

## The Problem

World reference in Agriculture Production Brazil is the fourth largest consumer of fertilizers in the world, but only the sixth largest producer. Over half of the fertilizers consumed in the country are imported. Fertilizers represent 50% of the cost of some agricultural production systems. On the other hand, large amounts of nutrients that are applied via fertilizer are wasted, which suggest a great potential for improving the use efficiency due good management practices and by the development of more efficient fertilizers. Even facing this scenario, few innovations have been observed in recent decades in relation to fertilizers technologies, especially to adapt them to tropical production systems.

## Mission

Develop, evaluate, validate and transfer technology in fertilizers adapted to tropical agroecosystems, which helps to increase nutrient use efficiency and introduction of new sources of nutrients in Brazilian agriculture.

## Vision

To be a reference in the generation of technological bases, and in the agronomic and environmental evaluation of new fertilizers adapted to tropical agroecosystems.

Strategies: Best practices for the efficient use of fertilizers, identification of alternative sources of nutrients for Brazilian agriculture.

## Strategies

- Good practices for the efficient use of fertilizers;
- Identification of alternative sources of nutrients for Brazilian agriculture;
- New technologies in fertilizer.

## Action Strategy

The FertBrasil network is structured into five actions. Each one represent a stage of research, development and innovation.

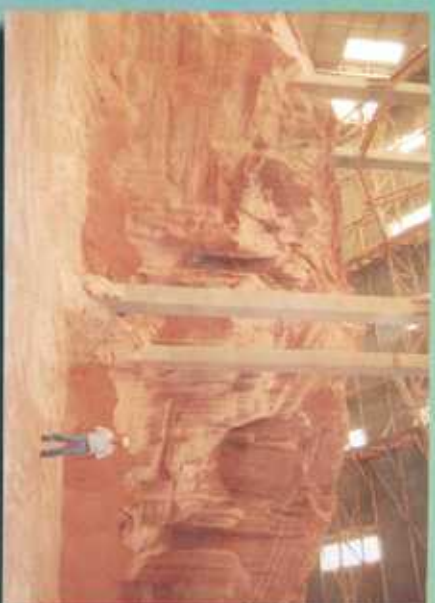


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## Action Strategy

### Management

Its main objective is the technical and financial administration of the project. It will also strengthen the research structure through training and technical meetings and, especially, bring the private sector close to research, directing efforts to resolve practical issues, enabling the development and validation of products useful to society.

### Technological Basis

Aims to solve technological limitations related to different fields of knowledge concerning the development of new fertilizers, and such restrictions were prospected with the private sector and research bodies.

### Efficiency and Validation

Responsible for the implementation of national networks of agronomic field evaluation of fertilizer technologies. It will validate new products, as well as those available in the market, according to the protocols defined by the technical staff of the Network, following the standards set by Brazilian committees of products (soybeans, corn, etc.).

### Environmental Impact and Quality of Food

Will assess the environmental impact of fertilizer use and food quality produced. Thus, the network provides not only the development of technologies but also their evaluation and validation strategies enabling the transfer of those technologies.

### Innovation and Technology Transfer

This is where it's forecast the analysis of patents bases and legislation, the demand zoning and the technical feasibility studies and shares of technology transfer. This project will set a business plan pattern for the specific segment of fertilizers.

The FertBrasil Network is a research project coordinated by the **Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation - Embrapa** – in partnership with many institutions of education and research. The main goals are the development, evaluation, validation and transference of products and processes that help to increase the nutrient use efficiency and introduce new sources of nutrients in Brazilian agriculture. The **FertBrasil Network** is the leading research action that will contribute to the technological development of the National Fertilizer Plan, of the Brazilian Federal Government.

The Network is compound by 210 researchers from different fields of knowledge, out of these, 130 are from 22 research centers of Embrapa. Also present at FertBrasil and fundamental to its success is the partnership with universities, research centers and cooperatives, besides the participation of 22 private companies of the fertilizer industry.



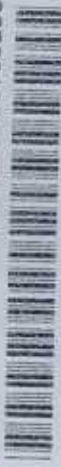
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