

## **Statement from Barrie Bain, International Fertilizer Association:**

I am Barrie Bain, Senior Advisor on UN Affairs for the International Fertilizer Association.

We welcome the inclusion of a management of fertilizers component to 2.4.1 and appreciate the refinements that have taken place during the process.

Using fertilizers, both organic and mineral, safely and in an environmentally sustainable way, is essential for food security and farmer income. We are therefore very concerned that the green (desirable) sustainability criteria includes the statement "the farm does not use fertilizers..". This is neither green nor desirable. Not using fertilizers leads to a fall in crop yields, reduction in farmer income and soil degradation, Not using fertilizers thus has a negative impact on Theme 1 – land productivity, Theme 2 - profitability, Theme 3 – resilience, Theme 8 - Biodiversity and Theme 10 - food security.

Not using fertilizers is neither productive nor sustainable and so goes against the spirit of indicator 2.4.1.

Fertilizers, both organic and mineral, when used correctly, do not present an environmental threat, and the risk management suggestions in the FAO draft are very sensible. Not using organic and mineral and synthetic fertilizers to replace the nutrients that are extracted from the soil by crops is not sustainable and should play no part in an indicator that promotes productive and sustainable agriculture.

The fix is simple; in the green criteria delete "does not use fertilizers" tweaking the second part of the green criteria to read "The farm only uses fertilizers taking specific measures to mitigate environmental risks (at least four from the list above)".