



## Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Rapid Assessment Report – Borno, Adamawa and Yobe

February 2021

### Background

Despite efforts by Government Food Security Agencies and the United Nations Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a Cluster Lead Agency in making efforts to advocate for increase in access in fertilizer amidst the restrictions, several partners still reported challenges in procurement and distribution of fertilizer across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States over the past three years.

In February 2021, the Food Security Sector sent out an online survey to partners who take part in provision of fertilizer support as part of the agricultural livelihoods support for the main crop season, to understand the challenges they face and how they can be mitigated or solved, as regards fertilizer procurement and distribution. The survey focused on the 2020 rain season farming

### Findings

State Government actors (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe), INGOs (03), National NGOs (03) and UN agencies (01) provided feedback to the survey providing fertilizer assistance in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

For the 2020 rain season, partners provided organic, wet-blended, granular and liquid fertilizer. Only one lead agency was able to avail wet-blended fertilizer to their partners. All three state governments were able to distribute granular fertilizer.

For the 2020 rain season, partners reported to have distributed about 13,000 Metric Tonnes of Granular fertilizer, 1,300 Metric Tonnes of wet-blended fertilizer. Partners who reported also mentioned distributing about 2,000 litres (2 MT) of liquid fertilizer and 20 MT for organic solid fertilizer.

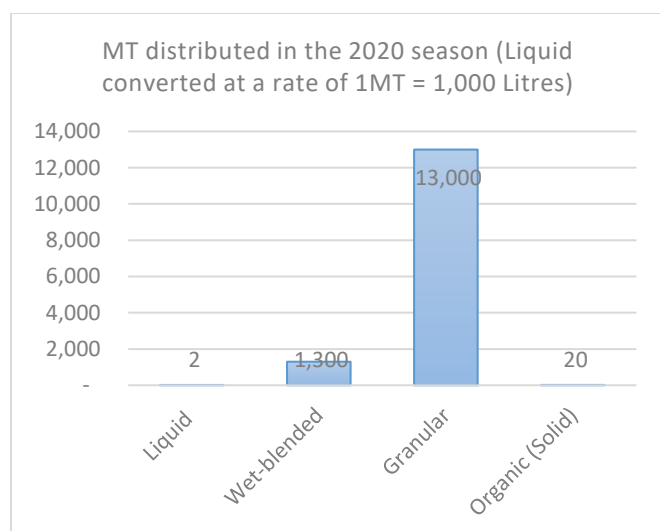


Table 1: Total Fertilizer only as reported by government and non-government actors who responded to survey

| Type of Fertilizer | Provider              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Liquid             | INGO & NNGO           |
| Wet-blended        | FAO and partners      |
| Granular           | BAY State governments |
| Organic (Solid)    | INGO                  |

Table 2: As reported by government non-government partners

For the 2020 rain season, majority of the partners provided fertilizer in-kind, except one who reported through Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) for organic fertilizer.

The feedback from partners from the 2020 was “largely positive” with a few “mixed reactions” regarding the perception of beneficiaries for the various types of fertilizer received.

For the 2020 season, a significant majority of partners who provided wet-blended fertilizer to a very high extent reported “very good to excellent” feedback from their beneficiaries. For organic fertilizer, partners provided feedback that beneficiaries reported it being effective, however not as readily available as inorganic fertilizers. Additionally, one feedback also mentioned that beneficiaries would have preferred liquid fertilizer. For the liquid fertilizer, partner provided feedback that majority of beneficiaries had used it for the first time and “liked it”. The State Government Actors provided feedback that the granular fertilizer was “very effective”.

For the 2020 season, part of the organic fertilizer was made by the beneficiaries while others through agro-input suppliers within the communities who got it from Kano, according to partner reporting. Wet-blended fertilizer largely came from Niger State. The granular fertilizer suppliers were from Borno, Kano and Katsina State fertilizer Blending Plant.

For 2020, partners who reported largely mentioned that they were able to distribute the fertilizer within the intended time frame especially for wet-blended. Partners providing liquid and organic solid were not able to distribute within the planned time frame. Only the solid waste partner reported being unable to distribute 40% of beneficiaries. State Government Actors were able to distribute 70% – 95% of their fertilizer according to their plans.

Despite the fact that partners were able to distribute the fertilizer as planned, they largely reported having faced significant challenges with the process of clearance and distribution particularly with the military. The delays are generally in the process of clearance for movement of all types the fertilizers (including the already approved types). There are also challenges with the clearing military officials as mentioned by partners that sometimes they (military officials) do not differentiate between the organic and inorganic fertilizer. According the food security actors, the clearance took up to 30 days for some partners.

Additionally, only State Government Actors and 07 Non-Government Actors responded to the fertilizer survey. Given the significantly low response to the survey despite several reminders, this could be an indication that not many actors take part in provision of fertilizer assistance. The Food Security Sector has up to 70 active partners. It is likely that the restrictions in procurement and distribution of fertilizers could be one being one of the factors limiting the participation of more actors in fertilizer provision.

**Among the solutions proposed by food security actors include:**

a) Sector through the Government and the FAO (co-lead) to coordinate with the military on ease of movement of fertilizer. This should lead to the development of a clearer SOP for fertilizer clearance both at Federal and State Levels, for all actors with clear indication of the duration it should take for clearances; step by step offices/procedure and contact of the focal points that need to be reached to seek such clearances.

b) Partners are encouraged to plan procurement and distribution early to allow close follow up.

c) Government and Partners to continuously provide feedback on the various accepted fertilizer types including those that were not regularly used by the farmers (The feedback may not be limited to beneficiary feedback, fertilizer effectiveness, efficiency and any other cross cutting issues related to the fertilizer).