

## Highlights of the Ethiopia 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 Ethiopia. At this annual FTWG workshops, key national fertilizer stakeholders meet to present, review, and validate country-level fertilizer data.

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 [Ethiopia](#).

### Ethiopia Fertilizer Sector Background Information

The Government of Ethiopia has a lot of control in the fertilizer supply chain which involves 24 key actors who perform three broad sets of activities, including **import planning**; **import execution**; and **marketing and distribution**.

Private sector participation in importation of fertilizer in Ethiopia remains limited due to the restrictive foreign currency allocation policy, which is evident in commercial horticultural production and export, particularly in the flower sector where commercial farmers import fertilizer for their own farms using their own forex.

### The 2024 FTWG Meeting, June 11

AfricaFertilizer convened the Ethiopia FTWG workshop June 11 and invited representatives of all stakeholder institutions/organization, especially the public and private sector as well as development-focused civil society organizations.

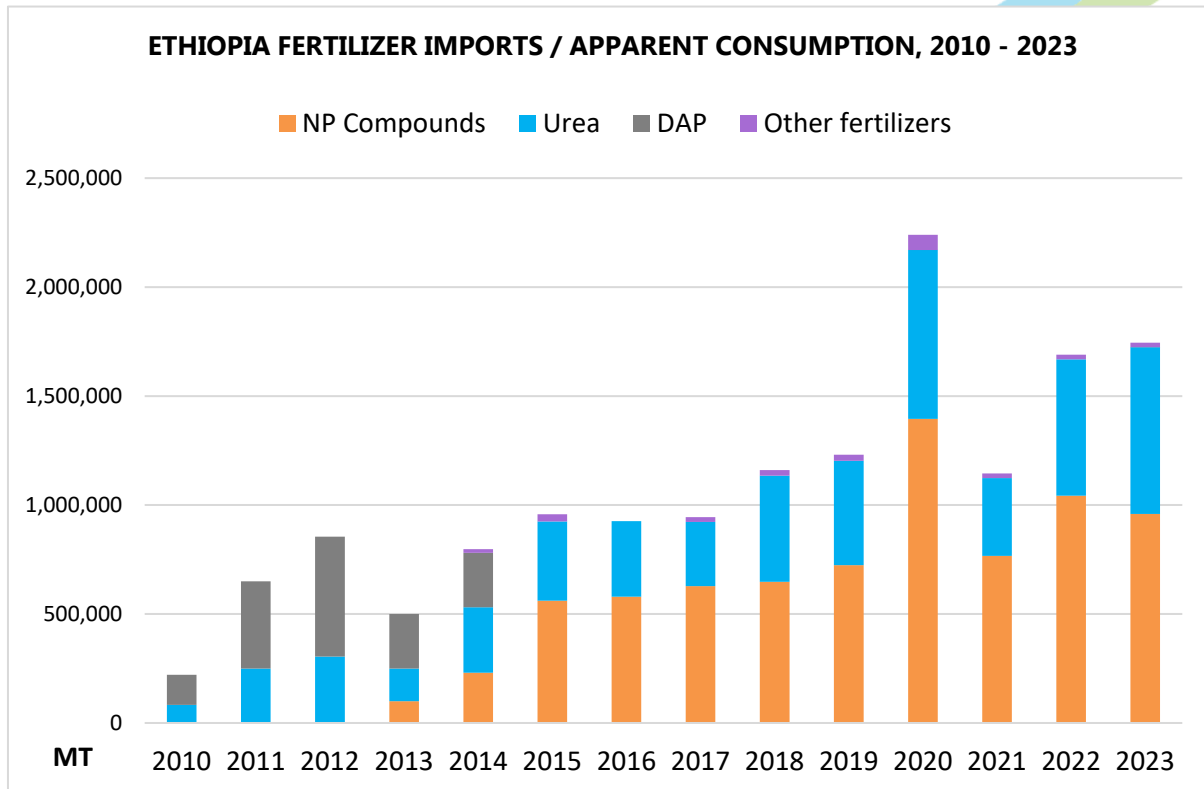
The datasets generated and validated, with the guidance of AfricaFertilizer, are reliable and credible for policy and business decision-making by public and private sector actors and the Government of Ethiopia, regarding national agricultural programs.

### Highlights of the 2024 Meeting

**The following are highlights from discussions during the workshop:**

- Data used in the analysis have been converted from Ethiopian calendar years to the Gregorian calendar years.
- The total quantity of fertilizers officially imported in 2023 was around 1.7 million MT, a 3% increase over 2022 import volumes, with NP compound fertilizers accounting for about 959,000 MT and Urea about 765,000 MT.
- NP compounds imports decreased by 8% from 1,042,552 MT in 2022, to 959,345 MT in 2023.
- Urea imports in 2023 reached 765,222 MT, a 22% increase from 626,000 MT imported in 2022.

- Approximately 954,000 MT (99.5%) of all NP compound fertilizers was imported from Morocco.
- Around 66% of Urea was imported from Egypt, 21% from Oman, 7% from China, and 6% from Nigeria.
- There is approximately 20,300 MT of fertilizer carried over from the 2022 crop year into 2023 crop season.
- There is a small but growing market for fertilizers other than NP compounds and Urea. These include Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, Calcium Nitrate, NPK, Potassium Nitrate, etc. which are predominantly imported by private companies in the horticultural sector that specialize in export production.



### Key Comments from the 2024 Meeting

- The government of Ethiopia has been exerting efforts to enhance the supply of fertilizer to ensure food security of the nation, more than 1 billion USD was spent to purchase fertilizer for the 2023 crop year.
- The government is subsidizing fertilizer to alleviate the burden of farmers who are facing sharp increase in fertilizer prices. The subsidy increased from 15 billion ETB in 2022 crop season to 21 billion ETB in 2023 crop season, due to various reasons including increased transportation costs and foreign exchange issues.
- The government directly subsidizes fertilizer by 22% on the retail price to lighten price burdens on farmers and ensure access and affordability to significantly increase production and productivity
- In the 2023 crop year, farmers' serious concerns were the lack of fertilizers and increased costs ahead of the year's planting season. Delivery of fertilizers to small-scale farmers across the country was plagued by significant disruptions, partly due to the escalating conflict between the federal government and the non-state militia group.

- In 2023, there were issues of severe lack of supply, delays in distribution, and widespread illicit fertilizer trade caused by shortage of supply resulting from the country's insufficient foreign currency stock.
- The country cultivated over 20 million hectares and harvested more than 60 million MT in 2023. The government currently aims to cultivate 22 million hectares, which would enable the country to surpass 80 million MT in production. Cultivated land expansion and summer wheat production through irrigation has increased the fertilizer import volume and consumption in the country.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has expressed interest in having a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) for mutual benefits.
- Despite the 2023 Russia-Ukraine conflict, international fertilizer prices declined. However, the depreciation of the Ethiopian birr against the dollar affected the affordability of fertilizers.

## Recommendations

- It was recommended that IFDC collaborate with institutions that collect information on locally produced organic fertilizers and include these data in the analysis and dashboard. It is also useful to indicate liquid fertilizers on the dashboard.
- Official export data should be explored to enhance the overall statistics of the country.
- The Ethiopian Customs Commission should provide data with importer names to assist in validation.
- To ensure timely provision of data, Customs data should be requested through the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The FTWG should find a way to track fertilizer carry-over stocks and add them to the dashboard, when available. This is important because it will inform decision-makers at EABC during their procurement plan preparation. Additionally, it will help supply the market with the right volumes and types of fertilizers and prevent oversupply or delays in the supply of the right types of fertilizers.
- Decision-makers need access to the latest international fertilizer market prices to guide them during the procurement period. This will help them negotiate better FOB prices with suppliers. The FOB data on the dashboard are currently updated with a one-month lag.
- Include the list of companies providing fertilizer testing and inspection services on the dashboard.
- Taking fertilizer samples for laboratory testing and analysis, to ensure they meet the required standards, is crucial both before shipment and upon arrival at the destination port. Therefore, listing or mapping the names of accredited inspection laboratories locally and regionally will assist decision-makers in identifying the companies involved in the supply chain.

## The 2024 Validation Team



## Partners

