

Highlights of the Joint East Africa 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. 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.

The 2024 FTWG Meeting, July 16 - 17

In East Africa, AfricaFertilizer held a joint workshop for Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda from July 16 – 17, 2024 in Kampala-Uganda to validate participating country's 2023 fertilizer trade data and determine apparent consumption.

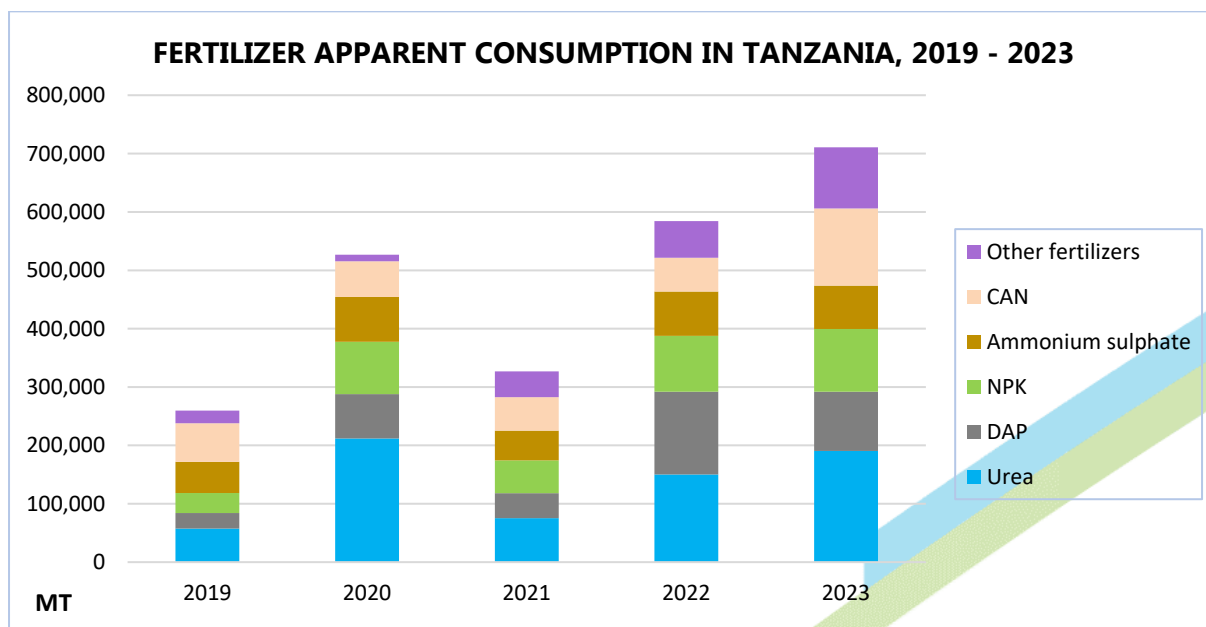
The validated data are reliable and credible, serving as a solid foundation for policy and business decision-making by both private sector actors and the government concerning national agricultural programs.

Highlights of the 2024 Meeting

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

Tanzania

- The total quantity of fertilizers imported in 2023 was 789,842 MT, reflecting a 26% increase from 627,537 MT in 2022.
- DAP imports decreased by 14% in 2023, from 152,653 MT in 2022 to 130,669 MT.
- In 2023, NPK imports were 113,911 MT, a 28% increase from 2022 (89,076 MT).
- Urea imports in 2023 reached 238,941, marking a 39% increase compared to 171,366 MT in 2022.
- Organic fertilizer dropped to 79 MT from 369 MT in 2022, while CAN imports increased significantly to 131,999 MT from 58,026 MT, a 127% increase.
- Ammonium Sulphate imports slightly decreased to 74,803 MT in 2023 from 76,195 MT in 2022.



Visit the [country page of Tanzania](#) for more information

Key Comments

The increased fertilizer importation in 2023 can be attributed to the following:

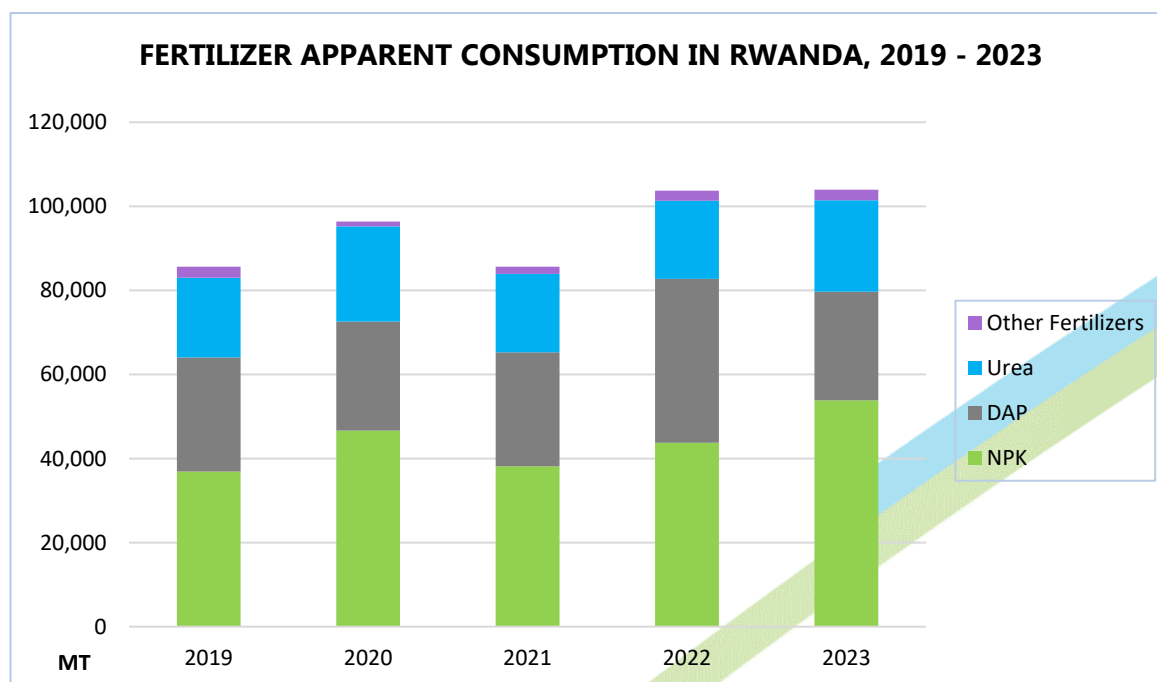
- Increase in use by farmers due to low prices because of government subsidy.
- Assurance of crop markets for re-exports, especially maize and cereals, based on contracts signed with neighboring countries. For example, Congo imports approximately 500,000 MT from Tanzania, and Zambia imports about 600,000 MT.
- Favorable weather conditions.
- Irrigation schemes ensuring cultivation all year round.
- Availability of warehousing facilities at the farm gate level that has encouraged farming and fertilizer use.

Other key comments:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is planning to increase local fertilizer production to 40%.
- Dodoma Cement is now producing Agric Lime and Gypsum which is applied to reduce acidity in the soil.

Rwanda

- In 2023, Rwanda imported a total of 103,940 MT of fertilizers, reflecting a negligible increase from the 103,818 MT imported in 2022.
- NPK imports were 53,836 MT, a 23% increase from 2022 (43,868 MT).
- DAP imports reduced from 38,989 MT in 2022 to 25,873 MT in 2023, a 33% drop.
- Urea imports in 2023 were 21,713 MT, a 17% increase from 2022's 18,546 MT.



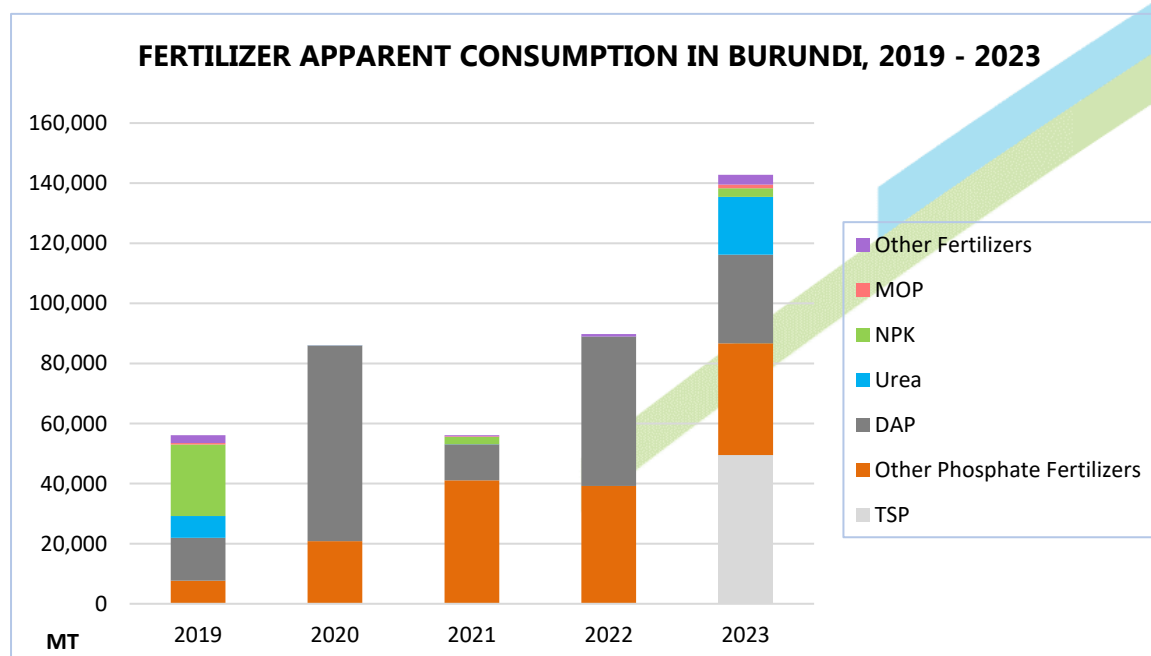
Visit the [country page of Rwanda](#) for more information

Key Comments

- There was no significant increase in 2023 imports compared to 2022.
- The Government continued to support farmers through subsidies, which resulted in reduced fertilizer prices.
- Good climatic conditions were also experienced in seasons A and B.
- The Zero Grazing policy expanded arable land, particularly in Rwanda's Eastern Province.
- Fertilizer use under subsidy for staple crops (maize, rice, beans, wheat, Irish potatoes, cassava, banana, soya bean, fruits and vegetables) was about 73,000 MT, while the use for cash crops (coffee and tea) was about 21,000 MT.
- Most fertilizer imports occurred during July-August and March-June.
- Tenders are open to the international market. The main suppliers are Yara, ETG, and One Acre Fund.
- The process of accessing subsidy begins with farmer registration, where they provide key information about their land (size and location), and after approval by the county government, the farmer can collect fertilizers from an agrodealer.
- Farmers can only purchase fertilizers equal to or less than what they need.
- This system allows for projection on consumption.
- Enterprise Nkubili (ENAS) set up a blending facility in Kigali in 2016, but it has since ceased operations.
- Rwanda Fertilizer Company's blending plant is operational, with a capacity of 100 mtp.

Burundi

- Burundi's total fertilizer imports in 2023 reached 142,773 MT, marking a significant 59% increase compared to 89,782 MT in 2022.
- In 2023, DAP imports dropped from 49,656 MT to 29,537 MT, a 40% decrease from 2022.
- Additionally, 49,500 MT of TSP and 19,235 MT of Urea were imported in 2023.



Visit the [country page of Burundi](#) for more information

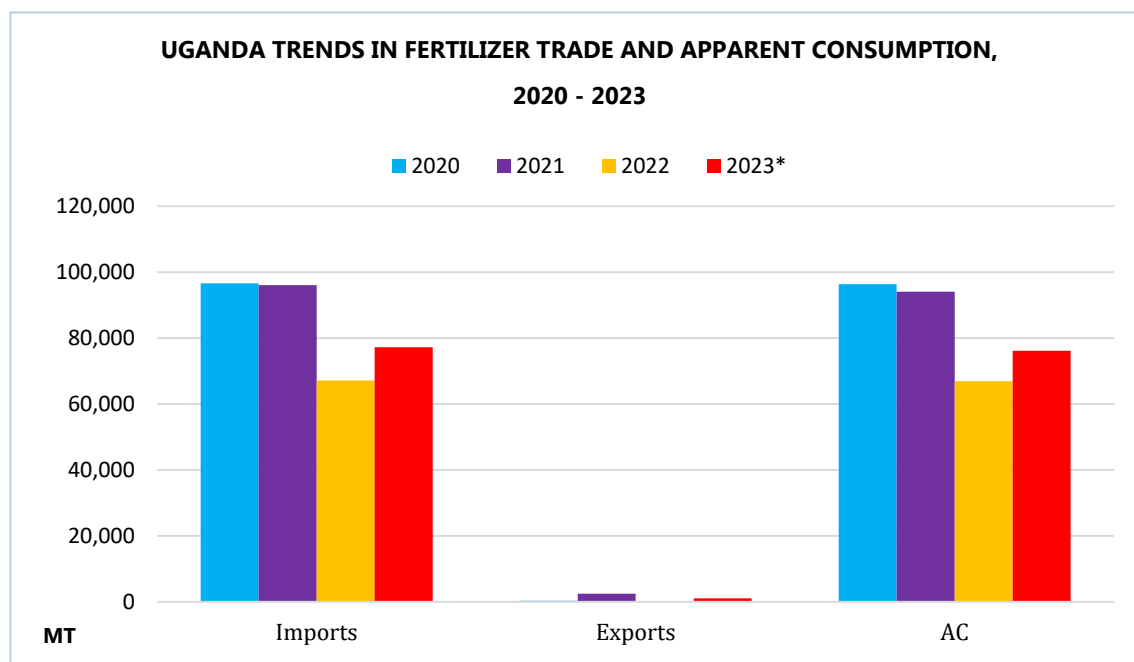
Key Comments

The increase in fertilizer imports and apparent consumption in 2023 can be attributed to several factors, including the following:

- The government has prioritized the agriculture sector, by advocating a slogan focused on food security and improved livelihoods.
- Government of Burundi is encouraging land consolidation that can support extension services and training programs on fertilizer use and application.
- Increased farmer knowledge on fertilizer use has also contributed to the rise in fertilizer consumption.
- In the past, the government covered 40% of the fertilizer costs, while farmers paid 60%. However, due to high costs starting from 2022, the government's share has increased to 60%, and farmers now contribute 40%.
- The subsidized fertilizer provided under the program is produced by the Fertilizer Organo-Minerals Industry (FOMI). FOMI fertilizer blends include:
 - FOMI-IMBURA (NPK 9-22-4 + 13CaO + 2MgO)
 - FOMI-BAGARA (NK 11-0-22 + 4CaO + 2MgO)
 - FOMI-TOTHAHAZA (NK 21-0-8 + 4CaO + 2MgO).

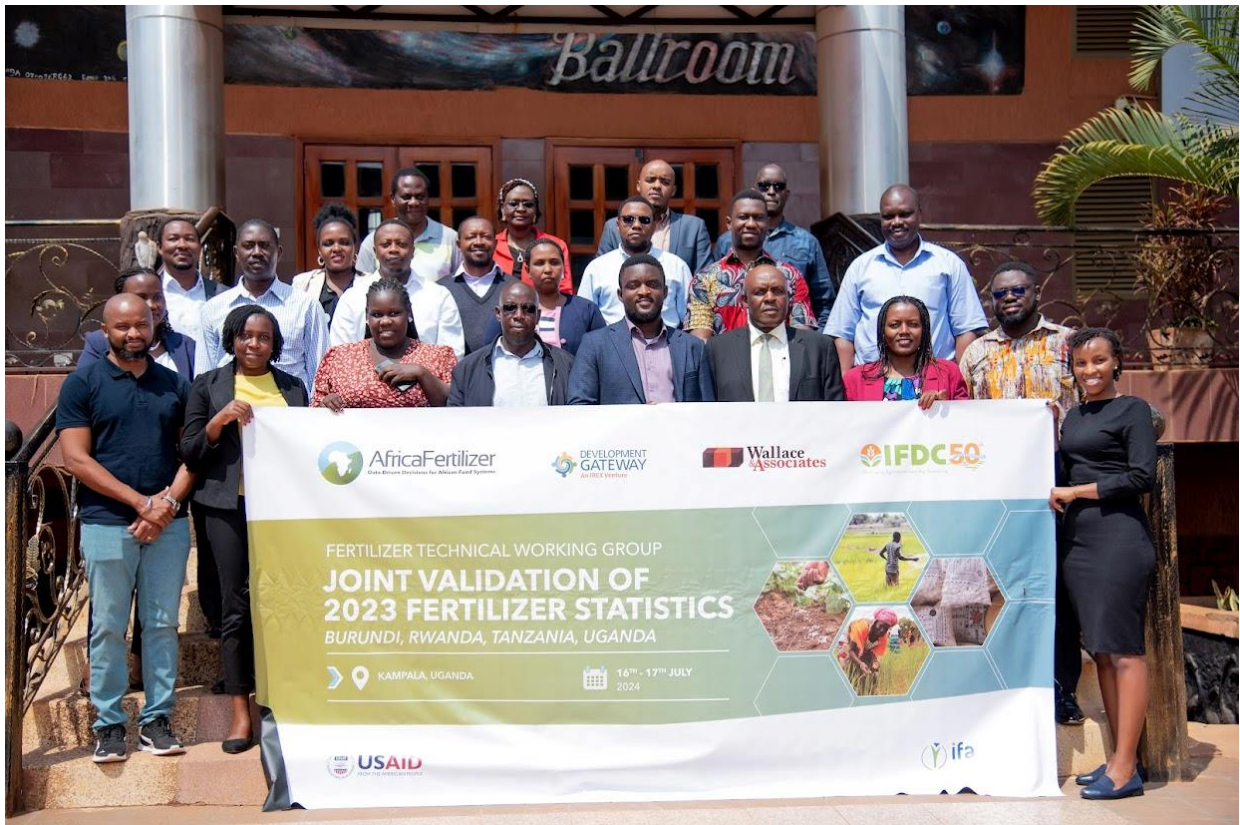
The available datasets for Uganda were not detailed enough to accurately capture the breakdown of various fertilizer types traded. The FTWG recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries consult with Customs for a more detailed dataset, which can later be validated with the correct breakdowns of products. Insights from the less detailed data analyzed are as follows:

- There was a general increase in fertilizer importation in 2023, attributed to the National Fertilizer Policy, which has been providing support to farmers since 2020, alongside other subsidy programs in the country.
- The National Oil Palm Programme project in Kalangala has also contributed to this increase.
- The Sustain Africa initiative has led to increased fertilizer consumption, as many fertilizer brands are now being embraced by farmers based on their positive experience with the Sustain Africa donation.
- The fertilizer pricing mechanism in Uganda is liberalized, with the private sector playing a leading role.
- The introduction of rapid suitability soil testing kits and laboratories in Kawanda has improved fertilizer use.
- Farmers' adoption of improved variety seeds, which require fertilizers, has further driven demand for fertilizers.



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The 2024 Validation Team



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