

Second Regional Fertilizer Conference

— Opportunities and Challenges in a
Single Regional Fertilizer Market —

July 28–29, 2009
Bujumbura, Burundi

Organized by:

IFDC
CATALIST Project
Bujumbura, Burundi



Co-Sponsors:

Burundi Fertilizer Association
Private Sector Federation of Burundi

About IFDC

IFDC – an International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development – is a public international organization addressing critical issues such as international food security, the alleviation of global poverty, environmental protection and the promotion of economic development and self-sufficiency. Collaborative partnerships combine cutting-edge research and development with on-site training and education. IFDC is helping to enrich and sustain the lives and livelihoods of people around the world.

IFDC is the only non-profit, science-based organization meeting the integrated soil nutrient management needs associated with a sustainable global food supply. IFDC was established in 1974 in response to the twin crises of food insecurity and rising energy prices. These parallel crises now threaten the world again.

IFDC has helped increase sustainable agricultural productivity in more than 130 nations. This has been achieved through the development and transfer of effective and environmentally sound plant nutrient technology and agricultural marketing expertise.

IFDC has also contributed to the development of institutional capacity-building in 150 countries through nearly 1,000 training programs, primarily as part of IFDC's long-term agricultural development projects. IFDC staff members are currently serving in more than 20 nations throughout Africa, the Near East and the Far East.

Overview

In July 2009, Rwanda and Burundi join the East African Community Customs Union. This new affiliation will have a major impact on the flow of agricultural inputs and commodity outputs in the region.

The fertilizer economy has experienced a great deal of change and innovation over the past few years. Most dramatically, prices spiraled in 2008. Urea started the year at \$400/ton, reached \$820/ton in August and ended the year at \$250/ton.

The widely fluctuating price of fertilizers added stress to a region that is seeing a rise in fertilizer use. Fertilizer consumption in Kenya, the largest fertilizer user in the region, rose from 330,000 tons in 2001/02 to 451,000 tons in 2007/08. Over the same period, consumption in Rwanda increased from 7,000 tons to 17,000 tons.

Changes in consumption are furthering changes in production. New production facilities are in place in Tanzania and planned for Rwanda. A pre-feasibility study on using methane from Lake Kivu to produce urea has shown that the project on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda is technically and financially viable.

Not surprisingly, these developments have led to different policy responses across the region. Overall, governments have adopted a policy of government purchases. Some governments have auctioned the purchased fertilizer to the private sector; some have subsidized purchase prices; some have used targeted vouchers; and some have sold directly.

IFDC, An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development, through its regional CATALIST project, is hosting a conference on opportunities and challenges in a regional fertilizer market in collaboration with the Burundi Fertilizer Association and the Private Sector Federation of Burundi.

Objectives

The objectives of the conference are to:

- Provide networking opportunities for regional fertilizer buyers and sellers.
- Analyze the world fertilizer supply and demand situation and its implications for the region.
- Facilitate the establishment of a consultative group for the development of a regional fertilizer association.

Conference Content

Most presentations will be in English and simultaneously translated into French.

The conference will include:

- A review of existing, proposed and potential production capacity
- Discussions by EAC and COMESA representatives on regional initiatives to develop a common fertilizer policy
- Discussions by representatives in the region outlining policy issues
- A presentation of new fertilizer products and technologies
- Analysis of the world fertilizer and demand situation

Venue

The conference will be held at the Hotel Source du Nil, in Bujumbura, Burundi. Participants should contact the hotel directly to make room reservations. To receive the special conference rate, non-sponsor participants should mention the conference and ask for the conference rate.

Hotel Source du Nil
Avenue du Stade
P.O. Box 2072
Bujumbura, Burundi
Telephone: (+257) 22 22 52 22
Fax : (+257) 22 22 52 05
E-mail: info@hotelsourcedunil.com or reservations@hotelsourcedunil.com
Web site: www.hotelsourcedunil.com

Room	Regular Price, \$	Conference Price, \$
Townside	130	91.00
Lakeside	150	105.00
Suite, Junior	175	122.50
Suite, Presidentielle	230	161.00

Cost and Enrollment

There is no fee to attend the conference, but participation is limited. The registration deadline is July 21, 2009.

Visa and Medical Insurance

Applications for necessary visas should be made as early as possible. Participants who are not eligible to enter Burundi without a visa should apply at the nearest Burundi Embassy for a visa. Visas are also available at the airport. All required immunizations and health formalities should be completed. Participants traveling to Burundi are required to have a yellow fever vaccination. Medical insurance should be obtained by participants.

For More Information

For additional information, please contact:

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For Registration

Please complete and submit the following:

Register

