

Ensuring productivity in agriculture



To enrich the soil, agriculture uses **phosphate** as source of phosphorous – one of the building blocks of life. Extracted from **phosphate rock**, this fertilizer provides essential nutrients for the growth of grains (and therefore livestock), thus enabling improved agricultural productivity. Beyond agriculture, phosphates are also used in powders for fire extinguishers, detergents and toothpaste. China, Morocco and the United States share 70% of the world production of phosphate rock. Demand is exploding, and reserves are dwindling, leading to potential shortages. This is why phosphate rock is included in the European Commission's list of 27 critical raw materials. In order to diversify its sources of supply, Brussels is engaged in diplomatic partnerships with many countries producing critical raw materials. For example, since 2014 the **"Dialogue between the EU and Latin America on raw materials"** has been boosting the Latin American extractive sector in support of technological innovation, academic partnerships and training of qualified personnel.

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