

Highlights of the Ghana 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 Ghana. At these 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 [Ghana](#).

The 2024 FTWG Meeting, March 12 – 13

Ghana held its 2024 FTWG (March 12 – 13) and validated the country's 2023 fertilizer trade data and apparent consumption. For this year's meeting, AfricaFertilizer received technical and financial support from DG, the USAID-funded Feed the Future EnGRAIS project for West Africa, public sector (MoFA, Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Revenue Authority, CSIR-Soil Research Institute, and the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority), private sector and civil society organization (Solevo Ghana Limited, Chemico Ghana Limited, OmniFert, GloFert, AMG West Africa Ltd, OCP, Best Fertilizer, Inness Agriculture Limited, Glofert Limited, SAFISANA, AFAP, CDF and Peasant Farmers Association).

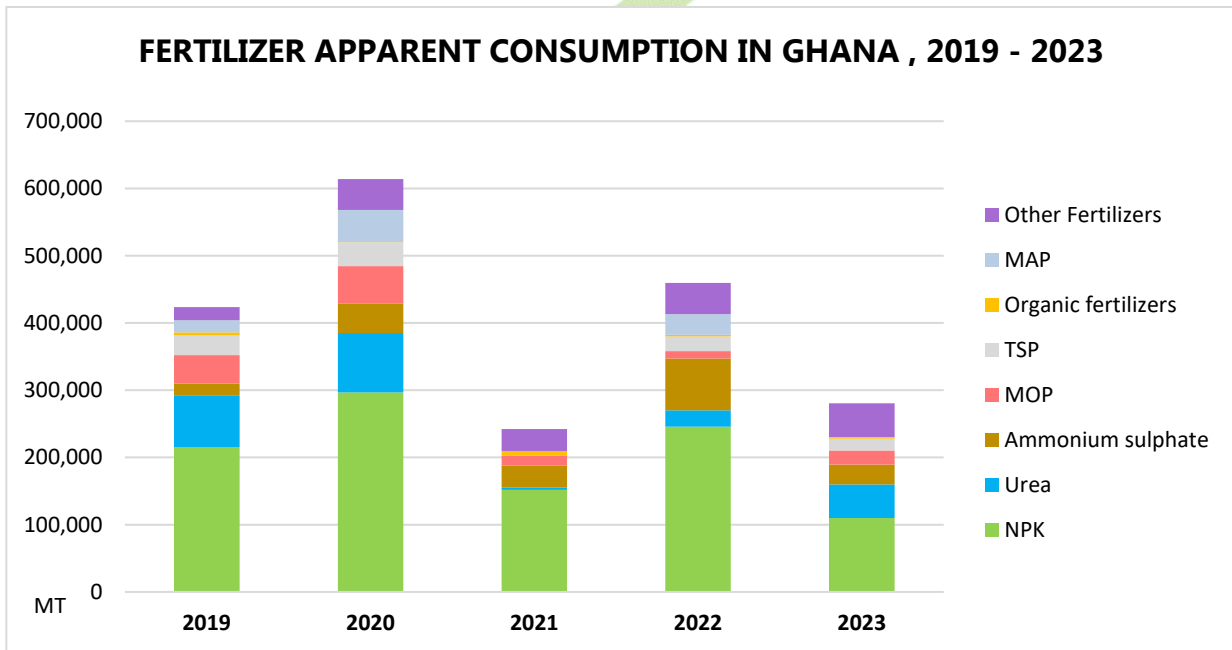
The datasets generated and validated, with the guidance of AfricaFertilizer, are reliable and credible enough for policy and business decision-making by private sector actors and the Government of Ghana regarding national agricultural programs, including the Planting for Food and Jobs II.

Highlights of the 2024 Meeting

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

- The total quantity of fertilizers imported in 2023 was 292,349 MT, significantly less than the 486,203 MT in 2022 marking a 40% reduction.
- In 2023, NPK imports were 122,179 MT, a 55.1% decrease from 272,106 MT in 2022, marking the largest absolute drop of 149,927 MT.
- Urea imports in 2023 reached 49,933 MT, more than double the 24,505 MT imported in 2022, marking an increase of 25,428 MT.

- Organic fertilizer import decreased slightly to 1,471 MT from 1,877 MT in 2022, while MOP imports increased to 21,001 MT from 10,941 MT. TSP imports decreased to 17,494 MT from 21,900 MT, and MAP imports saw a sharp decline to 193 MT from 30,722 MT in 2022.
- Approximately 95% of Ghana's fertilizer imports in 2023 came from 12 countries. About 42% of total fertilizer imports was NPKs of which 38% was obtained from Switzerland, 16% from Belgium, 14% from China and 13% from Italy.
- Around 41% of Urea was sourced from Libya, 27% from Russia, 18% from Qatar, and 10% from Nigeria. China supplied 58% of the Ammonium Sulphate imports, while Spain accounted for 52% of MOP imports. Additionally, 95% of TSP was sourced from Morocco.
- Russia contributed only 7% of the total fertilizer imports in 2023, with Urea making up 62% of this share.
- Fertilizer re-exports from Ghana to other countries decreased by 60%; from 31,922 MT in 2022 to 12,700 MT in 2023.
- For fertilizer use, there was a 39% reduction in apparent fertilizer consumption from 2022 to 2023.



Key Comments from the 2024 Meeting

- The country's fertilizer market is now designated as an open market, with government procurement playing a role, rather than being considered a subsidized market. The two primary fertilizer subsidies in Ghana are the COCOBOD subsidy for cocoa, which is a cash crop subsidy for the country, and the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) subsidy for food crops.
- Although the Ministry has discontinued the implementation of the seed and fertilizer program under PFJ I, the ministry aims to procure fertilizers for farmers, with the private sector providing the required volumes. Payment will be made by banks to the private sector, and later the financial institutions will be reimbursed.

- The discontinuity of the fertilizer and seed subsidy program implementation under the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) Phase I contributed to the low fertilizer import volumes. The fertilizer market became more open for competition rather than imports, based on government tenders in the previous years.
- Ghana COCOBOD faced difficulties in securing adequate financing for the cocoa season purchases of 2023/2024. A loan of USD 800 million from a syndicate of lenders was anticipated to supplement the initial funds of USD 400 million. These funds were expected to be raised through a prefinancing arrangement with international buyers. However, this arrangement was ultimately discontinued, making COCOBOD unable to procure the needed quantities for 2023 leading to low fertilizer imports in general.
- Higher fertilizer prices, driven by old stock from importers and farmers' difficulty in adjusting to market rates after relying on subsidies, led to decreased demand for fertilizers and subsequently reduced fertilizer imports.
- Fertilizer prices rose significantly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, driven by widespread disruptions in the global economy. Despite the 2023 Russia-Ukraine conflict, international fertilizer prices declined. However, the depreciation of the Ghana cedi against the dollar affected fertilizer imports, requiring more cedis to purchase fertilizers globally, constraining most importers and resulting in reduced imports.
- Nationally, there is a **data gap** on the **volumes of blended NPK formulations** in the country. This information is currently sitting in the books of fertilizer blenders who consider it as proprietary or trade secret.
- Sensitization and the awareness of the need for NPK volumes information for decision and policy making was demonstrated using the case of Nigeria NPK blending journey and how they gathered their NPK blending data. This was to show Ghanaian stakeholders the importance of the NPK blended volumes.
- Stakeholders expressed interest and suggested the need to address trust issues among actors. Consequently, they proposed the use of non-disclosure agreements as an initial step in gathering the NPK blended data. IFDC and GSS assured stakeholders that data sources could be anonymized as proposed by the blenders.
- Trade activities in the fertilizer sector have been disrupted by the political instability resulting from the announcement of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger's withdrawal from ECOWAS. A temporary cessation of export operations was caused by concerns about potential disruptions in trade regulations, Customs procedures, and border controls leading to a reduction of re-export volumes to neighbouring countries.

The 2024 Validation Team



Partners Logos

