**Proposals and theses upon the discussion at the Round Table**

**“How Restrictions on the Fertilizer Consumption Can Affect Global Agricultural Markets”**

1. There is no competition between producers of mineral and biological and / or organic fertilizers due to opinion of the round table participants. “Uralchem” and “Phosagro” have expressed their interests to the developing and joint promotion of the projects for creation of the bio-combined fertilizers and their application technologies.
2. The practice of precision farming, which implies a more efficient, rational and damage reducing of the environmental risks of mineral fertilizers use, is becoming more common for the Russian agricultural producers in the daily activities.
3. Large fertilizer producers are working hard to develop and introduce new technologies of mineral and organic plant nutrition.
4. The Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation is working to improve the regulatory framework in terms of regulating the production of organic agricultural products using biotechnological and organic fertilizers, the possibility of their registration and use. Information about such fertilizers is published in the State catalog of pesticides and agrochemicals permitted for use in the Russian Federation on the official website of the Ministry (<http://www.mcx.ru>).
5. Most of the agricultural organizations in Russian Federation belong to the “green” or “yellow” zone for the sustainability of agricultural production, according to the main characteristics of their production activities under the FAO classification (Indicator 2.4.1)[[1]](#footnote-1).
6. According to the Russian Federation legislation in the field of State regulation of agricultural lands fertility (Article 15 of the Federal Law of July 16, 1998 No. 101-FZ), an agrochemical survey of land should be conducted every five years. Its results are used for the planning of crop production in agricultural organization. It is proposed to inform the UN FAO about the specified legislation in the Russian Federation.
7. Monitoring of agricultural land use and soil quality in the Russian Federation is the base for taking decision on violating the requirements for soil fertility conservation by agrarian producers.
8. The panelists expressed their concern that along with the implementation of environmentally safe UN standards for increasing the sustainability of agricultural production (FAO UN), many countries around the world use non-tariff regulation measures and restrict exporters' access to mineral organic fertilizer markets.
9. Despite the insignificant volume of Russian market of microbiological fertilizers and plant protection products (about 3% of the total volume) so far, this market shows a positive trend. There are several examples of successful promotion of products on international markets by Russian manufacturers.
10. Participants pay attention to the importance of the topics discussed at the round table and necessity to continue cooperation between Rosstat and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, fertilizer producers and industry associations for developing more reasonable position on the revised issues.
1. In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda and an associated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Responsibility for the development of indicators is given to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) which established an Inter-Agency Expert Group for SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) comprising 28 member countries. While the international system of official statistics is embodied in the UNSC and member countries, in practice the measurement and international reporting of the comprehensive set of SDG topics is coordinated through a range of international agencies. These agencies, including the OECD, WHO, FAO, IMF, World Bank, ILO, have developed statistical and measurement expertise in the particular areas that fall within their broader roles.

In terms of fertilizer use, Indicator 2.4.1 provides that agriculture can affect the quality of the environment through overuse or inappropriate use.

Agriculture can affect the quality of the environment through excessive use or inadequate management of fertilizers. Sustainable agriculture implies that the level of chemicals in soil and water bodies remains within acceptable thresholds. Integrated plant nutrient management considers all sources of nutrients (mineral and organic) and their management in order to obtain best nutrient balance. Measuring soil and water quality captures the extent and causes of pollution, but establishing monitoring systems of soil and water is costly and not always feasible in countries. The proposed approach is based on questions to farmers about their use of fertilizer, in particular mineral or synthetic fertilizers, their awareness about the environmental risks associated with fertilizer and manure applications, and their behavior in terms of plant nutrient management. Based on the results of the assessment, the following three levels of farm sustainability assessment with regard to the risks of fertilizer pollution are distinguished:

• Green (desirable): The farm does not use fertilizers or uses fertilizers and takes specific measures to mitigate environmental risks (at least four from the list above)

 • Yellow (acceptable): the farm uses fertilizers and takes at least two measures from the above list to mitigate environmental risks

• Red (unsustainable): farmer uses fertilizer and does not take any of the above specific measures to mitigate environmental risks associated with their use. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)