

Press release

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

OCP Group, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Fauji Group announce the strengthening of their historic partnership.

- **An ambitious memorandum of understanding aimed at developing an offer adapted to Pakistani agricultural.**
- **Enhanced collaboration through the transfer of scientific and technological know-how from the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.**
- **Pakistan- Maroc Phosphore (PMP): An emblematic "success story" at the service of farmers.**

OCP Group, a global leader in plant nutrition and the world's largest producer of phosphate-based fertilizers, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and the Fauji Group, leader in the fertilizer market in Pakistan, proceeded this Friday, March 3rd in Casablanca, to the signature of a memorandum of understanding on the strengthening of their cooperation.

This new stage in their fruitful collaboration, which extends over a period of fifteen years, is the result of a shared desire to develop innovative solutions to meet the specific needs of Pakistani farmers and to contribute sustainably to improving productivity in the agricultural sector.

The MoU will focus on identifying the specific agronomic needs of Pakistani soils, evaluating and developing customized fertilizers to meet them, and optimizing the resources used in the fertilization process. The project will also focus on the development of a range of services for farmers aimed at increasing the profitability of the agricultural sector and making farmers aware of the principles of balanced fertilization, the use of adapted fertilizers and allowing optimal use of nutrients, thus improving soil health.

The agreement also provides for the establishment of an industrial cooperation framework that will take advantage of the infrastructures and industrial expertise of each of the two groups.

UM6P will mobilize its agronomic and scientific expertise, its research and innovation infrastructures as well as its «Al Moutmir» agricultural development model, with a view to contributing to the adoption by Pakistani farmers of balanced agricultural practices based on research, innovation and new technologies.

This memorandum was signed in presence of representatives from the OCP Group, Fauji Group and the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

On this occasion, **Mr. Soufyane El Kassi, CEO of OCP Nutricrops**, a subsidiary dedicated to soil and plant fertilization solutions, said “This closer alliance with the Fauji Group will enable us to accelerate our collaboration to develop new solutions and expand the service offering. It will also enable us to explore and implement innovative business models for further value creation in the agricultural sector.”

The partnership between OCP and Fauji Group was consolidated through the creation in 2004 of the Pakistan Maroc Phosphore (PMP) joint-venture, owned equally by the two groups. This nearly 20-year collaboration has been a success for both partners in terms of optimizing production costs and securing the supply of phosphoric acid, while providing safe access to raw materials.

During the signing ceremony of the MoU, **Mr. Waqar Ahmed Malik, Managing Director and CEO of Fauji Group** emphasized the strategic relationship between Fauji Group and OCP group. He added that this relationship has embarked Fauji Group on a path to becoming a prominent player and the only local producer of DAP in Pakistan. He further added that this MoU and its implementation will further enhance the output of crop and farmers income.

Furthermore, **Mr. Nawfel Roudies, Head of Al Moutmir Business Unit within Mohamed VI Polytechnic University** also underlined “UM6P is proud to contribute to the dynamics of transformation of Pakistani agriculture. We are mobilized alongside our partners to successfully develop a resilient, innovative and sustainable agriculture. »

This new memorandum of understanding thus reinforces OCP Group's commitment to a stable and inclusive global food security, in line with its new green investment strategy, dedicated to increasing its production capacity for fertilizers, to the production of renewable energies, and launched at the end of 2022.

About OCP Group:

The OCP Group contributes to feeding a growing world population by providing it with essential elements for soil fertility and plant growth. With a century of expertise and a turnover of more than 9.4 billion dollars in 2021, OCP is the world for plant nutrition solutions and phosphate fertilizers. Based in Morocco, and present on five continents, the OCP Group has nearly 18,000 employees and works closely with more than 350 customers around the world. OCP recently launched a new green investment strategy, dedicated to increasing fertilizer production and investing in renewable energy. The strategy foresees an overall investment of approximately \$13 billion over the period 2023-2027, which will enable the group to use 100% renewable energy by 2027 and achieve full carbon neutrality by 2040. The strategy also aims to reach a water desalination capacity of 560 million m³ in 2026 and to increase the production of green fertilizers.

The Group is firmly convinced that leadership and profitability are necessarily synonymous with social responsibility and sustainable development. Its strategic vision is at the junction of these two dimensions.

For more information: www.ocpgroup.ma

About Fauji Group:

Fauji Foundation is a charitable trust founded in 1954 and incorporated under The Charitable Endowment Act 1890. The raison d'être of the Foundation is 'Earn to Serve'. The Foundation operates as a Hybrid Social Enterprise, where its social mission of provision of welfare services to veterans and their dependents is entirely financed through commercial investments. The welfare services include 74 medical facilities and 126 educational institutes. Fauji Foundation proudly spearheads this mantle on self-sustaining basis with presence in fertilizer, food, cement, financial services, oil & gas, marine terminals, and power sectors. These investments not only generate funds for the Foundation but also contribute to the Economic Development of Pakistan by focusing on the Nations' pressing needs, such as food self-sufficiency, nutritional needs, energy security, infrastructure development, and financial inclusivity of the population.

About Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P):

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) is a Moroccan non-profit research university. Its main campus is located in Benguerir, near Marrakech, with branches in Rabat and Laayoune. The university is an applied research and innovation-oriented institution committed to economic and human development, with a focus on Africa. UM6P prioritizes research and innovation relevant to Morocco and Africa by focusing on topics such as industrialization, food security, sustainable development, mining, behavioral and social sciences. It federates a number of schools and research institutes, covering science and technology (agriculture, mining, energy, medicine, chemistry, computer science...), social sciences and business administration. The University welcomed its first cohort of students in 2013 before being officially inaugurated on January 12, 2017. Since then, it has continued to grow into a leading research institution dedicated to collaboration between Africa and the rest of the world. As such, UM6P has entered into numerous partnerships with universities in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas.

For more information: www.um6p.ma

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