



**THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ANNOUNCES AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

Developing Private Sector Agro-Input Markets: Lessons Learned and Emerging Perspectives on Subsidy Programs

Jinja, Uganda, February 19-23, 2018



BACKGROUND

In the last decade a number of developing countries have implemented subsidy programs to support vulnerable farmers and reach remote regions that are not served by the private sector. There was increased focus on these programs following the 2007/08 world food crisis when governments were hard-pressed to cushion farmers and consumers from high input and output prices. The relatively high domestic distribution costs and risks within the supply chains in these countries led to poor access to and low use of agro-inputs (fertilizers, seeds, and crop protection products), which depressed agricultural productivity.

These programs have continuously been undergoing changes in their design and implementation across countries as a result of assessments or feedback that have shown the need for improvements to meet objectives. Targeted subsidies have been used to encourage pro-poor growth for select rural farmers, while blanket or uniform subsidies have been open, focusing on the larger agricultural economy, and favoring larger producers who already have better access to improved inputs. These subsidy programs have generally been costly and ineffective, with benefits often accruing to larger farmers or subject to political capture and rent-seeking, while in other circumstances these inputs have “leaked” across borders to unintended beneficiaries.

In recent years international development partners have reduced their support in funding subsidy programs in developing countries. This, coupled with the fact that these programs are stretching national budgets, are administered inefficiently and have not performed well, has nudged governments in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and other parts of the world to re-examine and make a decision on a way forward and what role, if any, the state should play in input markets. These developments have also been accompanied by recent studies and assessments looking at the performance of several subsidy programs in Africa and Asia, which provide a rich set of data and information to help stakeholders make decisions based on evidence.

IFDC has over 35 years’ experience conducting research and providing training and technical assistance in all aspects of agro-input markets in the developing world. At the request of some governments, IFDC has provided technical support in the introduction of subsidy programs and also has provided capacity building through seminars and workshops to share lessons learned and best practices, working in collaboration with local and international partners.

This training program will draw on lessons learned and the latest research findings and recommendations from IFDC and partner organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia.



OBJECTIVES

- Understand why various types of subsidies were introduced, i.e., objectives and history.
- Improve technical knowledge of the design and operation of subsidy programs.
- Discuss the effectiveness and effects of market interventions by governments.
- Analyze the performance of different types of subsidy programs.
- Review and discuss the best practices and lessons learned from different programs in order to identify possible improvements.
- Discuss the need for exit strategies and involvement of the private sector in procurement and distribution of agro-inputs.
- Analyze available information on the performance of subsidy programs and make informed decisions on whether to (dis)continue, replace with alternative investments, or improve/strengthen these programs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The five-day program is designed for key stakeholders involved in designing or implementing targeted agro-input subsidy interventions. These include government officials dealing with formulating and implementing agricultural input trade policies; input suppliers contributing to the distribution and accessibility of agro-inputs; development partners involved in agro-inputs project design and/or implementation; farmers’ organizations or farmers’ representatives involved in ensuring farmer participation; and representatives of donor organizations funding agricultural development and private sector projects.



CONTENT

The program will cover various topics including, but not limited to:

- The rationale for subsidy programs.
- Comparison of targeted versus traditional subsidies.
- Types of targeted subsidies and country-specific examples.
- The concept of a “smart” subsidy program and what this entails.
- Going beyond “smart”; what structural issues should be considered in different countries? Is there a way to tailor subsidy design to existing infrastructure or other factors in these countries?
- Recent developments in subsidy design and implementation based on research and assessments conducted in the last few years.
- Role of key stakeholders (government, donors and implementing partners, suppliers, agro-dealers, farmers, etc.) and services like banking and finance.
- Policy insights on developing input markets within and across countries under subsidy programs.
- Exit strategy and the role of government and the private sector.
- Way forward: providing insights based on existing knowledge and analysis.

METHODOLOGY

The program will introduce study cases from different countries, providing participants the opportunity to understand the “why and how” these programs were initiated. It will include presentations and discussions on input subsidies – concepts and practices – from different contexts and various perspectives with a focus on fertilizer and seed subsidies. A field trip will be arranged to expose participants to the local agro-input market conditions. Participants will give the opportunity to share subsidy experiences from their countries. The training will also provide an opportunity for networking among participants. The training workshop will invite expert speakers from various public and private institutions to share their knowledge, experiences, and research on input markets and subsidies in particular.



COST AND ENROLLMENT

The program fee for this training course is US \$1,650 per participant (inclusive of a US \$250 non-refundable deposit) and should reach IFDC no later than January 19, 2018, four (4) weeks before the program is scheduled. Those received thereafter will be accepted at IFDC's discretion and incur a late fee. Participants will be given the opportunity to take advantage of an early bird rate if registration and payment are received by IFDC prior to December 19, 2017. Please refer to the table below for pricing:

Early Bird - Registration and Payment by December 19, 2018	Regular - Registration and Payment by January 19, 2018	Late - After January 19, 2018
\$1,500	\$1,650	\$1,800

The program fee, less the non-refundable deposit, will be refunded for cancellations made two (2) weeks before the commencement of the program. Ninety percent of the paid fee will be returned and 10 percent, in addition to the deposit, will be charged to cover administrative costs for cancellations made between two (2) weeks and one (1) week before the commencement of the program. Cancellations made less than one (1) week before the commencement of the program will receive no refund.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Paid participants will receive priority. An organization wishing to enroll more than one participant should supply information and payment for each participant.

Payment of the program fee can be made by: (1) check or draft payable to IFDC; (2) wire transfer to IFDC's account in the U.S.A. through First Metro Bank, 406 West Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, U.S.A., ABA number 062203955 for credit to IFDC account number 55281; or (3) major credit card – MasterCard, Visa, or American Express.

The program fee covers registration, training and reference material, coffee/tea breaks, all lunches, and surface transportation on field trips. The fee does not include air travel, lodging and dinner expenses, or medical and communication expenses.

ABOUT IFDC

IFDC is a nonprofit, public international organization (PIO) dedicated to increasing agricultural productivity and food production through the development and use of plant nutrients in sustainable crop production systems. Headquartered in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, U.S.A., IFDC is involved in human resource development, research and technical assistance in collaboration with public, private, national, and international organizations throughout the world. IFDC has conducted more than 700 formal workshops, study tours, and training programs for over 11,000 participants from over 150 countries since 1974. The programs have covered a wide range of subjects including integrated soil fertility management and fertilizer use efficiency, fertilizer production technology, agro-input dealership management, competitive marketing, supply chain management, investment analysis, policy reforms, and numerous specialized topics.

FACULTY

VENUE

TBD: Jinja, Uganda

VISA AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS SHOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Participants who are not eligible to enter Uganda without a visa should apply for an e-Visa at <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/> or at the nearest consulate or embassy of Uganda for a traditional stamped visa. All required immunizations and health formalities should be completed. Medical insurance should be obtained by participants. The training program fee does not cover any medical insurance or expenses.



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Register Online: <https://www.etches.com/subsidy>

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\$1,500	\$1,650	\$1,800

IFDC reserves the right to cancel any program or change the dates and/or venue of any program without liability for compensation.

Please PRINT or TYPE your legal name as you would like it to appear on ALL printed materials

(Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss)

Given Name (First Name)

Surname (Last Name)

Position

Organization or Employer

Work Mailing Address

City

State

Country

Work Tel. No.:

Fax No.:

Home Tel. No.:

E-mail:

Organization/Company Funding Your Participation

Arrival Date and Time:

Flight Number:

Departure Date and Time:

Flight Number:

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Employer/Funding Organization

Date

Note: A non-refundable deposit of US \$250 is included in each program fee. The program fee, less the deposit, will be refunded for cancellations made two (2) weeks before the commencement of the program. Ninety percent of the paid fee will be returned and 10 percent, in addition to the deposit, will be charged to cover administrative costs for cancellations made between two (2) weeks and one (1) week before the commencement of the program. Cancellations made less than one (1) week before the commencement of the program will receive no refund.

The program fee covers registration, training and reference material, coffee/tea breaks, all lunches, and surface transportation on field trips. The fee does not include air travel, lodging and dinner expenses, visa and medical insurance, or communication expenses. All of these costs fall under the participant's responsibility.

By checking this box, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the cancellation policy and program fee coverage.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

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NOTE: As a nonprofit organization, IFDC does not finance or sponsor any participant.



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