

**First Announcement**

# Feeding Africa



©Jonas Bendiksen

**Africa Fertilizer Summit**  
 9–13 June 2006 ▲ Abuja, Nigeria

**Nourish the soil, feed the continent.**

November 2005. Printed on recycled paper.

## Getting from scarcity to abundance

Even modest increases in the use of fertilizers, in combination with efficient use of other farm inputs, could trigger an **African Green Revolution**, give new hope to millions of poor farmers and free them from the shackles of food insecurity. This would contribute to Africa's ability to meet its Millennium Development Goal on Hunger that targets a 50 percent reduction in food insecurity by 2015.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has declared that the vision of economic development in Africa must be based on raising and sustaining higher rates of economic growth (7 percent per year). To realize this vision, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as a framework for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa. Stakeholders have identified that addressing the fertilizer crisis will help accelerate agricultural growth, food security and incomes for farmers.

**The time for bold action is now.  
 Africa's future depends on it.**



Nourish the soil, feed the continent.

## For more information and to register, contact:

**Secretariat, The Africa Fertilizer Summit  
 c/o NEPAD—New Partnership for  
 Africa's Development**

P.O. Box 1234, Halfway House  
 Midrand (Johannesburg) 1685, South Africa  
 Telephone: +27.11.313.3153  
 Fax: +27.11.313.3778  
 E-mail: fertilizersummit@nepad.org

**Secretariat, The Africa Fertilizer Summit  
 c/o IFDC—The International Fertilizer  
 Development Center**

P.O. Box 2040  
 Muscle Shoals, AL 35662, U.S.A.  
 Telephone: +1.256.381.6600  
 Fax: +1.256.381.7408  
 E-mail: AFS.secretariat@ifdc.org

**Web site: [www.AfricaFertilizerSummit.org](http://www.AfricaFertilizerSummit.org)**



**NEPAD**  
 A Programme of The African Union

**AFRICAN**



**UNION**



# Meeting Africa's Food Challenge

*Bringing Life to the Continent's Soil*

**T**oday more than 204 million people in Africa suffer from hunger and malnutrition. They lack the food necessary to live healthy and productive lives. **Children are especially vulnerable, as malnutrition early in their lives compromises their full mental and physical development.** Over the past 30 years, the situation has actually worsened as per capita food production in Africa has declined.

## A family's food, a continent's future

Africa's farmers face a variety of constraints including low productivity, limited access to new agricultural technologies and weak markets. Without adequate inputs, farmers often cannot meet the food needs of their own families, much less those of a rapidly growing population. **To feed themselves and their countries, farmers will need to shift from low-yielding, extensive land practices to more intensive, higher-yielding practices,** with increased use of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation.



©IFDC

## A crisis in the soil

A move toward reducing hunger on the continent must begin by addressing its severely depleted soils. Due to decades of soil nutrient mining, Africa's soils have become the poorest in the world. It is estimated that the continent loses the equivalent of over \$4 billion worth of soil nutrients per year, severely eroding its ability to feed itself. **This has led two former winners of the World Food Prize to call the soil health situation facing Africa "a catastrophe."** Yet farmers have neither access to nor can they afford the fertilizers needed to add life to their soils. And no region of the world has been able to expand agricultural growth rates, and thus tackle hunger, without increasing fertilizer use. In parts of Asia and Latin America that benefited from the rapid agricultural growth of the Green Revolution in cereal production, fertilizer application rates average more than 140 kilograms per hectare. In Africa, use of fertilizers averages only eight kilograms per hectare. In short, Africa is trapped in a fertilizer crisis. Addressing Africa's fertilizer crisis requires urgent and bold actions.

## The Africa Fertilizer Summit: Taking Action

NEPAD has called for an Africa Fertilizer Summit from 9–13 June 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria, to be implemented by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). The Summit will be hosted by the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and chaired by His Excellency, Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, Chairman of the NEPAD Implementation Committee and Chairman of the African Union.

**The Summit will bring together African heads of state, African ministers, presidents and heads of international donor organizations, private-sector firms, farmers' organizations and senior policymakers. The Summit will discuss the food challenges of Africa and its fertilizer crisis. It will map out bold regional and national strategies within the framework of agricultural sector development plans and financing mechanisms. The Summit's ultimate goal is to trigger an African Green Revolution.**



©Jonas Bendiksen