

AFAP invests in fertilizer market developments in Ghana

More than one million Ghanaian smallholder farmers can now expect to have a wider selection of fertilizers in the country, after the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) signed Agribusiness Partnership Contracts (APC) with four warehouses with a combined storage capacity of 23 000 metric tons of fertilizer.

The warehouses are located throughout Ghana (in the northern, southern, eastern and western region) to ensure that fertilizer reaches smallholder farmers throughout the country.

“AFAP envisions an Africa in which all smallholder farmers have access to quality and affordable fertilizers that are suitable for their soils and are available throughout and beyond the farming seasons,” Jason Scarpone (President and CEO: AFAP) said. He noted that these are the challenges usually associated with in many African countries where fertilizer use remains below the recommended amount.

Scarpone also added that the four warehouses would be part of AFAP’s commitment towards enhancing robust private sector involvement in the fertilizer sector. “The core of AFAP’s work in its target countries (Ghana, Mozambique and Tanzania) is to ensure robust private sector participation in the fertilizer sector to support the public sector in order to reduce poverty and increase incomes.”

The warehouses that increased storage through partnership with AFAP are: 18th April, North Gate Agro Limited, Sakant Enterprise Limited and Seed Shop Company. More warehouses are still under construction in Ghana and will further increase the storage capacity by an additional 46 000 metric tons once completed by the end of the year.

“Through the APC matching grant agreement, we will now be able to not only expand our storage capacity to 3 000 metric tons, but increase our supply of fertilizer to smallholder farmers in our community,” Eva Dwamena (Manager: North Gate Warehouse) said at the signing of their APC.

An APC is a mechanism that allows AFAP to unite the expertise and dedication of the public and private sectors to improve fertilizer affordability and availability in Africa. Through APC’s AFAP has been able to partner on projects that improve fertilizer access and affordability for African smallholder farmers and make contributions to the lives and communities of smallholder farmers.

Increasing the storage capacities of all four warehouses in Ghana will also create job opportunities for the communities in which they are based. Through partnering with AFAP, she, together with the management of the other three warehouses, would ensure that they would never run out of fertilizer.

“I cannot wait to see the results during the 2014/2015 farming season,” a smiling Dwamena said.