



SADC Soil Health & Fertilizer Hub

Laying the Groundwork for Resilient Agriculture

About the Hub

The SADC Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub, hosted by CCARDESA in Gaborone, Botswana, is a regional knowledge and coordination platform that promotes sustainable soil health and efficient fertilizer management to drive food systems transformation in Southern Africa.

It serves as the technical arm of the SADC Secretariat, supporting Member States with harmonised data, policy alignment, and best practices for climate-resilient and productivity-enhancing soil management.

Why It Matters

- Over 30% of arable land in SADC is degraded, limiting agricultural productivity.
- Fertilizer use is often inefficient, with suboptimal rates, types, and timing.
- Women and youth face barriers to accessing inputs and technical guidance.
- There is limited coordination across countries on soil testing standards, data systems, and extension services.

The Hub fills these gaps by offering a regional, evidence-based, inclusive solution.

Core Objectives

- Promote Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM)
 - Support regional policy harmonisation and coordination
 - Improve fertilizer recommendations and advisory services
 - Strengthen capacity development across value chains
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Key Services and Functions

Service Area	Description
Policy Support	Technical input on national and regional fertilizer & soil health policies
Knowledge Platform	Repository of data, publications, and training tools
Capacity Building	Training for farmers, agro-dealers, labs, and extension services
Soil & Fertilizer Data Hub	Regional soil maps, test protocols, dashboards
Best Practices Promotion	4R nutrient stewardship: Right Source, Rate, Time, and Place
Digital Innovations	Soil health advisory tools for use via mobile and web platforms

Who Benefits?

- Smallholder farmers & cooperatives
- Extension officers & input suppliers
- Soil laboratories & researchers
- Policy makers in agriculture & environment
- Youth and women agripreneurs
- Regional and international partners

Key Partners

- SADC Secretariat
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- FAO, IFDC, World Bank
- National Governments (Ministries of Agriculture)
- Universities, research institutions, and farmer groups

Strategic Alignment

The Hub supports and complements the following continental and regional frameworks:

- AU Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (2023–2033)
- Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Transformation
- SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP)
- FSRP (Food Systems Resilience Programme)

Contact Us

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