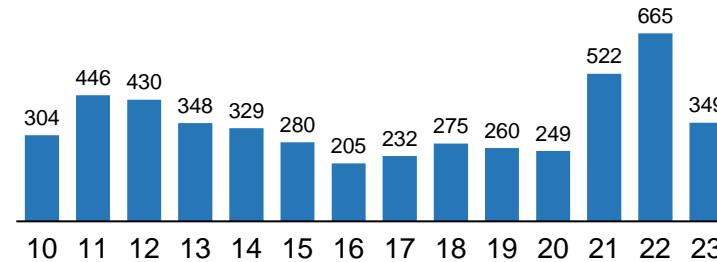
## Industry value drivers

# Fertilizer prices are cyclical

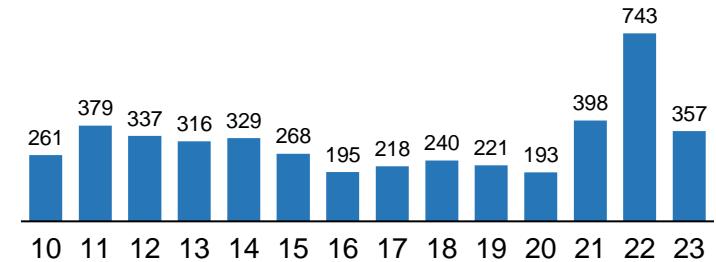
FAO Food price index (2014-2016=100)



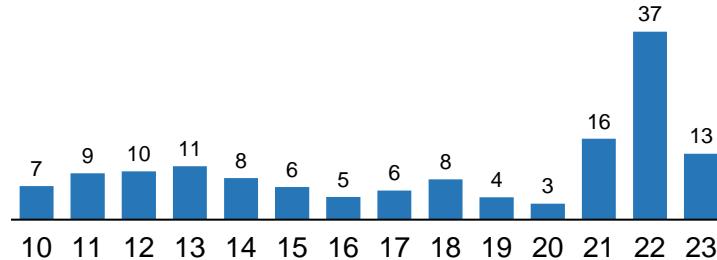
Urea granular FOB Arab Gulf ex. US (USD/t)



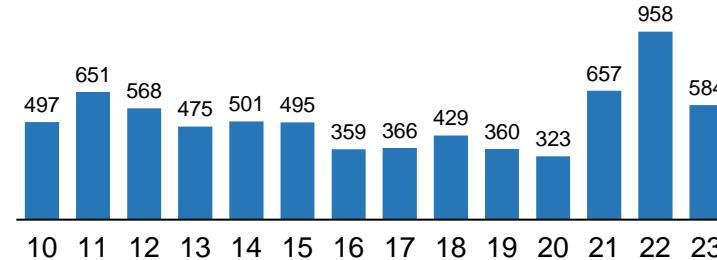
CAN cif Germany (USD/t)



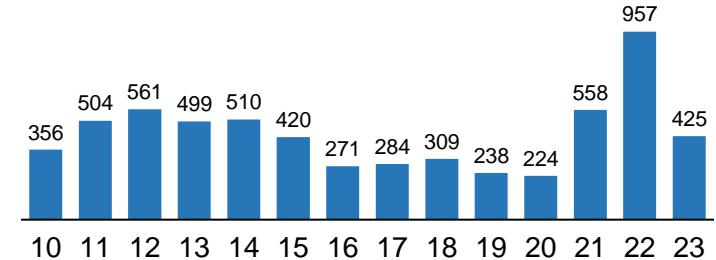
TTF (USD/MMBtu)



DAP FOB Morocco (USD/t)



Ammonia fob Arab Gulf (USD/t)



# Nitrogen fertilizer value drivers



## Drivers:

Global urea demand vs. supply	Urea price
“Marginal producer” production costs	Supply-driven urea price
Crop prices/grain inventories	Urea demand / demand-driven urea price
New urea capacity vs. closures	Urea supply
Urea price	Most other nitrogen fertilizer prices
Cash crop prices	Value-added fertilizer premiums



Gas demand vs. supply	Gas costs
Manning and maintenance	Fixed costs
Productivity and economies of scale	Unit cost
Carbon cost (depending on region)	Unit cost



## Drivers of demand

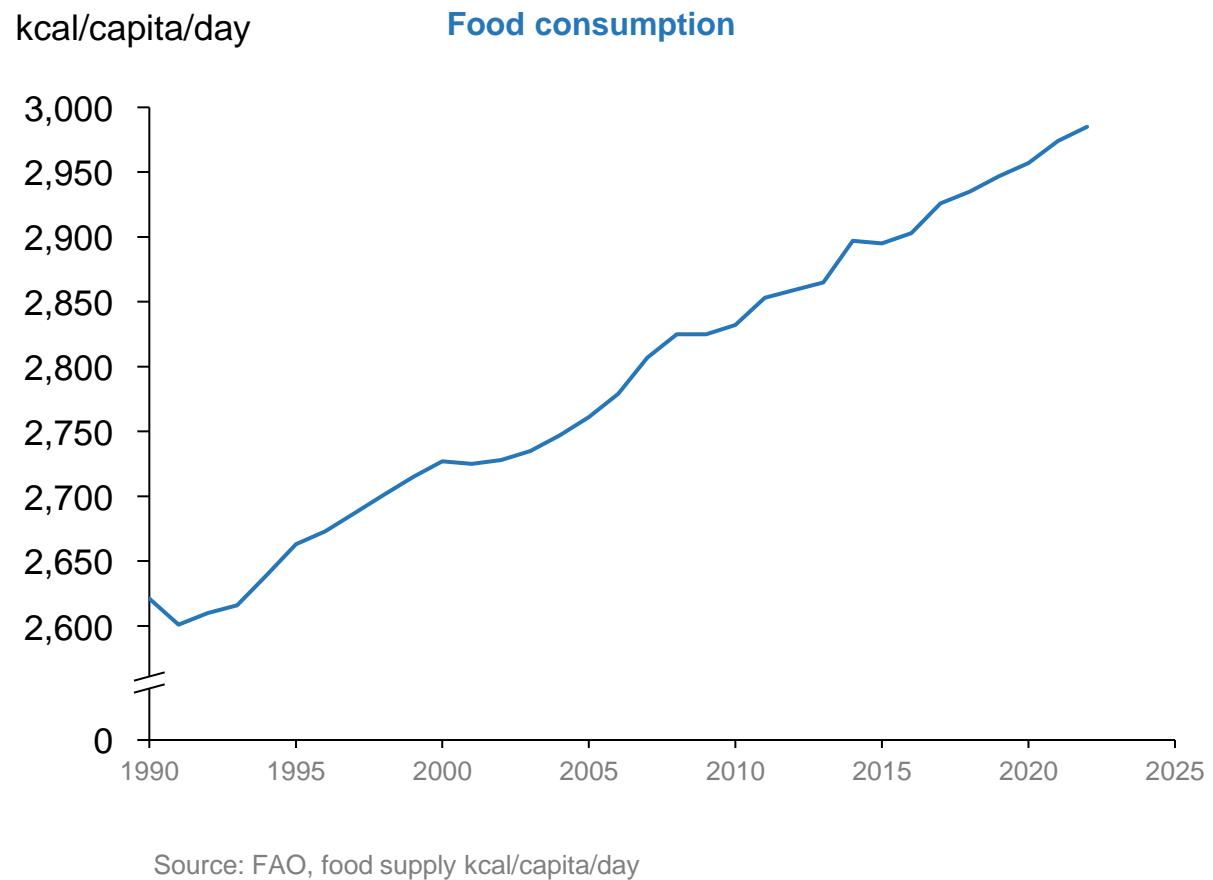
# Drivers consumption growth

## Fertilizer consumption is mainly driven by food demand

- Population growth
- Economic growth and diet changes
  - More protein-rich diets
  - More fruit and vegetables
  - Reduced hunger
- Nutrient use efficiency in farming
- Waste and loss across the food value chain

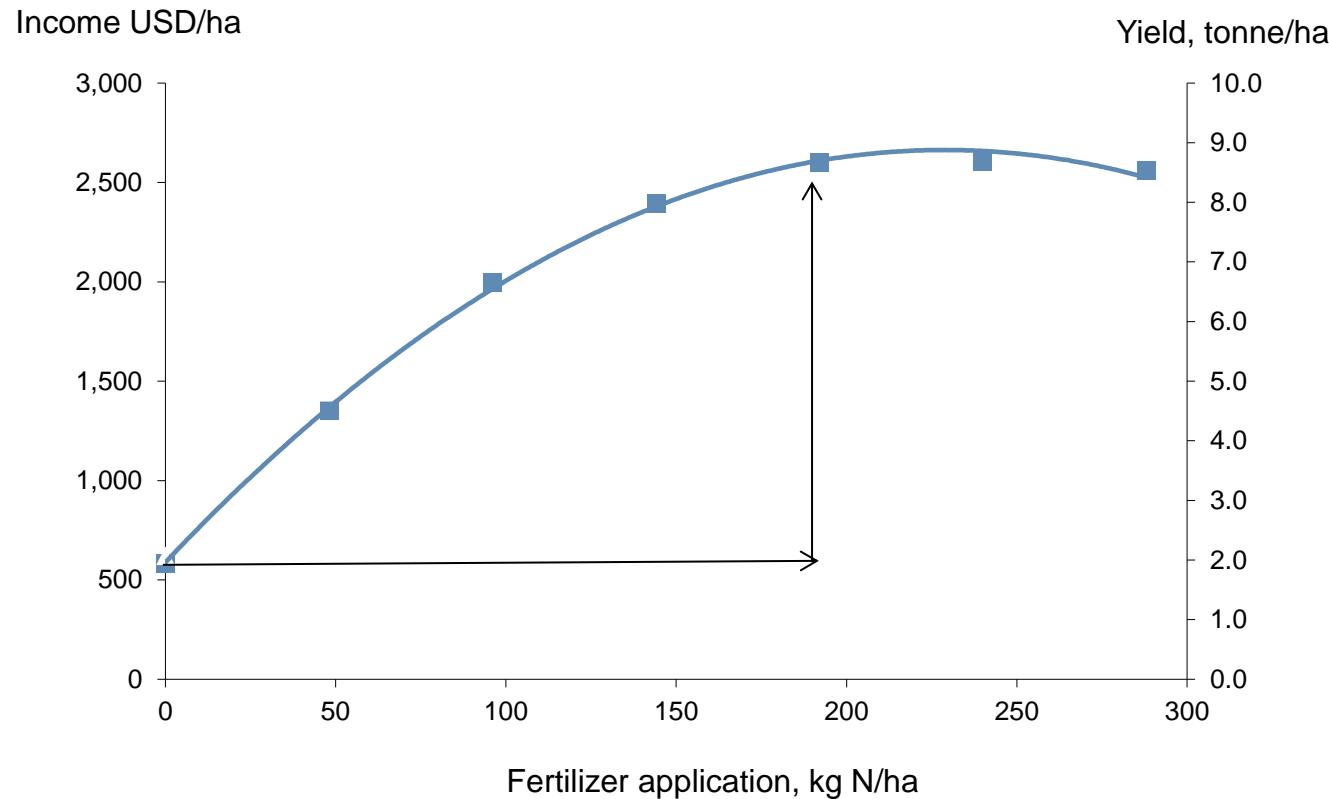
## Industrial consumption is mainly driven by economic growth

- Economic growth
- Environmental limits (e.g. reduction of NOx emissions)



# Profitability of investment in mineral fertilizers

Yield response (monetary value) to N fertilizer rate

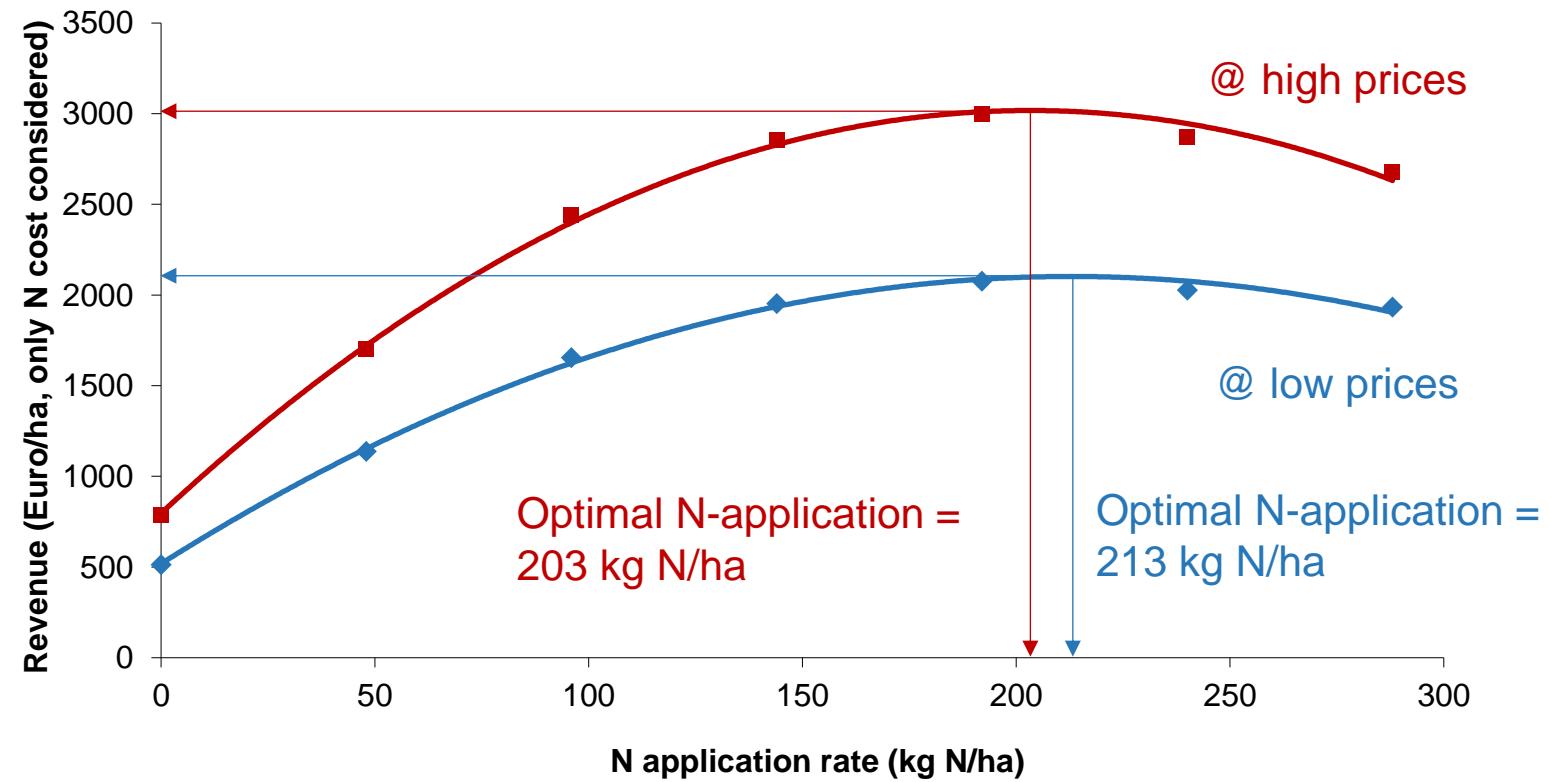


- The investment in nitrogen fertilizer is highly profitable for growers
- Fertilizer investment: 188 USD/ha
- Net return: 1,446 USD/ha
- **Net return ~ 7 x investment**

# Higher grain prices allow for increased nitrogen fertilizer values

- High crop prices provide much-needed incentives to farmers and global food production
- Farmers get the full revenue effect of yield improvement while fertilizer is a relatively smaller component of their margin, hence optimal nitrogen application is only slightly lower in this example with high prices vs a scenario with low prices.

Illustration of price impacts

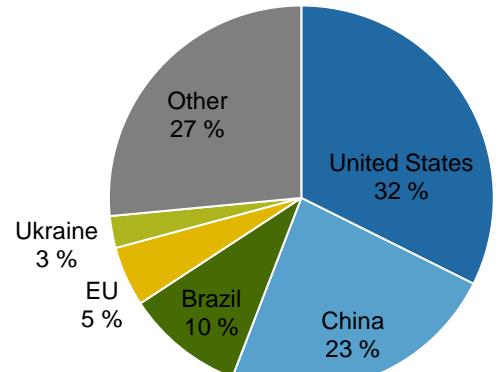


High prices (red line) = 381 EUR/t for grain and 1625 for urea, low prices (blue line) = 248 EUR/t for grain and 518 EUR/t urea.  
Source: Winter wheat yield data: Long term trial, Broadbalk, Rothamsted (since 1856).

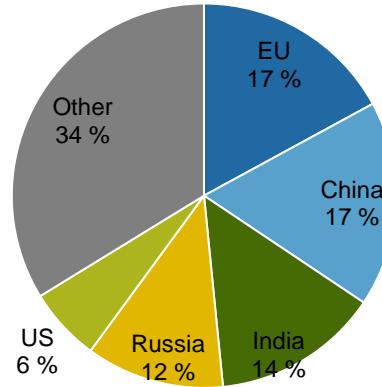
# Key crops by region

*Global production:*

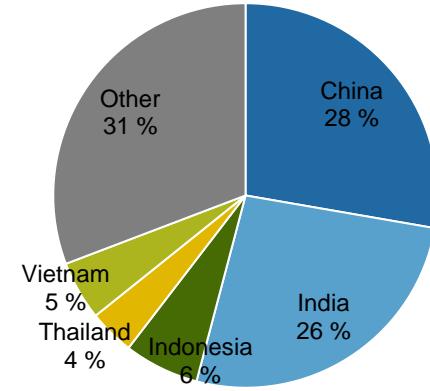
Corn



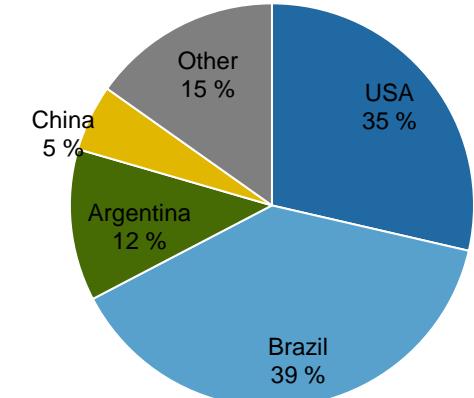
Wheat



Rice



Soybeans



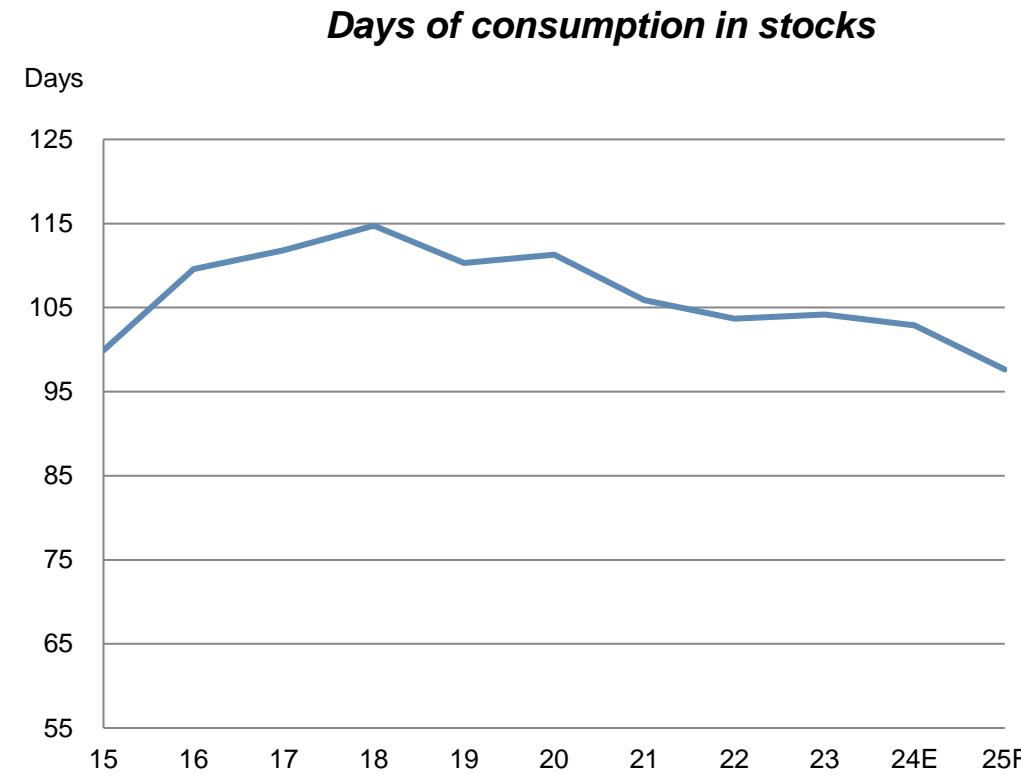
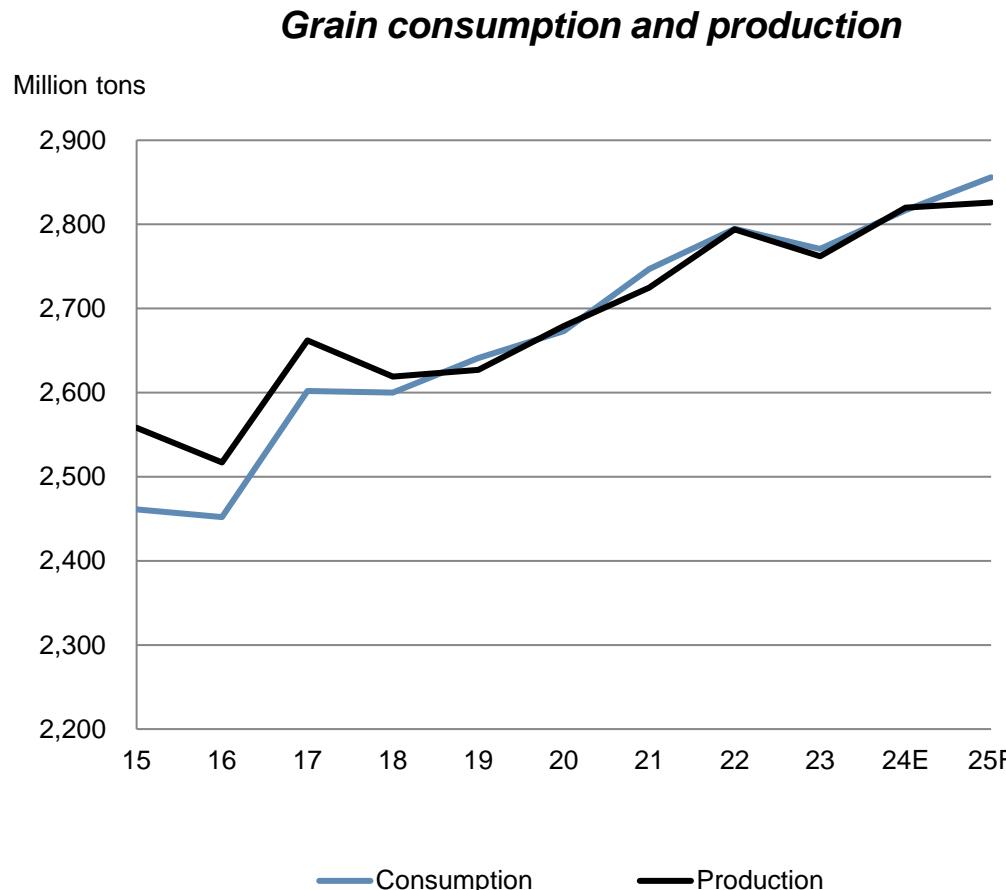
**1,230 mt**

**791 mt**

**523 mt**

**395 mt**

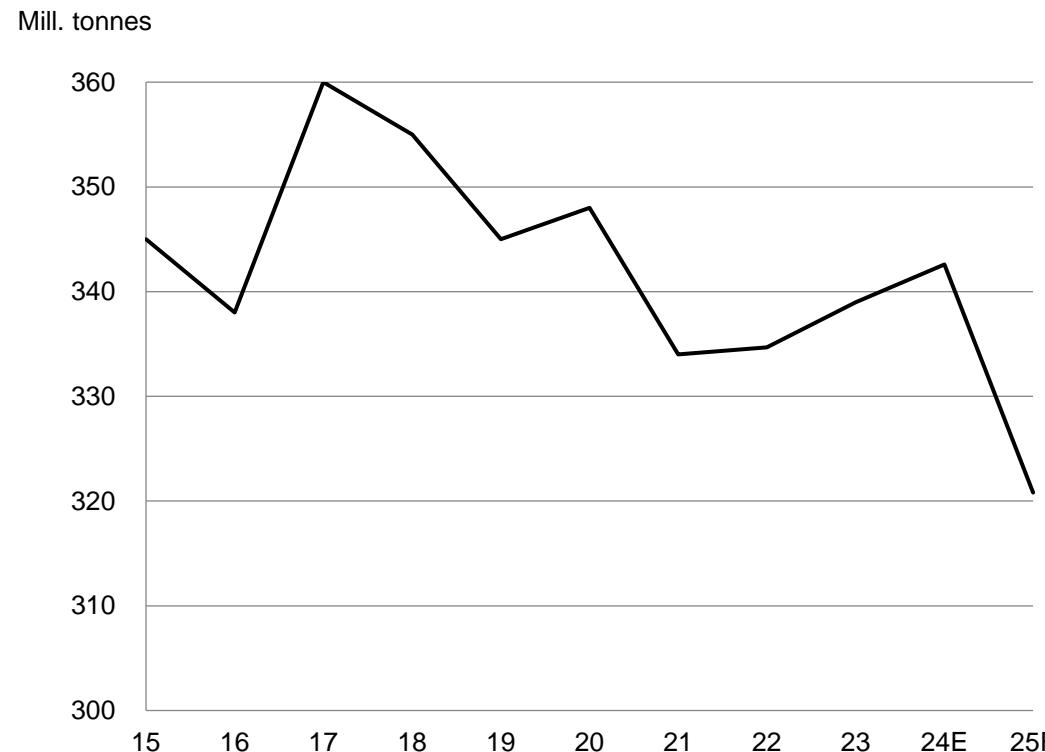
# Grain production forecasted to fall short of consumption for the 2024/25 season – by 30 million tons



Source: USDA December 2024

# Grain inventories outside China, forecast is a sharp decline for 2024/25 (July–June)

Grain stocks – excluding China

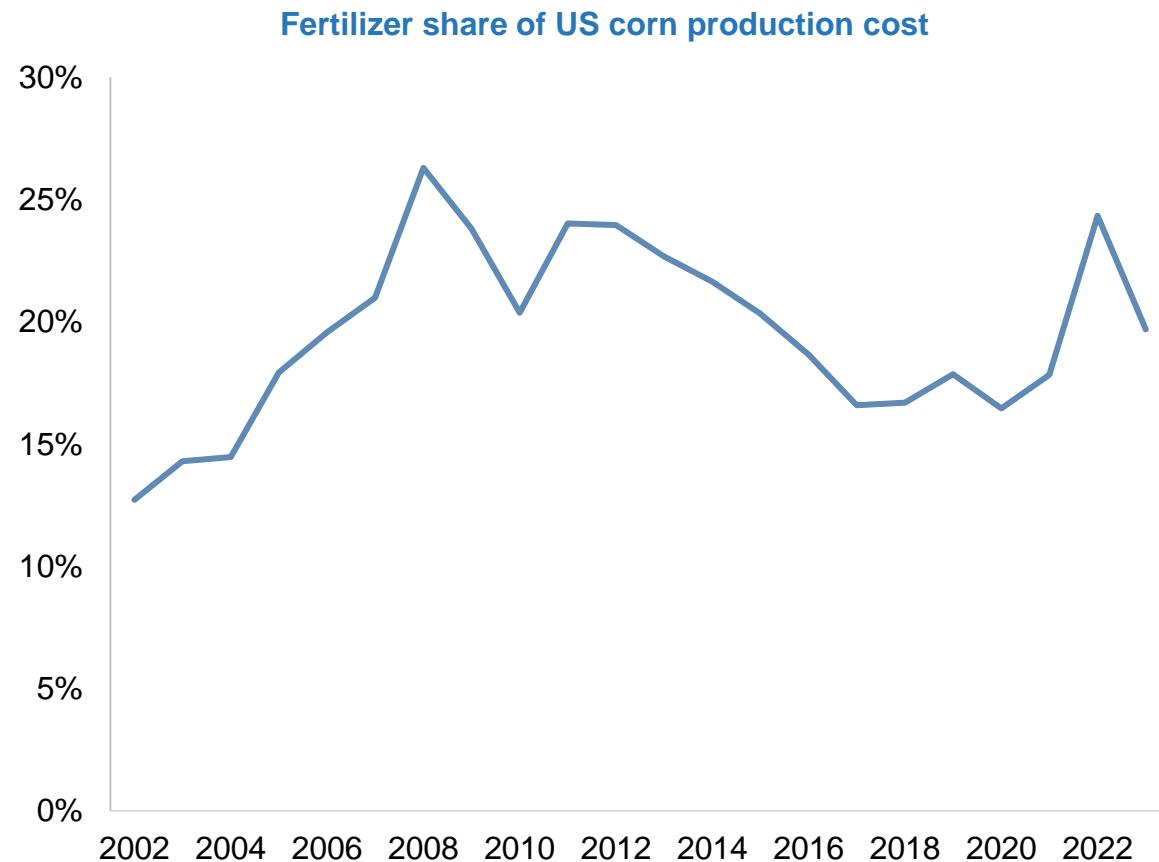
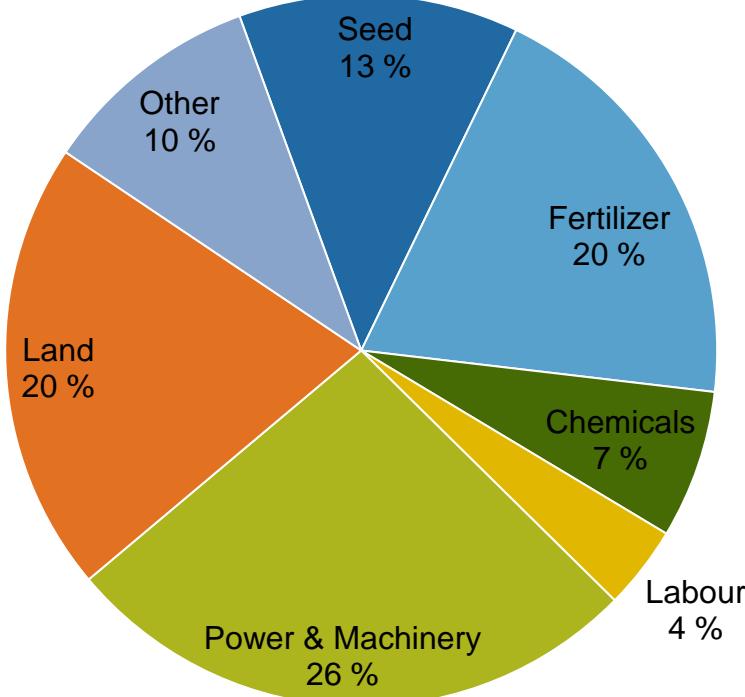


Days of consumption in stock – excluding China



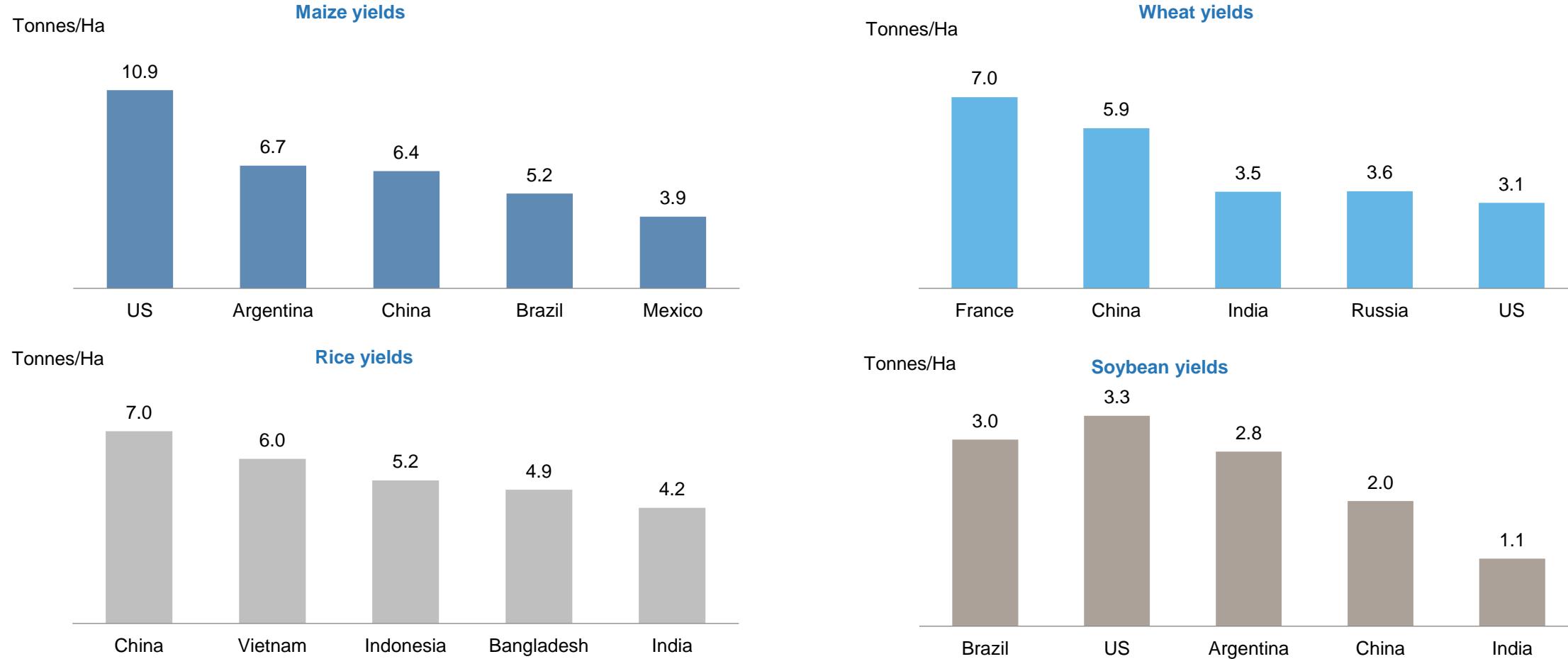
# Breakdown of grain production costs

Example: 2023 average US corn production costs

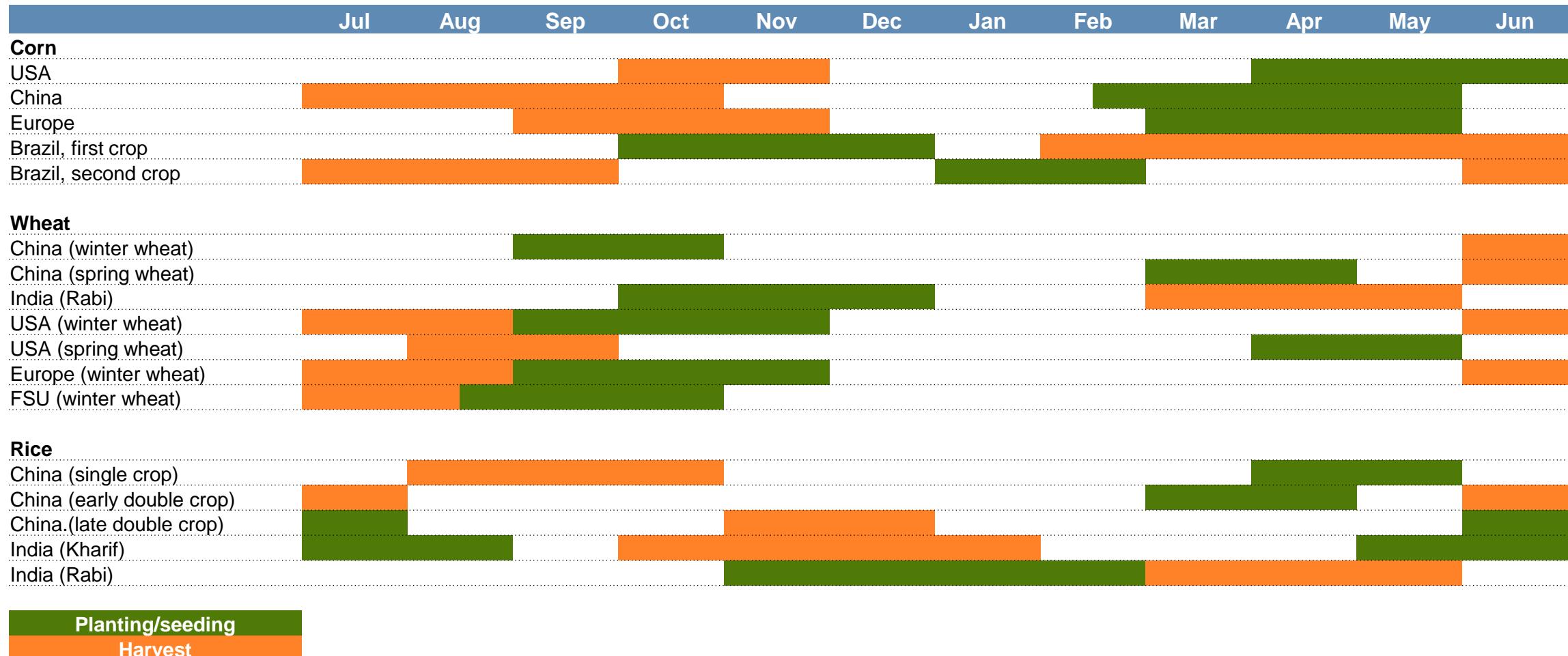


Source: USDA (Commodity costs and returns)

# Large variations in grain yields across regions



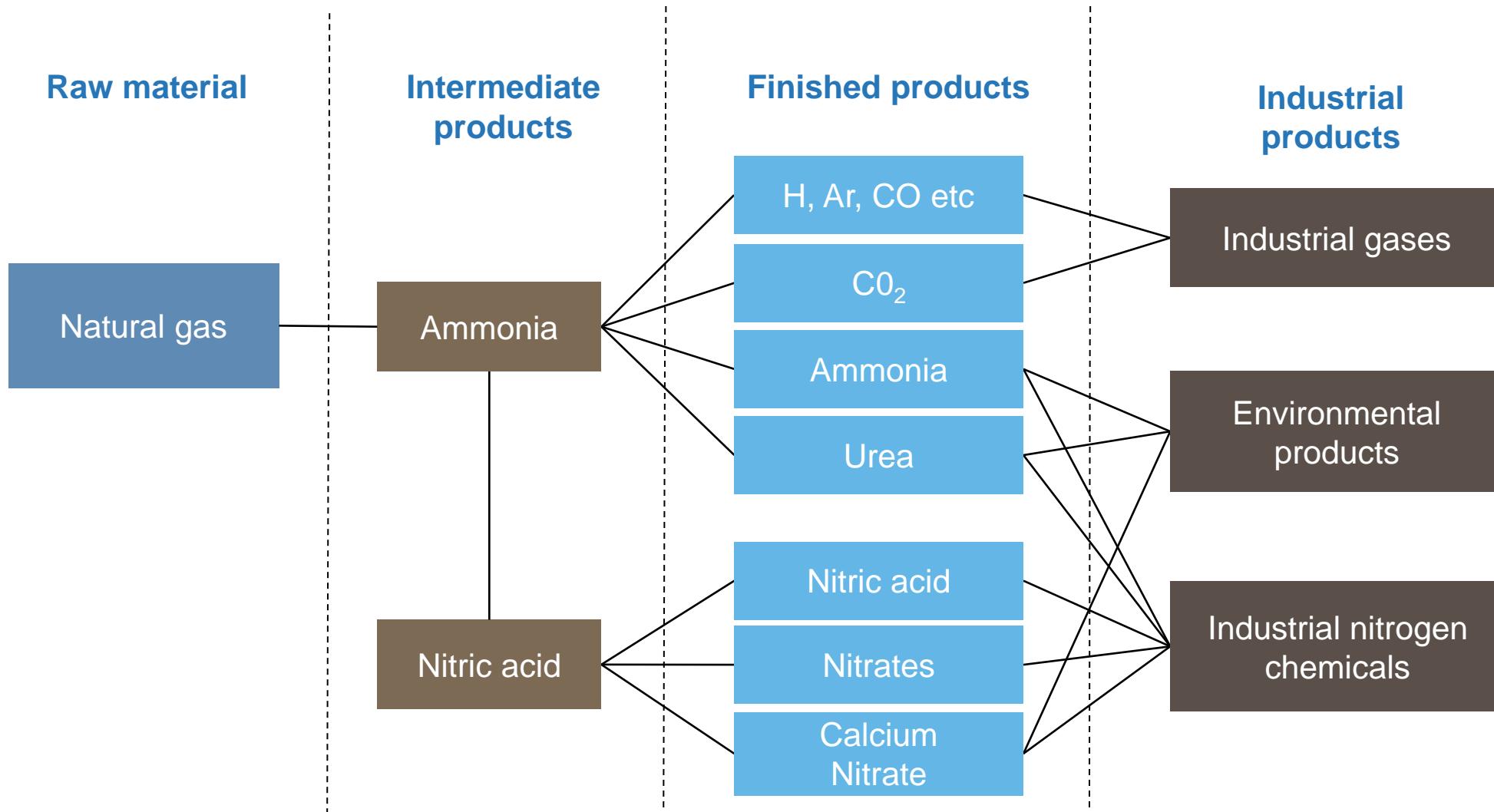
# Seasonality in fertilizer consumption





Drivers of supply

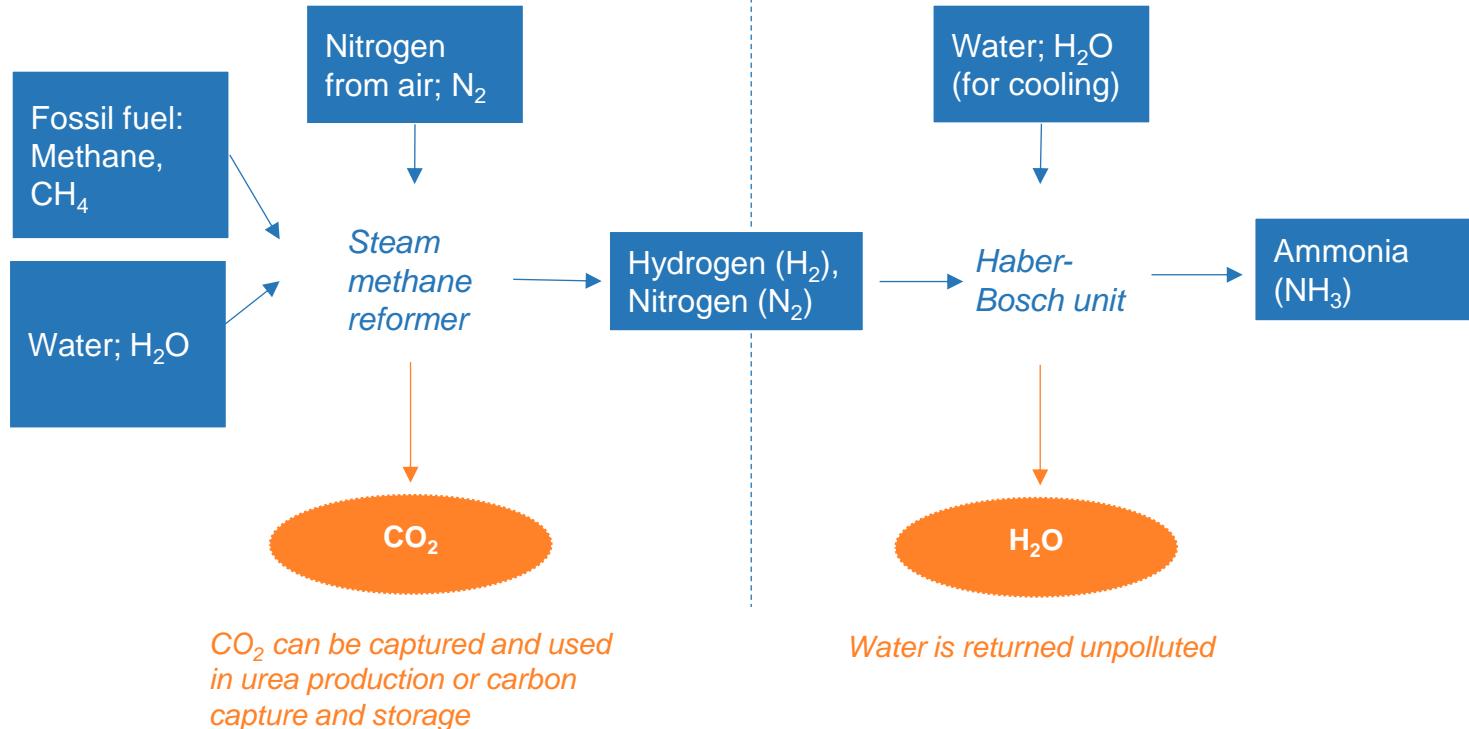
# Nitrogen value chain



# Ammonia production process based on natural gas

## Steam Methane Reforming (SMR, "front end")

*Natural gas reacts with steam in presence of a catalyst yielding hydrogen and carbon dioxide*

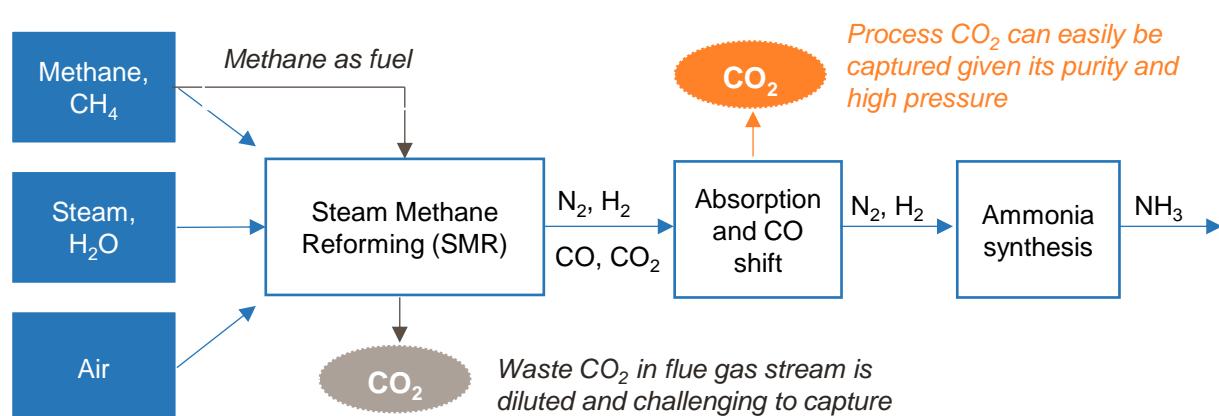


## Haber-Bosch synthesis loop ("back end")

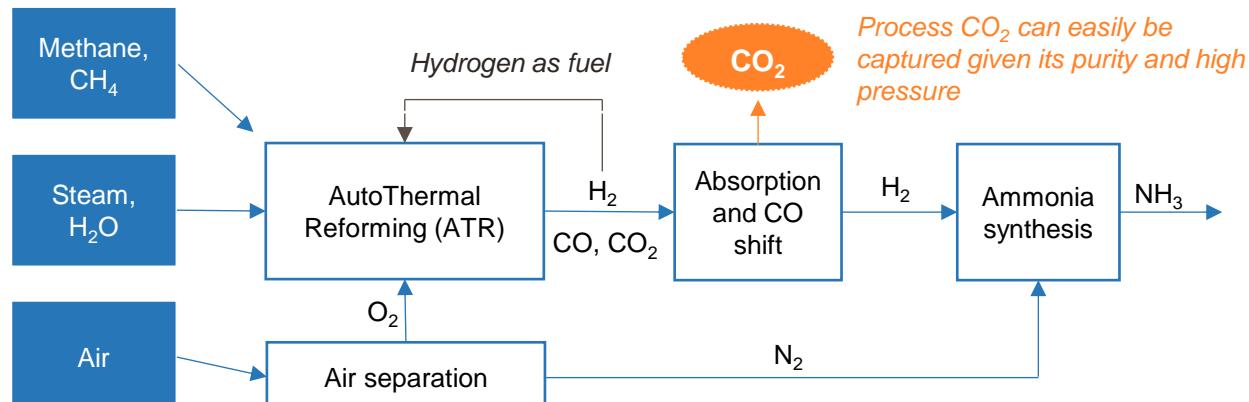
*Combines hydrogen gas ( $\text{H}_2$ ) and nitrogen gas ( $\text{N}_2$ ) at high pressures and temperatures to form ammonia*

- Production process requires high pressure and temperatures
- Ammonia is a hazardous gas and requires expertise for safe handling
- At -33 degrees/pressure ammonia is a liquid and can be stored and transported in tanks / specialized vessels

# Using ATR technology rather than SMR in the front-end of the ammonia plant increases the CO<sub>2</sub> capture rate



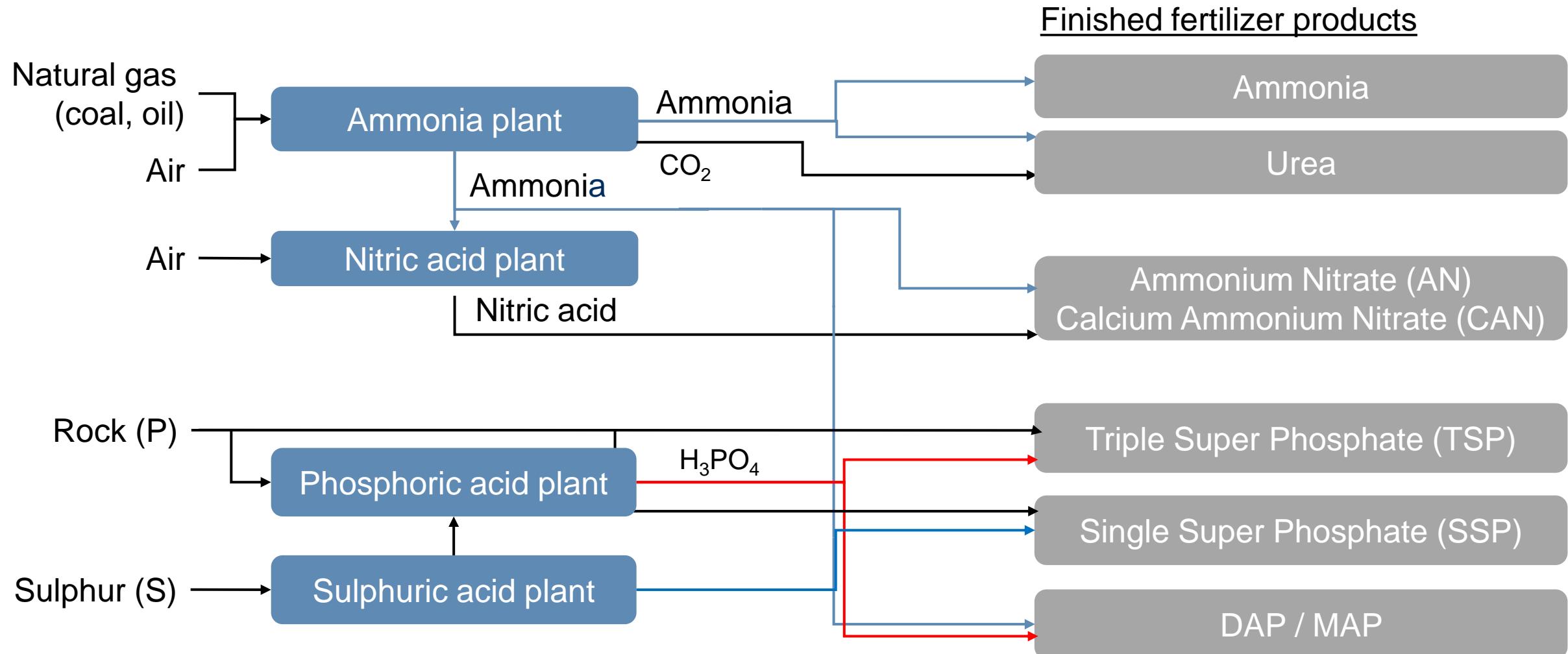
- SMR is the main production technology to produce ammonia outside of China
- Carbon capture can be installed to reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from the process, but due to the nature of the process **only 60-70% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be captured** in an economically feasible way
- The reason is that the process has two separate streams of natural gas
  1. Process gas used as feedstock → can easily be captured
  2. Waste CO<sub>2</sub> in flue gas → difficult/expensive<sup>1</sup> to capture



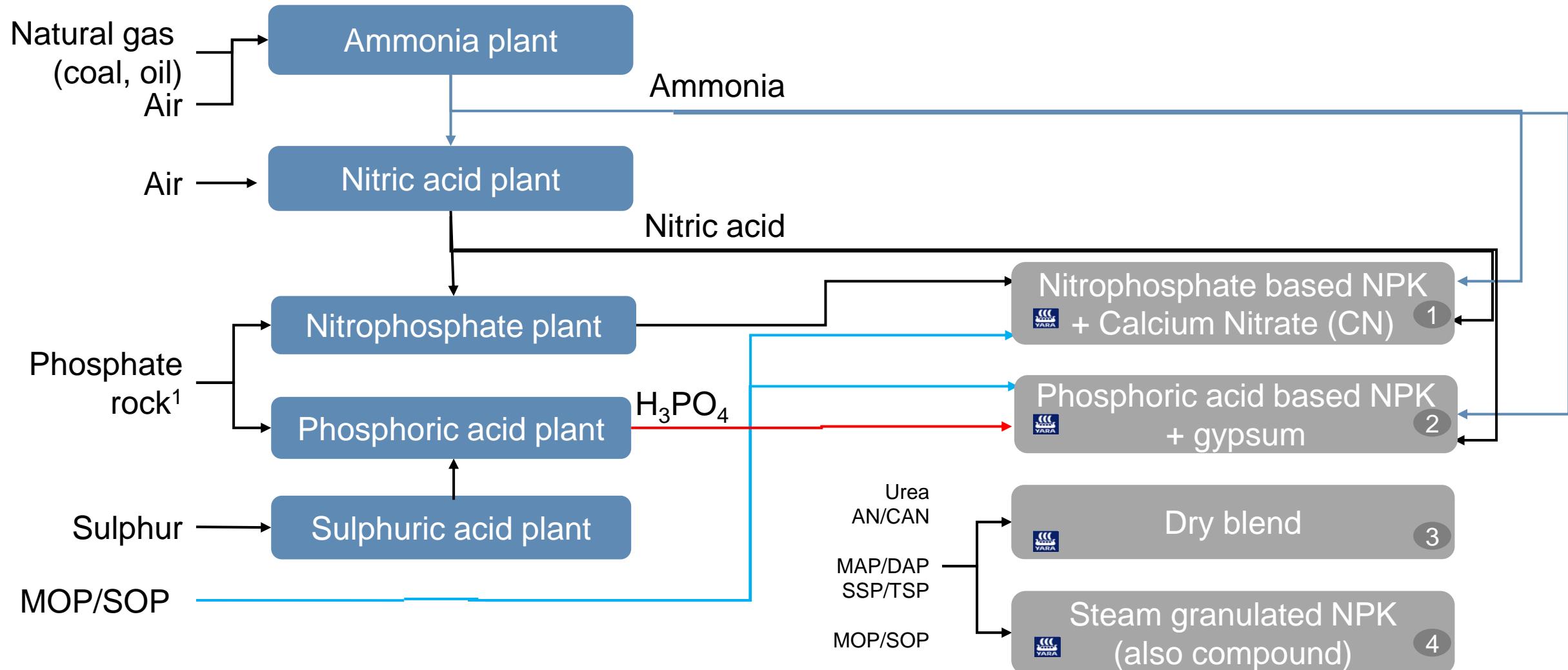
- ATR production process only have a single stream of CO<sub>2</sub> that can easily be captured making it ideal for carbon capture and storage (CCS)
- **ATR capture rates can be above 95% of emitted CO<sub>2</sub>**
- SMR has historically been the preferred technology as ATR require larger quantities of methane feedstock and electrical energy

<sup>1</sup>) Could be captured using direct air capture. This is however expensive making it economically infeasible without a prohibitively high CO<sub>2</sub> cost

# Fertilizer production routes

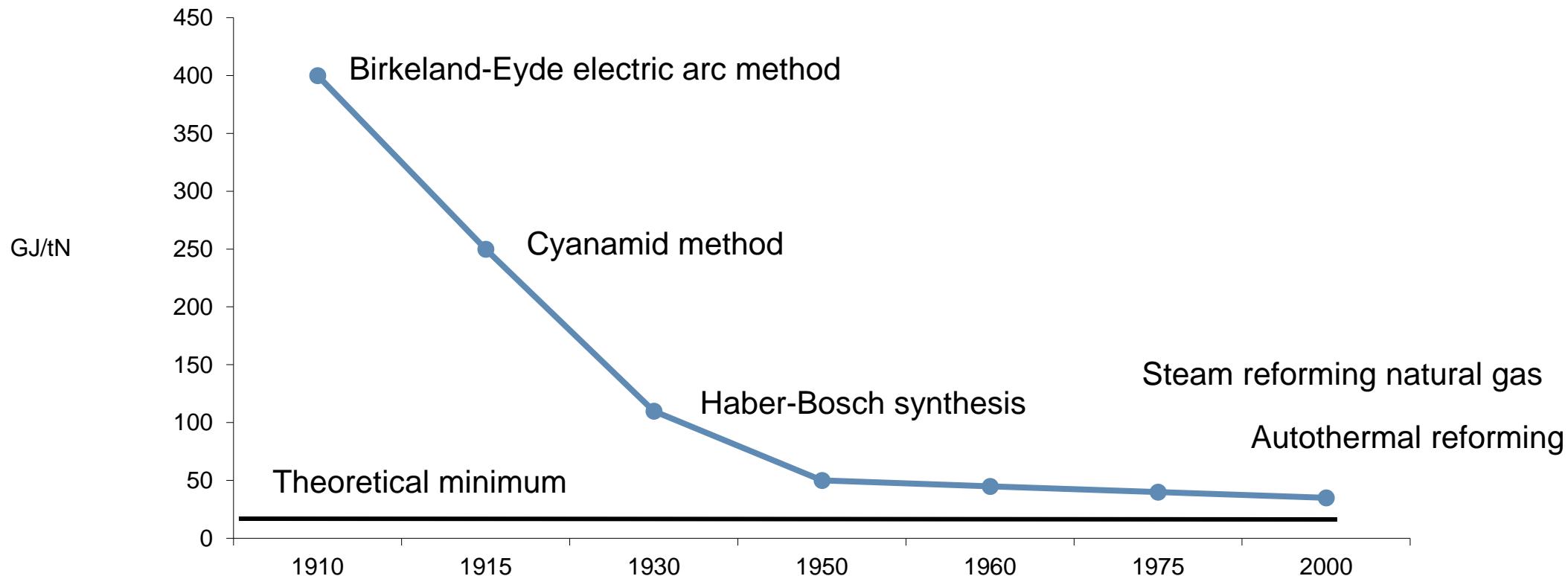


# NPK production routes



1. Igneous and calcined sedimentary

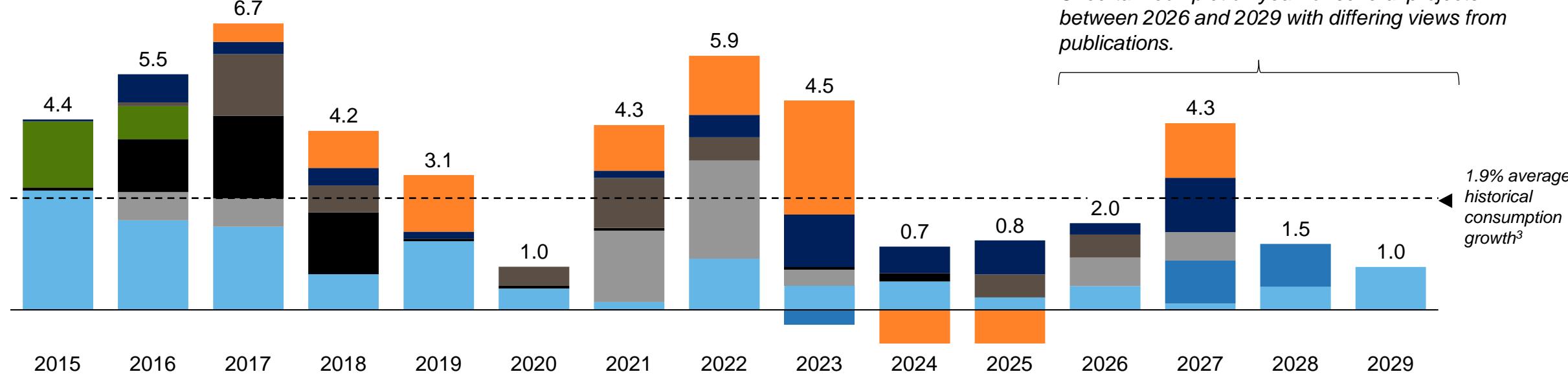
# Nitrogen technology evolution



# Peak of urea capacity additions is behind us

Global urea capacity additions ex. China <sup>1,2</sup> (mt)

India Russia Iran Algeria USA Nigeria Australia Others

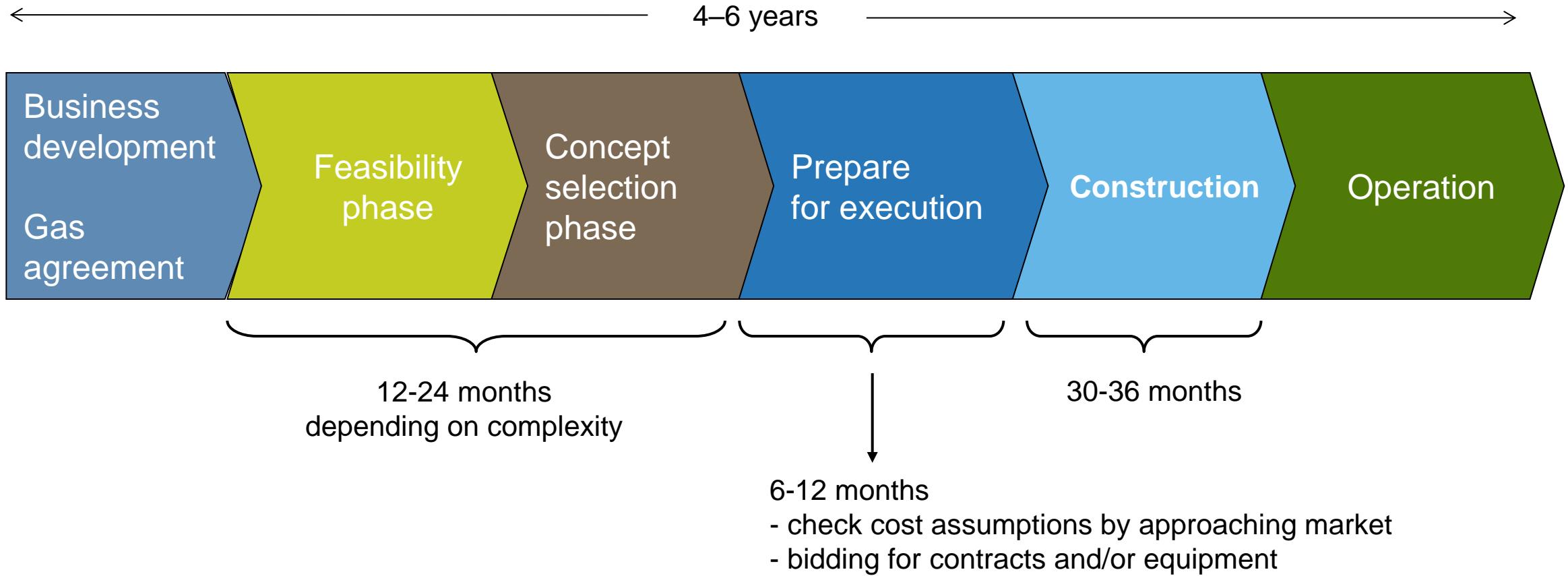


1) Source: CRU March 2024

2) Future Urea projects assessed as "probable" or "firm" by CRU.

3) Growth calculated based on last 10 years up to 2023, equal to ~2.6 mt/year, from 2023 baseline (IFA) of 136.6 mt (global production + China trade). Trend growth rate held back by supply restrictions in 2021 and 2022

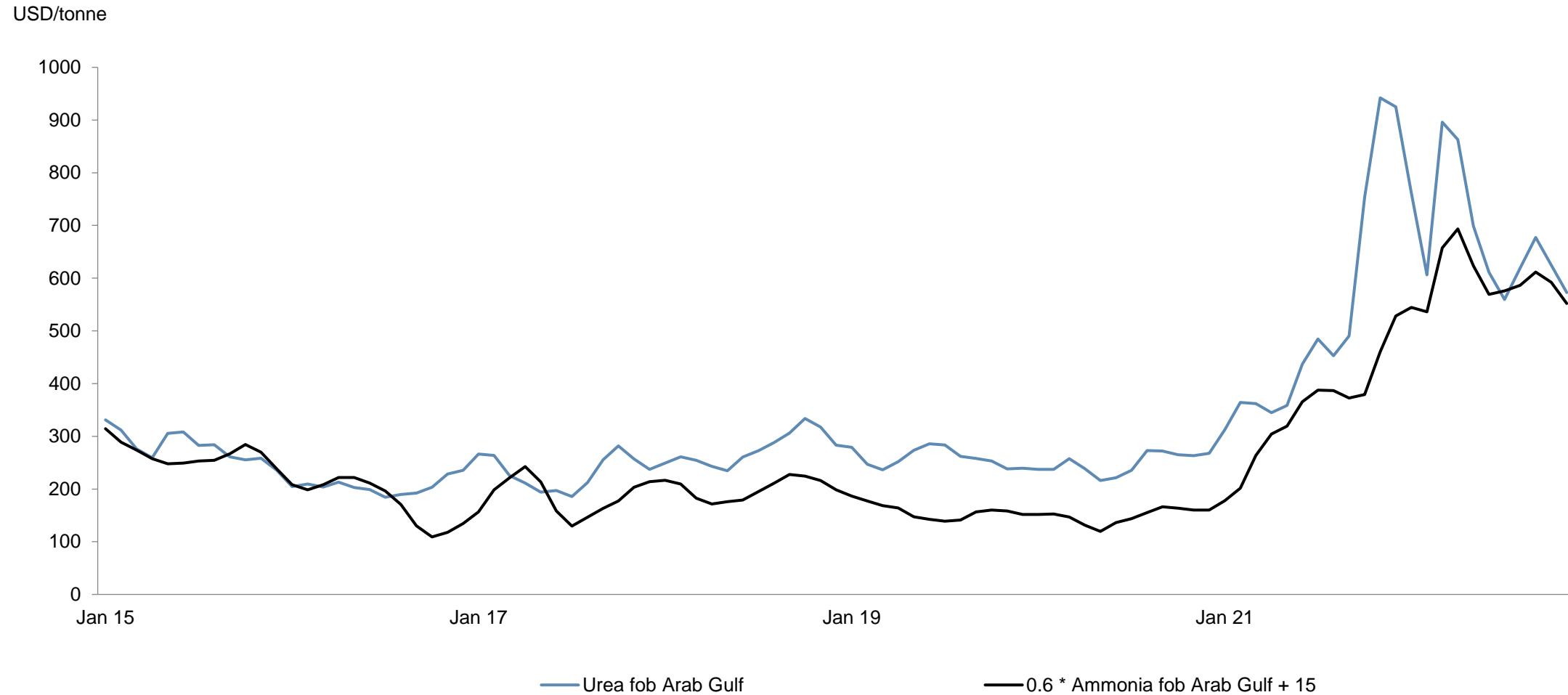
# 5-year typical construction time for nitrogen fertilizer projects\*



\* Ammonia and urea plant example

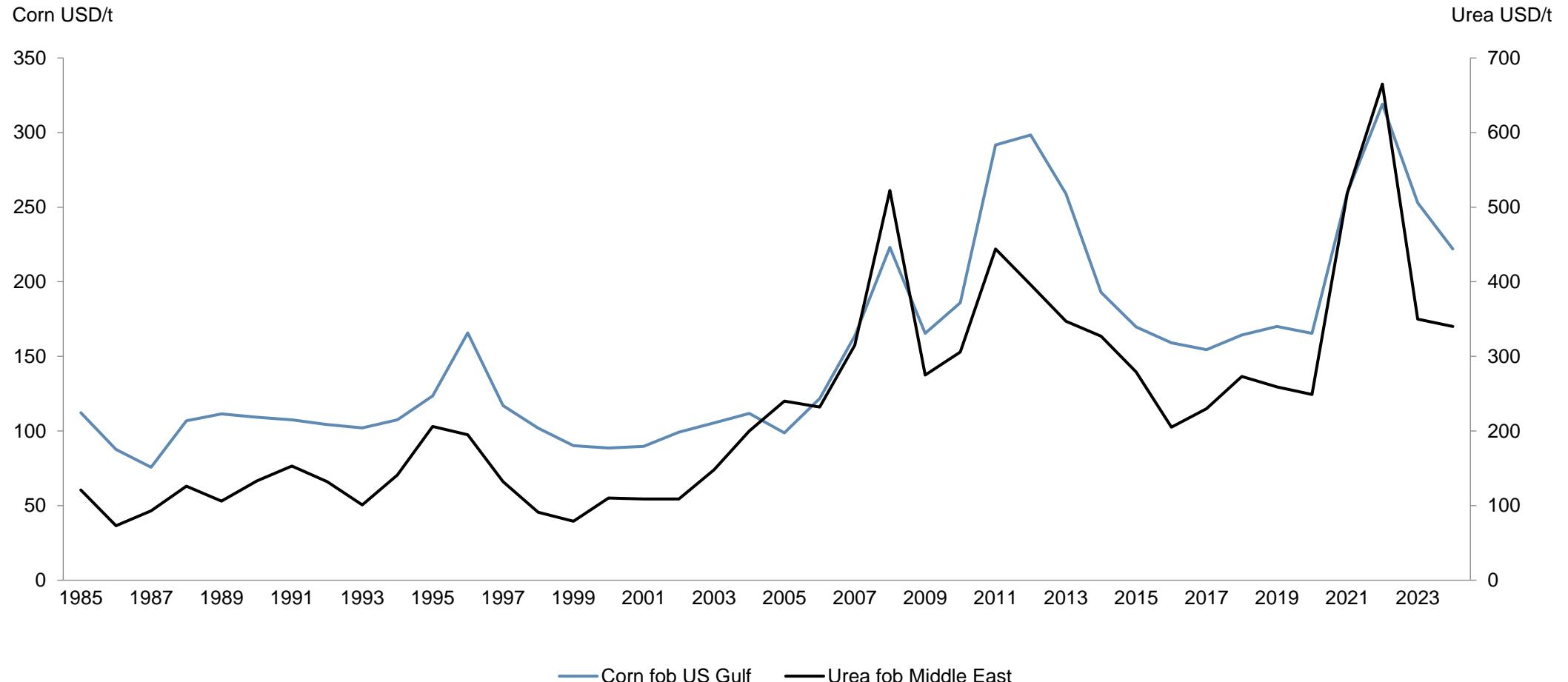
## Price relations

# Upgrading margins from ammonia to urea



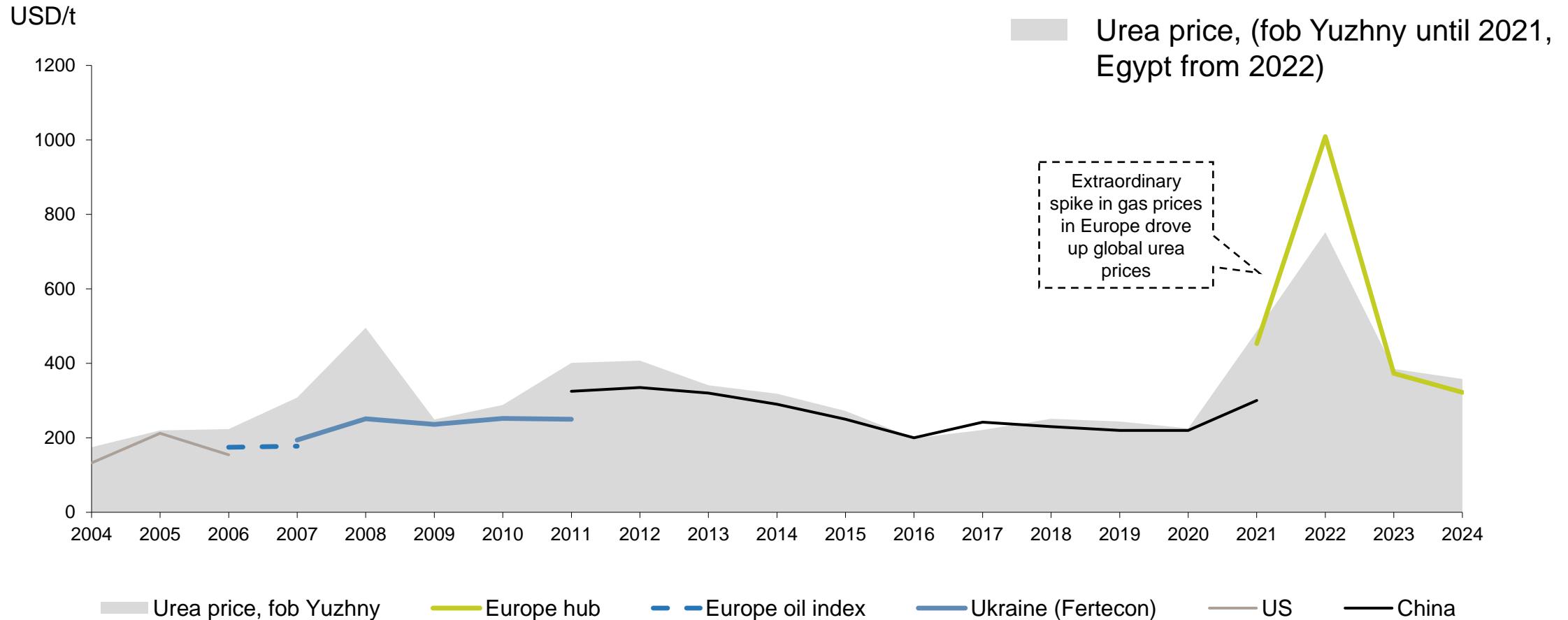
Source: Average of international publications

# Grain prices important for fertilizer demand and pricing



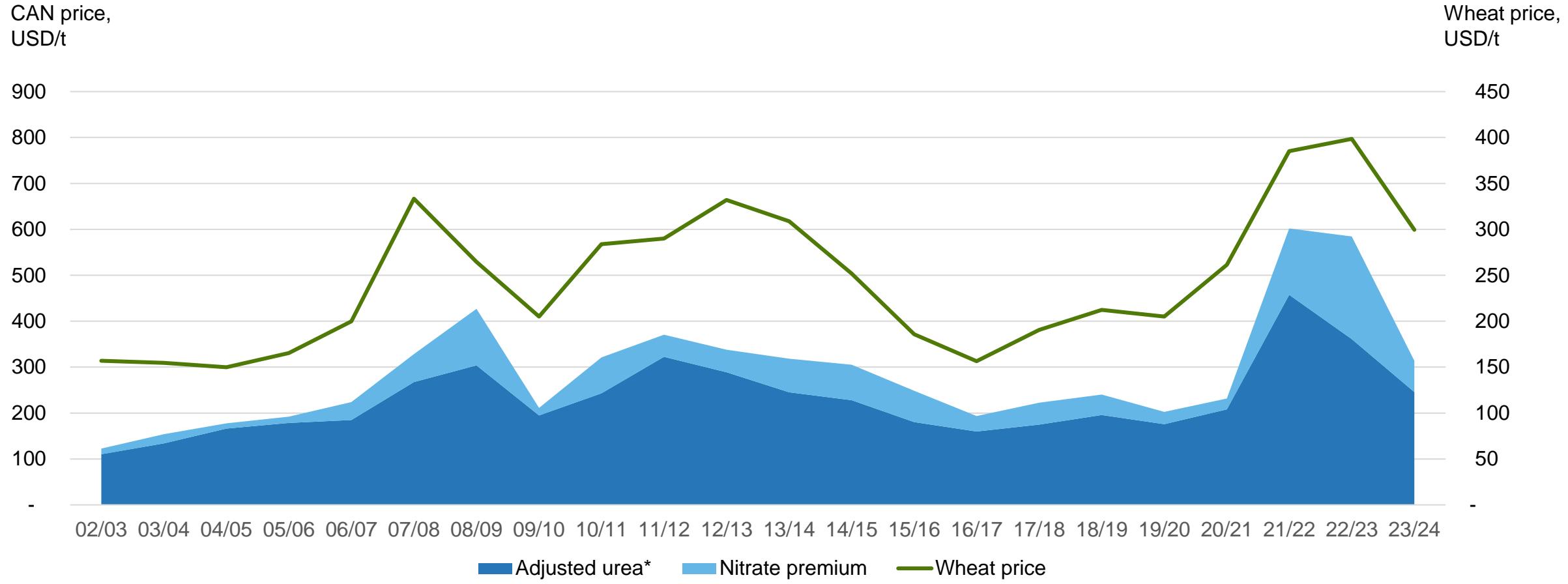
Source: World Bank, Fertilizer publications

# The urea market has been increasingly demand-driven since 2020



Source: Fertecon (Ukraine), Yara estimates. The cost lines are drawn for illustration purposes only and not intended as exact cost estimates.

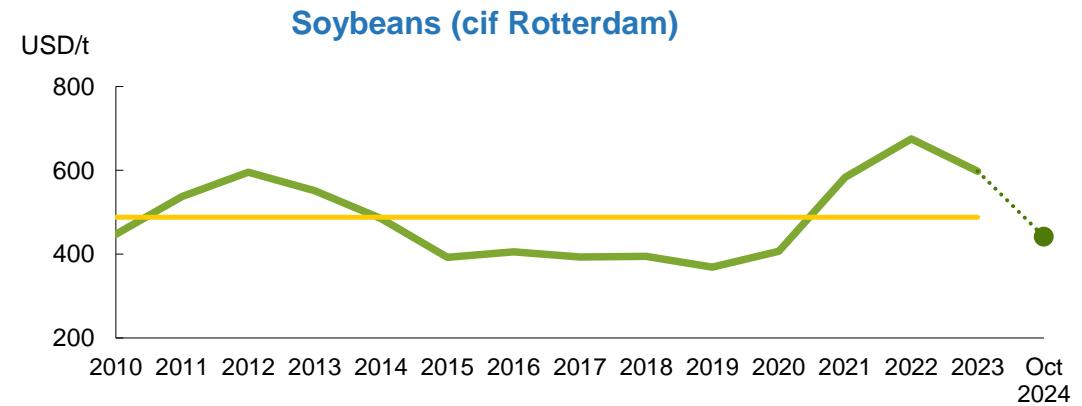
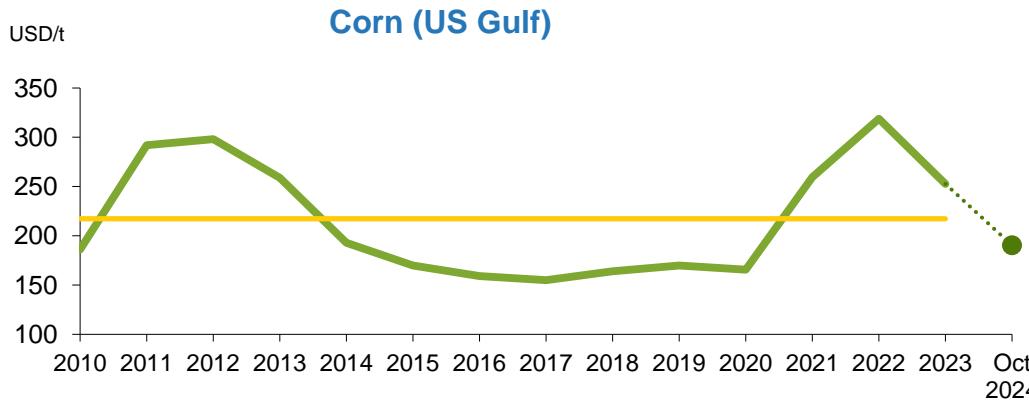
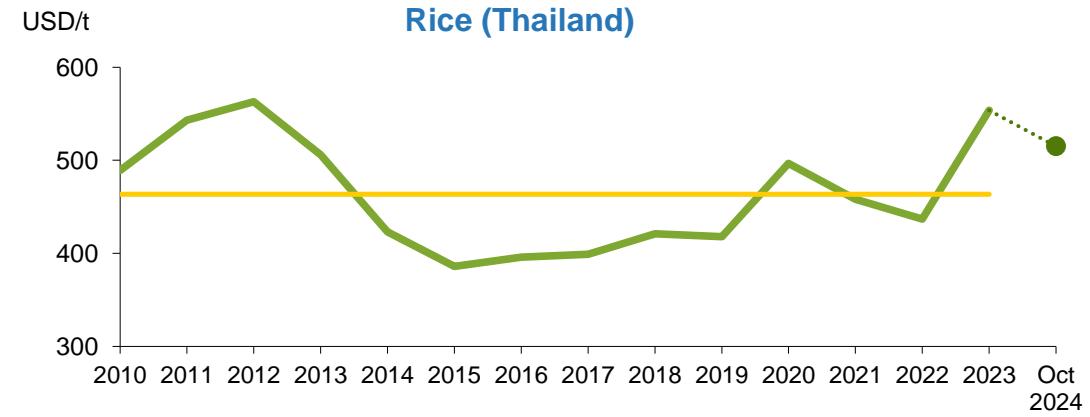
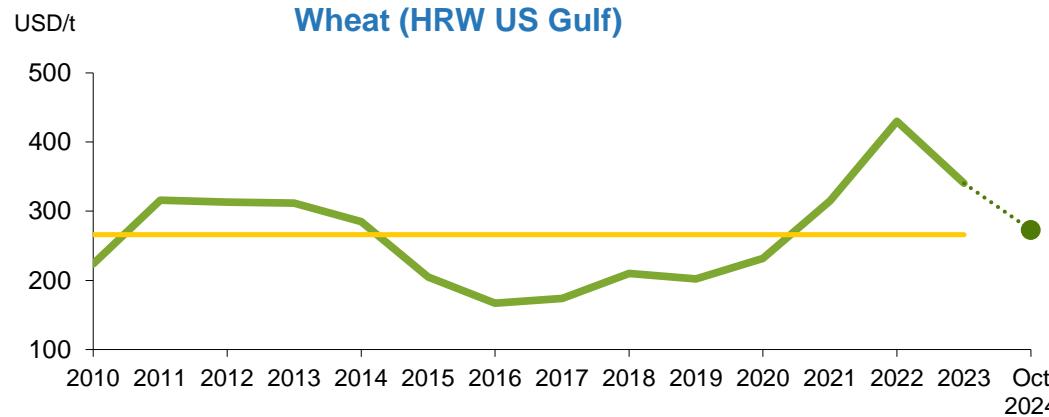
# Nitrate premium is mainly a function of crop prices



\* Urea fob Egypt sea adjusted for transport costs into Europe and nitrogen content similar to CAN

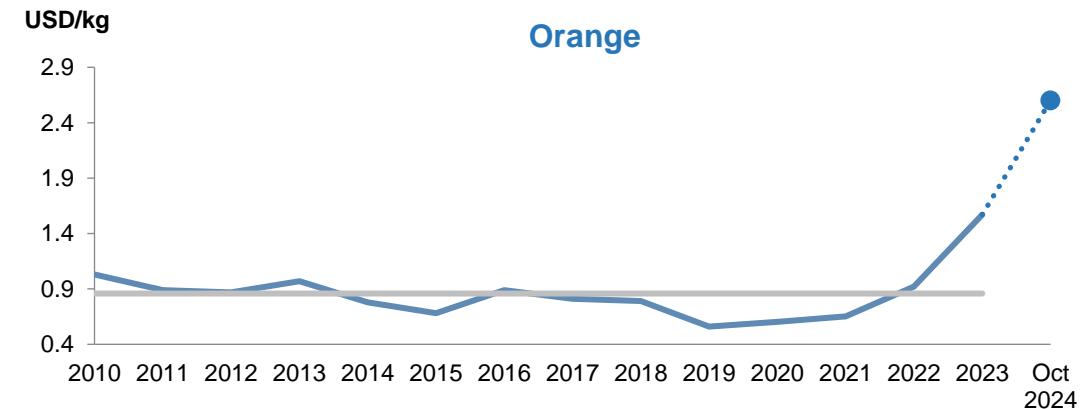
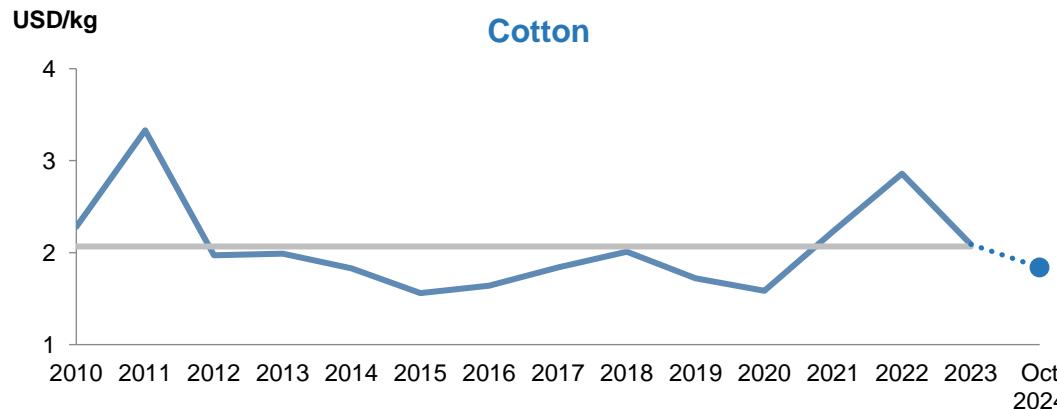
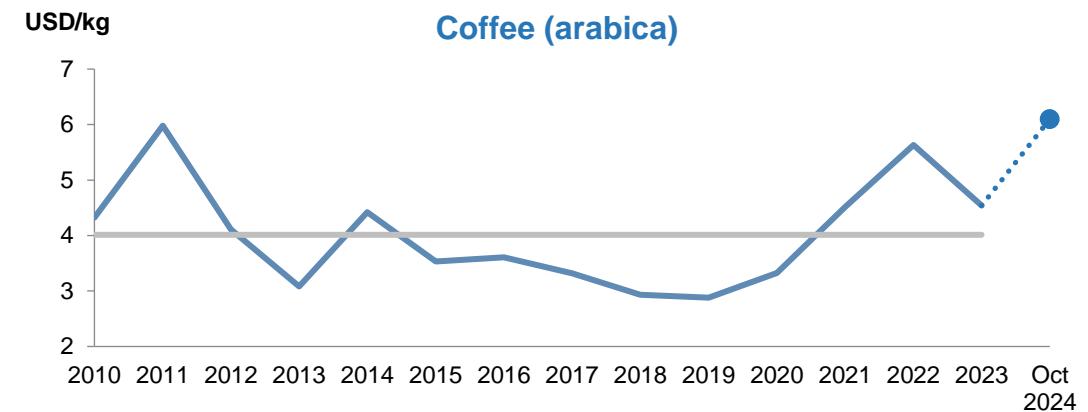
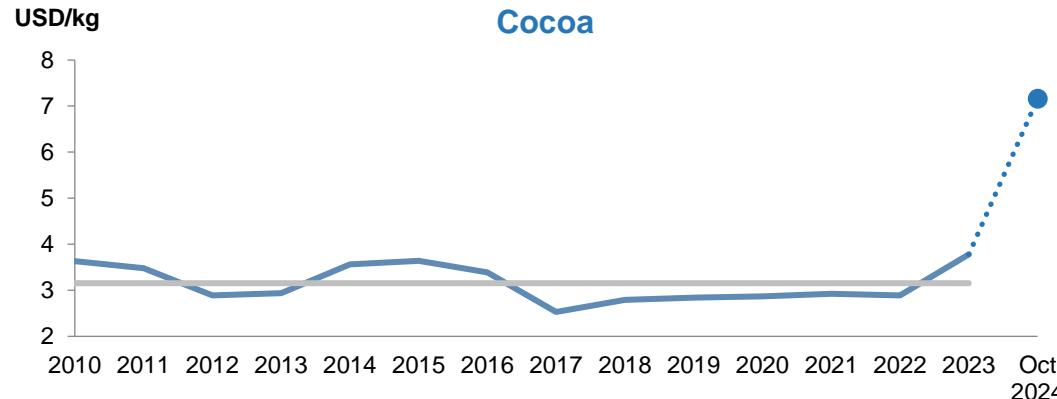
# Main agricultural commodity prices – yearly averages

— Average prices 2010- 2023

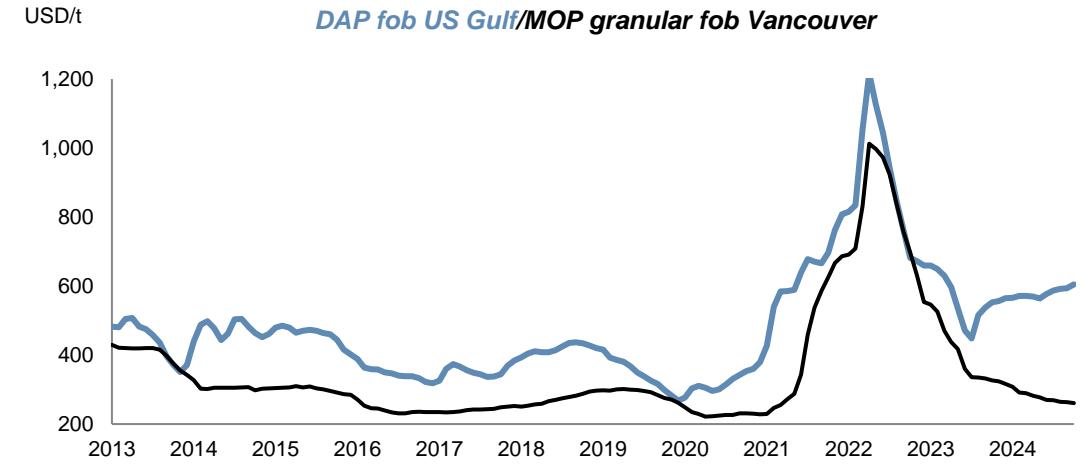
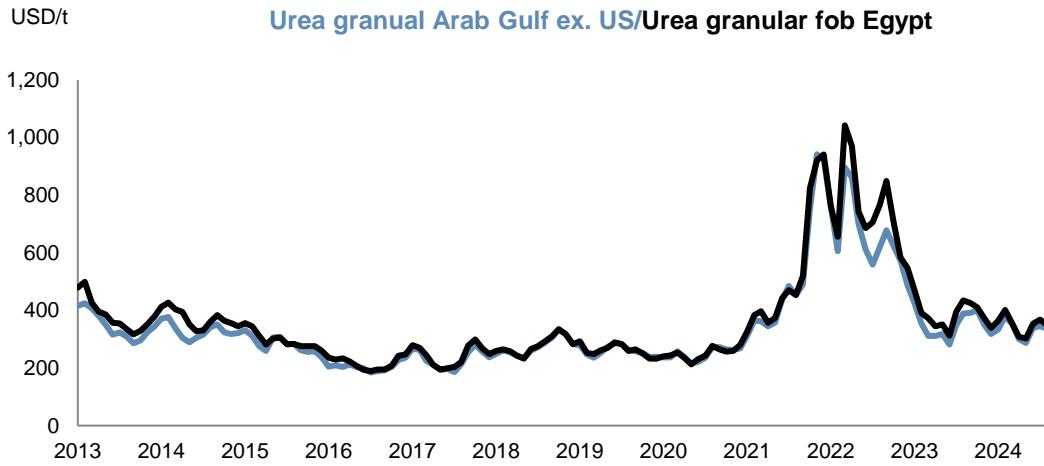
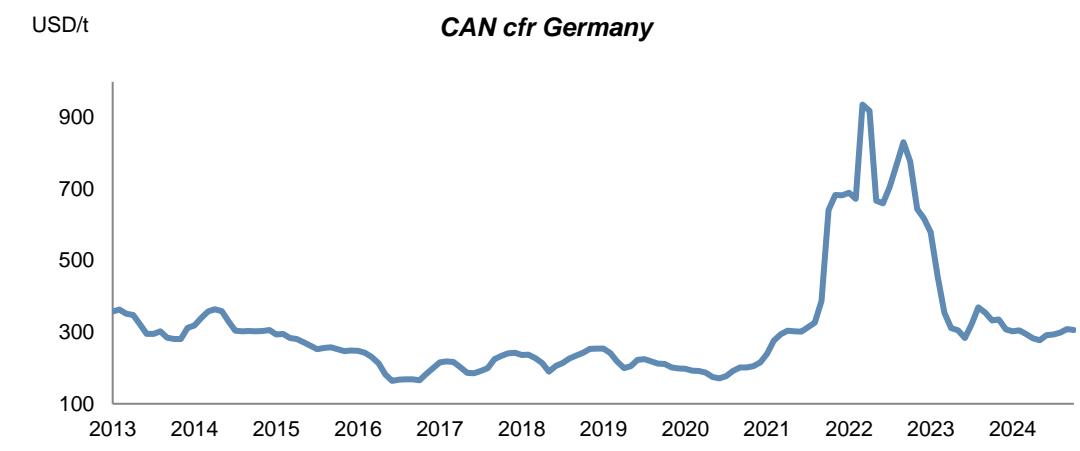
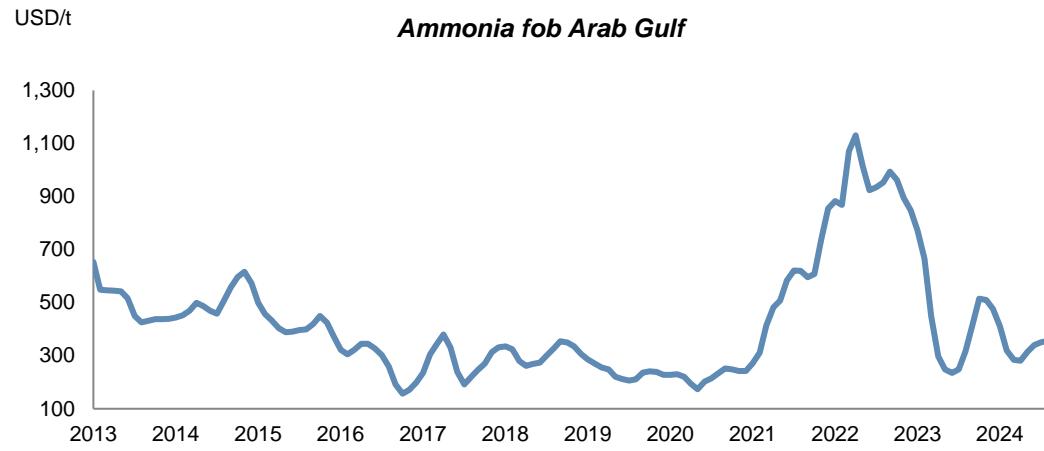


# Cash crop prices – yearly averages

— Average prices 2010 - 2023



# 10-year fertilizer prices – monthly averages

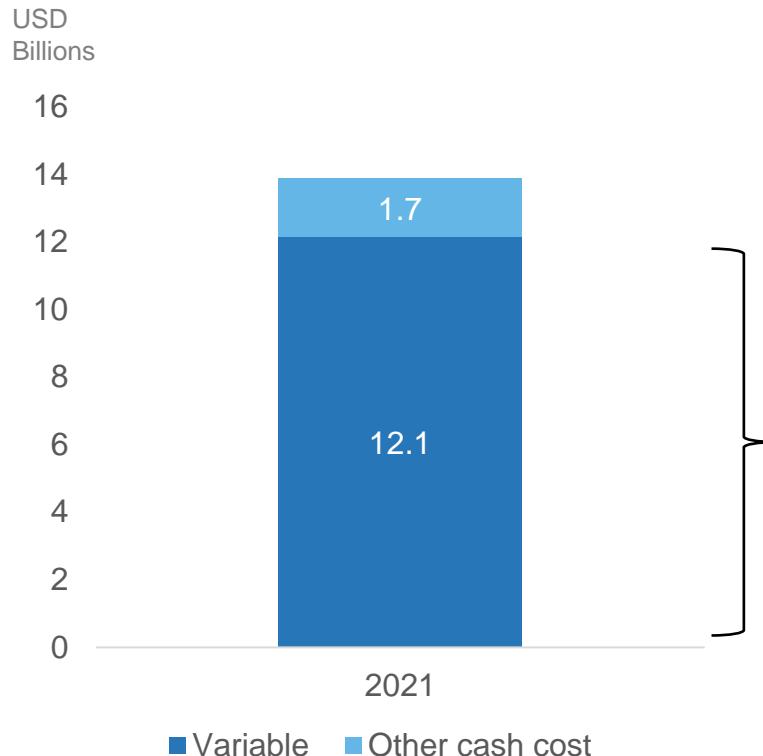


A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently holding a trifoliate leaf, likely a clover leaf, against a backdrop of green grass. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the leaf resting on the palm of the left hand and the fingers of the right hand supporting it. The background is a soft-focus view of a field of green grass.

# Production economics

# Yara's operating cash costs are mainly variable

## Operating cash cost 2021



### Other cash cost (12%)

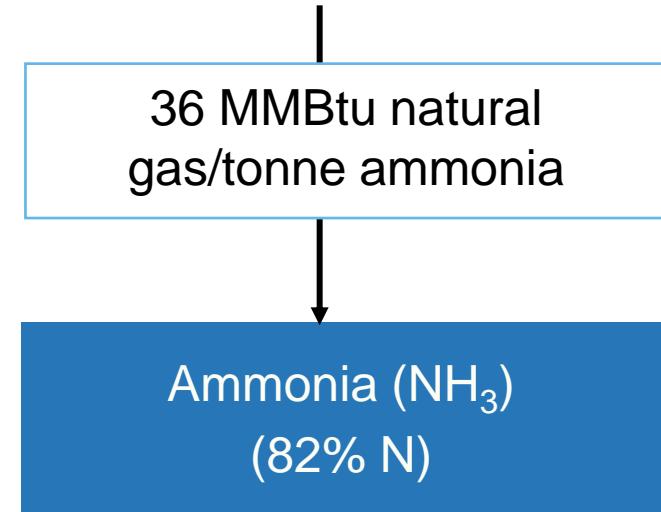
### Variable costs (88%)

- Dry raw materials
- Energy
- Freight
- 3rd party finished fertilizer

- Temporary plant closures can be carried out with limited stop/start costs
- Example for ammonia/urea plants:
  - Typically, half a week to stop and up to a week to start
  - Cost of stopping is 2 days energy consumption
  - Cost of starting is 3 days energy consumption

# Ammonia cash cost build-up – example

Gas price:	7	USD/MMBtu
x Gas consumption:	36	MMBtu/mt NH <sub>3</sub>
= Gas cost:	252	USD/mt NH <sub>3</sub>
+ Other prod. cost*:	39	USD/mt NH <sub>3</sub>
= Total cash cost:	291	USD/mt NH <sub>3</sub>
 Emissions <sup>1</sup> :	1.8-2.4	mtCO <sub>2</sub> /mt NH <sub>3</sub>



Typical natural gas consumption for ammonia production

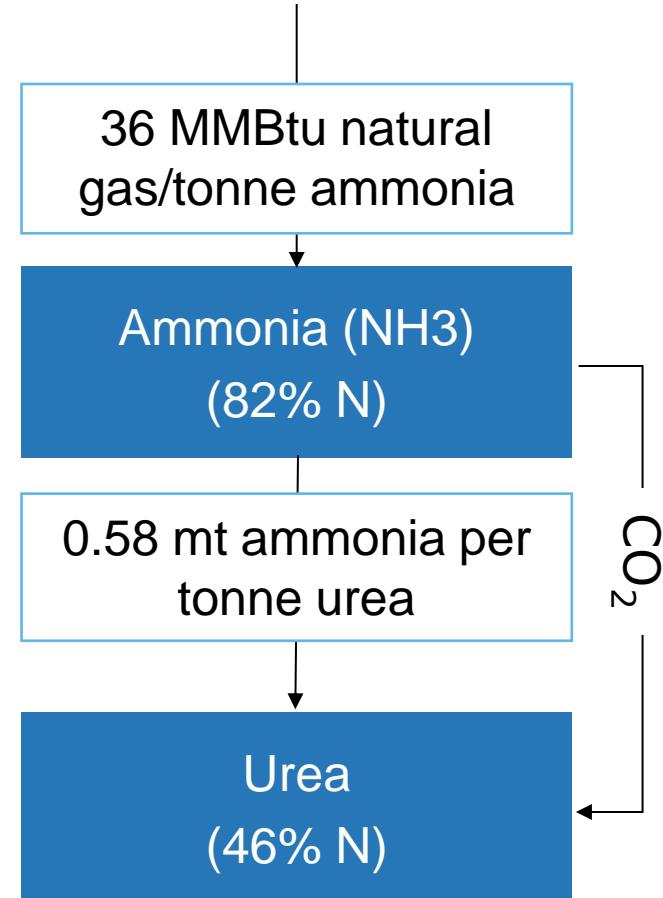
1) European ammonia production is exposed to a carbon/EU ETS cost. Currently each producer receives free allowances based on the current ammonia product benchmark of 1.57 mtCO<sub>2</sub>/mtNH<sub>3</sub> adjusted for historical activity level, cross sectoral correction factor and exchangeability of fuel and electricity.

# Urea cash cost build-up – example

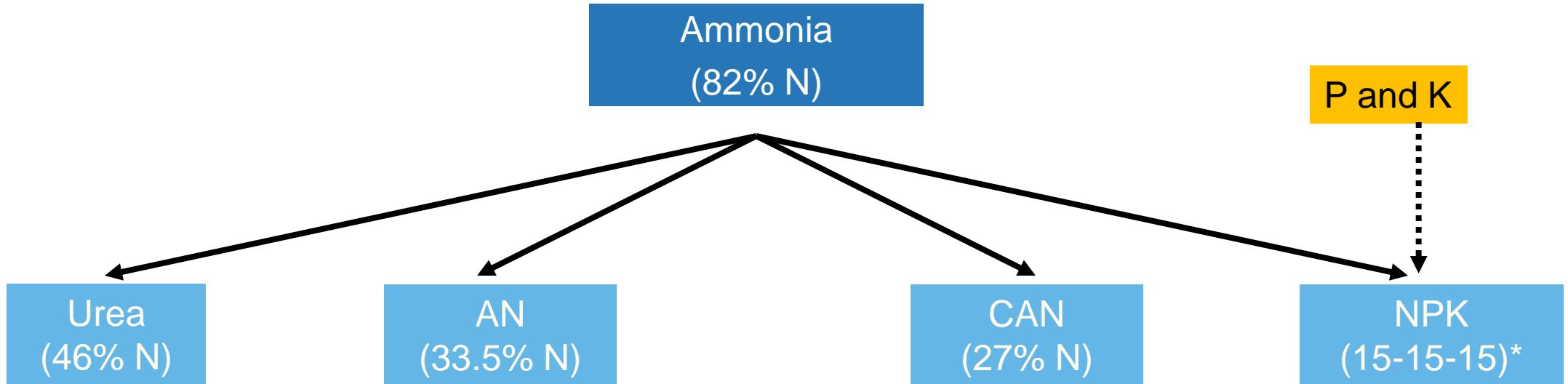
Ammonia cost:	291	USD/mt NH <sub>3</sub>
x Ammonia use:	0.58	NH <sub>3</sub> /mt urea
= Ammonia cost:	169	USD/mt urea
+ Process gas cost*:	36	USD/mt urea
+ Other prod. cost**:	46	USD/mt urea
= Total cash cost:	251	USD/mt urea

\* Process gas cost is linked to natural gas price, 5.2 MMBtu gas per 1 mt urea

\*\* Excl. freight & loading cost (~8 USD/t)



# Theoretical consumption factors

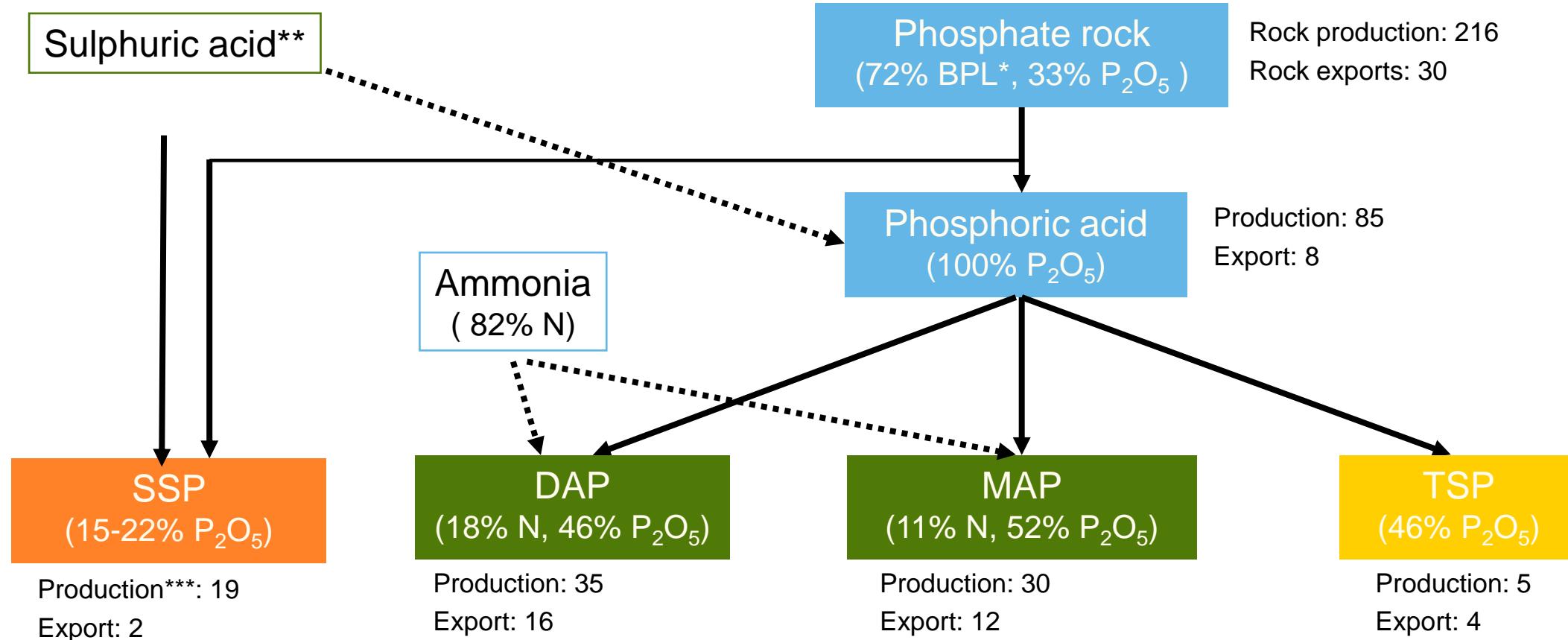


- Price comparisons should always be based on nutrient tons, not product tons

\* There are many NPK formulas; 15-15-15 is one example

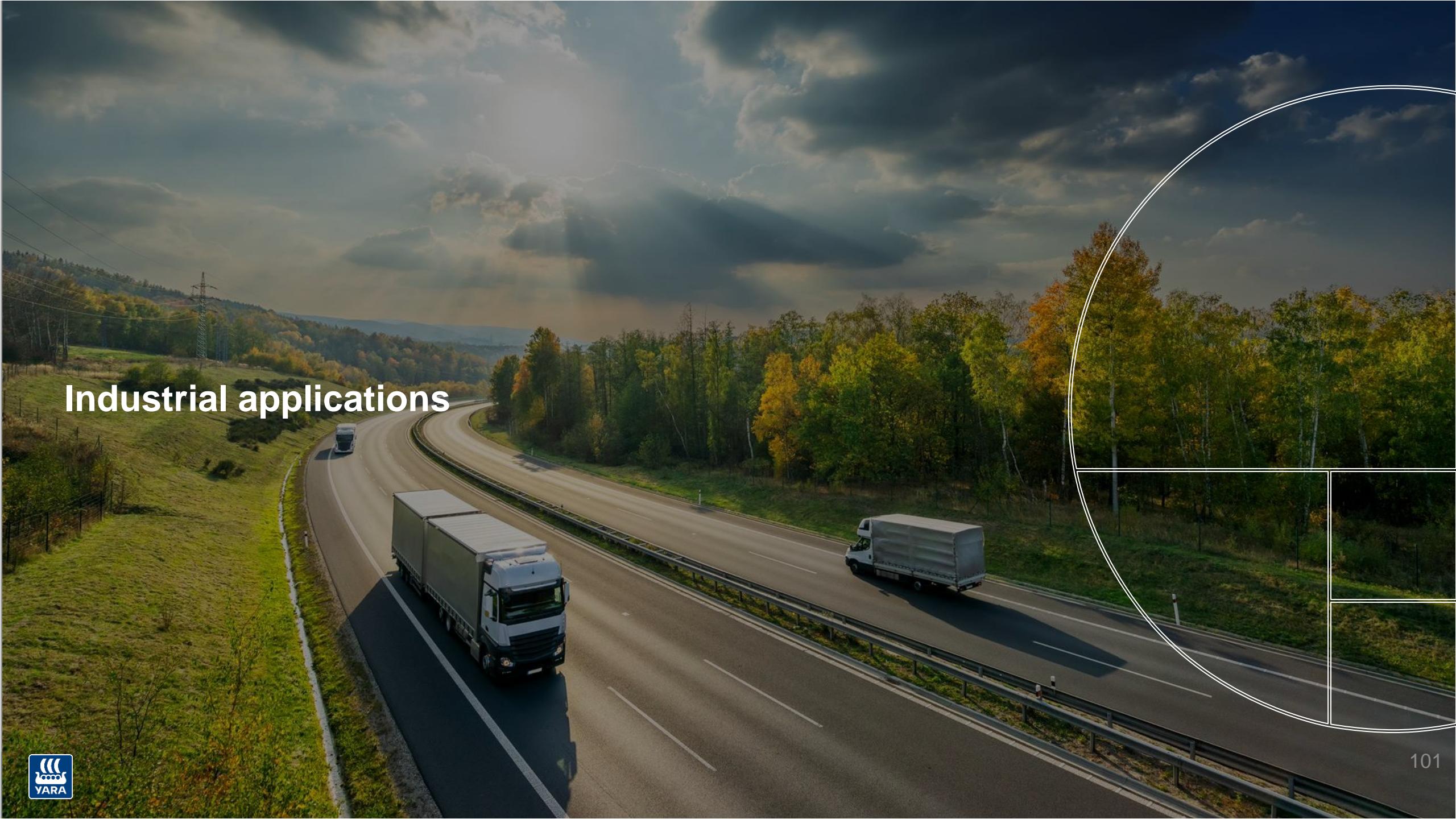
# Main phosphate processing routes

### 2023 production and exports, million tons product



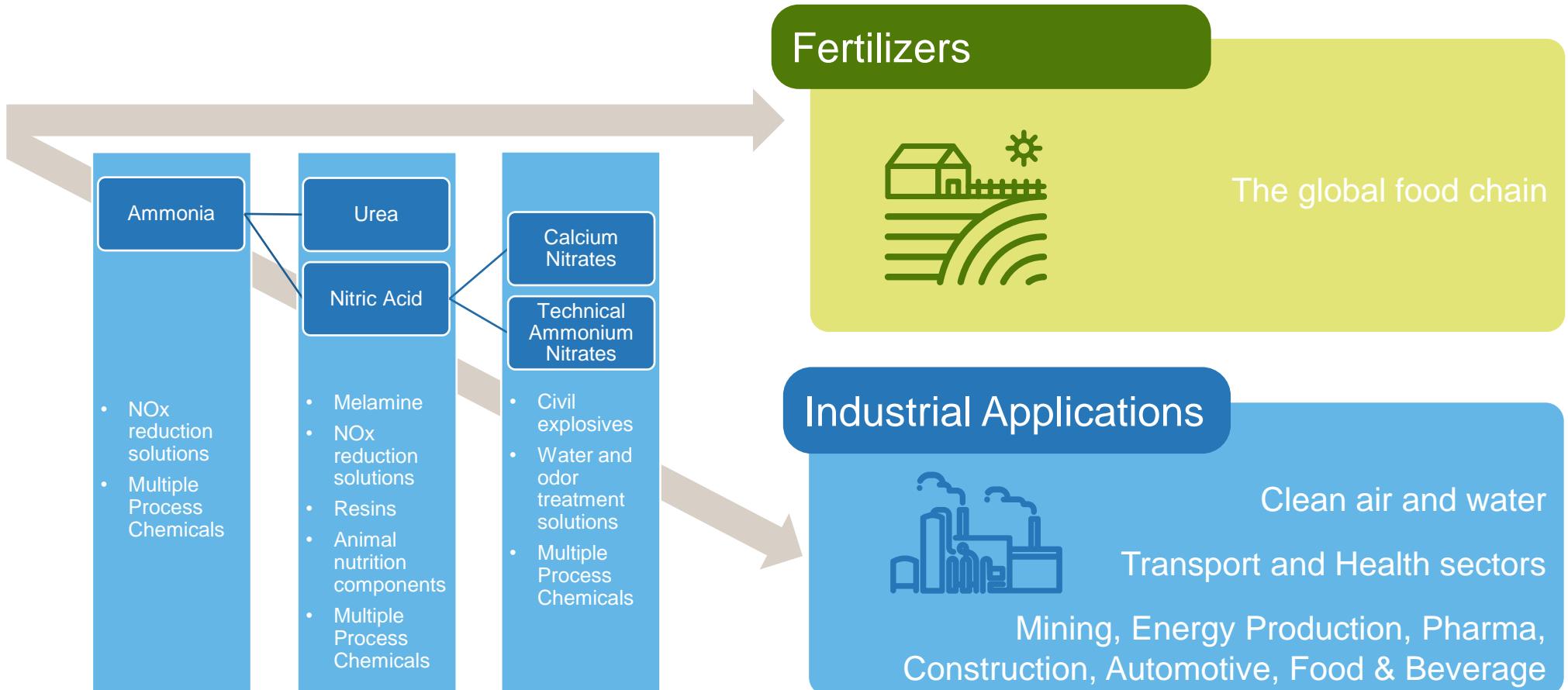
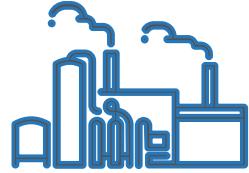
\* P2O5 content of phosphate rock varies. This is an example. \*\*\*2020 figures

\*\* 1 ton of phosphoric acid requires 1 ton of sulphur.

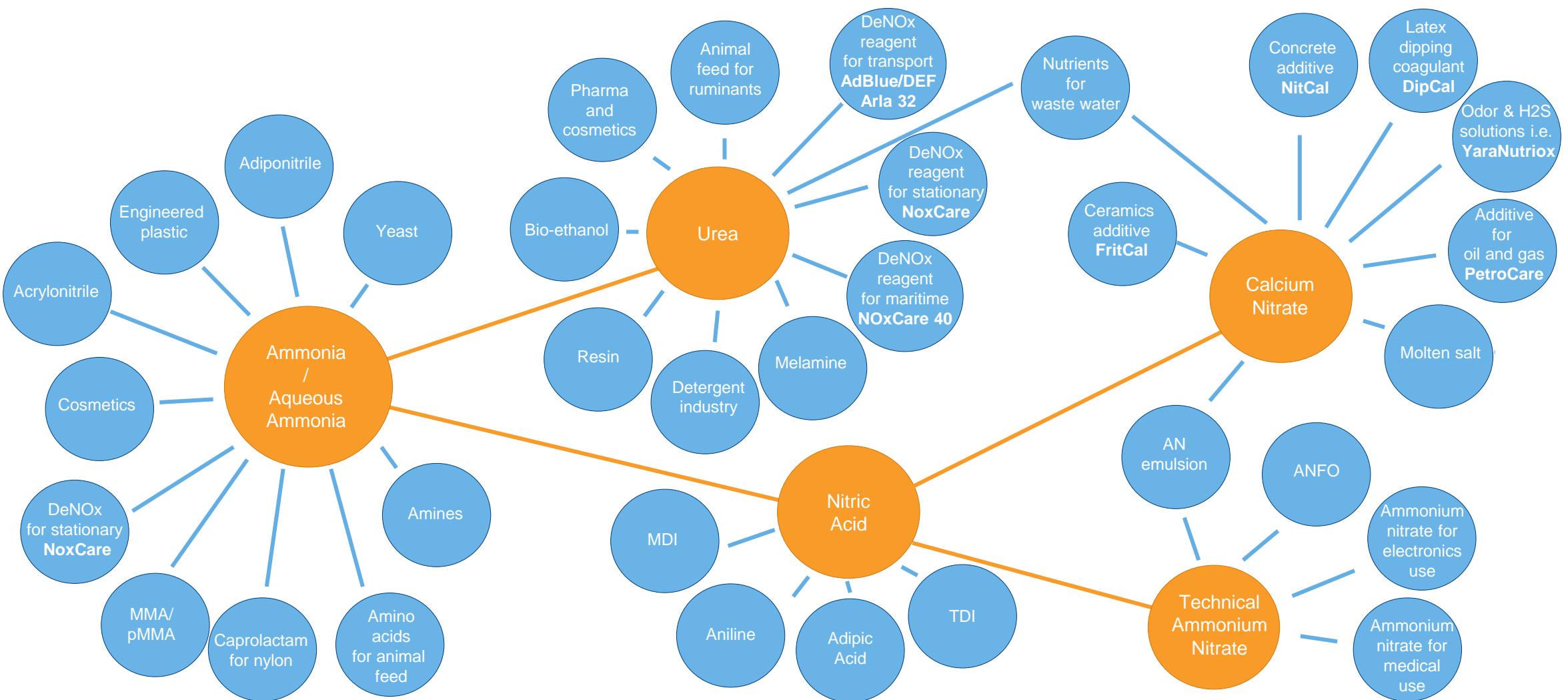


# Industrial applications

# Nitrogen is key for food production and indispensable in numerous industrial applications in addition to fertilizer

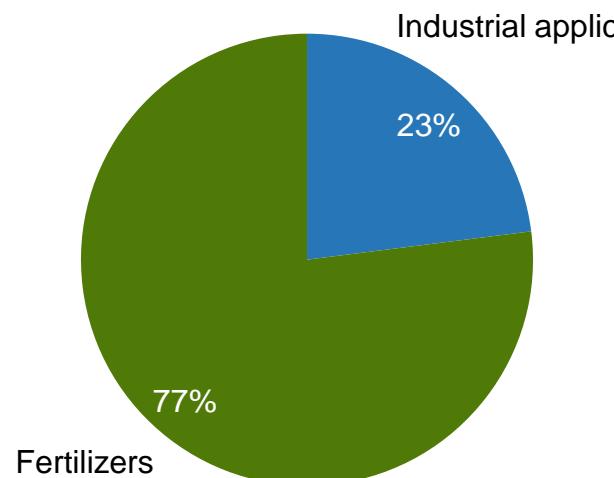


## **Nitrogen has many industrial applications**



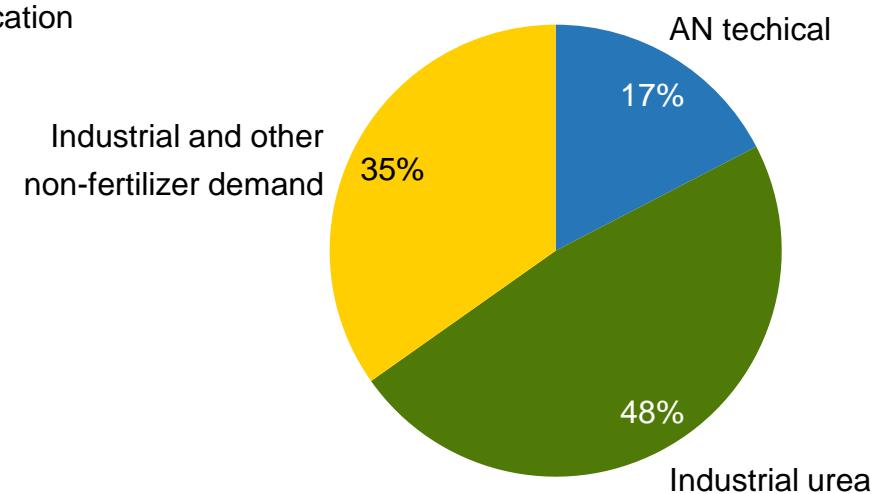
# Industrial use accounts for ~23% of global nitrogen consumption

Global ammonia consumption



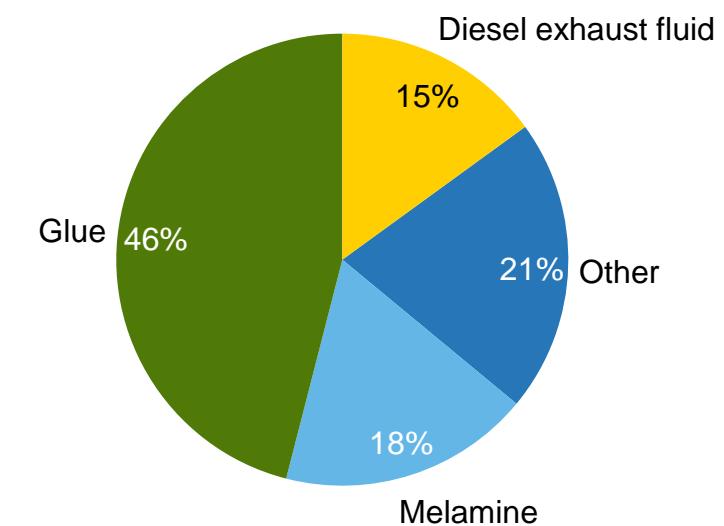
~ 197 mt ammonia

Industrial ammonia consumption



~45 mt ammonia

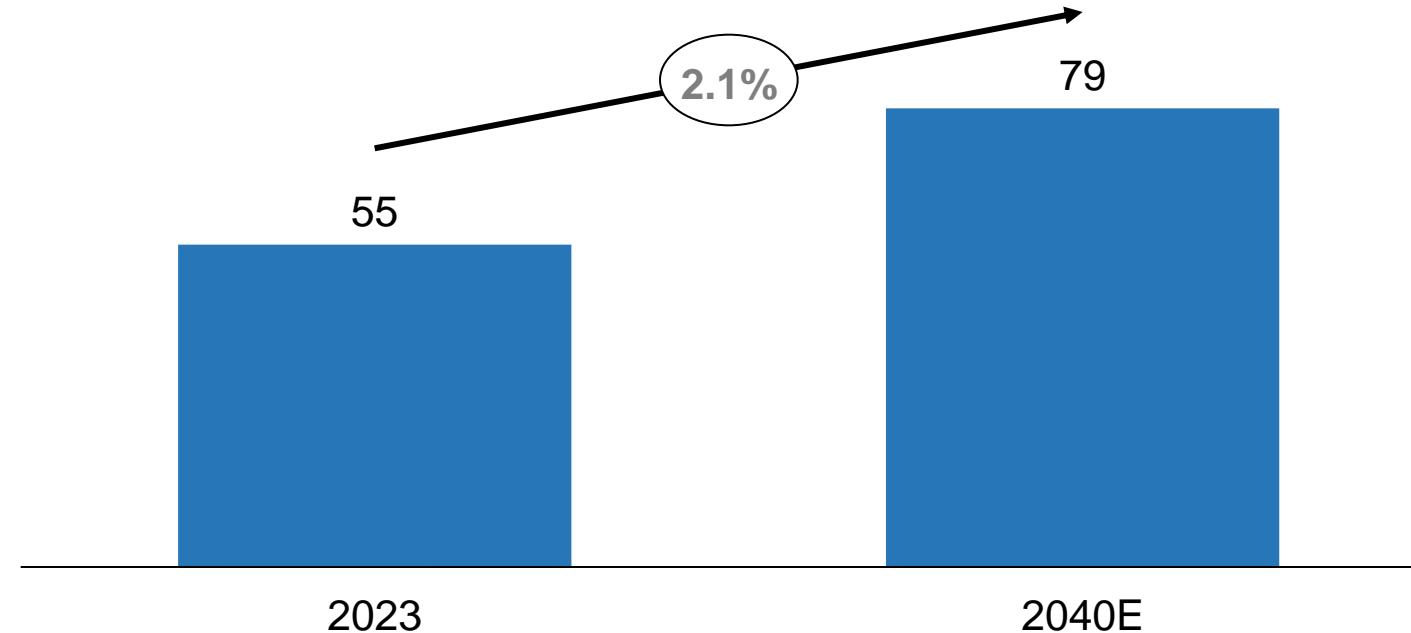
Technical grade urea consumption



~35 mt urea

# Global demand development for industrial nitrogen applications is strong

Million tonnes nitrogen



Demand growth for Industrial applications is estimated to ~2.1 % annually

# Reagents, technology and services to improve air quality

*Nitrogen oxides (NOx) are a major air quality issue causing serious problems mostly in urban centers related to both the environment and human health. Legislation around the world drives the business growth.*

- **Air 1™ AdBlue/DEF** is a generic name for urea-based solution (32.5% liquid urea) Air 1 is Yaras brand name for AdBlue that is used with the selective catalytic reduction system (SCR) to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen from the exhaust of diesel vehicles such as trucks, passenger cars and off-road vehicles
- **NOxcare™** As a world leader in reagents like urea and ammonia in combination with our experience in abatement systems like SNCR and SCR technology Yara offers its clients one of the most comprehensive and effective solutions to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in industrial power plants and utilities.



# Calcium nitrate applications in wastewater treatment, concrete manufacturing, oil fields and latex industries

- **Nutriox™** provides H2S prevention for Corrosion, Odor and Toxicity control of municipal and industrial wastewater systems
- **Nitcal™** is a multifunctional concrete admixture serving concrete admixtures companies around the world
- **PetroCare™** prevents well souring and supports drilling in oilfields around the world, for both the oil majors and the service companies that serve them
- **Dipcal™** is the premier dipping coagulant for the latex industry
- Other important applications are in the ceramics, bio-gas and solar CSP industries



# Technical Nitrates for Civil Explosives

- Various grades of Ammonium Nitrate and Calcium Nitrate for use in the civil explosives and mining industries
- Largest customer segments are civil explosives companies, open-pit coal and iron mining sectors



# Animal Feed industry with several nutritional products based on core chemicals

- **Feed Phosphates**

Macro-minerals such as phosphorus and calcium are essential elements to sustain healthy and productive animal growth

- **Feed Acidifiers**

Antimicrobial effect and lowering pH, replace AGP (antibiotic growth promoter) and effective against salmonella and moulds

- **Feed Urea**

Source of NPN (non-protein nitrogen) used by rumen micro-organisms forming proteins, replacing part of vegetable protein

- **Ammonia for fermentation**

Amino acids like lysine, methionine, and threonine are essential to add to lower the total use of protein





## Market Data Sources

# Sources of market information

## Fertilizer market information

- Argus [www.argusmedia.com](http://www.argusmedia.com)
- Fertecon – S&P Global Energy [www.spglobal.com](http://www.spglobal.com)
- Fertilizer Week [www.crugroup.com](http://www.crugroup.com)
- Profercy [www.profercy.com](http://www.profercy.com)
- ICIS/The Market [www.icis.com](http://www.icis.com)
- Green Markets (USA) [www.fertilizerpricing.com](http://www.fertilizerpricing.com)
- China Fertilizer Market Week [www.fertmarket.com](http://www.fertmarket.com)

## Fertilizer industry associations

- International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) [www.fertilizer.org](http://www.fertilizer.org)
- Fertilizers Europe (EFMA) [www.fertilizerseurope.com](http://www.fertilizerseurope.com)

## Food and grain market information

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
- International Grain Council [www.igc.org.uk](http://www.igc.org.uk)
- Chicago Board of Trade [www.cmegroup.com](http://www.cmegroup.com)
- World Bank commodity prices [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



Knowledge grows

