

Global TraPs First World Conference

“Learning from Cases – Exploring Policy Options”

to be held in conjunction with the
Fifth International Nutrient Management Symposium
under the auspices of the
Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)
Beijing, China • June 18-20, 2013
*Hosted by
China Agricultural University
with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education
People's Republic of China*



You are invited to attend the Global TraPs 1st World Conference, which will be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China June 18-20, 2013. The conference will be hosted by the China Agricultural University with support from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education. Day one of the conference will be dedicated to Global TraPs Mutual Learning and Dialogue Sessions with days two and three being a joint conference with the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM).

Goals of the conference: 'Learning from Case Studies – Exploring Policy Options'

The 1st Global TraPs World Conference opens a new stage of a transdisciplinary discourse on sustainable phosphorus management. This world conference will focus on two goals.

First, the conference will continue and intensify the mutual learning process among key stakeholders from the global phosphorus supply-demand chain and top scientists who conduct research on different aspects of phosphorus use. Based on the results of the first four Global TraPs Workshops in 2011 and 2012, critical questions on sustainable phosphorus use were identified. The first day of the Conference will offer Mutual Learning Sessions (MLS) in which small groups of 12-20 practitioners and scientists will deal with selected cases to gain a better understanding of how answers to these critical questions may be developed and what means may be taken in each case (recognizing specific constraints) to improve phosphorus use. The Conference will include MLS on Chinese cases (e.g. a biotech company, smallholder farmers' phosphorus use, recycling of phosphorus from sewage plants, sustainable mining) as well as International Cases (e.g. over- and underuse of phosphorus by smallholder farmers in Vietnam or Kenya, assessment of phosphorus pollution in the Manila Bay area, etc.). We are currently elaborating the MLS that will take place.

Further, there may be a set of topics which call for an open discourse among key stakeholders to explore. For example, What policy means may be necessary for promoting recycling of phosphorus? What (environmental) standards should be applied for different recycling option? How may the supply security of phosphorus be judged and how may phosphorus insecurity be avoided? For answering these questions, the Conference will offer Dialogue Sessions (DS). As suggested by these examples, DS primarily serve to discuss and explore policy options. In both, MLS & DS certain rules are required for transdisciplinary processes. For instance, MLS & DS are 'protected discourse arenas', meaning that nothing formulated or discussed during the sessions may be cited or externally communicated without involved parties' permission.

Second, the use of phosphorus as a nutrient is a major focus. However, it is clear that the transitioning of phosphorus to sustainable phosphorus use must be seen in relation to other macronutrients (nitrogen and potash) as well as secondary and micronutrients. Therefore, the second and the third day of the 1st Global TraPs World Conference will be jointly held with the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM). During these sessions, additional basic principles of transdisciplinarity will be evidenced through; co-leadership of each session by representatives of practice and science and the multi-stakeholder approach to problem solving. Information exchange provided through the interaction of experts from practice and science, as well as policy will continue on the second and third day with the identification of initial recommendations that will ultimately contribute to sustainable phosphorus use.

Why phosphorus?

In recent years phosphorus has been at the center of six widely discussed complex, global and societally relevant issues:

1. Phosphorus is essential (i.e. cannot be substituted by another mineral element) to current and future food security; however, the supply of phosphate rock is finite.
2. Excess phosphorus can cause critical negative environmental impacts, particularly in freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems while phosphorus underuse contributes to land degradation.

3. There is evidence for a very low efficiency and significant losses in mining, beneficiation, processing and in instances of improper use.
4. The recycling of phosphorus from manure and sewage may be increased and the reuse of food residues and food waste improved to close the anthropogenically induced phosphorus cycle.
5. Financial and trade issues recognize that more effective and efficient technologies for use in the phosphate mining-processing-use-recycling chain must be developed.
6. Small farmers' limited access to phosphorus (in some parts of the world) has a detrimental impact on food production and requires consideration from a social equity perspective.

Who should participate in MLS and DS sessions?

The key idea of transdisciplinarity is that robust orientations on improving phosphorus use requires knowledge input from key stakeholders engaged in the supply-demand chain. These stakeholders are well placed to incorporate their experiences and know the constraints faced in promoting or preventing more efficient phosphorus use. Knowledge from practice experts should be complemented by top scientists who may provide technological, natural science and social sciences expertise in order to assure that the proposed new orientations will be representative of state of the art science. Thus, participants are challenged to think about to what aspect of Exploration, Mining, Processing, Use, Recycling & Dissipation and the cross-cutting issues (i.e. Trade and Finance) they have faced and plan to contribute in a Mutual-Learning Session (MLS) or Dialogue Session (DS) based on their own experiences. The list of MLS & DS is under construction (see <http://www.globaltraps.ch/MLS-DS.html>). Active, open, and trustful collaboration is expected for all who participate in MLS & DS (<http://www.globaltraps.ch/engagement.html>). By participating, attendees will contribute to the guiding question of Global TraPs: "What new knowledge, technologies and policy options are needed to ensure that future phosphorus use is sustainable, improves food security and environmental quality and provides benefits for the poor?"

How to apply for a MLS or DS?

There are a limited numbers of scientists and practitioners who may participate in each of the MLS & DS sessions. MLS will be limited to about 15 participants, one-third from China and two-thirds from the international community of practitioners and scientists. Dialogue sessions should not include more than 20 participants. The reason for limiting the number of participants in these sessions is that both MLS & DS sessions require significant preparation and interaction prior to the conference. There will be a booklet prepared for each MLS and DS and the participants of the sessions will be included in the preparation of the booklet, e.g. by sharing information and identifying questions they wish to discuss. In order to allow for in-depth deliberation of the answers to the questions and to actively involve all participants, the number must be limited. The organizer of each MLS and DS will take care that expertise will be balanced to the extent possible between science and practice. Given that some MLS and DS may be overbooked, we request you to indicate a first and a second choice for a MLS or DS on the registration form for the three day conference at (<http://www.globaltraps.ch/registration.html>) and to register early.

How to apply for a stipend?

The organizers of the 1st Global TraPs World conference will offer a limited number of travel stipends for members of NGOs, farmers, scientists, PhD students, etc. Four levels of stipends will be available including: i) full reimbursement of travel expenses; ii) 50 percent reimbursement of travel expenses; iii) reimbursement of local costs in China for conference fee and overnight accommodations and iv) waiver of conference fee. To apply for stipends please follow instructions on the website at (<http://www.globaltraps.ch/stipends.html>).

Registration and conference fee?

This conference takes place in Beijing, China June 18-20th. Participants will have the option of registering for the three day conference (including the first day [June 18] devoted to Global TraPs MLS and DS) or only for the two day joint conference (June 19-20) being conducted by GPNM and Global TraPs. The full three day registration fee will be \$400, while the two day registration fee for the joint conference will be \$300.

To register please visit the Global TraPs website at (<http://www.globaltraps.ch/registration.html>). For participants planning to engage in the MLS and DS session, please indicated your first and second choices for the case study or dialogue session of interest (see Table 1 below). Due to the limited space in these sessions, participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Successful applicants for the MLS and DS sessions will be informed by the Global TraPs management group prior to being contacted by the organizer of the session. Registration will be open until May 15, 2013. Information on payment of registration fees, accommodations and conference contacts will be forwarded by March 15, 2013.

Conference Schedule –Main Sessions

The first (MLS & DS) day of the three day conference will be dedicated to Global TraPs and its transdisciplinary approach. Transdisciplinarity is defined as joint problem solving among science, technology and society. Both MLS and DS support transdisciplinarity by promoting mutual learning and authentic collaboration between all stakeholders. In general, a MLS deals with a specific real world case which allows for an in-depth understanding of the complexity associated with the identification of successful sustainable transition. Most important is the selection of a case and understanding the specific context, interest, and perspectives from which a case is viewed. Cases for the MLS in Beijing include both Chinese and international cases that should help to answer the critical questions identified in previous Global TraPs workshops.

Dialogue sessions typically address a specific topic, theme, phenomenon or concern. With phosphorus, topics center on the volatility of phosphorus prices, policies that promote accessibility or recycling, means for enhancing supply security, etc. Like the MLS, the DS allows for each topic to be considered and discussed from the different perspectives prior to framing an overall mutual understanding of the topic and the eventual formulation of options and policies that support sustainability. Planned MLS and DS for the Global TraPs 1st World Conference are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Planned MLS & DS: Global TraPs First World Conference Day 1 (June 18, 2013)

MLS based on Chinese Case Studies		
Type of Session	Subject	Case
MLS 1.1	Manure	P use and recycling in animal productions: The case of Beilangzhuang hoggerly.
MLS 1.2	Bio-tech processing	Practice and sustainable visions the Beijing Goldenway Biology Tech Co., Ltd
MLS 1.3	Sewage	Practice and options for better phosphorus recycling in the Changping or Xiaojiahe sewage plant
MLS 1.4	Vegetable	Innovations on phosphorus management in Changping vegetable base – The Science-Technology-Practice Backyard (STP-BY) approach

MLS 1.5	Crops	Integrated phosphorus management in Beilanzhuang crop production – The Science-Technology-Practice Backyard STP-BY) approach ¹
MLS based on International Case Studies		
MLS 2.1 ²	Kenya-cereals	Improving smallholder participation in the value chain through access to phosphorus fertilizers—a Td Multi-Stakeholder Process
MLS 2.2	Vietnam-urban agriculture	Phosphorus overuse and underuse by Vietnamese Smallholders—a Td Multi-Stakeholder Process
MLS 2.3	Malaysia-palm oil	Increasing P use efficiency & reducing its environmental footprint in oil palm production via. use of “calcined” phosphates from sewage sludge & biomass ash as P source
MLS 2.4	Manila-detergents	Contribution of detergents to P levels in Laguna Bay and Manila Bay
MLS 2.5	Sustainable mining	Benchmarking for sustainable phosphorus mining; a joint ‘industry to industry’ and ‘industry to science’ dialogue among mining companies and scientists
Dialogue Sessions		
DS 3.1	Subsidies and smallholder access to P fertilizer	Subsidies for smallholder access to P fertilizers
DS 3.2	Recycling supportive policy means	Policy reforms to promote innovations and P recycling
DS 3.3	Phosphorus supply security	Phosphorus supply security, resources, reserves and fertilizers
DS 3.4	Evaluating technology innovation in recycling	Recycling from a wide range of waste products such as gypsum, manure, sewage with discussions current technologies and evaluation criteria for recycling technologies
DS 3.5	Technology innovation in fertilizers	Options for improving the production and use of mineral fertilizers and the need for balanced fertilization and integrated soil fertility management will be discussed

¹ The STP-BY approach is a type of transdisciplinary process developed at the CAU. MLS 1.4 and 1.5 may be merged into one case if registrations for these two cases are not sufficient to run two case studies.

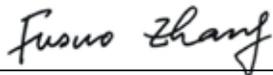
² Both, MLS 2.1 and MLS 2.2 make reference to cases of the SMAP (Smallholder Access to Phosphorus) project financed by Syngenta Foundation. In both cases transdisciplinary processes the interaction of agro.-input providers (traders) and farmers as key elements of the supply-demand chain are focused. The MLS 2.1 and 2.2 will partly overlap or merged in case of too few registrations

Day 2 (June 19th) of the Conference will be the first day of the joint Global TraPs-GPNM conference activity and will formally open with a welcome from the conference organizers and hosts followed by a keynote address by Professor Klaus Töpfer. Professor Töpfer is currently the Executive Director of the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies (Potsdam, Germany). Prior to this assignment, he served as the Under- Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (1998-2006). Professor Töpfer's address will center on the role of nutrients in providing the "Future We Want". Beginning mid-morning the first plenary will set the scene and define the challenges associated with sustainable nitrogen and phosphorus use. The afternoon plenary will be devoted to addressing current and anticipated challenges through technological and management innovations and discussions on the role of policies and legislations as viewed by representatives of government, the science community and private sector industries.

The final day (Day 3) of the conference begins with presentation of the outcomes of the MLS and DS, followed by international presentations representative of the role of national, regional and international agencies in addressing nutrient management challenges. After lunch, participants will convene for a plenary featuring a panel discussion led by policymakers. These discussions will encourage multi-stakeholder dialogues, consensus building and defining a common agenda. The final plenary session of the conference will center on presentation of key outcomes/ conclusions of the meeting including initial policy options proposed for improving nutrient management and nutrient use efficiency and identifying the role of various stakeholders.

Preparation for the Conference is well underway and remains focused on providing a forum for the global exchange of information and experiences. Once completed, the transition to practices and policies that result in more efficient and sustainable use of nutrients will be one step closer. We hope to see you in Beijing.

Sincerely,



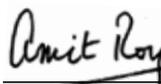
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