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Fertilizer Financing Guidance

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 312

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Fertilizer Financing Guidance

This guidance supplements the policy and procedures of [ADS 312](#) regarding the procurement of fertilizer.

Current Eligibility for USAID Financing

Eligible:

- Mineral or chemical fertilizers containing one, two, or three of the following nutrients - Nitrogen, Phosphorus, or Potassium (except for Ammonium Nitrate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, which are only eligible with prior approval from the USAID/RFS Chief Scientist. To submit a request for approval, please **consult this [Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer Guidance and Storage addendum](#)** and send an email to: **fertilizerapprovals@usaid.gov**).
- Mineral or chemical fertilizers containing two or more plant essential nutrients – including Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur, and/or micronutrients.
- Lime and other mineral or chemical fertilizers – Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur, or micronutrients.
- Animal or plant-based fertilizers or soil amendments are eligible with special requirements described below.

General Guidance

Missions and Bureaus must use careful judgment in authorizing the financing or procurement of fertilizer and other soil amendments, particularly with regard to quality and safety considerations, including explosives risk. Certain Missions have adopted Mission Orders restricting funding ammonium nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate for certain uses, including agricultural uses. Proposed financings of these or similar substances must adhere to any applicable Mission Orders.

If a Mission or Bureau has an assigned agriculture officer, such officer must be involved in deliberations regarding the financing of fertilizer. To the extent a Mission or Bureau wishes to seek technical input regarding a proposed financing from the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS), they may send requests to RFS at **fertilizerapprovals@usaid.gov**.

For fertilizer products not listed as eligible in this document, the RFS Chief Scientist, or any other person designated by the Assistant to the Administrator for RFS, may approve a waiver for approval of purchase, pursuant to [ADS 312.3.3.7](#). Waiver requests must specify the product, amount and intended use and explain why procuring

the proposed product would provide a greater benefit to the USAID program than use of product that is listed as eligible above.

Any fertilizer procurement proposed for approval should be specifically addressed by the Mission or Bureau in its environmental analysis of the activity under [22 CFR 216](#) and [ADS 204](#).

Special Requirements for Animal or Plant Based Fertilizers or Soil Amendments

Missions and Bureaus must exercise extreme caution when financing the procurement of organic based soil fertility amendments as there is the potential for the transfer of weed seeds, plant pathogens or other disease organisms potentially harmful to plants, animals or humans if the material is not properly processed and handled. Animal or plant-based fertilizer or soil amendments are eligible for USAID financing if they are not intended for use more than 40km from their point of origin, and if the awardee confirms that a reasonable level of phytosanitary safety exists (*i.e.*, that the product is composed of traditional local materials such as animal manure and plant residues and does not pose a great threat of transporting weed seeds or plant pathogens beyond the point of origin).

If such products are intended for use more than 40km from their point of origin, they are only eligible with approval of the RFS Chief Scientist or, for International Disaster Assistance funded activities, with approval from the cognizant Office Director. Additionally, the awardee must confirm that a reasonable level of phytosanitary safety exists (*i.e.*, that the product has been subjected to a chemical or heat treatment or other processes to ensure all weed seeds and plant and animal pathogens have been killed).

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