



**Speech of  
Mr. Khalifa Yahamed  
AFA Vice-Chairman**

Gratefully, I would like to welcome you all in our Conference today; being rich with the distinctive attendance of Arab and foreign experts from all over the world and particularly from international companies specialized in fertilizer industry technological fields.

Our Conference will, certainly, contribute in exchanging industrial experiences related to Arab region fertilizer industry field, going back to more than a century ago. Such an industry is an essential component in the implementation of agricultural development strategy, being the most important challenge facing the world today. To elaborate, providing food for the people of the world and seeking production increase are of the main priorities and concerns occupying the experts'

minds, working on harnessing different natural resources in order to achieve such a goal.

Fertilizer industry proved internationally, during the recent decades, to be capable of fulfilling the increasing world demand. I, therefore, totally believe that we are fortunate to work in one of the most important world industries, which will continue in providing great benefits not only for our generation but also for the coming ones.

Taking in consideration the aforementioned, the Conference acquires strategic importance because it enables specialists and experts to exchange studies and use best technical practices in fertilizer industry, so as to promote such an industry technically and technologically and improve its returns and efficiency. This takes place in harmony with AFA strenuous pursue for the advancement and enhancement of fertilizer industry status and competitiveness, in addition to entrenching coordination and cooperation among Arab companies and related international organizations to achieve a number of objectives:

- Following up the latest engineering and technological developments related to fertilizer industry, for upgrading and using the best available technologies.
- Encouraging and supporting scientific research serving fertilizer industry.
- Promoting and building the administrative and technical capacities specialized in such an industry.
- Urging the rationalization of water usage in the industry sector.
- Enhancing and applying the best health, safety and environment preservation methods and approaches; increasing investments in the said field for the protection of society.

Stakeholders, today, call for companies to exceed their traditional roles, that is to say working on commercial basis only targeting profitability, and to intervene with all the society categories, playing a positive role towards the society via carrying out a clear and effective role contributing in economic and service development.

Therefore, the companies' social role is maximizing by the passage of time; for instance establishing specialized training centers and raising people capacities, whether the working staff or the society people, in order to better qualify them so as to enjoy higher efficiency being in conformity with their capabilities and potentials. As much as the companies' contributions in the local community increase, such will inevitably be reflected on achieving political, economic and social security stability, contributing effectively in sustainable economic development and deepening the society satisfaction with the companies and related activities.

**At the end,** I would like to extend my appreciation to the Tunisian companies for the provided boundless support and the warm hospitality. I further express my thanks for the attendants, emphasizing that you will find in the content of the Conference and the exchange of knowledge with the participating experts all assistance to contribute in boosting such an industry.