

**African Union HQ**

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Paris, June 2014

Your Excellencies, Ministers of the African Union,

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Ahead of your distinguished participation in the 23rd session of the Assembly of the African Union in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 26-27 June this year, 8 organizations involved in agricultural development in Africa would like to bring to your attention the important issue of access to inputs and fertilizers for smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Small food producers are a critical link connecting food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, economic growth and poverty eradication. Your Excellencies have acknowledged on numerous occasions the preeminent role agriculture plays in economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security. Nevertheless, 226 million Africans are chronically undernourished and 5 million die of hunger every year according to the FAO.

Therefore we respectfully ask you to consider the Abuja Declaration of 2006 to raise fertilizer use to 50 kg/ha by 2015 in your proceedings during the Ministerial and work towards increasing the current rate which stands close to 10 kg/ha.

With your Excellencies governments' support, the civil society, the private sector and research institutes can work together to close the yield gap and bring prosperity to farmers across the African continent by:

- Providing access to credit, finance and insurance by retailers and farmers.
- Facilitating imports and the distribution of diverse fertilizer products.
- Investing in infrastructure: transport, handling, storage, and blending facilities.
- Developing mobile technologies to provide information on markets, extension services and prices.
- Training extension workers to help farmers organize themselves.
- Disseminating best practices based on integrated soil fertility management.

The signatories to this letter are supporting family farms in Africa to raise their yields and stand ready to work with Your Excellencies and your governments to secure a life of dignity and prosperity for farmers across the continent.

Sincerely Yours,



African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)



Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)



CNFA



International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)



International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)



International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)



International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)



International Potash Institute (IPI)



One Acre Fund (OAF)