

AFAP strengthens fertilizer ties with Mozambique

The African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Mozambique in an effort to contribute to market development activities designed to increase smallholder fertilizer users and usage.

Through the MoU, AFAP together with the government of Mozambique will work on development, research, information sharing, capacity building and actions intended to establish more competitive and sustainable fertilizer markets in the country.

Richard Mkandawire, Vice President of AFAP and Head of Partnerships, said the MoU recognizes the important role of sustainable fertilizer use in increasing agricultural productivity. "It is important to act upon the critical and growing food demand and the only sustainable way is to increase agricultural productivity and production through tighter partnerships," Mkandawire said.

Through the implementation of the MoU, AFAP will design the necessary inroads to increase fertilizer supply and reduce cost to assist smallholder farmers through private sector driven fertilizer markets. The MoU comes against the backdrop of the National Program on Fertilizer in Mozambique. This program was established to help increase and improve the quality of fertilizers available to farmers, through the strengthening capacity of national institutions for maintenance of fertilizer quality as well as their use in a sustainable manner.

Mkandawire said the MoU developed a formal relationship between the Ministry of Agriculture and AFAP and will see both institutions contributing to the implementation of market development activities that will increase the quantity and quality of fertilizers available to farmers in Mozambique.

AFAP was established by a partnership of development organizations in Africa. The Johannesburg-based non-profit organization works with the public and private sectors to establish more competitive and sustainable fertilizer markets in Africa.

"A year ago AFAP opened its doors to working with key stakeholders in the fertilizer value chain to make affordable and quality fertilizer available to smallholder farmers. Partnerships such as the one with Mozambique will be one of many," Mkandawire said.