

The Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution - Status of Implementation at Regional and National Levels

In June 2006, the African Union Special Summit of the Heads of State and Government adopted the 12-Resolution “*Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution.*” At the end of the Summit, the AU Member States resolved to increase fertilizer use from 8.0 kilograms to 50.0 kilograms of nutrients per hectare by 2015. (Resolution 1)

There are some positive upward trends in fertilizer use in SSA. Between 1990 and 2008, fertilizer consumption per hectare in Kenya increased from 21 to 33 kg/ha; Angola increased consumption from 3.3 to 8.3 kg/ha; Cameroon increased consumption from 3.7 to 8.6 kg/ha; Tanzania increased consumption from 3 to 5.9 kg/ha; and Zambia increased consumption from 11 to 50 kg/ha. Similarly, in terms of total fertilizer use, between 1998/99 and 2007/08, total fertilizer consumption in Malawi increased from 50,200 to 125,153 tons of nutrients (NPK); Nigeria, 163,200 to 497,697 tons; Uganda from 3,535 to 18,976 tons; and Zambia from 36,700 to 117,978 tons.

Notwithstanding these commendable gains by some countries, fertilizer consumption levels, particularly for Sub-Saharan Africa, are still extremely low (Figure 1). Average fertilizer use per hectare in SSA has remained between 5 kg/ha and 10 kg/ha since 1990, which is less than 10 percent of

the world average and far below the 50 kg/ha minimum target set by the *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer.*

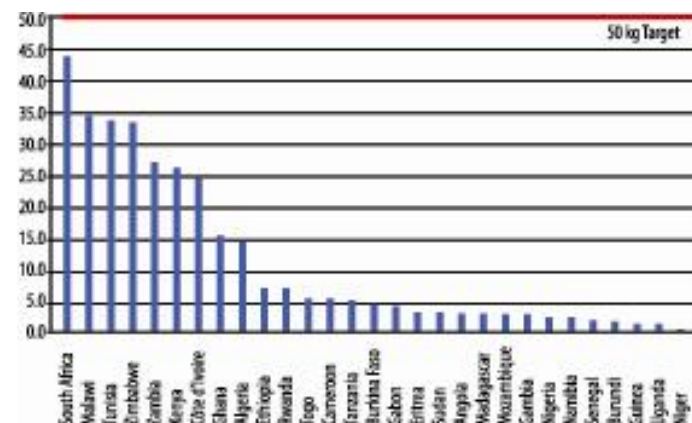


Fig. 1: Average Intensity of Fertilizer Use (Nutrients NPK) per Hectare of Cultivated Land in SSA, Selected Countries (2008)

Nevertheless, there has been substantive improvement in the implementation of the *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers* by the countries and (Regional Economic Communities (RECs) since June 2006.

The three RECs that submitted progress reports have well-structured, concrete programs in the pipeline/under implementation with a high potential of bringing about substantive changes on the ground in terms of policy and regulatory reforms, lower prices for fertilizers and ultimately, increased consumption of fertilizers.

Table 1 below shows the progress achieved by RECS on two of the three regional level resolutions. Table 2 shows progress by the countries on implementation of the key resolutions.

Table 1. Status of Implementation of Resolutions at Regional Level

[East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Community of Sahel Sahelian States (CENSAD)]

REC	Action	Resolutions
EAC	- Therefore, an EAC Action Plan to address food insecurity in the region was developed and finalized in 2010 by EAC in collaboration with key stakeholders from the all EAC Partner States. The plan covers five main priority areas: (1) provision of an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework; (2) increased food availability in sufficient quantity and quality; (3) improved access to food; (4) improved stability of food supply and access in the EAC region; and (5) enhanced efficiency of food utilization, nutrition and food safety. The plan identifies numerous constraints in achieving food security in the EAC region including low usage of productivity-enhancing inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds and CPPs. - To address the above constraints, the EAC is at different stages in the development of responsive projects and programs in collaboration with key development partners from within and outside the region.	Resolution 2 (Harmonization of Policies and Regulations)
ECOWAS	- In 2010 the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions embarked on the development of a regional legal framework that harmonizes national regulatory schemes governing fertilizer quality control. The relevant documents will be submitted to the appropriate statutory bodies for adoption by the end of 2011. The next steps will be the development of: a) legal instruments for fertilizer inspection and analysis and ; b) a strategy for capacity building at the national level to ensure effective implementation. With these legal instruments in place, the process of setting up a regional regulatory body will commence. - The ECOWAS Agriculture Regional Information System (AGRIS) is being developed to capture national level information and data on the agriculture sector, including fertilizer use. - All 15 ECOWAS Member States had adopted a CAADP “National Agricultural Investment Program” (NAIP) by 2010. Most of NAIP includes programs for fertilizer improvement to increase agricultural production and productivity. - A financial mechanism (ECOWADF) has been established under the authority of the ECOWAS Commission. It is funded by resources from the ECOWAS region and external financial partners. Stakeholders from the fertilizer sub-sector will be able to access funds for their various activities through a window to be developed under the ECOWADF.	Resolution 2 (Harmonization of Policies and Regulations)
	The ECOWAS Commission has commissioned a study in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo aimed at assessing the challenges and opportunity for domestic fertilizer production in West Africa. The output of this study will constitute the working documents of a regional workshop to be held in 2011 to identify priority areas of intervention for ECOWAS with regards to the promotion of domestic fertilizer production and trade.	Resolution 9 (Promote National/Regional Fertilizer Production and Intra-Regional Trade)
SADC	A study on fertilizer production opportunities in the region (Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) was conducted and recommends that the region considers the harmonization of labeling of	Resolution 9 (Promote

	fertilizers in all Member States. In this regard, the Secretariat is in the process of developing a simple harmonized system of labeling fertilizer in the region. It is envisaged that the draft labeling system will be available for consideration by Member States before the end of 2011.	National/Regional Fertilizer Production and Intra-Regional Trade)
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*No activities were reported for COMESA, ECCAS, IGAD, and CEN-SAD.

Table 2. Status of Implementation of Resolutions at Country Level

Indicator	Good	Satisfactory	Partially Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Establishment of policy and regulatory frameworks				
Capacity for quality control				
Elimination of taxes and tariffs				
Development of agrodealer networks				
Distance traveled to purchase fertilizers				
Increase in the proportion of farmers using chemical fertilizers				
Increasing market size				
Introducing targeted subsidies				
Introducing national financing facilities for importers and agrodealers				
Introducing				

regional procurement initiatives				
Improving access to complementary inputs				
Establishment of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM)				

Overall, progress in the implementation of the *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer* is satisfactory to good, but there is still much room for improvement

What needs to be done NOW by the AU Member States?

1. Immediate commitment of funds from national budgets to bridge the funding gap required to make the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism operational. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and AUC/NEPAD should embark on an aggressive fund-raising drive to encourage external donors to commit funds to the AFFM.
2. Implement targeted, smart subsidies by using input vouchers and using the private sector to import and distribute fertilizers for government fertilizer subsidy programs.
3. Explore alternative sources of revenue to facilitate the elimination of taxes and tariffs on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials.
4. Increase and expand programs to develop agro-dealer networks
5. Increase the availability of risk-sharing financial facilities for importers and agro-dealers. Government should also introduce legislation to improve access to foreign exchange for importers and provide credit guarantees to commercial banks that finance agro-dealers.
6. Develop and implement policy and regulatory frameworks for the fertilizer industry.

7. Each of the RECs should develop and implement an M&E framework to monitor and evaluate progress in implementation of the *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer*. This will improve implementation and facilitate future reporting of this activity.

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The logo for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). It consists of the letters "CAADP" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark blue rectangular background.