







I MAY 2020 - BULLETIN NO. 4

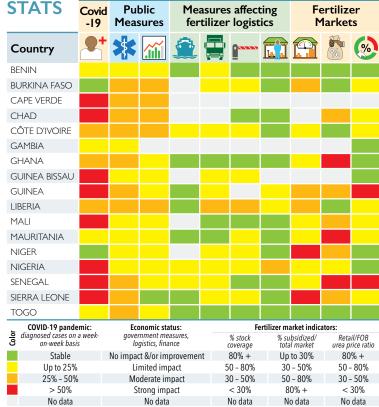
## WEST AFRICA FERTILIZER WATCH

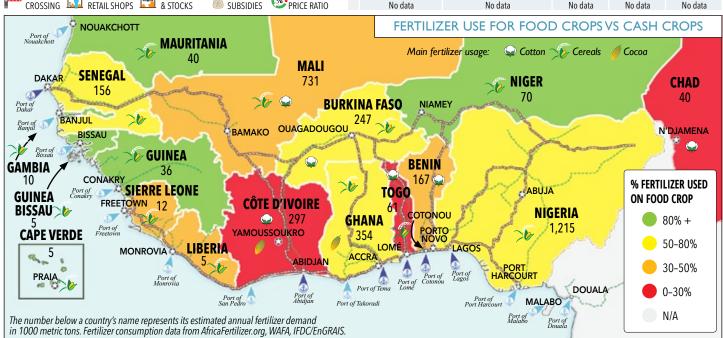
PROVIDING WEEKLY INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WEST AFRICA FERTILIZER MARKET

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

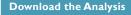
- ▶ The supply chain is working, and stocks are being built up, while some countries are taking measures to open up. This is true in Ghana and Nigeria, where the economic impacts of the pandemic may be more severe than the direct health impacts.
- ▶ Government responses are being fine-tuned, with response plans and support programm for inputs (Togo, Nigeria, Senegal) being put in place, or for agricultural commodity chains (Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Chad).
- ▶ Subsidies, first of all for food crops? While food crops only consume a little more than half (54%) of the fertilizers consumed in West Africa and receive barely 20% of the recommended inputs, governments should encourage local food production and maintain the production level and purchasing power of cash crop farmers. Implementation options should be based on ECOWAS regulations and the future Fertilizer Subsidy Directive, as well as existing national subsidy programs (see the map published in Issue 2 and RODEVA's viewpoint).
- ▶ Responses from the seed sector are being prepared with support from CORAF, which notes that enough certified seed for rice is available for the next growing season, while all other crops have a shortfall in the quantity of seed required.







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