



African Union



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

Due to decades of soil nutrient mining, Africa's soils have become the poorest in the world. It is estimated that the continent loses the equivalent of over \$4 billion worth of soil nutrients per year, severely eroding its ability to feed itself. No region of the world has been able to expand agricultural growth rates, and thus tackle hunger, without increasing fertilizer use.

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: Increase fertilizer use from the current average of 8 kg of nutrients per hectare to 50 kg of nutrients per ha by 2015

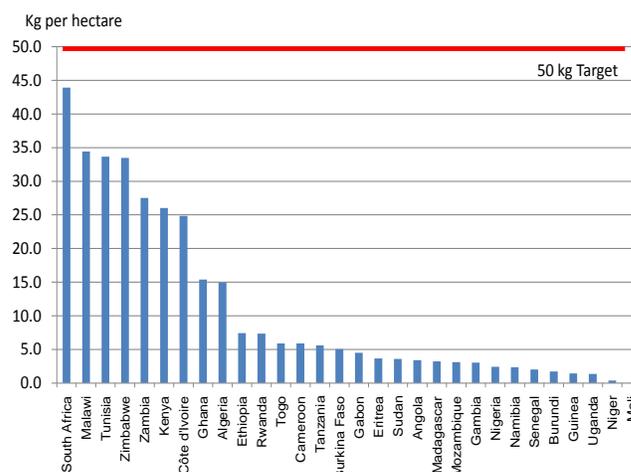


Fig. 1: Fertilizer use by AU Member States (2007)

Although no country in Sub-Saharan Africa seems to have achieved Resolution 1 of the Declaration by 2007, there are some signs of improvement in the implementation of the *Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer* by the countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) since June 2006.

At the country level, some progress has been achieved in the implementation of Resolution 3 which requests AU Member States to, amongst other issues, develop and upscale input dealers and agro-dealer networks and capacity building initiatives.

Previous initiatives undertaken at the regional level were somewhat haphazard, with little structure and planning, now each of the RECs have structured agri-input programs with clear goals and objectives in place. Table 1 below shows the progress achieved by RECS, by key Resolution. The results indicate that the RECs will need to take concrete steps to translate their programs into substantive changes on the ground in terms of policy and regulatory reforms, lower fertilizer prices and ultimately, increased fertilizer consumption.

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.
2. Provision of smart fertilizer subsidies.
3. Elimination of all taxes and tariffs on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials.
4. Improving access to finance for fertilizer importers and agro-dealers.
5. Develop and implement policy and regulatory frameworks.

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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)]

Resolutions	EAC	SADC	COMESA	ECOWAS
Resolution 2 (Harmonization of Policies and Regulations)	<p>There are no external tariffs (duties and border taxes) on fertilizers imported into the EAC region,</p> <p>The Strengthening Trade at the Regional Level in Agricultural Inputs in Africa (STAR) project was launched in EAC in February 2009. The project seeks to strengthen African national and regional trade in agricultural inputs through an improved policy and regulatory environment and capacity-building for trade.</p> <p>A workshop on “Strengthening Market Linkages in Input Supply” was convened by EAC in Nairobi.</p> <p>A comparative review on fertilizer policy and legal and regulatory frameworks was undertaken. Three agri-input working groups have been established to promote the harmonization of policies, regulation and standards for agricultural inputs in the region in order to facilitate trade.</p>		<p>Adoption of a zero-rate import tariffs on fertilizers and its raw materials at the COMESA Heads of State Summit in May 2009 as an integral part of the Customs Union. The next step is domestication through alignment of national legislation.</p> <p>Launching of the STAR project on November 2007.</p> <p>Organization of a workshop on “Strengthening Market Linkages in Input Supply” in Arusha. The workshop targeted importers and manufacturers.</p> <p>Preparation of a Regional Fertilizer Strategy.</p> <p>Signing of a MOU with the FAO in March 2009. One of the activities under the MOU is for COMESA to commission a review of fertilizer regulations in the COMESA region to be funded by FAO.</p>	<p>The ECOWAS and UEMOA commissions jointly launched the five-year MIR Plus project on November 13, 2009, to facilitate the development of a regional agri-input market in West Africa.</p>
Resolution 8 (Establish Regional Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Centers)			<p>Organization of a Regional Fertilizer Conference on fertilizer policies in July 2009.</p> <p>Organization of a Policy Workshop and Seminar, in June 2009 in Zambia, on challenges and opportunities offered by the Regional Joint Procurement of Fertilizers.</p>	

Resolutions	EAC	SADC	COMESA	ECOWAS
			<p>East and Southern African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Establishment of the African Regional Fertilizer Procurement Facility in March 2009. Agreement that a pilot project would be launched, with the assistance of the AfDB, in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.</p>	
<p>Resolution 9 (Promote National/Regional Fertilizer Production and Intra-Regional Trade)</p>	<p>EAC has submitted a concept note to the AfDB on conducting a feasibility study for fertilizer production in the region. The detailed proposal is under preparation for submission.</p>	<p>A study on fertilizer production opportunities in the region was conducted and recommends that the region considers the harmonization of labeling of fertilizers in all Member States.</p>	<p>Study on regional fertilizer production.</p> <p>Establishment of the COMESA Regional Agro-Inputs Program (COMRAP), focusing on (1) improved financial services; (2) strengthening agro-dealers' networks to improve the supply of agro-inputs to smallholders; and (3) harmonization of seed regulations and standards.</p>	

*No activities were reported for ECCAS, IGAD, and CEN-SAD

