



Why the Hub is Needed

Enhancing soil health and increasing crop productivity through sustainable fertilizer use and good agronomic practices will require the adoption by millions of farmers of crop-, climate-, and soil-specific solutions supported by a strong knowledge base, novel analytical approaches, decision support systems, strengthened capacity, and supporting policies. The Lome 'Fertilizer and Soil Health Roadmap for West Africa and the Sahel' highlights the need for a Regional Hub to support the development and implementation of investments in fertilizer and soil health in West Africa and the Sahel.

What the Hub Does

Launched in 2024, the Hub's role is to provide technical assistance for national and regional fertilizer and soil health-related investments in countries of West Africa and the Sahel. The assistance will be delivered through a specialized unit fully equipped with the expertise, tools, and assets necessary to enable the delivery of technical assistance in fertilizer and soil health. As such, the Hub supports the implementation of the African Union Action Plan.

Vision and Mission

Vision:

The **Vision** of the Regional Hub is for nations in West Africa and the Sahel to improve long-term soil health and fertility for enhanced yield and profitability, efficient resource use (nutrients, water, labour), and climate resilience, thus contributing to the sustainable transformation of African smallholder agriculture for food security, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability.

Mission:

The **Mission** is to facilitate the delivery of agronomic gain, conceptualized around yield and profitability, resource use efficiency (nutrients, water, labor), climate adaptation, and soil health, at the regional, national, and sub-national level through the assembly, delivery, and monitoring of fertilizer and soil health management practices and related capacity development of key stakeholders, underpinned by institutionalization principles.

Governance and Coordination

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) chairs the Hub Advisory Committee, which comprises the Consortium members, key regional and development partners, and other relevant representatives from associate and national partners.
- A Consortium of technical partners, consisting of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), OCP Africa, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), ISRIC – World Soil Information, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), is responsible for operationalizing the various functions.
- A Steering Committee, consisting of the above Consortium partners, is the final decision-making body of the Hub.
- Daily coordination of Hub activities is led by IITA, which hosts a secretariat overseeing day-to-day management, communication, and coordination among partners and country focal points.
- Technical Working Groups bring together experts to guide the operationalization of the above thematic clusters.
- National Focal Points for the target countries, supported by National Technical Teams, lead in-country operations.

FACT SHEET

Regional Hub for Fertilizer and Soil Health for West Africa and the Sahel

Consortium Partners and Roles

The Consortium comprises leading organizations with recognized expertise in soil health and fertility, including IITA/CGIAR, APNI, ISRIC, IFDC, UM6P, and OCP Africa.

The consortium members:

- Implement or support the implementation of activities agreed upon by the countries through national entities.
- Provide technical and scientific expertise to the Hub and allocate activities.

Financial Sustainability

The Hub is financially supported by the World Bank, through CGIAR's Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project and the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) project, as well as OCP Africa. Building on this foundation, the Hub will actively seek additional financing from public and private partners to scale its impact.

The Hub is investing its resources in setting up a cross-institutional team of experts and the necessary tools and assets required to deliver technical assistance to countries in West Africa and the Sahel. In-country operations are then expected to be supported by countries requesting such technical assistance.

Key Functions

The Hub addresses challenges and opportunities across several thematic clusters:

SOIL INFORMATION

	Digital soil health and fertility maps
	Plant and soil analytical laboratory services
	A soil health and fertility dashboard
	Advice on carbon sequestration potential

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

	A repository of knowledge products
	Climate change adaption and mitigation

AGRONOMY

	Site-specific nutrient recommendation models
	Phosphorus management and use efficiency
	Deployment of bio-fertilizer , specialty fertilizers
	Unified databases and digital tools to collect and manage FAIR and standardized data
	Monitoring of the delivery of agronomic gain
	Rehabilitation of degraded lands
	Bundle services

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

	Prioritize scientific studies
	Farmer-led experimentation
	Capacities of national institutions
	Certification scheme for extension staff

POLICY SUPPORT

	Policy development, support decision-making
	Integration of gender and youth

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

	Advocate for soil health and fertility
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Headquarters

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Contacts

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