



PRESS RELEASE

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IFDC Launches USAID West Africa Fertilizer Program

Accra, Ghana (November 15, 2012) – The International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) launched the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) West Africa Fertilizer Program in Accra, November 15, 2012, under the theme: *“Ensuring availability and use of affordable fertilizers in the sub-region.”* The keynote address was delivered by Honorable Kwesi Ahwoi, Ghana’s Minister of Agriculture.

The five-year (2012-2017) USAID program, implemented by IFDC, will have an impact across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region; and support will center around the U.S. Government Feed the Future focus countries of Ghana, Liberia, Mali and Senegal. Feed the Future is a U.S. Government initiative aimed at reducing hunger, poverty and undernutrition in developing countries.

Millions of rural farmers in West Africa lack consistent access to affordable fertilizers for growing staple crops such as millet, sorghum and maize. The USAID West Africa Fertilizer Program will provide assistance for implementation of the recently adopted ECOWAS fertilizer regulations. This will lead to a more integrated trade zone and increase smallholder farmers’ access to fertilizer.

“Increased inter- and intra-regional African fertilizer trade could significantly lower the cost of fertilizers, but quality control and fertilizer trade regulations need to be harmonized across the sub-region,” said Dr. Kofi Debrah, chief of party of the program.

The USAID West Africa Fertilizer Program will facilitate the establishment of a West African Fertilizer Stakeholders’ Forum, which will bring together manufacturers, importers, distributors, agro-dealers, international fertilizer associations, financial institutions, farmers’ organizations, policy makers, donors and other public entities. In implementing the program, IFDC will work closely with a sub-grantee and partner, the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), to ease supply-side constraints and ensure a reliable and affordable fertilizer supply in West Africa.

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