

Considering a career in industry

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Background

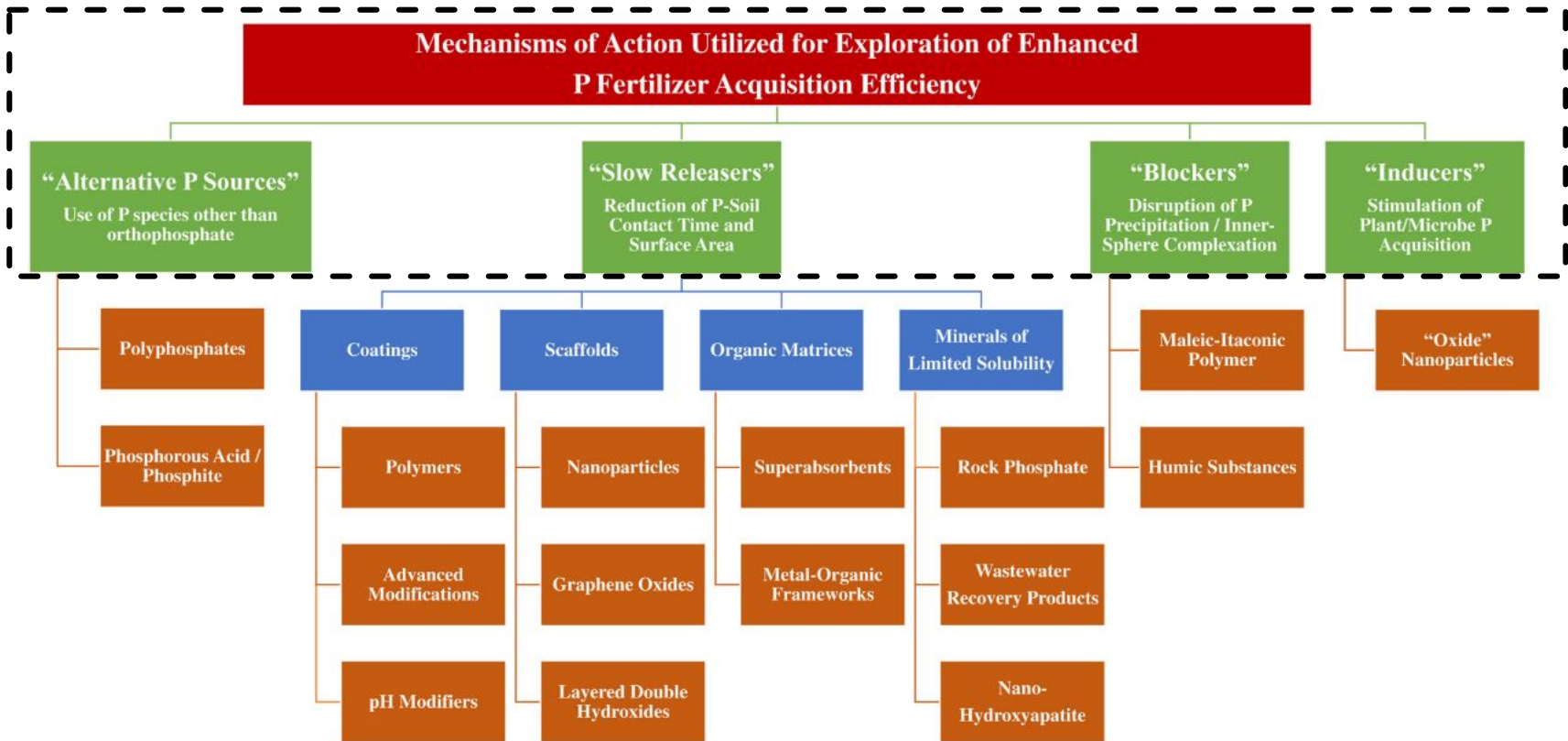
Education

1. Bsc. Biochemistry – Egerton University, Njoro - Kenya
2. Msc. Environmental Science – Tuskegee University, Alabama – USA
3. PhD. Agronomy and Soil Sciences – Purdue University, Indiana - USA

Career

1. Post-doctoral Research Associate – US Department of Agriculture – National Soil Erosion Lab, Indiana – USA
2. Research Scientist – Phospholutions, Inc., Pennsylvania – USA

How I ended up in Industry....



Research and Development – Industry vs Academia



<https://www.kennerdani.com/blog/2011/04/key-data-driven-roles-that-every-marketing-team-should-consider-adding>

- Interact with the sales and marketing team.
- Understand your company
- Learn the business language

Industry:

- Main goal is “to make money” for investors
- Customer needs – determines research direction
- Emphasis on intellectual property, patents, copyrights....
- Short-term projects (weeks/months)
- Broad expertise (e.g., material scientist, chemist, mechanical engineer, agronomist, statistical analyst)

Research and Development – Industry AND Academia

Collaborative effort in R&D between industry and academia.

- Funding MSc and PhD students
- Post-docs in universities and national labs
- Professors among advisory board members
- Conferences, symposia, webinars



Collaborative projects offer

- Publication opportunities
- Mentorship opportunities

Bottom line: you can contribute to both “worlds”

A few skills needed...

- Project management
- Effective communication
- Basic business acumen

