ASPE
Ammonium Sulphate Producers Europe

POSITION PAPER
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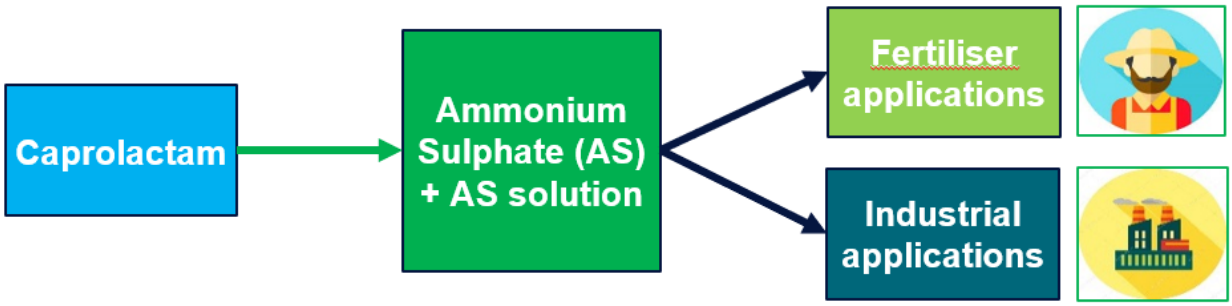
Capro-grade Ammonium Sulphate: contributing to the ambitions of the European Green Deal

The European Green Deal and its Farm to Fork Strategy, Circular Economy Action plan, and Biodiversity Strategy, have outlined ambitious goals to overcome global challenges such as climate change. Ammonium Sulphate Producers Europe (ASPE), a sector group of Cefic, strives to meet these targets, and as such, calls for a level playing field to facilitate the process.

Capro-grade Ammonium Sulphate (AS) can contribute to meeting the ambitions set out in the framework of the European Green Deal, the Nutrients' action plan for better management, the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity Strategies, as well as by the new Circular Economy Action Plan. For an enhanced contribution of capro-grade AS towards achieving these targets, ASPE members highlight the need for an effective quality control on imported articles to enable a level playing field for European manufacturers, as well as higher quality and safety standards throughout the fertilisers value chain from their production to consumers.

Capro grade AS is a crystallised mineral fertiliser, a by-product issued from the production of caprolactam, an organic compound used to manufacture polyamide 6, fibers and plastics.



Capro-grade AS production process

Carpro grade AS offers a sustainable solution towards efficient crop nutrition:

- Capro-grade AS contains two essential plant nutrients in high concentrations: Nitrogen in ammonium form - which is fixed to soil particles and cannot leach, and Sulphur in the sulphate form - which is directly available to plants. This enables farmers to apply two key nutrients using one single fertiliser, allowing savings in terms of time and energy for

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spreading the fertilisers. Capro-grade AS is therefore not only a cost effective, but also a sustainable solution which helps reducing the CO2-footprint of fertiliser application.

- Capro-grade AS meets the highest purity standards (>99% purity), has a very low water content, a higher pH compared to other AS sources and fulfills all the requirements set by the new EU Fertilising Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, including low heavy metal content. Capro-grade AS hardness represents an additional significant operational advantage as it allows standard spreading width of 36-40 meters and beyond in some areas. Its higher hardness also allows to store it safely and minimises its losses during logistics and storage.

As a by-product, capro-grade AS is a sustainable and circular product enabling an efficient use of resources, waste reduction and lower emissions[1].
Next to the circularity of capro-grade AS which, as a by-product is by essence upgraded into a major fertilising product which enables energy and resource efficiency, it should be noted that capro-grade AS has a strong sustainability profile and low product carbon footprint (PCF) due to the reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated to both its production and application.

Capro-grade AS can play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy thanks to its safety and full traceability throughout the value chain.

For an enhanced contribution of capro-grade AS towards achieving these targets, ASPE members highlight the need for an effective quality control on imported articles to enable a level playing field for European manufacturers, as well as higher quality and safety standards throughout the fertilisers value chain from their production to consumers.

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About ASPE
Ammonium Sulphate Producers Europe is a sector group of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council and its members represent over 70% of the capro-grade ammonium sulphate produced in Europe. ASPE membership comprises BASF, DOMO, Fibrant and Lanxess.

[1] As a by-product, capro-grade AS is issued by the production of caprolactam and its production does not engender additional use of resources nor its manufacturing leads to additional emissions.