

# International Launch of the first ever climate change protocol rewarding farmers for good practices in Canada

## Backgrounder

### The benefits of NERP

- **For farmers**
  - If they meet the criteria outlined in NERP they could qualify for an offset credit up to \$12 per hectare (up to \$5 per acre). They would also be improving the economics of their farm while doing the right thing in reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- **For industry**
  - Once implemented, NERP would be a source of creditable and secure offset credits. These, of course, could be purchased or traded in the growing carbon marketplace.
- **For government**
  - In the Kyoto protocol, 37 developed countries pledged to limit or reduce their Greenhouse Gas emissions five per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. A tool like NERP could help governments meet their Kyoto commitments.
- **For environmental groups**
  - The opportunity to partner with the agricultural community to work towards the same goal – reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions, responsibly.
- **For researchers**
  - **NERP** is a science-based transformational tool. Aside from providing all other stakeholders with a solution to their needs, NERP also creates opportunities for researchers to advance nitrous oxide science.

## Reference points

**Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** – A natural atmospheric gas that comes primarily from the oceans and soils, tropical in particular. Fertilizer use is estimated to induce 25-35 per cent of cropland emissions.

**Offset credit** -Also called a carbon credit, it's a reduction or removal of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from a project which features either new management practices, technology and/or control systems. Credits can be purchased or traded.

**NERP** – Nitrous Oxide Emission Reduction Protocol, a proposed system to help reduce on-farm emissions of nitrous oxide. Developed in Canada, this could have global impact on both agricultural best management practices and the carbon offset market.

**Climate Change Central** – a non-profit organization that empowers Albertans to take action on climate change through consumer rebate programs, demonstration projects, educational outreach, and the development and facilitation of a provincial carbon market, the first in Canada.

**CFI** – The Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI) is an industry association that represents manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilizers. CFI's mission includes promoting the responsible, sustainable and safe production, distribution and use of fertilizers.

**IPNI** – The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) is a global not-for-profit, science-based organization with a focus on agronomic education and research support. Its mission is to develop and promote scientific information about the responsible management of plant nutrition for the benefit of the human family. <http://www.ipni.net/>

**IFA** - The International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) is a trade association representing the global fertilizer industry. IFA member companies represent all activities related to the production and distribution of every type of fertilizer, their raw materials and intermediates. IFA's membership also includes organizations involved in agronomic research and training. IFA has some 525 members in about 85 countries. The global fertilizer industry produces some 170 million tons of fertilizer nutrients annually. These are used in every corner of the globe to support sustainable agricultural production and food security <http://www.fertilizer.org/>

**Farming First** - Farming First is a coalition of multi-stakeholder organizations, not an organization. The coalition exists to articulate, endorse and promote practical, actionable programmes and activities to further sustainable agricultural development worldwide. <http://www.farmingfirst.org>

**For more information, please contact:**

Ms. Catherine King  
Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI)  
[cking@cfi.ca](mailto:cking@cfi.ca)  
[www.cfi.ca](http://www.cfi.ca)

Ms. Morgane Danielou  
International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)  
Switchboard: +33 1 53 93 05 00  
[mdanielou@fertilizer.org](mailto:mdanielou@fertilizer.org)  
[www.fertilizer.org](http://www.fertilizer.org)