

PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND SYSTEMS FOR NEW ZEALAND AGRICULTURE

Greg Sneath and H Furness

*The New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association,
P.O. Box 9577, Newmarket, Auckland*

The New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association has been active for almost 60 years. During the early years of the Association the research focus was on evaluating phosphate rock sources, superphosphate production issues as well as pot and field trials at the Otago Research Station.

During the past 10-15 years the Association has focused on promoting sustainable agriculture through the responsible use of fertiliser. This has been approached through initiating and supporting scientific research to improve nutrient use and management. The scientific knowledge developed under New Zealand conditions has been used to develop nutrient models, decision support systems, industry codes of practice, and training programmes for nutrient advisors. In addition, information transfer has been facilitated to ensure scientific findings are made available to farmers in a form that can be understood and integrated into their farm systems.

This paper discusses the on-going development and integration of these components which together provide a strategic and unified package of nutrient management tools, systems and support; with which, New Zealand farmers are better placed to meet the production and the environmental challenges placed before them.