

AGRICULTURAL ORES AND MINERAL FERTILIZERS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTENANCE OF THE MANKIND

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Mineral fertilizers account for 90% of crop yield increases thus mitigating food tensions in the world. Unevenly distributed resource potential includes 46 phosphorite, 60 potash- and 16 apatite-bearing regions differing in use value and capital intensity of fertilizers production (400-700 \$/t). Out-lined are regions with six types of soils responsive to the use of indigenous phosphates capable of improving subsistence of 300 mln people in poor countries of the Third World.

At the beginning of XXI century annual increases in demand for phosphate fertilizers are forecast at 2.8%. There are many regions where agricultural ore production could be built up (new ones in Australia, Peru, Laos, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, China, Sri Lanka, shelf zones of USA, Namibia, Peru). But it is high technological properties and accessibility of phosphates, potash- and sulphur-containing sources, their proximity to regions of growing demand for fertilizers that become deciding factors of viability of new mining projects. Envisaged are new environmentally friendly technologies providing for more components to be extracted and fertilizers with varying N:P:K relationships produced.

The tendency will continue to build enterprises in producing countries with capitals provided by consuming countries on account of future deliveries. Mining agricultural ores and fertilizer production are expected to preserve their attractiveness for investors as being less liable to market shocks. In Russia domestic deliveries of mineral fertilizers are estimated at 12.3 Mt, i.e. thrice lower than the demand. The main directions of development of the Russian agrochemical complex are overcoming monopolization in mining sector, creating a strategic reserve of deposits prepared for exploitation in the European part and Siberia on the basis of new fertilizer production technologies.