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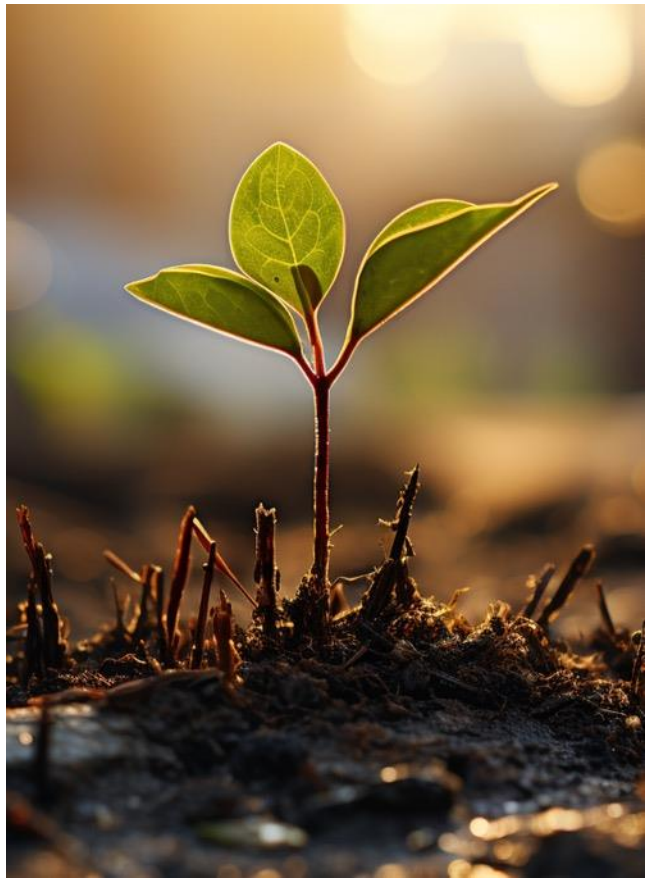

African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan

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African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan

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AFSH Action Plan

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AFSH Action Plan - Process

- Multi-stakeholder effort
  - AUDA-NEPAD/AUC, RECs, Knowledge Partners, Private Sector, Farmers, State/Non-State actors, Development Partners
- The African Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Action Plan
  - **10-year Continental Strategy**.
- Guidance for Member States, allows refinement
- Fertilizers include both organic and mineral fertilizers

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The challenge

- Soil Health crisis at the centre of Africa's productivity crisis.
- About 75%-80% of the continent's cultivated area is degraded.
- >50% of currently arable land may be unusable by 2050 unless urgent action is taken

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The challenge – Fertilizer

- Fertilizer financing a major constraint for smallholders.
- Despite increased local manufacturing, Africa still highly dependent on imported fertilizer.
- Fractured intra-continental markets, poor distribution infrastructure, lack of regional trade policy harmonization.
- High dependency on imports - exposes the continent to external global market shocks

Previous commitments

- The Africa Fertilizer Summit (2006)
  - increase fertilizer use to stimulate agricultural productivity growth and reverse soil nutrient depletion.
- Since then, fertilizer use has increased marginally
- Low agricultural productivity, food insecurity, malnutrition and land degradation persisted
- Fertilizer use efficiency a major concern

Key Elements of the AFSH Action

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Vision
Contributing to ending hunger, poverty and inclusive agricultural transformation.

Expected impact
Healthier soils, sustainable food systems and enhanced climate change resilience.

Strategy
Harness multi-stakeholder partnerships and investment to drive policies, finance, markets, and capacity for sustainable soil health management.

Outcomes

Outcome 1
Improved investment policies, finance and markets – outputs and actions.

Outcome 2
Improved access and affordability to organic and inorganic fertilizers – outputs and actions

Outcome 3
Greater efficiency, resilient and sustainable use of inorganic and organic fertilizer inputs – outputs and actions.

Outcome 4
Capacity enhanced for sustainable fertilizer and soil health management – outputs and actions.

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The AFSH Action Plan – Better Policies and Financing

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
1. Improved policies, investment, finance and markets for sustainable soil health and fertilizer management	1.1 Improved policy environment	• Guidelines for the formulation and implementation of relevant national policies
		• Harmonize national policies and regulatory frameworks for efficiency, cross - sectoral coherence and promote regional & continental trade.
		• Support smallholder farmers to access commodity markets and support investments in efficient fertilizer use and soil health.
		• Promote the use of local food products.
		• Areas of high agricultural or ecological importance for protection, restoration, and sustainable management.

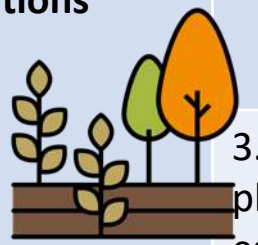
The AFSH Action Plan - Better Policies and Financing

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
1. Improved policies, investment, finance and markets for sustainable soil health and fertilizer management	1.2 Improved financing and investment	• Widen the scope of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM)
		• Incentivize private sector investments in low - carbon fertilizer production, research and development, trade and farmer advisory services
		• De-risk farmer investments in soil health
		• Support financing of infrastructure and logistics assets to improve availability, efficiencies, access
		• Strengthen the soil health fund for research, innovation, and start - ups
		• Deploy innovative incentive support mechanisms to improve the efficiency of existing subsidy programs.
		• Establish minimum threshold for the optimal functioning of AFFM, mobilize resources

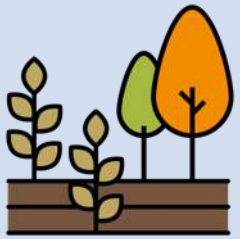
The AFSH Action Plan – Improved Access and Affordability

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
2. Improved access and affordability of organic and mineral fertilizers	2.1 Increased low-carbon domestic production and distribution	• Boost local production and blending of mineral fertilizers and lime using locally available raw materials.
		• Support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially by youth and women, in production, distribution, and efficient use of fertilizers.
		• Support Research & Development to produce organic fertilizers, biofertilizers and biostimulants, etc.
		• Strengthen access & market linkages, especially to women and youth
	2.2 Enhanced intra-regional fertilizer trade	• Leverage the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) increase intra-Africa fertilizer trade, enact sovereign guarantees agreements

The AFSH Action Plan – Greater Efficiency and Resilience

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
3. Greater efficiency, resilience and sustainable use of mineral and organic fertilizer inputs and enhancement of soil health interventions 	3.1 Recommendations developed targeted to specific crops, soils and climatic conditions	• Develop digitally-enabled context-specific efficient fertilizer and soil health advisories
		• Develop and deploy standardized tools for assessing soil fertility, soil health
	3.2 Agronomic fertilizer use efficiency increased to optimal levels	• Promote integrated soil fertility management practices to enhance crop response.
		• Promote context-specific solutions - right sources of nutrients , right rates, time, and place.
		• Promote access, affordability of liming – address acidic soils to enhance productivity &fertilizer use efficiency.
	3.3 A digital information platform and database established	• Establish and operationalize continental, regional, and national soil health monitoring and soil information systems.
		• Establish & operationalize soil health, fertilizer, crop, and climate dashboard for decision support
		• Establish and operationalize analytical & decision support tools to guide investments

The AFSH Action Plan - Greater Efficiency and Resilience

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
3. Greater efficiency, resilience and sustainable use of mineral and organic fertilizer inputs and enhancement of soil health interventions 	3.4 Soil health and water management optimized across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes	• Promote integrated soil and water conservation, planning, and management • Promote investments in smart irrigation for enhancing nutrient use efficiency and soil health • Promote context-specific sustainable agricultural practices to support increased biomass, crop, and animal production

The AFSH Action Plan – Institutional & Human Capacity

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
4. Institutional and human capacity enhanced for sustainable soil health and fertilizer management	4.1 Locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies developed and promoted	• Strengthen regional and national research and education institutions and capacity in soil health & sustainable soil management.
		• Strengthen national extension systems and public-private partnerships for soil health and efficient fertilizer advisory for smallholder farmers.
		• Building the capacity of national Research and Development and Extension systems to support and enable implementation Action Plan
		• Review and upgrade tertiary training programs for soil science and agronomy
		• Develop a database coupled with a decision support system to promote fertilizer and soil health management technologies.
		• Strengthen informal and in-service training modalities to strengthen research, extension, and implementation expertise

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The AFSH Action Plan – Institutional & Human Capacity

Outcomes	Outputs	Actions
4. Institutional and human capacity enhanced for sustainable soil health and fertilizer management	4.2 Scale appropriate advisory services on soils and crops available and affordable to smallholder farmers	• Build, strengthen, and standardize soil analysis capacity of • Establish public-private partnerships for scalable, affordable, and localized soil and crop-specific advisory.
	4.3 Regional networks for knowledge exchange established	• Establish regional research & development networks for the exchange of knowledge and technologies • Establish and convene a biennial Continental Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.
	4.4 Fertilizer analytical services available for fertilizer quality assurance	• Build, strengthen, and standardize the fertilizer analysis capacity of national and regional laboratories in accordance with fertilizer quality standards.

IMPLEMENTATION of AFSH Action Plan

Which countries?

All 55 African Union (AU) Member States

Who implements?

AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, governments, business and industry, farmers and farmer organizations, financial institutions, civil society and development partners.

When?

- **Preparatory phase** - May 2024 to December 2025
- **Implementation phase** – January 2025 to December 2035

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Leadership and coordination

- AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will coordinate multi-stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the AFSH Action Plan.

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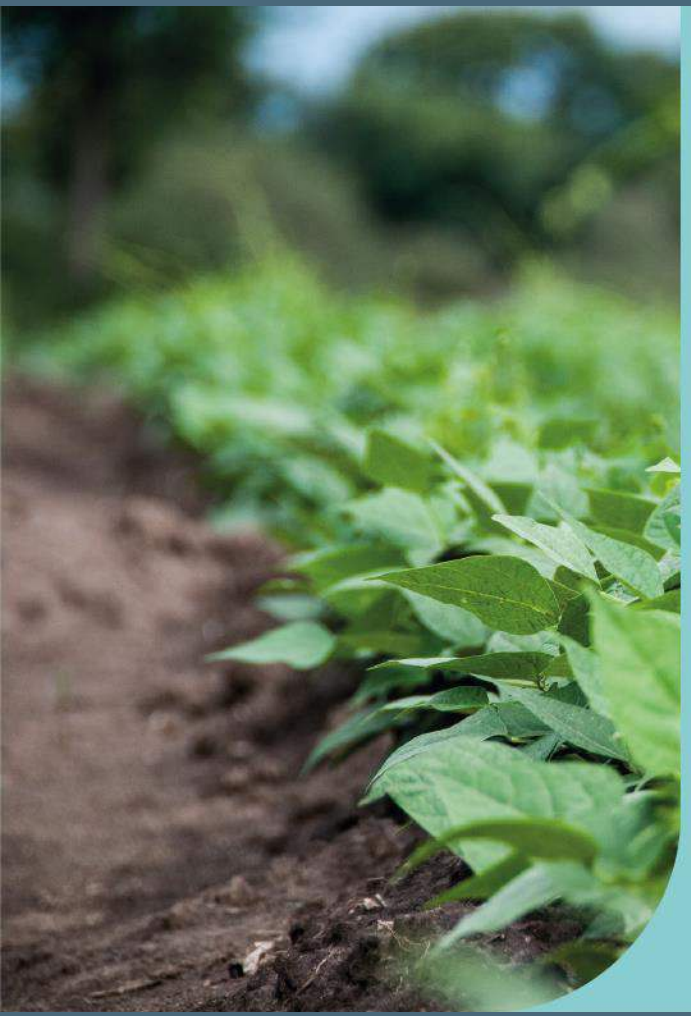
Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning



- Implementation of the AFSH Action Plan will be incorporated into the CAADP M&E system, including into the digital CAADP biennial review dashboard.
- Indicators will be defined with an emphasis on leveraging existing information and indicators.
- The monitoring plan will include tracking of the contributions of the private sector.

Phased implementation

Phase 1

Preparatory 18-month post-summit phase for:

- Defining and establishing the coordination mechanism;
- Aligning implementation with future developments under Agenda 2063 and CAADP;
- Cultivating necessary partnerships and alliances;
- Building capacity;
- Piloting and proofing some interventions; and
- Final planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization.
- Country-specific action plans will be developed with the engagement of public-private partners and development stakeholders.

Phase 2

The main implementation phase

CALL FOR ACTION

AUDA-NEPAD /AUC and partners

- Support Member States in domesticating mechanisms for rewarding smallholder farmers for improved soil health practices.
- Develop a systematic soil health monitoring system aligned with existing CAADP M&E systems.
- Develop a post-summit implementation strategy and roadmap for the Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan and in line with the Soil Initiative for Africa.
- Develop the partnerships and institutional arrangements for implementation of the Declaration.

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CALL FOR ACTION

Private sector to increase investments in Africa's fertilizer industry and promote sustainable soil management practices.

Continental and international financial institutions to support private sector investments in Africa's fertilizer industry.

Development partners to support governments and regional economic communities to adopt best practices in fertilizer use and soil management.