

SUSTAINABILITY OF INORGANIC FEED PHOSPHATES

Feed phosphates, as most mineral raw materials used in the feed industry, come from rock, which is a finite resource. Only 5 to 10% of this rock phosphate is dedicated, after industrial process, to inorganic feed phosphates, the rest being used for fertilizer, food or by other industrial sectors.

Despite the low share of feed phosphates within the use of the rock, the IFP, Inorganic Feed Phosphates Sector Group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), pays attention to the sustainability of this essential raw material for animal life. Indeed, feed phosphates bring phosphorus which is indispensable for bones mineralization, energetic metabolism, membrane integrity and DNA structure.

Several actions are taken to improve the end-product digestibility. As a matter of fact, each year a ring test is done on feed phosphates produced in Europe to ensure the high quality of the product leading to the permission to use a quality logo on technical datasheets. Thanks to continuous monitoring, feed producers, farmers and end-users can be assured they are always using phosphates complying with the required EU-threshold values for heavy metals and other undesirables, minimizing the risk of any potential contamination. The IFP also contributes to updating data on feed phosphates digestibility on broilers (Bikker et al. 2016) to guide customers for a better choice of formulation.

It means that, by working on high quality feed phosphates and digestibility studies, the European producers allow their customers to adjust their feed formulation in order to decrease the pressure on the rock and the release of phosphorus in the environment.

At its scale, the IFP is fully committed to the sustainability of inorganic feed phosphates.

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