

Highlights of the Nigeria 2024 Fertilizer Technical Working Group Workshop

Following the Abuja Summit in 2006, AfricaFertilizer (formerly AfricaFertilizer.org) was established by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), in cooperation with partners including the International Fertilizer Association (IFA). Since its inception, AfricaFertilizer has been working to illuminate fertilizer markets in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by providing timely and credible information on fertilizer trade, policies, and prices to stimulate growth in over 18 markets in SSA.

To do this efficiently, AfricaFertilizer constituted the Fertilizer Technical Working Group (FTWG) platform in 2012 in 11 countries across SSA, including Nigeria. At this annual FTWG workshops, key national fertilizer stakeholders meet to present, review, and validate country-level fertilizer data. Datasets generated from these FTWG workshops serve as a credible basis upon which key policy and business decisions are made by both public and private industry actors.

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Development Gateway, An IREX Venture (DG) has partnered with AfricaFertilizer, since 2019, to develop and deploy an innovative tool, the Visualizing Insights on Fertilizer for African Agriculture (VIFAA) dashboards, to visualize these validated datasets from the FTWG's in eight countries across SSA, including [Nigeria](#).

Due to the critical need for accurate and timely fertilizer data to promote their businesses, the Nigeria Private Sector has taken keen interest in the conduct of the FTWG meetings, by sponsoring, actively participating in, and providing very useful collaboration and innovative ideas, including the conduct of a separate NPK validation, to meet their industry needs and strengthen the FTWG and other AfricaFertilizer activities in Nigeria.

The 2024 FTWG Meeting, March 5 – 6

Nigeria held the first FTWG for 2024 (March 5 – 6) to validate the country's 2023 fertilizer statistics and apparent consumption. For this year's meeting, AfricaFertilizer received technical and financial support from DG, IFDC's HortiNigeria and Feed the Future EnGRAIS projects, Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (FEPSAN), OCP, Golden, Dangote, Indorama, Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) and Notore, among others.

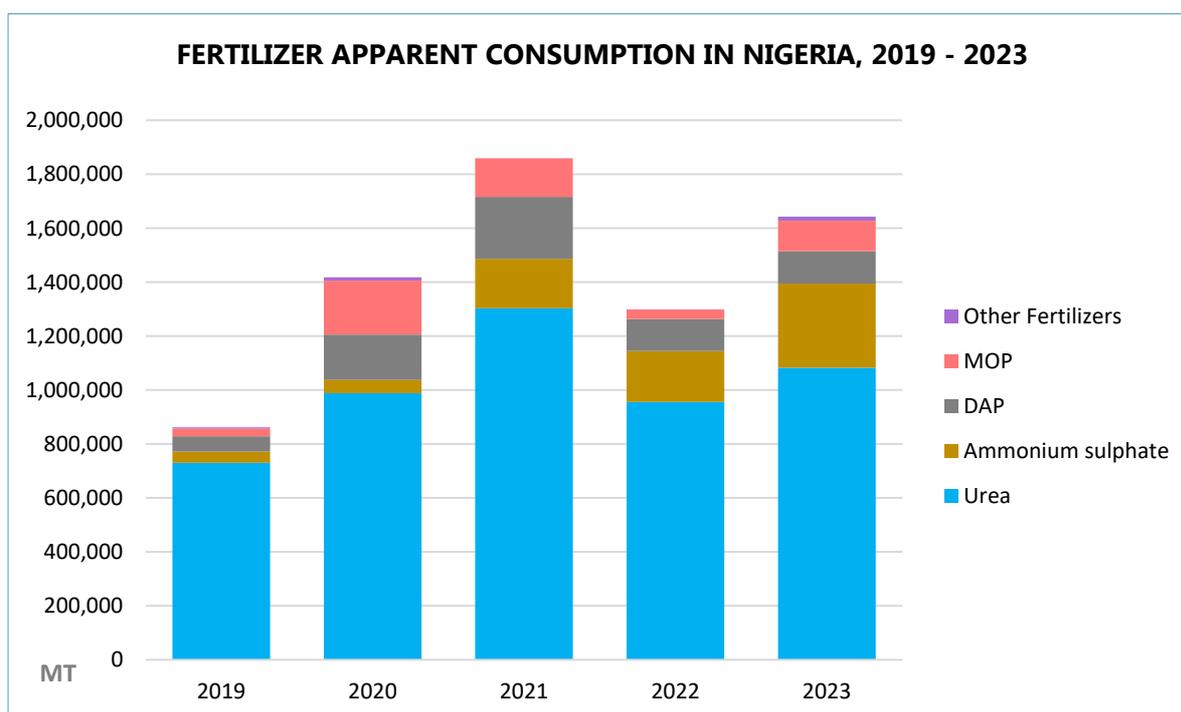
The data generated and validated by participants, who were mainly Nigerian fertilizer industry actors, under the guidance of AfricaFertilizer, will support decision-making efforts of both the public and private sector regarding various private and national agricultural programs, including the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative, to promote agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

Highlights of the 2024 Meeting

The following are highlights from discussions during the two-day workshop:

- The volumes of the major raw materials imported for the blending of NPK in 2023 were: Granular Ammonium Sulphate (GAS) 356,582 MT; DAP 88,588 MT; and MOP 73,426 MT.
- Total quantity of NPK fertilizer blended in 2023 as tracked by FEPSAN was 674,863.40 MT as against 553,639MT in 2022.

- Urea production increased from 3,458,740 MT in 2022 to 3,655,860 MT in 2023, recording a 6% increase. Producers said there was a disruption in the supply of gas to production units, so they could not produce at full capacity.
- There was a shortage in the supply of Urea locally because most of the Urea produced was exported leaving very little for the country, especially the over 80 blending plants that needed it to produce NPK blends.
- There was an increase in importation in 2023, with Granular Ammonium Sulphate (GAS) taking a chunk of the import because of the short supply of Urea to blenders to blend NPK fertilizers.
- There was about 268,866 MT of carryover stocks from 2023 into 2024 due to low demand caused by increased fertilizer prices.
- Although exports increased from 2,540,523 MT in 2022 to 2,579,518 MT in 2023, recording a 2% increase, there was no significant increase in Urea exports due to a short supply of gas which is the constituent material used in the production of Urea.
- In 2023, Nigeria exported 200 MT of NPK fertilizer, a quantity lower than the export volume recorded in 2022. Despite this decrease, the consistency in NPK fertilizer exports from Nigeria is becoming evident.



Key Comments from the 2024 Meeting

- There is the need to include limestone (filler) figures in the validation process, going forward, because limestone companies are growing in numbers and as limestone is an important part of NPK blends, accounting for approximately 26% of the NPK blends.
- Prices of raw materials have reduced in the international market, but forex issues have made it difficult for local prices to reduce in naira.

- There is a need to constitute a committee among FTWG members to prepare a policy document on the issue of fertilizer (Urea) which will be presented to the President, Vice President, the Senate as well as the Minister of Agriculture to address the issue of sufficient Urea availability in Nigeria.
- With the 2023 data duly validated, there is a need to strategize to promote fertilizer consumption to increase food production in Nigeria and the region.
- It is important for Farm Inputs Support Services (FISS) to meet with fertilizer-producing companies (FEPSAN) that have laboratories to discuss how to build the capacity of industry actors to ensure fertilizer quality, through laboratory testing activities.
- On fertilizer quality issues, the Federal Government should collaborate with FEPSAN to self-regulate their activities to make the industry more vibrant, because the current attitude of stakeholders cannot grow the sector.
- AfricaFertilizer should sign a non-disclosure agreement with the Organic Fertilizer and Producers Association of Nigeria (OFPSAN) so they can also share their data confidently, knowing that their data will be safe.

Testimonials

Testimonials from the 2024 Meeting



Mohammed Idris Salasi, HortiNigeria Program Director: *“HortiNigeria recognizes AfricaFertilizer’s annual FTWG workshop as a valuable platform for accessing crucial information regarding soluble fertilizers, and through this information, HortiNigeria has been able to record some success.”*



Ousmane Kone, Program Manager, VIFAA Program: *“Partnerships with AfricaFertilizer promote transparency and engage stakeholders across FTWG activities. This transparent stakeholder engagement underscores ongoing data collection and validation efforts.”*



Dr. Innocent Okuku, Executive Secretary of Wafa: *“There is growing participation in the FTWG exercise each year, indicating an increasing recognition of its value, with a growing list of individuals and organizations showing more interest in contributing to the process.”*



Olorunmola Dare Raphael, CountrySTAT Coordinator: *“The Nigeria CountrySTAT System is proud to associate with the AfricaFertilizer’s organized Fertilizer Technical Working Group. Our activities for 11 years, and the continuous dedication of the FTWG members technically and financially, revealed our commitment, doggedness, and resilience to the emancipation of the fertilizer industry in Nigeria.”*



Engr. Segun Falade, FEPSAN Vice President: “The FTWG forum is an important space in helping FEPSAN members in providing the right quality of fertilizer to farmers in the country. FEPSAN is not just to create blending plants but to make them efficient to provide quality and affordable fertilizers. The essence of why we are here is to know how to help improve farmers’ usage of fertilizer to increase their yields. We also focus and get suggestions that will help the government make decisions to solve agriculture-related problems.”



Olorunmola Dare Raphael, CountrySTAT Coordinator: “The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is Africa’s policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, and economic growth, in her biannual review of the Nigeria agricultural sector, leverages on the validated fertilizer data coming out from the Nigeria annual FTWG for her review process.”

The 2024 Validation Team



Partners

