

Patrick Heffer

Patrick Heffer joined the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) in Paris in 2002. In his capacity of Director of the Agriculture Service, he coordinates the activities of the IFA Agriculture Committee and of the IFA Africa Forum. More specifically, his duties focus on (i) issues facing world fertilizer demand, (ii) the development of fertilizer demand forecasts, (iii) the promotion of efficient and responsible use of fertilizers and (iv) the improvement of the public image of fertilizers. Since 2011, he has added IFA's recent Innovation and Research initiative to his portfolio.

Patrick Heffer has spent the previous five years in Switzerland at the joint secretariat of the International Seed Trade Federation and International Association of Plant Breeders (FIS/ASSINSEL), advancing to the position of Deputy Secretary General before his departure.

Prior to FIS/ASSINSEL, he was posted to the Rome headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a Seed Security and Use Officer. He has also worked at GNIS (the French parastatal seed organization) in Poitiers, France and at the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute in Rabat, Morocco.

Patrick Heffer earned his Master Degree in genetics and plant breeding at Paris XI – Orsay University, and earlier graduated in agronomy from the French École nationale supérieure d'horticulture.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP). Previously, he served as business & industry representative on the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), and as member of the Board of Directors of the Association of French Agronomists.