

Tunisia – India Fertilizer (TIFERT) SA
(Joint Phosphate Acid Project)

Tunisia has been one of the leading phosphate producers in the world while India is among the major consumers of phosphate-based fertilizers. Two Tunisian state-owned companies, viz., Companies des Phosphates de Gafsa (CPG), and Groupe Chimique Tunisien (GCT) are engaged in processing phosphate rock and producing and exporting phosphate derivatives. India has been the largest buyer of Tunisian phosphate and phosphoric acid for over a decade.

A joint venture to produce Phosphoric acid has been established between the two Tunisian companies CPG and GCT and two Indian companies, viz., Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (GSFC) and Coromandel International Limited. The plant was established in Skhira in September 2006 and a Phosacid joint venture was incorporated in the name of Indian-Tunisia Fertilizers (TIFERT). Both Indian companies GSFC and Coromandel hold 15% share each in this 465 million USD project with balance 70% being held by GCT and CPG. TIFERT will process around 1.4 million tons of Tunisian phosphate rock per year producing 360,000 tons of phosphoric acid annually (360KT P₂O₅/Y) which would be exported in equal shares to the two Indian partners.

TIFERT is equipped with the latest technology and meets the international environment standards. The plant was scheduled to be commissioned in 2011. However, the revolution in Tunisia in January 2011, followed by civil disturbances in various parts of the country, particularly in the Governorate of Gafsa, where the phosphate mines are located, has caused some delay. The situation has since improved and the project is expected to start production by April 2013.