



Yara with *solution to reduce phosphorus leakage into Baltic Sea*

Helsinki (2009-02-10): At the Baltic Sea Action Summit Yara commits to treating 100 hectare of fields with its new solution for reducing leakage of phosphorus into the sea. The commitment is based on Yara's research project, carried out together with Finnish research institutes.

One of the environmental challenges around the Baltic Sea is leakage of phosphorus from fields into the sea, causing eutrophication.

- Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plants to grow, but farmers need specific tools to keep the phosphorus in the field. Yara has through its research project together with its partners developed a solution that significantly reduces phosphorus leakage from fields into waterways and we strongly believe this can contribute to resolving the leakage problem, says Jørgen Ole Haslestad, CEO & President of Yara International.

The solution lies in spreading gypsum on the field. Gypsum dissolves and infiltrates into soil with water, thereby improving the soil structure. This in turn means that the soil can resist rain and melting snow and therefore markedly reduce erosion and phosphorus leakage. Another important advantage is that gypsum improves the plants' ability to utilize soil phosphorus reserves.

The solution is in line with the EU's strategy for the Baltic Sea region according to which best practices in agriculture should be put into effect without reducing the productivity or the competitiveness of farming. Yara's solution gives farmers the possibility to continue farming according to best practices also on vulnerable soils.

Yara is committing to treat 100 hectares of fields in southwestern Finland with its gypsum-based product to prevent phosphorus leakage. The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland is committed to choosing the hot spots most in need of action, as well as measuring the impact of Yara's commitment on soil erosion and Phosphorus discharge.

The commitment is based on Yara's ongoing (2007-2011) TraP -research project, which tests the use of gypsum to trap phosphorus in fields. The tests are done in laboratories and by full-scale field tests, in cooperation with 15 farmers around Finland. The project is co-funded by Yara and Tekes, and the total costs are over EUR 1 million. The midway results are very encouraging: Erosion has been reduced by 30-70%. Positive growth response and better nutrient uptake was found 2-3 years after application.

Yara's project partners are: the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, the Finnish Environment Institute, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, TTS Work Efficiency Institute, Luode consulting, Water Protection Association of The River Vantaa and Helsinki region as well as the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland.

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Yara International ASA is the world's leading chemical company that converts energy, natural minerals and nitrogen from the air into essential products for farmers and industrial customers. As the number one global supplier of mineral fertilizers, we help provide food for a growing world population. Our industrial product portfolio includes environmental protection agents that prevent air pollution. Yara's global workforce of 8000 employees represents the great diversity and knowledge that enables Yara to remain a leading performer in the industry.

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