

# Fertilizer *facts*

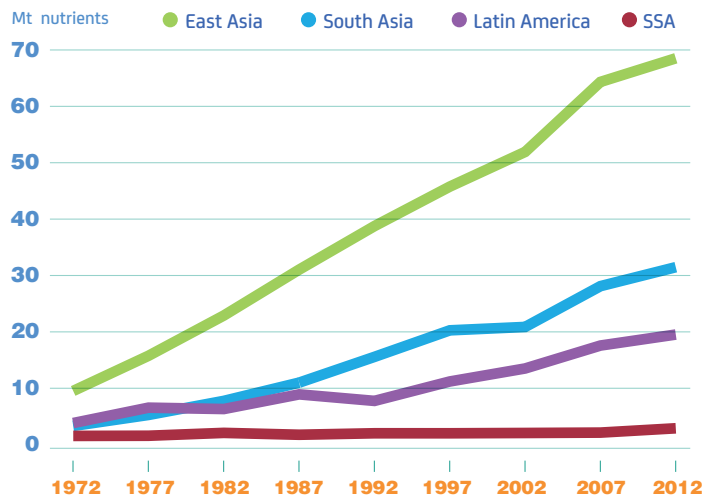
## Fertilizer Use in Sub-Saharan Africa

How far are we from the Abuja target?

Compared to the other developing regions, fertilizer consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has increased only marginally over the past four decades.

This very low fertilizer use in SSA results in low crop productivity and, in turn, in high prevalence of hunger and fast conversion of natural habitats to farming.

In order to address this challenge, in 2006, African leaders adopted the Abuja Declaration, which calls for increasing average fertilizer use in SSA from less than 10 kg/ha to at least 50 kg/ha by 2015. In 2014, they renewed their commitment to increasing agricultural productivity during the agricultural ministerial meeting in Malabo.



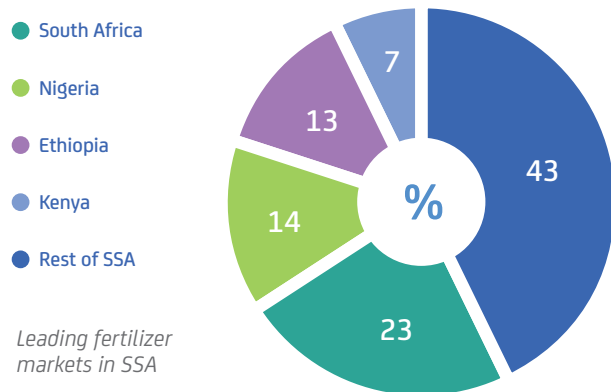
Comparative evolution of regional fertilizer consumption in developing regions

The SSA fertilizer market was estimated at 3.2 million tonnes (Mt) nutrients in 2012-13, of which 1.8 Mt N, 0.9 Mt P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and 0.5 Mt K<sub>2</sub>O. SSA consumption accounts for slightly less than 2% of the world total.

The regional market is currently dominated by four countries: South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Excluding South Africa, SSA fertilizer demand expansion averages about 8% per year since 2008, making SSA the world's fastest growing market in relative terms.

By 2015, SSA (without South Africa) is forecast to account for half of Africa's fertilizer consumption, and this share is expected to increase quickly over time.

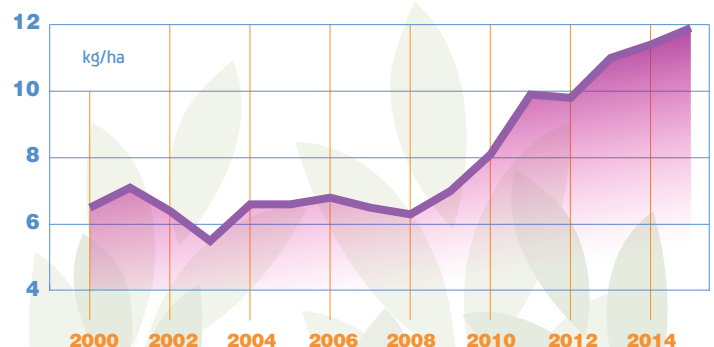


Leading fertilizer markets in SSA

The average fertilizer application rate in SSA (without South Africa) has been increasing rapidly in recent years, from 6-7 kg/ha in 2008 to 11 kg/ha in 2014, and it is expected to reach 12 kg/ha in 2015.

While the trend is positive, there is clearly still a long way to go to reach the 50 kg/ha target set in the Abuja Declaration.

Reaching the Abuja target is a priority for Africa's agricultural development and it requires joint efforts of all stakeholders. IFA and its partners are strong advocates for a series of inter-linked policy measures to improve access to fertilizers, in particular by African smallholders.



Estimated average fertilizer application rate in SSA (without South Africa) (Source: IFA, FAO)