

29 MAY 2020 – BULLETIN NO. 8

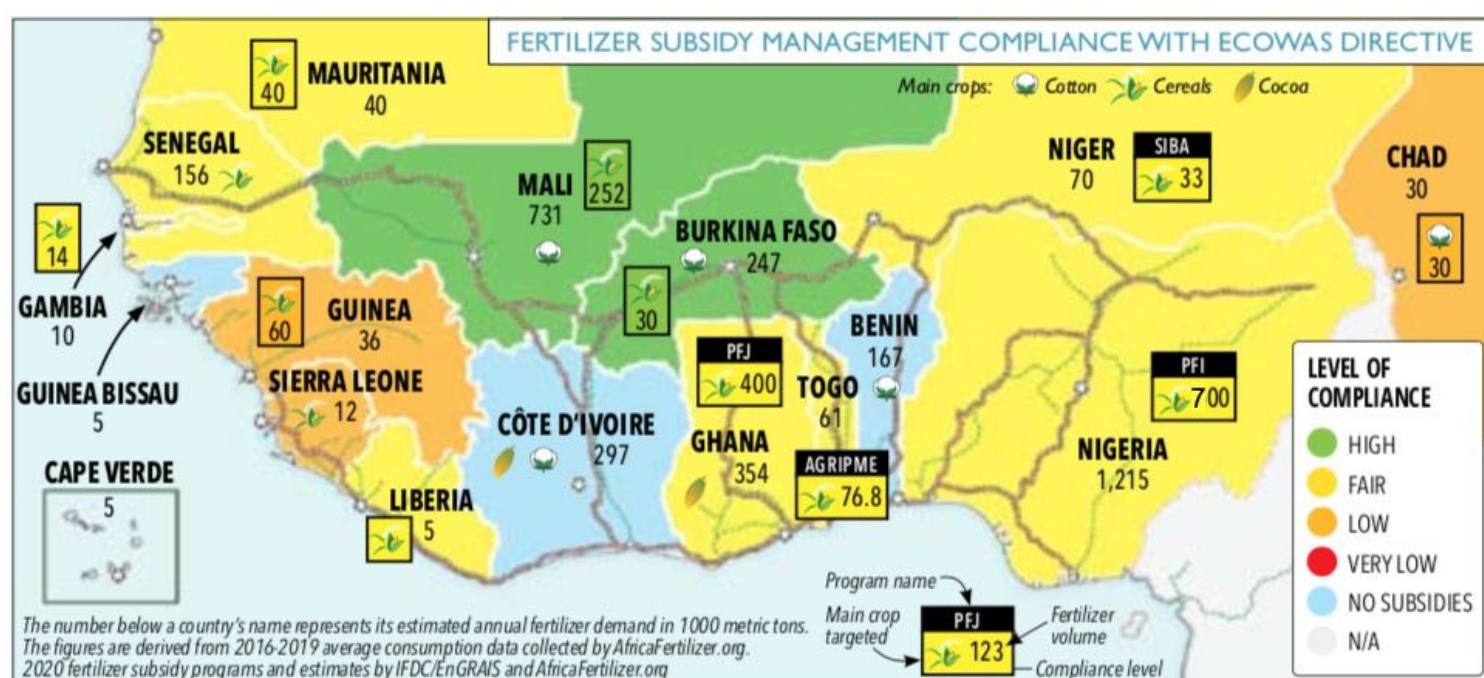
WEST AFRICA FERTILIZER WATCH

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

ANALYSIS

Edition No. 8 - 29 May 2020

Focus on fertilizer programs in
Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo



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HIGHLIGHTS

- This week, the number of **new COVID-19 cases in the region has again slowed down**, growing by only 21% compared to 28% the previous week, leading countries in the region to further relax movement, economic and health restrictions.
- **Imports and local production of blended fertilizers continued**, with raw material and finished product stock levels expected to be sufficient to cover the season's needs in the major fertilizer-consuming countries.
- **Distribution of fertilizers to producers has already begun in many countries**, whether under government subsidy programs (Ghana and Senegal) or not (cotton programs in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina, PFI in Nigeria). Retailers are generally well stocked, even if sales are still limited, and farmers are sometimes afraid to travel (e.g. Ghana). Smuggling of fertilizer from the Ghanaian PFJ to Burkina Faso already seems to be quite active.
- The map below shows the fertilizer distribution programs in progress, and their level of **compliance with the draft/future ECOWAS Directive on smart design and management of fertilizer Subsidy programs**. Reforms have been substantive in some subsidy programs, notably in Ghana, Niger (pilot), Togo, Senegal, and Burkina Faso. Nine countries are implementing and/or designing COVID-19-specific fertilizer support programs, most of them by increasing the outreach of their existing subsidy programs, with subsidy rates ranging from 10% to 70%.

A RETENIR

- On note à **nouveau un ralentissement du nombre de nouveaux cas de COVID-19**, de seulement +21 % contre +28 % la semaine précédente, amenant les pays de la région à assouplir encore plus les restrictions économiques et sanitaires.
- **Les importations et la production locale d'engrais de mélange se poursuivent**, avec des niveaux de stocks de matières premières et de produits finis qui devraient être suffisants pour couvrir les besoins de la campagne dans les principaux pays consommateurs d'engrais.
- **La distribution des engrais aux producteurs a déjà commencé** dans de nombreux pays, que ce soit dans le cadre des subventions (Ghana, Sénégal) ou non (programmes coton au Bénin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina; PFI au Nigéria). Les détaillants sont en général correctement approvisionnés, même si les ventes sont encore timides, et si les paysans ont parfois peur ou des difficultés à se déplacer. La contrebande d'engrais du PFJ ghanéen vers le Burkina Faso semble être déjà active.
- La carte ci-dessous montre les programmes de distribution d'engrais en cours, et leur niveau de **conformité avec la directive provisoire/future de la CEDEAO sur la conception et la gestion intelligente des programmes de subvention des engrais**. Les réformes ont été importantes dans certains programmes de subvention, notamment au Ghana, au Togo, au Niger (pilote), au Sénégal et au Burkina Faso. Neuf pays sont en train de mettre en œuvre et/ou de concevoir des programmes de soutien aux engrais spécifiques à COVID-19, la plupart d'entre eux en augmentant la portée de leurs programmes existants. Les taux de subvention varient de 10% à 70%.

This week

FOCUS ON FERTILIZER PROGRAMMES IN GHANA | NIGER NIGERIA | TOGO

As countries in the region begin to lift restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, an economic crisis as a result of the health crisis appears imminent.

Indeed, the purchasing power of populations, especially in rural areas, can be expected to decline. In the medium term, the COVID-19 crisis may turn into a food crisis with effects as disastrous as those of the health crisis.

In order to limit this negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, ECOWAS has urgently called on the Member States of the community to multiply their efforts to move as quickly as possible towards food self-sufficiency and strengthen the purchasing power of farmers.

The measures taken by ECOWAS, UEMOA and their Member States have generally been rapid, coordinated and well implemented. Fertilizers thus very quickly became one of the essential commodities that could continue to be imported, transported, manufactured locally, and distributed (with some slowdowns and additional costs), almost as in a normal year.

This week, we take stock of fertilizer subsidy programs underway in the region, most of which are being implemented as planned and planned by governments before the COVID-19 crisis, with others providing specific responses to the pandemic, either already implemented (Togo) or under design (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea).

We present here how these subsidy programs are in line with 4 of [the 13 key principles for an intelligent management of fertilizer subsidies](#), as advocated in the future ECOWAS Directive on this issue:

1. Promotion of balanced fertilizers adapted to crops and soils
2. Crop targeting
3. Targeting of beneficiaries
4. Inclusion of the private sector

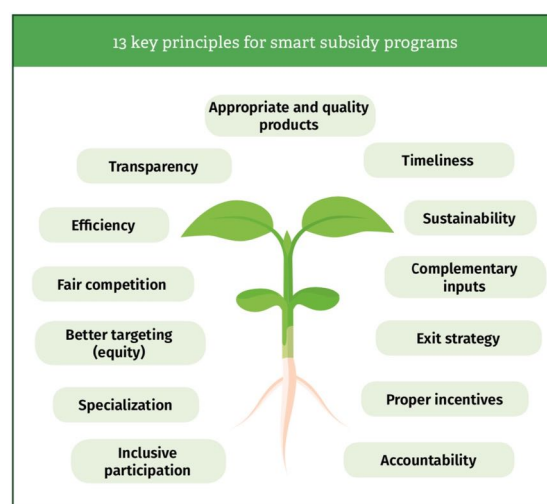
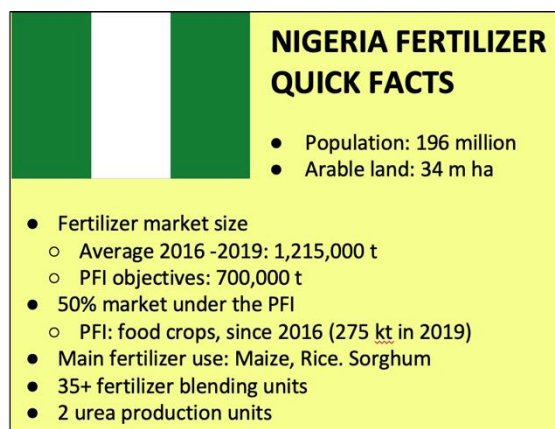


Figure 1: the 13 key principles of smart grant program management (graphics by Grain de Sel - InteReseaux)

The map on the cover page shows the fertilizer distribution programs currently underway, and their level of compliance with the draft/future ECOWAS Directive on the intelligent management of fertilizer subsidy programs. Efforts and results are significant for several subsidy programs, notably in Ghana, Togo, and Burkina Faso, as well as for developments in the cotton and cocoa sectors in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Ghana.

NIGERIA - The Presidential Fertilizer Initiative, an absolute win for the Government



Towards fertilizer production self-sufficiency

In 2015, the fertilizer sector in Nigeria was in a dire situation, and the country was importing most of its fertilizers. As a result, the country was losing foreign exchange at an alarming rate. Farmers were also faced with high fertilizer prices since the end of the GES subsidy program that was discontinued as it had become too expensive for the government.

The Presidential Fertilizer Initiative (PFI) was approved by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016. The initiative objective then was to solve several of the sector issues and achieve self-sufficiency in local NPK fertilizer production by 2019 starting with one million metric tons for the 2017 wet season farming and an additional 500,000 metric tons for the dry season farming.

Today, as Nigeria is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the President has once again used the PFI as leverage to relieve Nigerian Farmers by further reducing the cost of the PFI fertilizers.

PFI Functioning in 2020

The PFI is a Public Private partnership. Its main actors are the National Sovereign Investment Agency (NSIA), the Fertilizer Producer, Supplier

Association of Nigeria (FEPSAN), OCP and local producers such as Indorama for the urea.

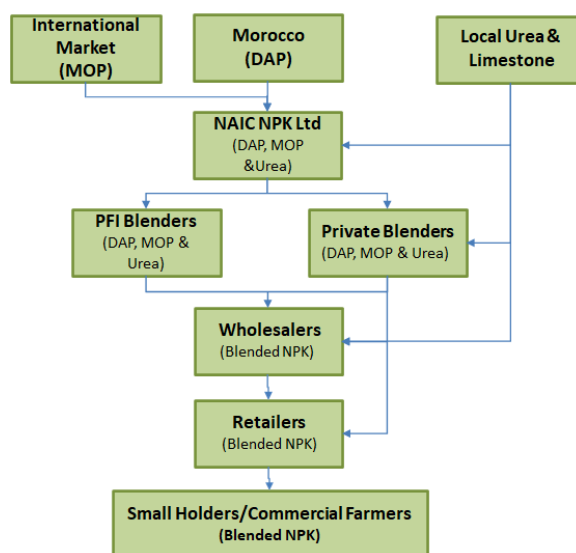


Figure 2: PFI 2020 functioning scheme

Within the initiative, NSIA sources large quantities of fertilizer raw materials from Local and international producers of fertilizer. The raw material is then given to selected FEPSAN members to be blended into some 600,000 MT of NPK 20-10-10, mainly used for staple food production (maize, rice, and sorghum). The NPK is then sold to farmers through the normal distribution channels, at the fixed price of 5,500 naira per 50 kg bag (about \$280 per ton). The blenders are paid a fixed fee to produce the NPK.



Figure 3: PFI Bag Sample at AF & C Company in Kano. Photo Seyi Tijani

PFI, an absolute win for the Government

The PFI has several benefits for the Government of Nigeria (GoN), the fertilizer private sector, and for the farmers. Thanks to the PFI, farmers access the NPK 20 10 10 at a price 40% cheaper than the same product in the private market. There is also downward price pressure on non-PFI fertilizers of all grades as they must compete with the cheaper PFI fertilizer. Despite this competition induced by the PFI product, the initiative improves the health of the sector. Indeed about 60% of the raw materials used in PFI products are sourced locally, and the blending capacity of the country keeps increasing (source: [Africa Fertilizer Plant Register](#), AfricaFertilizer.org 2020)

Where there were only four functioning blenders in 2015, there are now more than 35 blenders across the country, 26 of which are participating in the 2020 PFI. In addition, urea will be supplied locally by Indorama Eleme Fertilizer & Chemicals Company and Notore Chemical Industries both in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. Granulated limestone also will be supplied locally by the West Africa Fertilizer Company (WAFERT), Okpella, Edo State, Nigeria.

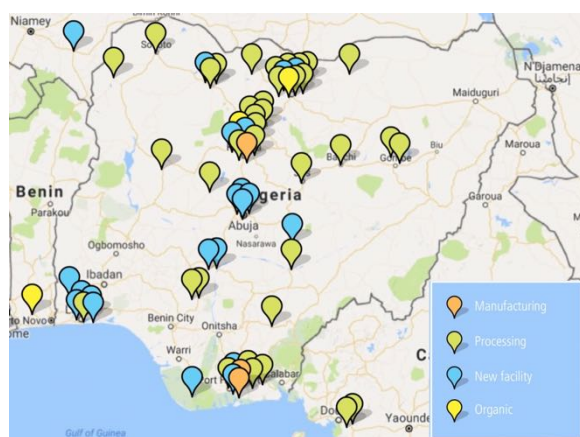


Figure 4: Fertilizer production and blending sites. Source: AfricaFertilizer.org

For the GoN, the PFI is an absolute win. The PFI reduces imports of blended fertilizer, by directly negotiating discounted contracts to procure the constituent raw materials used in the production of NPK fertilizer. Thus, it helps guarantee lower fertilizer costs to farmers

without spending large amounts on direct subsidies. At the same time it saves on foreign exchange sourcing more of the country's fertilizer needs locally.

Unsolved Challenges

Despite improvements induced in the sector by the PFI, there are still some continuing issues. For instance, as the official price for the 50 KG bag of PFI fertilizer was at 5,500, farmers were actually paying about 6,000 Naira for the product. Some farmers also complained about the low quality of some of the PFI Products.

For the private sector, these issues are explained by the fact the prescribed PFI cost does not fully cover the cost of bringing the fertilizer to the farmer. As a result, FEPSAN members have been pushing for the GoN to officially increase the PFI price of the bag to the farmer and pay them a fair price for the commodity and its delivery.

2020 PFI Objective: 600,000 tons of local NPK blends serving 6 million farmers

Despite COVID-19 and the other issues, in 2020, the PFI still has the objective to produce 600,000 MT of NPK 20-10-10 with 26 participating blenders and about 210 MT of Urea sourced locally. This volume will cover about 80% of the NPK demand of the country and around 50% of the total fertilizer demand estimated at 1.25 million tons for 2020. Around 6 million smallholder farmers should benefit from the PFI this year.

Supply Chain Works Despite Some Disruptions

By the end of 2019, the PFI planning phase was completed, and the first shipments of DAP were already in the country. By April, all the raw material needed had reached the country. Also, blending operations had started despite the difficulties in transporting fertilizers due to the measures taken to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 induced disruption also affected the agro-dealers as some of them could not open their shops in several states. Despite these disruptions PFI fertilizers are still being produced and distributed to consumption areas.

COVID 19 Response: an extra \$25 per ton price reduction

While the direct impacts of COVID-19 on PFI fertilizer production and distribution have been negligible, the GoN anticipated a reduction in farmer purchasing power as a result restrictions that were put in place to curb the spread of the disease.

On April 8th, the President decided to further subsidize the already low price of PFI fertilizer. Thus, the official price of PFI fertilizer was reduced to 5,000 naira from the already low 5,500. The GoN reassured the private sector that they will fully cover the reduction in cost.


Current Situation and Outlook

With all the necessary raw material available in the country, most blenders have started production of the PFI NPK. To date, about a month since production started, the blenders participating in the PFI have produced at least one third of the total NPK target for the year. Production is continuing without any major hiccups, leading sector professionals to conclude there will be enough fertilizer to satisfy demand this year.

The fertilizer is now available at agro-dealer shops in the main consumption areas, just in time for the planting season that is already starting and will probably last for the whole month of June.

For the agro-retailers, the only unknown remaining is the effect COVID-19 will have on farmers fertilizer buying habits.

Status of implementation of the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) fertilizer subsidy program in Ghana - "So far, so good".

	GHANA FERTILIZER QUICK FACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population: 30 million Arable land: 4.7 m ha
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilizer market size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average 2016 - 2019: 354,000 t Objectives 2020: 412,000 t 83% subsidized market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFJ for food crops, since 2016 (275 kt in 2019) COCOBOD for cocoa (150 kt in 2019) Main fertilizer use: Cocoa, Maize, Rice 6 fertilizer blending units 	

PFJ, MoFA's flagship program since 2016

Ghana's 2019 apparent fertilizer consumption was 425,110 MT, while 2020 fertilizer consumption is expected to be higher with concurrent fertilizer subsidy programs by Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) and COCOBOD.

The PFJ fertilizer subsidy program officially commenced on 23rd March 2020 with a press release from the Office of the Minister of Agriculture (MoFA).

The objective is to promote crop-specific fertilizer recommendations in different agro-ecological zones across Ghana to enhance food security.

Targeting Food Crops

Maize (Hybrid), Maize (OPV), Rice, Soya bean, Sorghum, Groundnut, Cowpea, Cassava, and Orange fresh sweet potatoes, while Vegetables include Tomatoes, Pepper, Onion, Cabbage, Lettuce, and Carrot.

Reaching 1.2 million Farmers

The aim of this year's PFJ is to reach 1.2 million resource poor smallholder farmers cultivating

the above-mentioned staple crops on 0.4 to 2 hectares. Each farmer would receive a maximum of 10 bags or 250 kg of fertilizers.

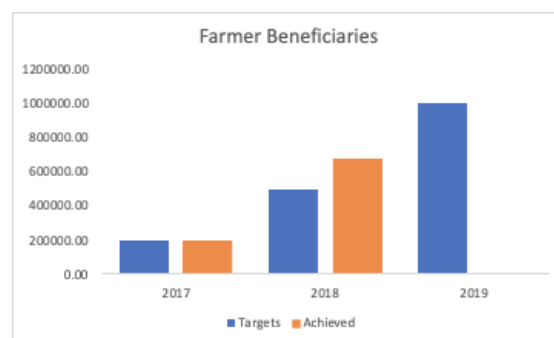


Figure 5: number of targeted farmers (MoFA)

PFJ is targeting a total of 412,000 MT of fertilizers for distribution in 2020. Seventy-five percent of fertilizer stocks for PFJ were available as of mid-May 2020, and some fertilizer vessels are currently being cleared at the port.

Fertilizer Grades	Quantity allocated (MT)	Cost to Farmers (GHS)	Subsidy rate
Urea (46%N)	131,000	40 GHS / 25kg	43-50%
NPK 20-10-10 + 3S	68,000		
NPK 23-10-5 + 2MgO + 3S + 0.3Zn	66,000		
NPK 25-10-10 + 6S + 3 MgO + 0.3Zn	65,000		
NPK 15-20-20 + 0.7Zn	35,000	42 GH / 25kg	
NPK 11-22-21 + 5S + 0.7Zn + 0.5B	25,000		
NPK 12-30-17 + 0.4Zn (soybean)	11,000		
Total inorganic fertilizer	401,000 MT		
Liquid (Foliar)	2,750	20 GHS / liter	50%
Granular	3,500	46 GHS / 25kg	
Compost	4,000	20 GHS / 50kg	
Total organic fertilizer	10,250 MT		

Figure 6: 2020 PFJ fertilizer purchases and pricing

Most of 2019 Distribution Modalities Apply in 2020

- All PFJ fertilizers will be bagged in 25 kg sacks with the PFJ logo and label for all regions.
- Copies of consignment waybills must be submitted to regional ministers for endorsement before subsidized fertilizers for their respective regions can be offloaded.

- Copies of consignment waybills must also be submitted for endorsement by MMDCs.
- Nation Builders Corps (NABCO) officials will be assigned to retail outlets to monitor the distribution of subsidized fertilizers.
- Daily sales records of retailers must match the records of NABCO officials assigned to the outlet. The records should contain information, including date, name, farm size, crop type and quantity of fertilizers purchased in line with the record sheet provided by MoFA.



Figure 7: Distribution of PFJ fertilizers in Tamale

Market reactions in the wake of COVID-19

On the supply side, importers encountered several challenges ranging from:

1. Delayed cargo due to international quarantines and social distancing measures.
2. Excessive demurrage at the ports as a result of compliance with the lockdown and social distancing measures imposed by the government which made labor scarce.
3. Approvals from the ministries were delayed as civil servants observed the lockdown order.
4. Blenders also had shortages of workers as strict social distancing measures had to be adhered which effectively reduced their operating capacity.

In spite of these challenges the PFJ fertilizer subsidy program has gone as planned, farmers have started purchasing subsidized fertilizers in line with the 2020 planting window, although a few hitches persist, such as:

- Inadequate availability of materials for the production, printing and labeling of 25kg bags for the 2020 PFJ fertilizers.
- At retail outlets, sellers complained of reduced customers because farmers fear coming to town to purchase fertilizers.
- On the demand side, farmers complain of inability to sell their commodities in the market at a fair price due to the impact of COVID-19 on economic activities. This has further decimated their purchasing power for fertilizers as market uncertainty continues.
- Despite measures put in place to prevent the smuggling of subsidized fertilizers to neighboring countries in several districts of 4 regions (Upper East, Upper West Region, Northern and Volta Regions), 2020 PFJ subsidized fertilizers already have been spotted this week on trucks in Burkina Faso.



Figure 8: Truck laden with 25kg urea bags of 2020 PFJ fertilizers in Burkina Faso

Recommendations

1. Farmers need to be properly sensitized on COVID-19 preventive measures and the importance of an undisrupted food system in tackling the pandemic and also revamping the economy.
2. There should be strict enforcement of MoFA guidelines in the distribution of PFJ fertilizers. Investigations reveal that NABCO officials are not yet present in some retail outlets to monitor the distribution of subsidized fertilizer.

TOGO - An Agricultural Response Plan to COVID-19 based on the AgriPME program



TOGO FERTILIZER QUICK FACTS

- Population: 8 million
- Arable land: 2.6 m ha

- Fertilizer market size
 - Average 2016 -2019: 61,000 t
 - Objectives 2020: 69,000 t
- 17% market under subsidy
 - AgriPME: Input credit
- Main fertilizer use: Maize, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Cotton
- 1 fertilizer blending unit
- 1 phosphate rock production mine

A quick response

In response to ECOWAS' call to step up their efforts to move as quickly as possible towards food self-sufficiency and strengthen the purchasing power of farmers, several countries in the region have already announced actions in this direction. Togo was one of the first countries to announce the details of its intervention in the agricultural sector in response to COVID-19.



Prior to the crisis, Togo had a fertilizer subsidy program for vulnerable farm households. Through this program called "AgriPME, AgriPME Electronic Wallet Project" launched in 2016, the Government of Togo (GoT) provided subsidies to vulnerable farmers in the form of a dedicated fund through an electronic wallet.

Extension of the AgriPME program to the whole country

In 2020, this subsidy will cover 80,000 farmers, i.e. 12,000 tons of fertilizer at a rate of 3 bags per farmer. However, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the Togolese State decided to provide a response likely to prevent the food crisis and strengthen the purchasing power of farmers who are highly exposed to this crisis.

Thus, the AgriPME program was extended to cover all of the country's 512,000 farming households. In addition to covering more farmers, the new AgriPME concerns a complete package consisting of other agricultural inputs (seeds, inoculum and pesticides against armyworm) and ploughing in addition to fertilizers.

In practice, each beneficiary will receive in his electronic wallet, an input credit of 107,000 FCFA for the exploitation of 1 ha, including 0.5 ha of food crops (maize, rice and/or sorghum) and 0.5 ha of high added value crops (soya or cotton). The credit will be granted with 0% interest.

In addition, farmers will repay part of the credit by drawing on their income at harvest time through an aggregation contract with an aggregating company. The rest of the amount will be covered by a state subsidy. For fertilizers, this subsidy will be 28% of the price.

Through this mechanism, the Togolese State intends to promote the production of 2 million tons of maize, 330,000 tons of rice, 225,000 tons of cotton and 140,000 tons of soya.

Apart from this, the GoT has taken steps to make fertilizer available throughout Togo and to facilitate the movement of agricultural sector actors through the granting of passes.

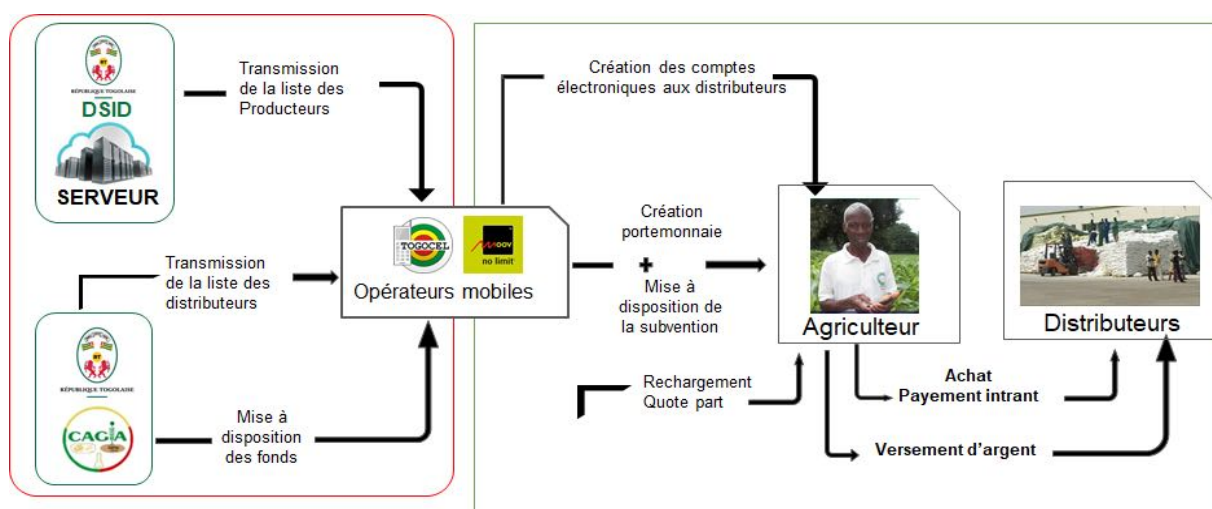


Figure 9: functioning of the AgriPME program

An approach welcomed by the private sector

This program is welcomed by the West African Fertilizer Association (WAFA) as an adequate response to the problem that the COVID-19 crisis poses to the agricultural sector in general and the fertilizer sector in particular. To ensure the success of the program, WAFA recommends that the GoT organize training and information sessions to ensure the smooth flow of transactions and the proper use of inputs.

In line with the regional association, the local fertilizer industry welcomes the government's initiative but has some concerns about the telephone network coverage for transactions in rural areas.


In conclusion

This first intervention program launched by the GoT shows that the ECOWAS call to support agriculture during the COVID-19 crisis in order to avoid hunger has been well heard by the region's leaders.

Also, the program itself is satisfactory on several levels. First, it provides effective support to the agricultural sector. Second, it incorporates several principles of smart subsidies, as recommended by IFDC and ECOWAS.

It should be noted that these principles will soon be the subject of an ECOWAS regional directive to improve fertilizer subsidy programs in the community. Furthermore, it is important to stress that for the program to achieve its objectives, its implementation will have to meet with a real involvement of the private sector both for its promotion among farmers and for the supply of inputs.

NIGER - Encouraging Prospects for the Implementation of a Renewed Fertilizer Subsidy Program

	NIGER FERTILIZER QUICK FACTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizer market size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Average 2016 -2019: 70,000 <u>kt</u> ◦ Objectives 2020: 68 <u>kt</u> • 66% subsidized market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CAIMA in 2019 (45 <u>kt</u>) ◦ SIBA – pilot program in 2019 (1.5 <u>kt</u>) • Main fertilizer use: Maize, Rice • No fertilizer blending unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population: 22.44 million • Arable land: 17.7 m ha

Based on demand, targeted, traceable, and transparent

One of the major thrusts of the Niger Fertilizer Reform Plan adopted in January 2018 by the Government of Niger and implemented in 2019 is the establishment of a revamped subsidy program. Fundamentally, this programme differs from its predecessor in its philosophy of action (i) by putting the subsidy "in the **farmer's hand**", thus based on demand and not supply, and (ii) by instituting **inclusive management of its operations by multi-stakeholder bodies** instead of an autonomous public structure (Central Purchasing Agency).

It is characterized by the targeting of beneficiaries in advance, traceability through the use of vouchers and a computerized tracking system, allowing transparent and efficient use of funds allocated to fertilizers by the State and its partners.

A 6-step process

It is based on the following operational axes:

1. **The identification in advance by the services of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG/EL) of the producers benefiting from the subsidy** with the direct support of the reform bodies that are the Niger Fertilizer Market Observatory (OMEN) and

the Niger Fertilizer Technical Committee (COTEN), on the basis of precise and consensual selection criteria including vulnerability.

2. **Beneficiary registration** to build up a database of **beneficiaries**.



3. **Recruitment of a voucher company** for the issuance of non-forgeable vouchers, secure IT management of the system and support for real-time monitoring of all operations.



4. **The affiliation of a financial company** for the collection of compensation paid by the beneficiaries and the distribution of vouchers enabling them to collect the corresponding quantities of fertilizer from the private distributors affiliated to the program.



5. **Affiliation of approved members from the private fertilizer sector** to ensure import through Calls for Expression of Interest (CEI) and local distribution of fertilizers to beneficiaries.



6. **Supervision and monitoring of the entire process by the designated bodies, OMEN, COTEN and its regional branches (CTER), under the supervision of the State of Niger through MAG/EL.**

1,500 tonnes of fertilizer for 15,000 beneficiaries in 2019: a successful pilot programme

During the 2019 dry season, a pilot grant programme was implemented with close technical assistance from the Projet d'Appui à la Réforme du Secteur des Engrais (PARSEN) funded by MCC/MCA Niger and executed by IFDC. It targeted vulnerable producers growing rice, onion and maize in irrigated areas in 10 communes located in the regions of Dosso, Tahoua and Tillabéri.

The deconcentrated services of MAG/EL and the local authorities were called upon to identify and register beneficiaries on the basis of criteria validated by the reform bodies (OMEN and COTEN). Edenred designed and supplied the vouchers and trained the actors in the implementation of the voucher system. NITA served as the financial institution for the collection of payments and delivery of the vouchers. Private distributors who are members of ANIDE (Association Nigérienne des Importateurs et Distributeurs des Engrais) operating in the pilot area were involved.

Overall, the objectives of this pilot program have been achieved: effective delivery of the subsidized fertilizers in the hands of the beneficiaries identified in advance and in a traceable manner (list of real beneficiaries, adhesion of the actors to the process, etc.).

The following figures can be retained:

15,000 beneficiaries identified in the 10 communes, including **12,830 registered beneficiaries**.

7,194 farmers (56% of the registered ones) having paid the counterpart and received their fertilizer.

1,439 tons of fertilizers distributed through 35 private distributors who are members of ANIDE.

Strengths to be consolidated

- Transparency and clarity of the voucher system in its design and implementation.
- Involvement of local competent structures.
- Local distribution with the involvement of approved distributors in the municipalities.

Points for improvement to consider

- Extend the period of payment of counterparties by beneficiaries.
- Increase the number of vulnerable beneficiaries per commune.
- Intensify the information and awareness-raising effort on this new system in order to consolidate the confidence of the actors involved.

- Make the state subsidy and the relevant fertilizer stocks available quickly.

Ready for scaling up, if COVID-19 permits

In conclusion, this pilot operation demonstrated that **the subsidy program with the voucher system can work well in Niger's agricultural context and therefore offers encouraging prospects for the future.**

In addition to the transparency and traceability of the distribution of subsidized fertilizers, it made it possible to make these fertilizers available on time and accessible to vulnerable beneficiaries far from commercial channels, through the involvement of private distributors well positioned in their proximity.

The pilot program will be extended to other communes and areas in the next season to further ensure that the system is functioning properly before it is scaled up nationwide, as envisaged in the Fertilizer Reform Plan.

Contacts

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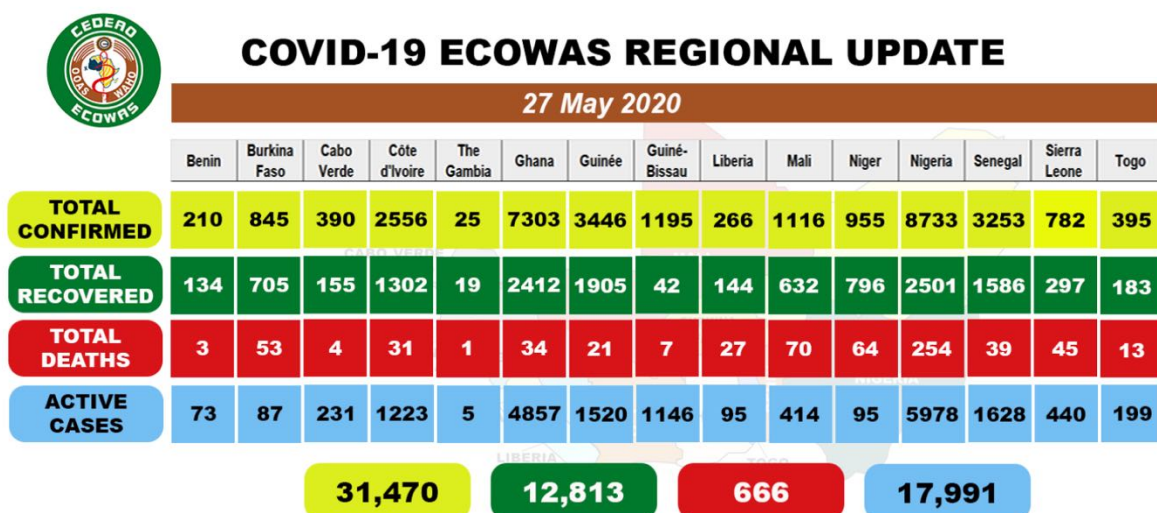
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MAG/EL, DGA,

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Situation of COVID-19 within ECOWAS Member States

In one week, reported cases of COVID-19 increased by 21% (then to 26,924 cases) in the region, and by more than 50% in only 2 of the 17 countries.



Source: <https://www.ecowas.int/covid-19/the-status-within-ecowas-member-states/>

About the West Africa Fertilizer Watch

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA), the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and its AfricaFertilizer.org (AFO) initiative have launched the West Africa Fertilizer Watch on April 10th, 2020. The West Africa Watch has been greatly appreciated by private sector businesses all along the value chain, public sector and development partners responsible for policy and food security interventions, including Government Ministries, Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, CILSS, UEMOA), and the African Union as a valuable tool to monitor actions and analyze data to help in decision making related to fertilizer availability and use.

More info at

<https://ifdc.org/2020/04/10/west-africa-fertilizer-watch/>

About WAFA, IFDC & AfricaFertilizer.org



West African Fertilizer Association
Association Ouest-Africaine
de l'Engrais

The West African Fertilizer Association (WAFA) is a non-profit private sector initiative established to address the challenges of the fertilizer industry in West Africa. Representing all the ECOWAS countries, the member companies combine resources to find solutions to market challenges and promote best practices in fertilizer production and use in order to optimize the region's potential for crop production and food security. Established in 2016, the association has 58 member companies in 11 different countries.



An independent non-profit organization, IFDC works throughout Africa and Asia to increase soil fertility and develop inclusive market systems. Combining science-backed innovations, an enabling policy environment, holistic market systems development, and strategic partnerships, the organization bridges the gap between identifying and scaling sustainable agricultural solutions, resulting in improved household food security and enriched family livelihoods around the world. Using an inclusive approach, IFDC employs locally driven solutions that are environmentally sound and impact oriented that bring change at local, regional, and national levels.



The AfricaFertilizer.org (AFO) initiative is the premier source for fertilizer statistics and information in Africa. It is hosted by IFDC and supported by several partners, key among them being IFA, Argus Media, and Development Gateway. Since 2009, AFO has been collecting, processing, and publishing fertilizer production, trade, and consumption statistics for the main fertilizer markets in sub-Saharan Africa. AFO has an extensive network of fertilizer industry players in the main fertilizer trade corridors and maintains key information on the major producers, their production facilities and capacities, importers/suppliers, various distribution channels, and agricultural service suppliers (laboratory services, research, credit providers, and warehousing/storage services).