

Africa Fertilizer & Soil Health Summit



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An African Union Commission-led initiative, the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit seeks to build a more dynamic African fertilizer market that addresses the primary soil health constraints on the continent.

The summit, to be held in June 2023, will bring together high-level stakeholders to reach an agreement on a 10-year action plan for sustainable productivity growth in African agriculture. A more granular approach for responding to key constraints to production offers opportunities to:

- ▶ Involve a stronger private sector to address crop-specific and site-specific nutrient loss.
- ▶ Develop solutions to deal with price volatility.
- ▶ Strengthen producer resilience in the face of climate change.
- ▶ Address needs in fertilizer policy and strengthen soil health policy.

The African Union, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has tasked the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), to lead on the development of technical briefs and policy briefs, respectively, for the summit.

RATIONALE

Sixteen years after the Africa Fertilizer Summit was held in Abuja, Nigeria, the continent finds itself at a critical moment to focus on and recommit to the continent's soil health.

Still reeling from the effects of COVID-19 on the continent, Africa's fertilizer crisis is now expanding due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Fertilizer prices soared to more than U.S. \$1,000 per metric ton at a time when many countries were beginning to source them for their main planting seasons.¹ The subsequent drop in fertilizers coming into Africa will result in decreased crop production equal to approximately 30 million metric tons of grain, a year's food supply for 60-90 million people.²

Additionally, these crises continue to increase the challenges in building resilient food systems. The need for

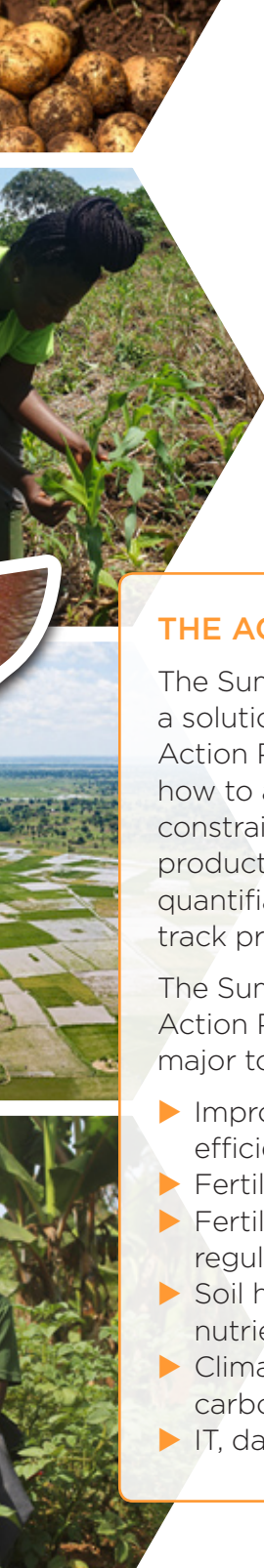
EXPECTED SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Farmer organization representatives.
- ▶ Development agencies.
- ▶ African-led policy research institutes.
- ▶ Development banks.
- ▶ Donor organizations.
- ▶ Financial institutions.
- ▶ Fertilizer manufacturers, importers, blenders, and distributors.

¹ AfricaFertilizer.org

² <https://ifdc.org/2021/12/20/soaring-fertilizer-prices-a-threat-to-food-security-in-sub-saharan-africa/>





locally led food systems is becoming more apparent, and now, more than ever, African leaders must take bold actions for plant nutrition and soil health. There is still time to tap the massive agricultural potential of the continent. This must be led by increasing the accessibility to and use of improved agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizer and seed, and best management practices.

Substantial progress has been made since the Abuja Declaration was signed in 2006. For the last decade, Africa has been the only continent with sustained growth in fertilizer consumption, reaching 10 percent year over year; yet this still accounts for just 2 percent of global fertilizer use. Application rates fall far short of what is required to meet agricultural production targets and fail to replenish soil nutrients. The abstract call for 50 kilograms of nutrients per hectare did not account for fertilizer use efficiency, nutrient stewardship practices, or other inputs such as organic fertilizer, biofertilizer, or soil amendments (liming).

THE ACTION PLAN

The Summit will produce a solutions-based 10-Year Action Plan detailing how to address major constraints to agricultural productivity growth, with quantifiable metrics to track progress over time.

The Summit and resulting Action Plan will address major topics such as:

- ▶ Improved (more efficient) fertilizers.
- ▶ Fertilizer financing.
- ▶ Fertilizer policy and regulatory frameworks.
- ▶ Soil health and soil nutrient management.
- ▶ Climate change and soil carbon sequestration.
- ▶ IT, data, and innovation.

In the past decade, significant investments have also been made for value-added utilization of mineral deposits and natural gas on the continent. This has helped Africa move toward addressing fertilizer availability and use issues.

It is against this background that the African Union has taken the initiative to engage with a diverse group of stakeholders to reframe the role of fertilizers and soil health in improving productivity, strengthen farmers' economic power, reform input markets, drive technology and local innovation, and contribute to advancing Africa's food and agricultural systems.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit is being called for and hosted by the African Union. The Summit will be held in 2023 with support from a wide array of international donors and private-sector companies.

FARA and IFDC are co-leading the Technical Working Group, tasked with preparation of the fertilizer and soil health technical agenda leading up to the Summit, and will engage with key institutions, including the African Fertilizer

and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), the African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Fertilizer Association (IFA), and private-sector actors.

The Policy Working Group is being led by ReNAPRI with support from AAP and Michigan State University. This Policy Committee is tasked with policy support leading up to the Summit, including involvement of national governments, the African Union/NEPAD, the African Development Bank, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and regional economic communities (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [COMESA], Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], Economic Community of Central African States [ECCAS], Intergovernmental Authority on Development [IGAD], and Southern African Development Community [SADC]).

With input and collaboration from other stakeholders and partners, the two committees will support the development of the 10-Year Action Plan.



FOR FURTHER UPDATES

We look forward to your active participation during the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in June 2023.

► **Sign up** to stay up-to-date on Summit happenings:
<https://ifdc.org/africa-fertilizer-and-soil-health-summit/>

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