

- The *Iver Ability* liquid sulphur tanker is taken out of commission, converted to bitumen tanker
- Austrofin settles Q2 contracts in the mid/high \$70s cfr North Africa
- PCS/US settles Q2 liquid sulphur contracts at \$70 del Tampa, down \$25/t
- Mosaic/US settles Q2 liquid contracts at \$70 del Tampa, down \$25/t
- Saudi Aramco announces May lifting price at \$80/t fob, down \$5/t on April
- Various refinery maintenance shutdowns in Europe reduce output
- GCT's phosphate rock supply remains constrained
- Fertinal/Mexico has bought a panamax in the high \$70s fob California
- Mood about future outlook remains negative at the annual TSI conference

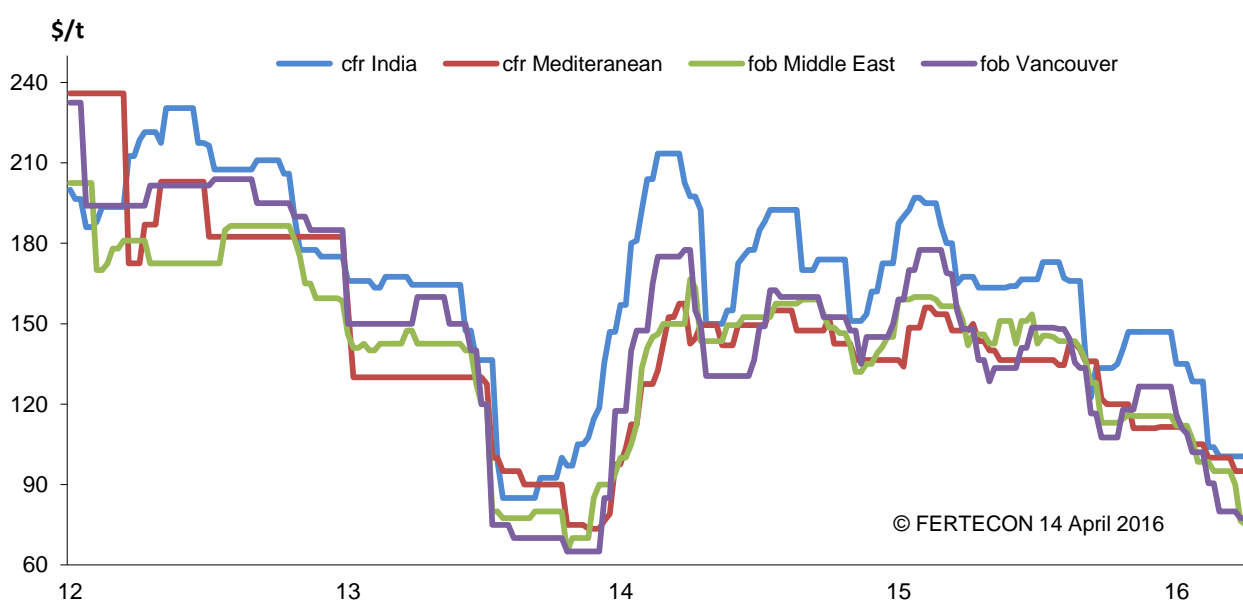
OUTLOOK

Stable-to-soft

KEY PRICES

	14 April	7 April	31 March
Vancouver spot \$/fob	75-80	75-80	75-80
Middle East \$/fob	65-85	65-85	65-88
Med (inc. N.Africa) \$/cfr	70-84	71-119	71-119
North Africa cfr (contract) \$/cfr	70-79	91-119	91-119
Central Florida (liquid, LT) \$/deliv	70	95	95

SOLID SULPHUR PRICES




SULPHUR PRICE INDICATIONS All prices in US\$

	14 April	7 April	31 March	Notes
Med cfr (includes N Africa)	70-84	71-119	71-119	
Med cfr (small lots N Africa)	71-84	71-84	71-84	Indicative
Med cfr (small lots other markets)	75-82	75-82	75-82	Indicative
North Africa cfr (contract)	70-79	91-119	91-119	Q2 contracts so far
Med fob (small lots other markets)	62-74	62-74	62-74	Indicative
China cfr	70-92	70-92	70-89	
China cfr spot	70-92	70-92	70-89	
India cfr	98-103	98-103	98-103	
Brazil cfr	80-92	80-92	80-92	Q2 contracts/Spot
Vancouver fob contract	75-80	75-80	75-80	
Vancouver fob spot	75-80	75-80	75-80	
California fob	77-80	75-80	75-80*	
Middle East fob	65-85	65-85	65-88	Full ME price range
Middle East fob contract	65-79	65-79	65-79	Q2 business
Middle East fob spot	75-85	75-85	75-85	
Tasweeq Qatar Sulphur Price (fob)	78	78	78	
Saudi Aramco monthly price (fob)	80-85	85	85	
Middle East – Adnoc (fob)	85	85	88	
NW Europe cpt	173-193	173-193	173-193	Q1 contracts
Delivered Benelux (refinery)	134-150	134-150	134-150	Q1 contracts
Tampa/Deliv.Cent.Fla (LT)	70	95	95	Q2 contracts
Cfr Houston (LT)	63	88	88	Q2 contracts
Galveston (LT) ex-tank	63	88	88	Q2 contracts
*no market **revised Prices in <i>italics</i> relate to previous period contracts still under negotiation				

Fertecon's sulphur prices are available to analyse and download immediately after publishing [via this link](#).

FREIGHT INDICATIONS US\$

Route	Cargo size (t)	Latest rate (\$/t)
Jubail – WC India	15-35,000	8-9
Middle East – EC India	15-30,000	7-11
Middle East – China	35,000	9-11
Jubail – Morocco	35,000	9-11
Vancouver – China	50-60,000	10-11

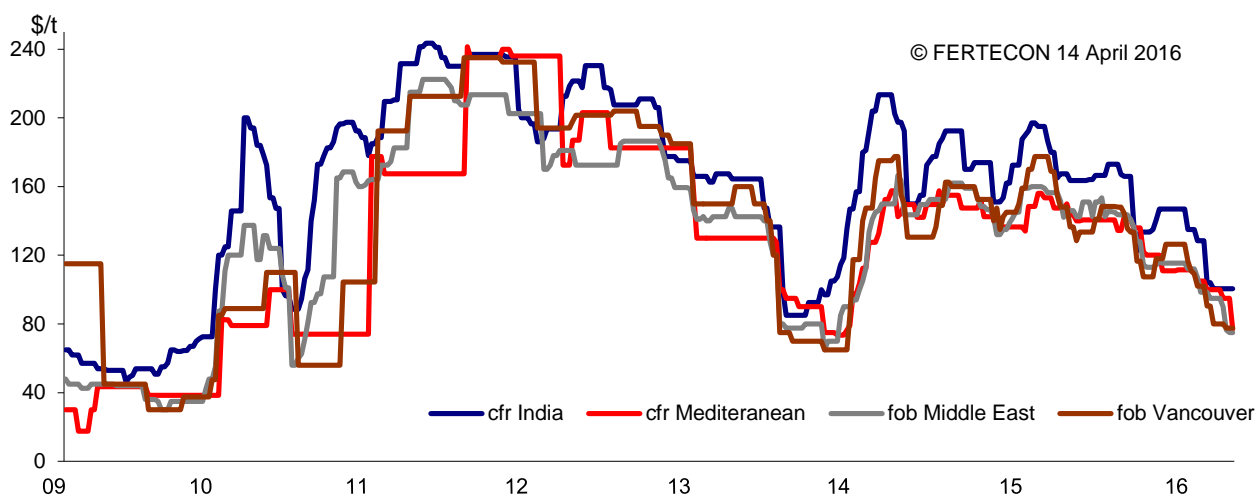


FERTECON TENDER SERVICE

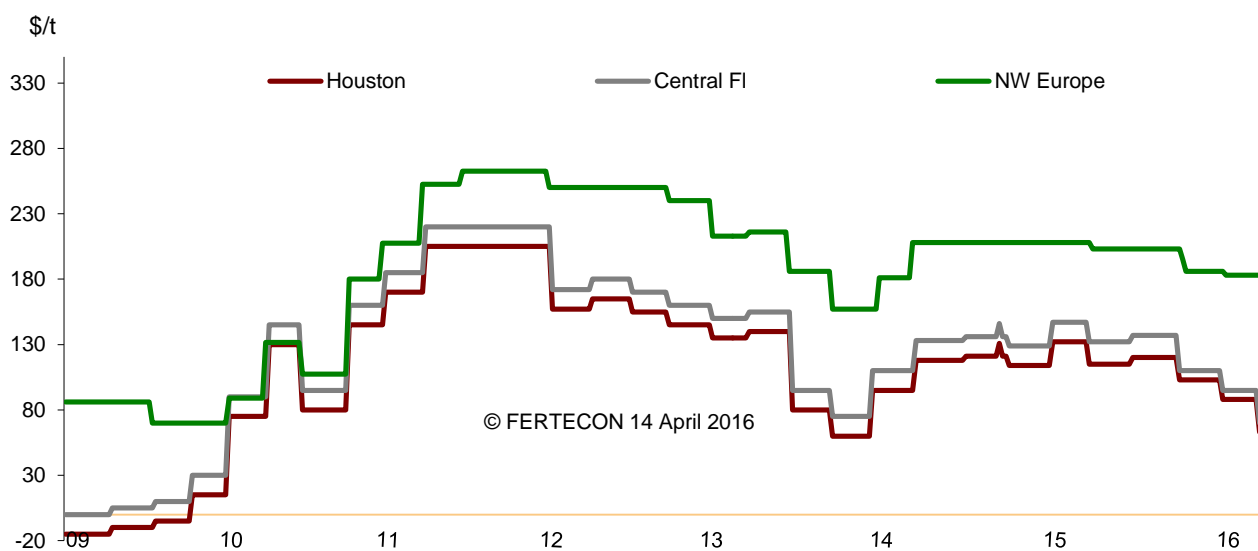
Holder/Country	'000 t	Close	Load/Deliv.	Notes
FACT/India	15-25	18 April	May	

*sales tender

SOLID SULPHUR PRICES



LIQUID SULPHUR PRICES



The full history of Fertecon's sulphur prices is available to view and download [via this link](#).



ANALYSIS

The market has been a mixed bag this week with some further softening in the Middle East but still talk of firming in the Chinese import market even as domestic prices have begun to fall yet again. Some sellers in the Chinese market have slashed prices again as Sinopec has announced it would delay its annual maintenance shutdown from 20 April to the end of May. The shutdown will eventually remove about 200,000 t from the market but this is now the second time the plant has delayed the turnaround and some sources are sceptical whether this will be carried out at all in Q2.

However, there are a few sources that are of the opinion that Chinese prices will hold firm and could even increase if demand from the chemical and fertilizer industries increases. Whether this will indeed happen is very uncertain given the prevailing weakness in macroeconomic conditions. Some suggested that the increases experienced during the last couple of weeks were driven mainly by speculators taking positions and end-users continue to remain sceptical and wary of committing at these higher prices. According to at least two major players there are a number of fertilizer producers that are just about breaking even at the current phosphates export prices and they are not going to be able to pay any higher prices for sulphur.

In the Middle East we have seen further softening with Saudi Aramco announcing its May lifting price at \$80 fob, down \$5/t from April. This move surprised many as it appears to go against claims that the producer is sold out and demand is firm.

On the contract front, liquid sulphur contracts have now settled in the US at a reduction of \$25/t to \$70 delivered Tampa. A reduction was widely expected. Various producers at the World Sulphur Symposium commented that the recent drop in sulphur prices was caused by a drop in demand from various consumers, most importantly the phosphates sector where fertilizer producers have cut production in response to lower global consumption. Some sources speculated that rail shipments from Canada could decline this year as freight is as high as \$100/t and the market is already oversupplied so buyers will most likely cut the highest cost supply first. Domestic sulphur supply has also increased as some refineries are refining sour oils that yield more sulphur.

Mosaic's new remelter is now fully operational and the start-up procedures have been carried out by Devco, the company that constructed the plant. Mosaic holds approximately 60,000 t solid sulphur stocks and is now in the process of ramping up the plant. As soon as the stocks are drawn down the buyer will import another cargo from overseas but it is also possible to shut the plant down without any operational issues so the buyer may choose to reduce output altogether if it can meet its requirements from the domestic liquid sulphur market.

European liquid sulphur contract negotiations continue with claims that at least one producer has settled the majority of its contracts at a reduction of around \$20/t. However, further negotiations are still carried out by others and thus the Fertecon range remains unchanged.

Solid sulphur contracts in the FSU, Middle East and North Africa have also settled at a reduction in price. The North African contracts are now in the range \$70-79 cfr, down from \$91-119 cfr in Q1. Middle Eastern contracts have also settled in the range mid \$60s fob to high \$70s fob.

Fertecon is considering excluding the *North Africa cfr (contract)* price from the *Med cfr (includes N Africa)* range. We are also considering excluding the Middle East fob contract price from the Middle East fob price range. These prices will continue to be assessed separately. Please send any feedback you may have about the proposed changes to janos.gal@fertecon.com.

MARKETS

EUROPE

NW EUROPE: At least one producer has said that it has settled its Q2 contracts at a reduction of \$20/t or more from Q1, making its new range at around \$153-193 cpt NWE and \$114-130 delivered Benelux. However, with a large number of contracts still outstanding the Fertecon range continues to reflect Q1 prices.

FRANCE: Total is reported to have started-up a new granulation unit in Dunkirk with an estimated capacity of 50,000 t/y. This will enable Total to export in big bags and also in bulk to overseas markets if the domestic liquid sulphur market does not perform up to expectations.



The *Iver Ability* is currently loading some liquid sulphur in Immingham. This will be the vessel's last journey as it is being converted into a bitumen tanker, leaving the *Sulphur Genesis* the only liquid sulphur carrier left in Europe.

The Sobegi remelter is down again and some solid sulphur shipments to Bayonne have had to be postponed.

TURKEY: Toros will continue to import about 20-25,000 t sulphur in the foreseeable future to feed its new sulphur burner and other operations. The buyer may choose to buy various small lots from the Med or larger shipments from the Black Sea and the Middle East as the port of Samsun can accept handy-size vessels. The new sulphur burner is operating near full capacity at present. Price indications are in the already reported \$75-82 cfr range.

AFRICA

NORTH AFRICA: It is understood that Q2 contracts have now begun to fall into place in the range \$70-79 cfr depending on origin but some negotiations are still outstanding with indications of some Med contracts falling below \$70 cfr.

TUNISIA: Phosphate rock supply remains constrained by local unrest. Just this week there have been reports of protestors blocking the road to Metlaoui, preventing the transport of workers to the mine. There was also a protest at the Redayef local offices over recent pay cuts arising from previous sit-ins.

Production of phosphate rock by CPG in Q1 was just 908,000 t against a target production of 1.54 million t. Two of the five main mines, Redayef and Umm Larayes, produced little more than 50,000 t during the first three months of this year against a target of 341,000 t due to constant sit-ins by unemployed residents of the Gafsa region at the mines as well as blocking both rail and road channels transporting the rock to GCT's downstream units.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL: ICL is expected to receive a handy-size cargo from Russia around the end of April.

ICL will bring down some of its production lines for maintenance for a few weeks in May. The exact length of the shutdown will be specified at a later date.

JORDAN: JPMC requires no sulphur at present due to high DAP stocks. Current DAP production is at 30,000 t/m.

LEBANON: LCC is expected to receive about 15,000 t within the next month which may be made up of various cargoes from the Med or the FSU. The producer has now finished its maintenance shutdown and is ramping up production, currently at about 50% of nameplate capacity.

ASIA

CHINA: The market has been quiet this week as most market participants have been attending two major industry events. Most sources have suggested that the recent price increases in China will soon fizzle out and we will again experience some softening, while others said that commodities prices across the board have increased and will continue to increase in the country and sulphur is no exception.

There are rumours that the Sinopec Puguang refinery will delay its shutdown yet again by one month from the 20 April to the end of May. This has led to some softening in the domestic market. Offer prices are understood to have fallen back to Rmb 740-750 from Rmb 760-800 last week. Puguang's official price remains Rmb 820 at Wanzhou and Rmb 740 ex-works. Wanzhou's stock is low at around 6,000 t.

There are rumours that some spot liquid sulphur purchases have taken place close to \$80 cfr this week but this could not be substantiated on the buy side. Crushed lump sulphur continues to be pegged in the mid/high \$70s cfr.

INDIA: FACT has issued a tender, closing 18 April for 15-25,000 t +/- 10% for 18-22 May arrival in Cochin.

Midgulf's *Just Fitz III* was due to discharge 31,500 t to PPL at Paradeep on 14 April against a purchase in the high \$90s cfr.

IFFCO is due to receive around 30,000 t sulphur at Paradeep early May under its long term contract with Swiss Singapore.



January imports were 101,630 t, down 34% on January 2015. The main sources were as follows:

India Sulphur Imports - January			
	2014	2015	2016
Qatar	2,750	53,830	55,438
Saudi Arabia	82,151	55,424	14,200
Bahrain	24,338	16,587	11,002
UAE	38,475	15,720	10,697
Japan	64	12,032	6,519
Turkmenistan	-	-	2,458
Others	436	1,487	1,317
Total	148,214	155,081	101,630

Source: GTIS / Ministry of Commerce

AUSTRALIA: FQM's Ravensthorpe nickel leaching unit is understood to be down for a six-week maintenance shutdown.

February sulphur imports into Australia were 134,175 t, up 66% on February 2015. The main source was Canada at 97,931 t, up 22%. Imports from Qatar were 36,042 t, a shipment on the *Rana* for FQM in Esperance.

This brought January-February imports to 263,028 t, an increase of 111% on the same period last year. The main sources were Canada at 226,548 t, up 83% and Qatar at 36,042 t (nil in 2015). Source: GTIS / Australian Bureau of Statistics

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Swiss Singapore is expected to ship a cargo of sulphur to Ramu around the end of April or early May under its contract with the nickel leaching company.

VIETNAM: The Lao Cai DAP plant is said to have bought a cargo from a tender at around \$110/t delivered to plant, equating to the low \$90s cfr. Prices have continued to drop and the introduction of a higher import duty doesn't seem to have had any impact on imports.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES: Mosaic and PotashCorp have now settled their Q2 liquid sulphur contracts at \$70 del Tampa, down \$25/t on Q1.

Various producers at the World Sulphur Symposium commented that the recent drop in sulphur prices was caused by a drop in demand from various consumers, most importantly the phosphates sector where fertilizer producers have cut production in response to lower global consumption. Some sources speculated that rail shipments from Canada could decline this year as freight is high and the market is already oversupplied so buyers will most likely cut the highest cost supply first. Domestic sulphur supply has also increased as some refineries are refining sour oils that yield more sulphur.

Mosaic's new remelter is now fully operational and the start-up procedures have been carried out by Devco, the company that constructed the plant. Mosaic holds approximately 60,000 t solid sulphur stocks and is now in the process of ramping up the plant. As soon as the stocks are drawn down the buyer will import another cargo from overseas.

According to GTIS, the US imported no sulphur from the Middle East or FSU in January and February. Most of the imports came from Canada at around 200,000 t and from Mexico at 43,000 t in January and February. Source: GTIS / U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA: Akzo is understood to have bought a cargo from the FSU or the Med for delivery to Argentina in April/May.

Meranol's next requirement is about 15,000 t for July delivery.



BRAZIL: Speculation is growing over the potential bidders for Anglo American's phosphate and niobium assets. Latest rumours gathering traction include Vale and Mosaic with BHP Billiton also in the mix. However it is Vale which has grabbed the attention of the market this week with press reports suggesting that the Brazilian company has joined with US private equity firm Apollo Global Management to bid for the \$1 billion assets. Anglo had requested first round bids to be submitted by mid-February, binding bids within the next few weeks and anticipates completion in the 2nd half of the year.

The *Noni* is expected to arrive with about 38,500 t granular sulphur in Santos on 1 May for Vale.

The *Zhong Hai* is expected to arrive in Santos for Anglo American with 37,800 t granular sulphur on 23 April.

March imports were minimal at 3,293 t, down from 153,918 t in March 2015 due to various port maintenances at Santos.

This brought Q1 imports to 401,222 t, down 27% on Q1 2015 but almost the same volume as in Q1 2014. The main sources were as follows ('000 t): US (210, up 37%), UAE (75, up 882%), Kazakhstan (71, down 68%) Kuwait (31, nil in 2015). Source: GTIS / SECEX – Foreign Trade Secretariat

The following table shows sulphur vessels due to arrive into Santos in April:

Vessel	('000t)	Buyer	ETA
<i>SBI Cronos</i>	45	Vale	April
<i>Magia</i>	38	Vale	5/4
<i>Potosi</i>	3	Galvani	11/4
<i>Doric Valour</i>	40	Vale	16/4
<i>Veronique D</i>	40	Vale	23/4
Total	166		

MEXICO: Fertilal is reported to have bought in recent weeks a total of about 55,000 t granular sulphur at \$77-78 fob California for end April shipment with freight estimated at about \$10. The buyer is expected to require another granular sulphur panamax for early June loading.

Fertilal's Lazaro Cardenas plant is reported to be operating at lower rates equivalent to about 65,000 t/m granulation.

SUPPLIERS

EUROPE

AUSTRIA: OMV's refinery at Schwechat is down for a planned annual maintenance shutdown.

BELGIUM: The Total refinery at Antwerp is down for maintenance until the end of May. At full capacity the refinery produces about 250,000 t/y sulphur.

ITALY: The Milazzo refinery is understood to be in the line-up for permanent closure in 2016. This follows the closure of the Eni refinery in Gela in 2014. The refinery, which suffered from a huge fire in 2014, is jointly owned by Eni and Kuwait Petroleum.

SLOVAKIA: The Slovnaft refinery in Bratislava has declared Force Majeure after an explosion at the plant about two weeks ago. The plant's estimated annual sulphur output is about 50-60,000 t.

SPAIN: Repsol has just started up its Coruna refinery after a month-long maintenance shutdown. Repsol is now shutting down its Cartagena refinery for a month-long shutdown and is expected to take down its Bilbao plant in Q4. The refiner's Tarragona plant is running at 65% of nameplate capacity.

A 10,000 t sulphur cargo is reported to have been sold to a buyer in Brazil for delivery to Santos in April.

**FSU**

KAZAKHSTAN: The Kashagan oil and gas plant is now in the line up to begin production early 2017 and is currently evaluating export opportunities.

February exports were an estimated 225,000 t, up 22% as follows: China took 78,165 t followed by Russia at 55,000 t and Israel and Brazil at 33,000 t each. This brought January-February exports to 363,934 t, down 24% on the same period of 2015. Source: GTIS / Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance

RUSSIA: Austrofin is reported to have settled all its Q2 contracts in the mid/high \$70s cfr North Africa, which is estimated to net back to the \$50s fob Black Sea.

TURKMENISTAN: According to latest estimates it costs about \$120/t to export sulphur from the Galkynynsh plant to various Chinese ports in containers. Since the beginning of 2016 exports from Turkmenistan to China doubled compared with last year.

MIDDLE EAST

MIDDLE EAST: There has been talk at the World Sulphur Symposium in Canada this week that the significance of traders and distributors is diminishing as many major producers in the Middle East are now in direct talks with consumers to cut out the middle man and improve shrinking margins. This trend is expected to continue in the long run as production capacities increase and sulphur producers will want to make sure that the more important oil and gas operations are not disrupted by sulphur, which is essentially a waste product that may not have been lifted by traders/distributors. However, at least one producer said that it will continue to work with traders as usual to take advantage of their respective expertise.

UAE: It is understood that sulphur output at the Shah gas field was slightly down during a period in Q1 due to some teething problems following the plant's start-up. However, all is working well now and Adnoc is producing between 16,000-17,000 t/d sulphur. Adnoc is comfortable in its position and claims to be fully committed under present contracts and allocations with traders. It will continue to supply about 10-12 vessels to Morocco each quarter as well as shipments to GCT/Tunisia, ICS/Senegal and Vale/Brazil.

Adnoc's Q2 contracts are believed to have been fully settled now in the \$70s fob for most customers with the exception of at least one major buyer that has settled in the \$60s fob.

It has now emerged that Adnoc has capabilities to pour sulphur into block if market conditions make it necessary. The producer has two sites at present, one near Habshan and the other at Shah with three towers at each site capable of storing up to three months of sulphur production, which is estimated to equate to about 900,000 t at each block. However, it is unlikely the producer will begin to pour into block any time soon as it has the infrastructure and logistics capability to export all its production and has also entered into long term agreements with various buyers to make sure that no sulphur needs to be poured into block. Each unit also has 70,000 t liquid sulphur storage in tanks, enough to run the plant for a week without curtailing production. The producer also has access to solid sulphur storage of 140,000 t on-site which is capable of holding enough stocks to run the plants for an additional 14 days.

Etihad Rail has announced that it has transported more than 5.24 million tonnes sulphur during the first 18 months of its operations from Shah and Habshan to Ruwais. Two trains depart daily under the current timetable, each carrying 11,000 tonnes of granulated sulphur and capable of reaching a top-speed of 120 kilometres per hour. Each train set is made up of 110 rail cars and can be loaded full in four hours, with 100 t sulphur on each.

QATAR: There are rumours that Tasweeq will not issue a tender in April as it has no spot availability or has already sold the cargo it normally tenders for in a private sale.

SAUDI ARABIA: Saudi Aramco is understood to have announced its May lifting price at \$80 fob, down \$5/t on April.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA: The recent improved interest in China has helped the Vancouver/California price stabilise at in the mid/high \$70s fob and even move it up to as high as \$80 fob but this week it is understood that prices have started softening again.



It is estimated that the breaking up, melting, forming and transporting of sulphur from the northern Alberta blocks to Vancouver can cost up to CAD\$150-160/t. At this price there is very little incentive for the owners of these blocks to begin breaking them up, given that this would incur huge losses at current prices.

However, the recent decline in lifting prices has had little impact on export activity in Vancouver as sellers are working to maintain their positions in the market so their first choice is to export before they even consider pouring into block. But if the sulphur is already in block, there is very little likelihood it will be broken up.

In addition, pouring into block in some parts of Canada is restricted. One such area is around Calgary where the re-permitting to pour into block is understood to have been discontinued due to environmental concerns. This leaves Fort McMurray and its vicinity the obvious candidate for pouring into block.

A shipment is in the line-up to South Africa to load in Vancouver in June.

Two other shipments are also planned for April, one for Australia and another for China.

February exports were 169,245 t, a drop of 24% on February 2015.

Canada February Sulphur Exports			
	2014	2015	2016
United States	65,674	83,600	82,999
New Caledonia	0	29,650	50,000
China	0	0	14,226
New Zealand	10,000	10,300	12,000
Australia	65,540	68,185	10,000
Others	148,000	30,500	20
Total	289,214	222,235	169,245

Source: GTIS / Statistics Canada

This brought January-February exports to 599,734 t, an increase of 25% on the same period last year. The main destinations were as follows:

Canada Jan-Feb Sulphur Exports			
	2014	2015	2016
United States	180,730	173,306	201,174
China	65,000	0	128,726
Australia	140,540	143,185	95,064
Israel	0	0	57,750
Chile	56,900	0	55,000
New Caledonia	0	29,650	50,000
New Zealand	10,000	21,300	12,000
Others	109,000	113,840	20
Total	562,170	481,281	599,734

Source: GTIS / Statistics Canada

UNITED STATES: The ExxonMobil refinery in Torrance, California is in the process of bringing production back up fully following an explosion in 2015. Exxon is in the final stages of selling the plant to PBF Energy.

February exports were 130,173 t, down by 20% on February 2015. The main destinations were Morocco at 53,000 t, Brazil at 38,000 t and New Caledonia at 25,000 t. This brought January-February exports to 355,862 t, an increase of 56% on the same period last year but down from 449,420 t in Jan-Feb 2014. The main destinations were as follows:

US Jan-Feb Sulphur Exports			
	2014	2015	2016
Brazil	126,006	35,000	112,909
Morocco	77,366	78,498	97,997
Mexico	24,945	38,891	58,272



China	92,551	25,208	32,702
New Caledonia	110,222	17,834	25,000
Namibia	0	0	17,597
Others	18,330	32,218	11,385
Total	449,420	227,649	355,862

Source: GTIS / U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

FREIGHT

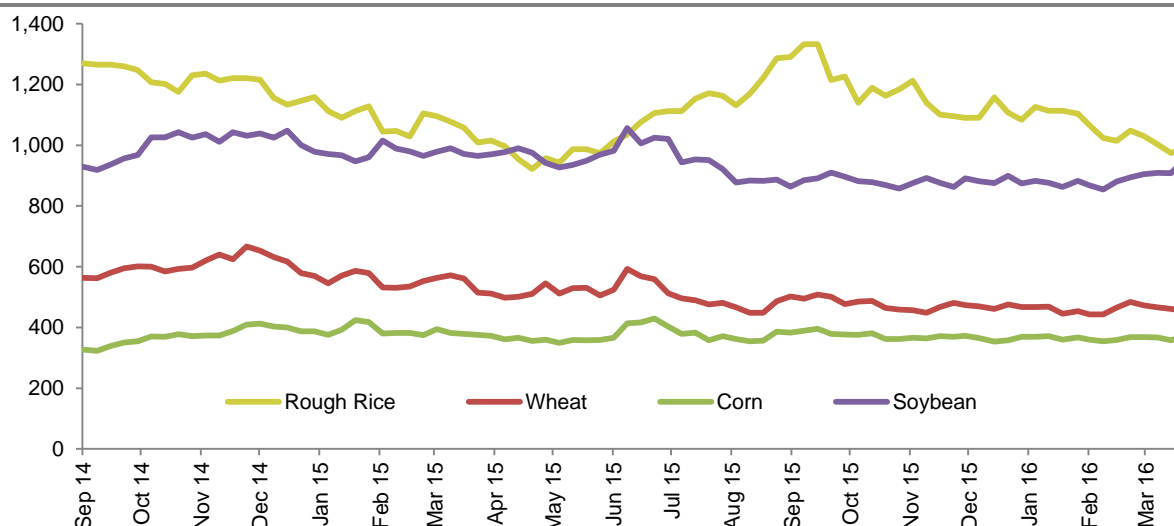
The table below shows how the various indices have developed since our last report:

DATE	Baltic Capesize	Baltic Panamax	Baltic Supramax	Baltic Handysize	Baltic Dry Index
8 April	656	643	488	286	539
11 April	733	654	492	288	555
12 April	744	666	498	290	560
13 April	744	678	506	296	567

Source: Baltic Exchange

AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY CBOT CROP PRICES (¢/bu)



CROP FUTURES

CME CROP PRICES (cents/bushel)					
Product	May 2016	Weekly Change	July 2016	Sep 2016	April 2015
Corn	373.4	+15.4	377.0	379.0	376.0
Wheat	454.4	-6.8	465.0	479.0	514.4
Soybean	955.6	+47.6	964.4	964.6	965.0
Rough Rice	989.0	+14.5	1,016.0	1,034.5	1,009.5

Prices are Wednesday's closing rates for the quarters indicated. The 2015 price is the forward price reported one year ago.

CORN:	WHEAT:
The USDA raised both its world and US corn ending	USDA data was mixed as far as wheat was concerned,



stocks forecasts, which did cause corn to back away from earlier gains but not significantly.	with US ending stocks a bit tighter than expectations and the world carry-out forecast above average.
SOYBEAN:	RICE:
Despite relatively neutral stocks data released by the USDA, soybean futures increased drastically, largely driven by weakness in the US\$.	Spill-over from rallies in other crops support rice futures this week as May contracts settled at almost 15 cents up week-on-week, although sentiment is still fragile.

REGIONAL MARKETS

GLOBAL: US **wheat** supplies are set to rise to their highest since 1987 due to weakening demand in the feed sector said the USDA in its latest outlook. The USDA reported that US wheat ending stocks at the end of the 2015/16 marketing year would be 26.56 million t, up from the 26.29 million t pegged in its March WASDE report.

On the global front, world ending stocks of wheat were raised to a bigger-than-expected 239.26 million t while production is set to be a record 733.1 million t in 2015/16. EU production was raised 1.5 million t to a record 160.0 million t, and Argentina's wheat output was raised 0.3 million t to 11.3 million t.

Meanwhile, the report also raised the US government's **corn** ending stocks forecast as usage cuts from the feed, residual, food, seed and industrial sectors outstripped increased demand from ethanol producers. US corn ending stocks were therefore raised to 47.29 million t for 2015/16. Globally, the USDA increased its outlook for global corn ending stocks to 208.91 million t raising its outlook for Argentine corn production by 1 million t to 28 million t due to beneficial rain during February and March.

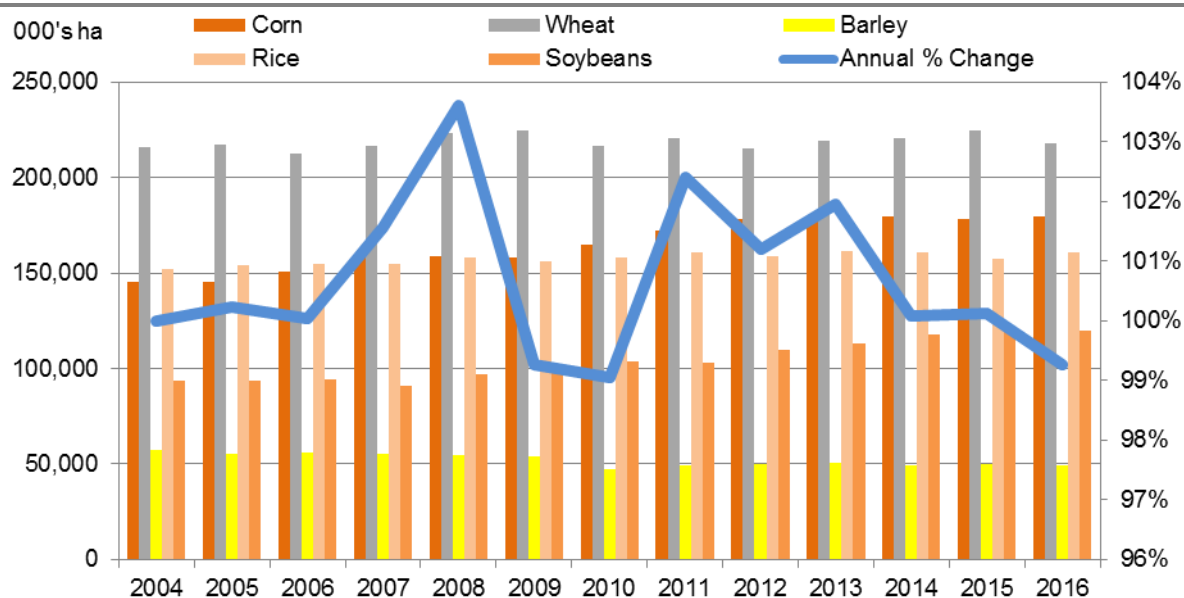
US **soybean** ending stocks were however, trimmed by 3.3% to 12.11 million t while it raised its global ending stocks to 79.02 million t for 2015/16. The USDA also boosted its Argentine soy harvest view to 59 million t from 58.50 million t last month, however, Brazil soybean as well as corn production was left unchanged from the USDA's March outlook, at 100 million t and 84 million t respectively.

KEY CROP ACREAGE

According to Informa Economics' (IEG) latest Acreage and Production report, published 12 April, global key crop acreage in 2016 is forecasted to total 575.9 million ha, less than 1 percentage point lower than the 580.2 million ha acreage recorded in 2015.

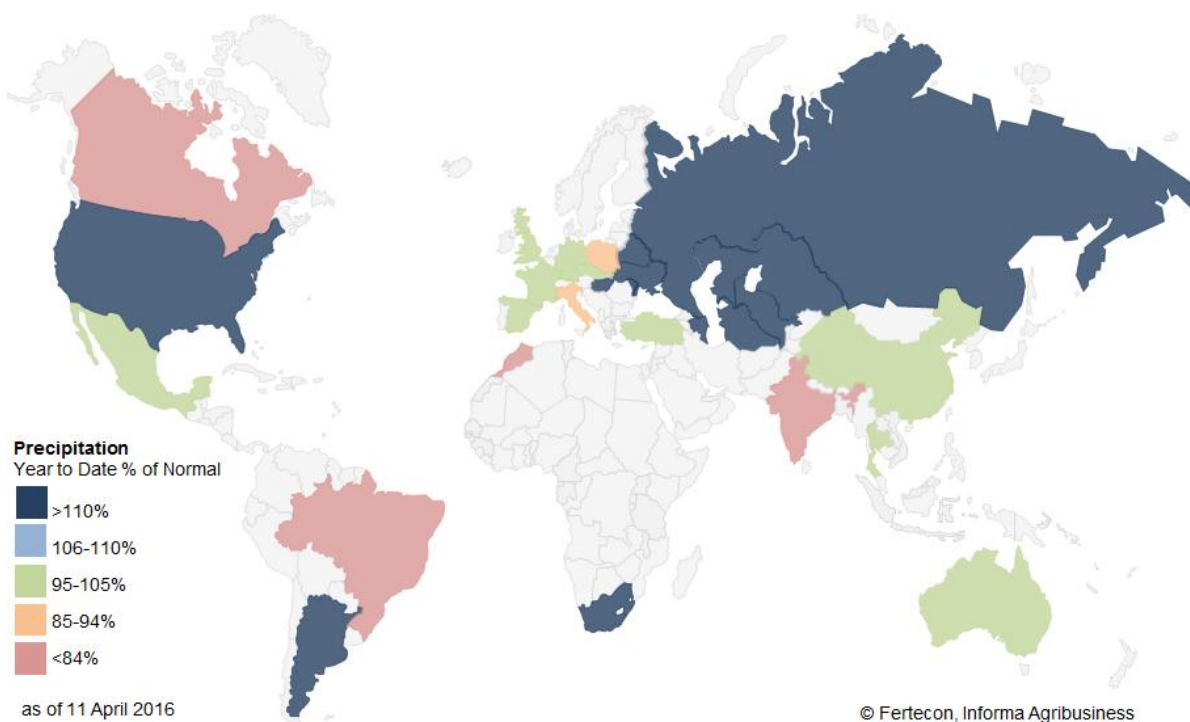


GLOBAL KEY CROP ACREAGE AGAINST AGGREGATED ANNUAL % CHANGE



In the US, IEG projects a 6% increase in corn acreage in 2016 although this is offset by a 9% decrease in wheat acreage. Corn acreage in Brazil is expected to total 4% less in 2016 than in 2015 whilst wheat acreage is expected to decrease by 10%.

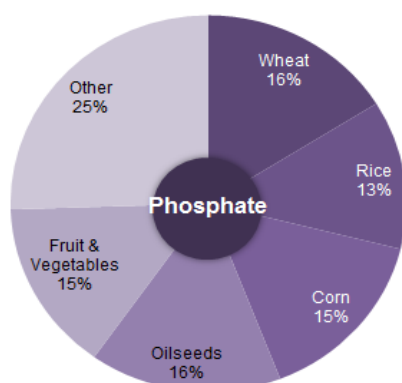
WEATHER & LAND CONDITIONS



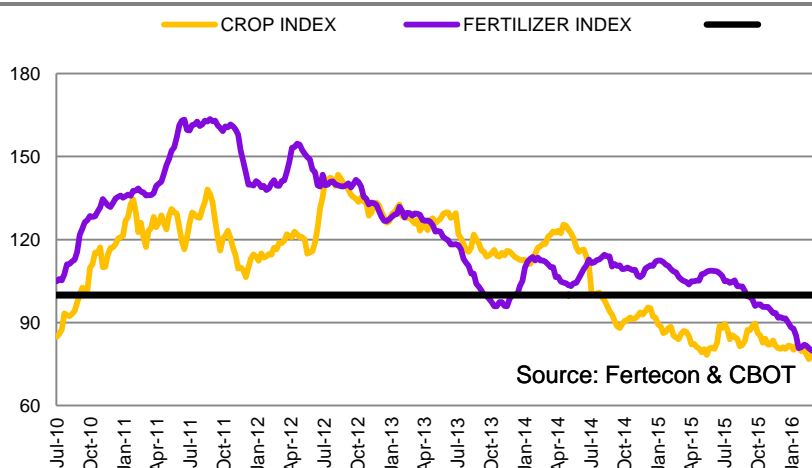


PHOSPHATE USE BY CROP

Source: IFA



FERTECON FERTILIZER & CROP INDICES



Using 6 January 2010 as the starting point (Jan 2010=100), the FERTECON indices aim to assess relative fertilizer affordability and illustrate the comparative movement of fertilizer prices (a basket of urea, DAP and MOP) against crop prices. The denotation is that the higher the crop index is relative to the fertilizer index, the more affordable fertilizers are to farmers – and vice versa.

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