

Joint Development Partner Statement: The Nairobi Declaration

A joint Declaration by African Development Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Government of Canada, European Commission, French Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Republic of Ireland, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Norway, Rockefeller Foundation, United Kingdom, United States, and World Bank at the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit #AFSH24



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Preamble

We, a collective of 14 development partners (the African Development Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Canada, the European Commission, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Republic of Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Rockefeller Foundation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the World Bank) welcome the Nairobi Declaration at the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH). We acknowledge the comprehensiveness and prioritization of the AFSH Action Plan for embracing both fertilizer management and soil health.

Inciting a renewed focus and impetus on simultaneously improving access to and sustainable use of fertilizer and soil health is of great priority to raise the sustainability, short and long term productivity, profitability, inclusivity, and resilience of African agriculture and food systems. The AFSH Action Plan's vision of reversing soil degradation, increasing effectiveness and efficiency in the use of (organic and inorganic) fertilizers, accelerating inclusive agricultural transformation, and ending hunger, malnutrition and poverty, while improving natural resources management for ecosystem services and biodiversity, can only be achieved by embracing soil health as a condition rather than an option.

Considering the need for rapid and coordinated implementation, we welcome the African Union Commission's and AUDA-NEPAD's proposed implementation of the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) as a guiding platform for the 10-years implementation of the AFSH Action Plan. We applaud SIA's framework aiming to harness multi-stakeholder partnerships and investments whilst committing to contribute with technical assistance and finance to support the implementation of the AFSH Action Plan.

In order to advance the implementation of the AFSH Action Plan, we intend to provide our full support to achieve the intended Action Plan Outcomes. In doing so, we wish to emphasize a wide range of commitments covering the four intended outcomes of the Action Plan. We intend that these contributions and future contributions will collectively be coordinated in support of the aligned priorities and integrated for accelerated impact and delivery through the African-led post-Summit implementation structure of the SIA.

We envisage to contribute on:

Commitments contributing to Outcome 1 - Improved Investment, Policies, Finance and Markets

By improving the policy environment, financing and investment conditions are key priorities to mature and stabilize the African soil health and fertilizer landscape. Improved data and analysis on soil health improvements and requirements, demand, and accessibility for necessary organic and inorganic fertilizer are needed to guide investment opportunities. We support actions to improve research and development, policy transparency and consistency, and equitable financing to ensure the implementation of policies, and the development of

resilient supply chains that encourage private sector led fertilizer markets that are inclusive and competitive. We support easy access to harmonized soil data and decision support tools, fertilizer subsidy and policy reform support, public- private partnerships to establish intraoperative platforms on soil health, sustainable soilmanagement best practices and guidelines, and innovation, technology, and knowledge support especially through continental, national and regional coordination hubs.

Commitments contributing to Outcome 2 - Improved Access and Affordability to Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers

By improving the access and affordability of organic and inorganic fertilizers and soil amendments is paramount to ensure sustainability and resilience in favor of African farmers, especially smallholder and women farmers. To reduce the costs of fertilizer applications and maximize the benefits of fertilizer use, policies should promote the use of precision fertilizer application technologies, including the use of micro-dosing approaches. There is increasing consensus that the use of external inputs is highly context-specific and should be tailored to a specific farming system. The need for and use of external inputs varies with the farming system. In some contexts, increasing the use of appropriate organic and inorganic fertilizers and soil amendments should be part of a holistic approach to address soil health challenges in Africa. We support farmers' use of organic nutrient sources including biological N fixation to reduce the costs of fertilizers and foster long-term soil productivity and environmental sustainability. We support research, policy reforms, certification, de-risk finance, quality control and actions increasing the capacity of local farmers in integrated soil fertility management practices, domestic production and strengthening local supply chains, as well as enhancing intra-regional fertilizer trade, as central actions to achieve this outcome.

Commitments contributing to Outcome 3 - Greater Efficiency, Resilience and Sustainable Use of Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions

By increasing efficiency, resilience, and sustainability in enhancing soil health and the use of organic and inorganic fertilizers relies on better information and recommendations tailored to specific soils, crops, and climatic conditions. Location-specific recommendations should be provided through investing in the capacity of public and private extension services to provide localized soil fertility services. Actions include the promotion of integrated soil fertility management, development of digitally enabled and interoperable soil health monitoring tools, public-private partnerships to establish intraoperative platforms on soil health, research and product development of fertilizer based on local available nutrient streams, and local low carbon or green ammonia production innovations. These actions should result in large-scale uptake by farmers and women farmers of a set of soil health-enhancing practices such as inter-cropping and rotation with legumes, mulching, agroforestry, soil

coverage, limited soil disturbance and mulching, livestock-crops systems, appropriate application of organic and inorganic fertilizers as well as better control of erosion with physical and biological resources, and coherent frameworks and databases to collect and disseminate soil information.

Commitments contributing to Outcome 4 - Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management

By improving organic and inorganic fertilizer use efficiency and soil health relies strongly on human capacity and agency. We support actions aiming to develop and scale locally relevant capacity development and inclusive management technologies, scale innovative advisory services for smallholder farmers, empower youth as entrepreneurs in the community, and build regional and continental networks and communities of practice. We support integrated crops and livestock systems functioning in synergy, bringing multiple benefits to people (diversity of healthy food and income sources) and biodiversity.



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