



## FERTILIZER SUBSIDIES

### Support for the Fertilizer Subsidy Program in Burundi

#### LOCATIONS

**PAGRIS:** Burundi

#### PARTNERS

- » **TEAMS technical implementing partners:** African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), United Purpose, and Associação Kwaedza Simukai Manica (AKSM)
- » **DFS** monitors and coordinates all activities related to the program
- » The **Technical Committee for Fertilizers and Amendments (CTFA)** provides operational guidelines (establishing the subsidy rate, preparing for the growing seasons, following the agricultural seasons) and proposes them to the **National Committee for Fertilizers and Amendments (CNFA)**, which makes the main decisions on the subsidy program
- » **Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi** ensures that the subsidized inputs are of good quality
- » Production houses print the subsidy vouchers
- » Banks and microfinance institutions accept input payments (non-subsidized share) from farmers
- » Private companies produce dolomite and fertilizers.
- » The **MINEAGRI** communication unit shares information on the progress of the program

Decreasing soil fertility through the loss of nutrients that plants need is a major constraint to agricultural land productivity. Thus, **restoring fertility through the application of high-quality fertilizers** is an important means of improving productivity, food security, and household incomes. To this end, IFDC is supporting the implementation of a **fertilizer and dolomite subsidy program** to make these available to farmers at the right time and at an affordable price.

The principle of the subsidy program is to enable people to invest and actively participate in the agriculture sector. The program distributes tamper-proof vouchers produced by specialized production houses to farmers, which ensures the traceability of the subsidy and generates a database on producers and agro-input dealers. The subsidy is not exclusive to a particular food crop, agroecological zone, or specific group of farmers. The subsidy is designed to motivate farmers, providing for a high subsidy rate at the beginning and then gradually decreasing over the years. The implementation of this subsidy program has made it possible to increase the use of fertilizers and soil amendments, restore soil fertility, boost agricultural production, improve household living conditions, and strengthen the private sector.

Before the national subsidy program, the rate of fertilizer use was 10,000 metric tons (mt) per year. By 2021, it had reached 56,000 mt per year. The use of dolomite was insignificant prior to the subsidy program but increased to 16,000 mt per year in 2021. A professional and efficient private industrial sector has emerged around fertilizer and dolomite. In 2023, PAGRIS will mark a full decade of support for Burundi's fertilizer subsidy program.

#### CURRENT PROJECT

- » **PAGRIS:** The Soil Fertility Stewardship Project (2020-2024), funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burundi, provides support to the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (MINEAGRIE), specifically the Directorate of Soil Fertility (DFS), to implement the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program in Burundi (PNSEB).

#### PAST PROJECTS

- » **PAPAB:** Supporting Agricultural Productivity in Burundi (2015-2019)
- » **PAN-PNSEB:** Support to the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program in Burundi (2013-2015)