At AFAP, our premise is that an enabling environment is critical for increased private-sector participation and investment in the fertilizer space in Africa. This is why we work to facilitate private-sector input into fertilizer policy design and implementation where it begins. We do this by offering a range of policy services as follows:

**Support for public-private dialogues (PPDs)**
These promote inclusive policy making and catalyze policy and regulatory reforms. We organize, convene and facilitate national public-private dialogues where industry, government, and other stakeholders (civil society, academia, etc.) can meet regularly to identify and resolve policy and regulatory constraints to the fertilizer industry and agribusiness in general. It is anticipated that through regular and structured PPDs governments can achieve their objectives while providing a conducive environment for growth and investment in the agriculture sector.

**Support to national fertilizer trade associations and agro-dealer associations**
The private sector needs to be well organized to participate effectively in the PPDs. As such, we are implementing initiatives to increase private-sector capacity to participate in policy processes. We do this by providing support to establish and/or strengthen sub-regional and national fertilizer trade as well as agro-dealer associations in Africa.

**Policy services to the private sector**
We provide advice to private companies on how to navigate policy and regulatory issues that affect their operations.

**Policy support to government**
Our support includes –
- analysing fertilizer policies and regulations to identify constraints to fertilizer supply and distribution and thereby offering recommendations on how to make the policy environment more attractive to the private sector
- generating evidence on specific enabling environment issues to inform the national PPDs
- technical support to governments to make specific reforms to existing regulations (import, registration and quality-control procedures) to reduce the cost of compliance for the private sector, hence encouraging investment.
We have established a fertilizer public-private dialogue platform in Uganda and have been instrumental in establishing a fertilizer platform in Mozambique (AMOFERT) and in Kenya (KeFERT). Key topics addressed include: the design and implementation of fertilizer subsidy programs; simplifying the requirements for registration of fertilizers; and fertilizer quality-control measures and the role of the private sector in the same.

Policy changes/reforms contributed to:

a. Nigeria: facilitated private-sector input to the Nigeria Fertilizer Quality Control Bill and the ongoing draft of the fertilizer regulations

b. Mozambique: supported the revision of the fertilizer regulations that had expired and the development of regulatory tools for the implementation of the regulations

c. Tanzania: participated in public-private dialogues on the requirements for registration of new fertilizers in Tanzania and contributed to the decision by the government to reduce the requirement from three seasons to one season of testing

d. Mozambique: participated in the public-private dialogue, which resulted in agreement to remove the 2.5% customs duty on fertilizer imports

Examples of key policy issues supported:

Fertilizer production specifications and import processes have been acting as non-tariff barriers in the Kenyan fertilizer market.

a. AFAP provided technical advice to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF) to improve its understanding of the key issues to be considered and best practices when setting cadmium limits.

b. AFAP is also conducting a review of fertilizer standards in East and Southern Africa with a view to recommending changes that would align them with the current fertilizer industry.