

Healthy soil – healthy food:

Low-cadmium phosphate fertilizers are key for sustainable agriculture



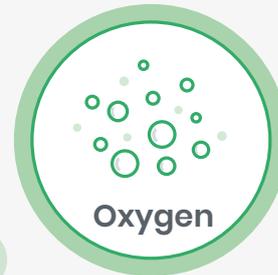
Soil health is fundamental for food production. To grow, plants need:



Water



Essential nutrients



Oxygen



NITROGEN



PHOSPHORUS



POTASSIUM

Phosphate is the natural source of phosphorus, an element that provides a quarter of all the nutrients that plants need for their growth and development. Phosphates are necessary to feed the world's growing population.

Cadmium occurs naturally in some rocks mined for phosphate fertilizers. While some fertilizers contain low levels of cadmium, others contain very high levels. Usage of such fertilizers can lead to the accumulation of Cadmium in agricultural land. The heavy metal ends up in the food chain, exposing general populations to incurable diseases such as kidney failure or bone demineralization.

Food regulation has already begun to encompass the control of Cadmium content in fertilizers, but more needs to be done to protect the human food chain.

Phosphates with lower levels of Cadmium provide the prospects for a safer and more sustainable agriculture.