

# WEST AFRICA FERTILIZER PROGRAM

*"Sustained productivity growth in African agriculture will depend on the capacity of Africa's farmers to combine improved land, crop, and animal husbandry practices with cost-effective use of modern inputs..."*

— FERTILIZER USE IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

*"Increasing agricultural productivity in Africa will play a critical role in fighting hunger and poverty in Africa, and promoting broader economic growth and opportunities for that region's fast-growing population."*

— DR. MOSTAFA TERRAB, PRESIDENT AND CEO, OCP



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## USAID WAFP



### INCREASING AVAILABILITY AND USE OF FERTILIZER IN WEST AFRICA

The USAID West Africa Fertilizer Program (USAID WAFP) is a five-year USAID flagship project that seeks to address several issues facing farmers in Africa today: affordability, timeliness and effective use of quality fertilizer; agro-dealer education and certification; harmonization of local and regional laws to control input quality and encourage business investment; access to price information on inputs and produce; and larger markets for input procurement and sale of produce.

Through these, USAID WAFP aims to help West African farmers increase yields of rice and maize – which are the focus of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative. USAID WAFP also, to a lesser extent, works on vegetables and cash crops that drive the demand for fertilizer such as cocoa and cotton.

Linking farmers to agro-dealers and agro-dealers to wholesalers, importers and manufacturers, contributes to the larger picture of reliable fertilizer and seed availability throughout West Africa. Stimulating private sector investment in agriculture and advocating for a stable, harmonized policy and business environment, helps ensure farmers find buyers for their produce. USAID WAFP brings these actors together to discuss and find practical solutions to these challenges.

## ISFM, ICT AND GENDER



### APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE INPUTS USE

USAID WAFP promotes integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) and good agricultural practices (GAPs) to effectively increase the appropriate use of fertilizers and improved seed in a cost-effective manner, that demonstrates the profitability of modern inputs and farming methods.

This involves field demonstrations and trials, development of best practice tool kits for training of trainers (ToT) programs to reach larger numbers of farmers, development of country- and soil-specific fertilizer recommendations and the scaling-up of fertilizer deep placement (FDP) technology in irrigated rice and maize cultivation.

### ICT AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Across all these areas, the project integrates strategies for doing business much more easily and efficiently on local, national and regional levels. Modern technology is leveraged through ICT platforms to give access to real-time market prices and other useful information, to aid users in making timely and informed decisions.

To ensure project benefits reach across populations, project activities are structured to ensure equitable access by women and youth to participate in training programs, finance opportunities and other project efforts. To track project environmental impact, compliance and mitigation measures, USAID WAFP has implemented a detailed environmental monitoring program.

## PARTNERS



### PROJECT PARTNERS EXTEND PROJECT IMPACT

USAID WAFP is working with expert partners from the public and private sectors to achieve its goals:

- The **African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)** specializes in access to finance and business development services using its Agribusiness Partnership Contracts (APCs).
- **ECOWAS, UEMOA, CORAF** and **CILSS** implement and harmonize regional fertilizer, seed and pesticide regulations.
- Other **USAID bilateral mission projects**: USAID ATT in Ghana, FED in Liberia, Markets II in Nigeria, and Yaajende in Senegal stimulate private sector investment to participate in trials, soil testing, briquetting and blending.
- Private sector actors whose businesses can invest in supplying appropriate fertilizer blends in useful quantities contribute to improved availability and provide reliable markets for farmers' produce: these include **ETG, Olam, Nestlé** and **Unilever**, among others.

USAID WAFP and its partners are focused on improving sustainable agricultural productivity in West Africa through providing greater economic scope for farmers and small-to medium-scale entrepreneurs, while encouraging active involvement by the private sector. By acting together for increased regional availability of fertilizers and other inputs, smallholders and larger enterprises can contribute to food security for their families, communities and countries. ■