IFPRI SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

April 14 –15, 2026 | Cairo, Egypt

CGIAR POLICY INNOVATIONS | FOOD FRONTIERS AND SECURITY

A demand-driven and market-led approach to recover and sustain local food production in Sudan

Experiences from the Sustain Sudan Project

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Government of the Netherlands

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CIMMYT | CGIAR

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2 4 9 Startups Accelerated Growth

Outline

- Motivation
- Market – led resilience building: Sustain Sudan Project
- Early results and lessons learnt

Motivation

- Sudan faces the worst humanitarian crisis due to ongoing conflict
- Input supply chains disrupted, crippling local food production
  - 65% of the population engaged in agriculture
  - Agriculture contributes 24% to GDP
  - 2.7 M MT cereal needs gap in 2025 (FAO 2025)
- Two options:
  - Humanitarian assistance driven by imports
  - Support local food production, which is X3 cheaper than imports

Market – led resilience building: The Sustain Sudan Project approach

The **Sustain Sudan Project** leverages resilient private sector (**agro-dealers, financial institutions,** and **distributors**) to support local food production

Theory of Change

If farmers access **inputs** to boost **soil fertility,** and to **improved seeds,** and good advisories

Then, demand for, correct use and adoption of **improved inputs** will increase

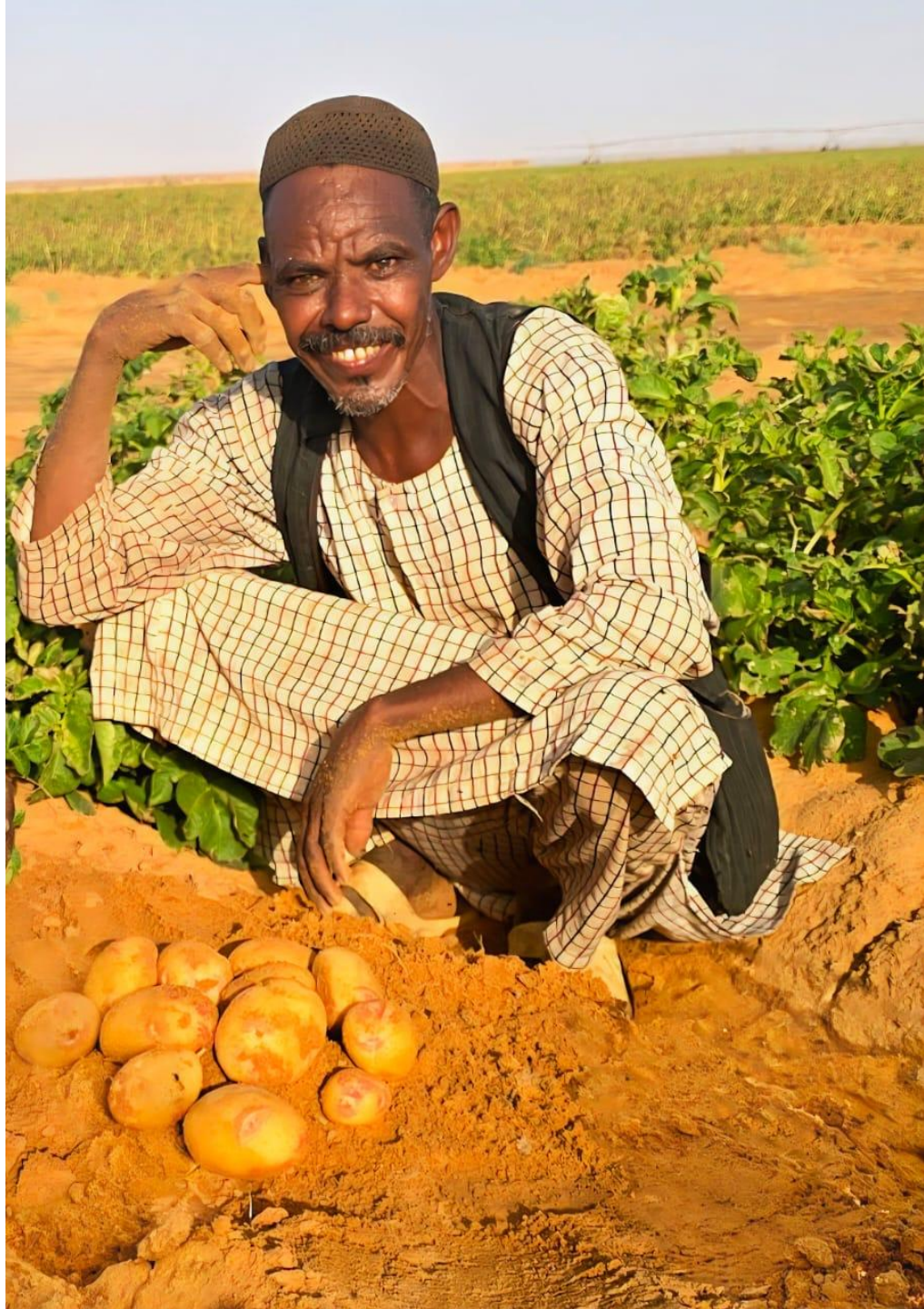
Leading to increased crop **productivity**, **food security**, and **higher incomes.**

Project Components

Sourcing	Facilitates imports, including clearance and financing
Implementation coordination	Logistical and distribution, seed systems and advisories support
Security and logistics	Security intelligence to guide implementation logistics
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	Track distribution, adoption, and assesses impacts

Initially designed for 18 months until September 2026

2025 winter season activities and results



Rebuilding agricultural input supply chains to support local food production in Sudan

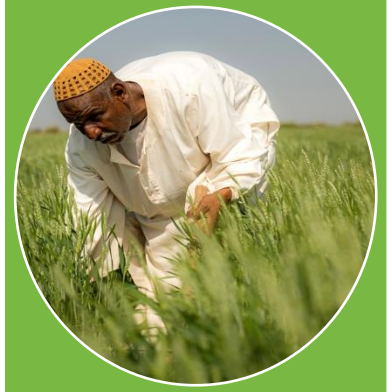
Inputs imported & distributed by private sector

Vessel with inputs arriving at Port Sudan

Off loading and packaging of fertilizer

Potato seed loading to trucks

Inputs safely at last-mile stockists



Happy farmers

Rebuilding agricultural input supply chains in Sudan

Inputs sold to farmers through multi-channels

Managed Schemes	Microfinance Institution Sales	Commercial Bank Sales	Integrated Supply Chain	Retail Agro-Dealer Network
• **Catalyzed** the **ABS** to **finance** irrigation schemes using project facilitated inputs • About **12,500 MT** fertilizer sold on loan to **25,000 farmers** in New Halfa and Gezira schemes	• **Fully funded facility** through Al Ebdaa MFI delivered 200 MT fertilizer to River Nile, Kassala, Northern and Gezira, demonstrating that smallholders are creditworthy	• **First-loss guarantees** unlocked private bank liquidity, with **United Capital Bank** lending to mid/large farmers, proving that agriculture is bankable	• **Impact-linked grants** created facilitated system level support (input, extension & offtake) for Irish potatoes. • About 5,200 MT seed and 4,000 MT fertilizer • **Only input channel to Darfur (124 MT delivered despite armed seizure)**	• **Supplier credit** between hub dealers and downstream retailers, leading to 18,800 MT fertilizer distributed on purely commercial terms; established 60-day credit as market norm

Innovative finance approaches

Supply-side finance

- **Direct supplier guarantees** and **bank facilitation**
- **Project guarantees** or advance payment needed

Demand-side finance

- **Large-scale farmers:** ABS government-backed credit, with project inputs
- **Mid/large farmers:** First loss guarantee, UCB provided 100% liquidity
- **Smallholders:** Facility to an MFI, provided loans to smallholders

Sustainability: Instruments are time-bound, avoiding dependency, building a track record for future commercial financing

2025 winter season details

1

37,000 MT fertilizer from Saudi Arabia arrived on **31 October 2025**.

2

500 MT of ammonium sulphate from Madagascar. Arrived **January 30, 2026.**

3

5,200 MT of certified Irish seed potato from the Netherlands, arrived on **31 October 2025**.

4

Four Agro dealers: CTC, WAS, General Energy and Nutri Crop supported during the 2025 winter season

5

An additional **11,000 MT** of fertilizer imported latter through project links, arrived **6 March 2026**

2025 winter season reach

SUSTAIN SUDAN PROJECT

The project facilitated importation of 48,500 MT fertilizer and 5,200 MT of certified irish seed potato through four Sudanese private sector agro dealers for the 2025 winter season.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AND REACH FOR THE 2025 WINTER SEASON

4 Sudanese private sector agro dealers

3 Financial institutions

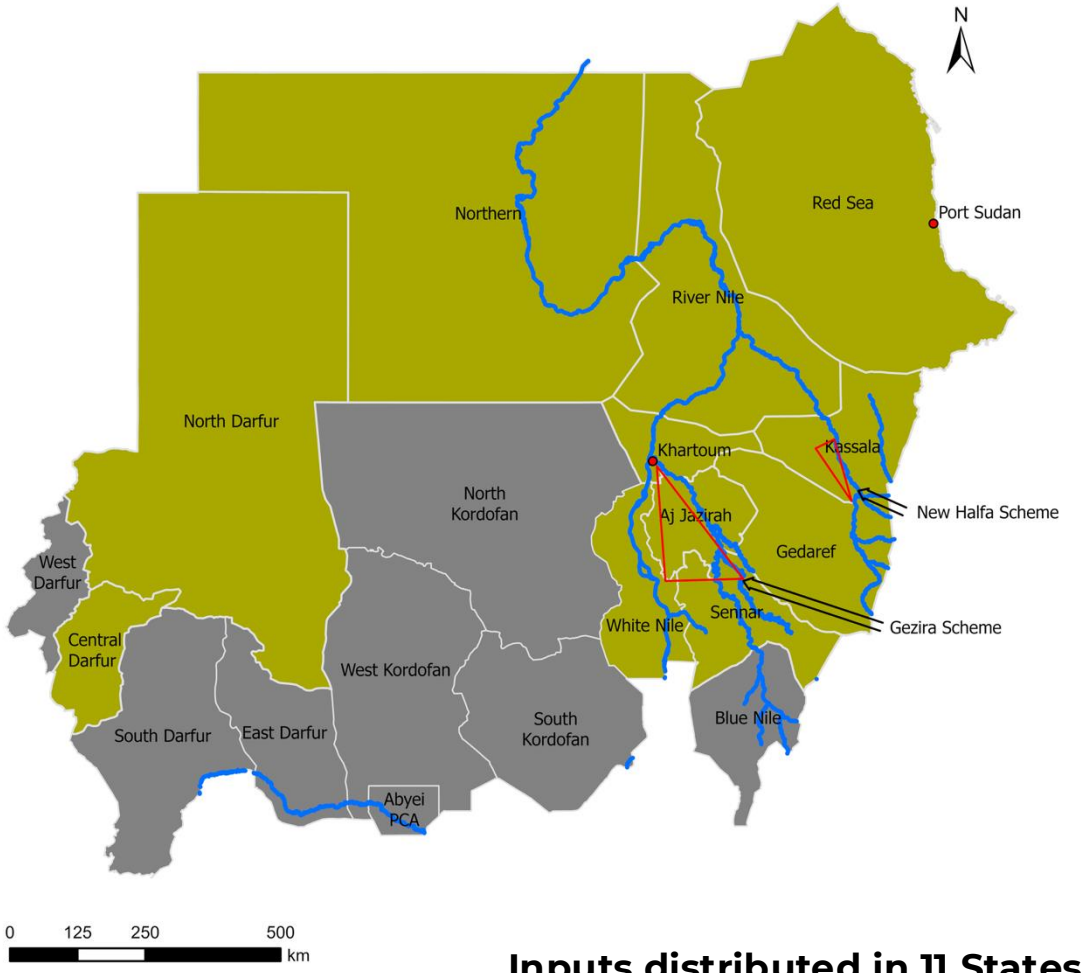
3 International suppliers

187,652 ha Cropped area covered with fertilizer

92,700 Farmers reached with fertilizer

2,100 ha Planted with potato seed

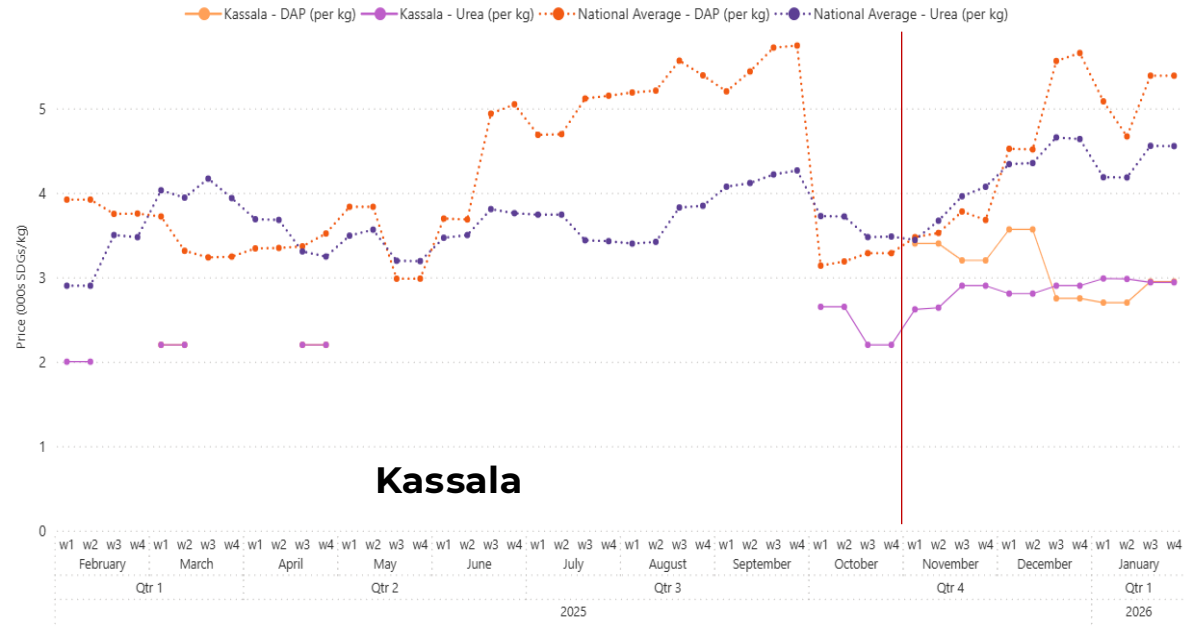
2,100 Farmers reached with potato seed

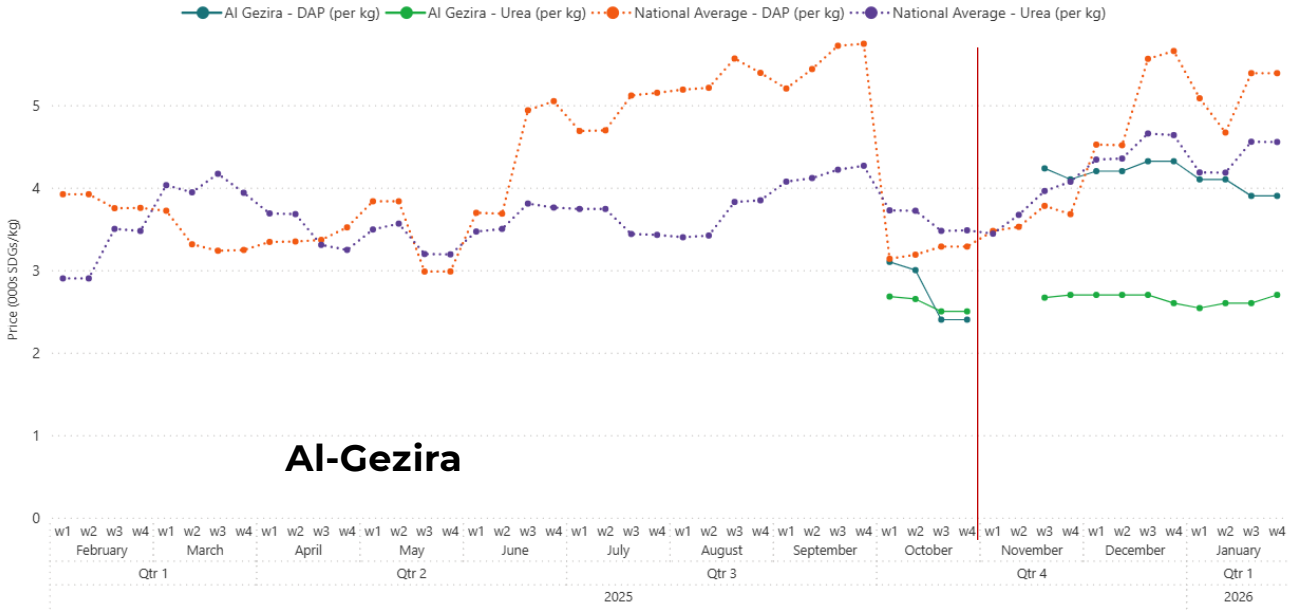


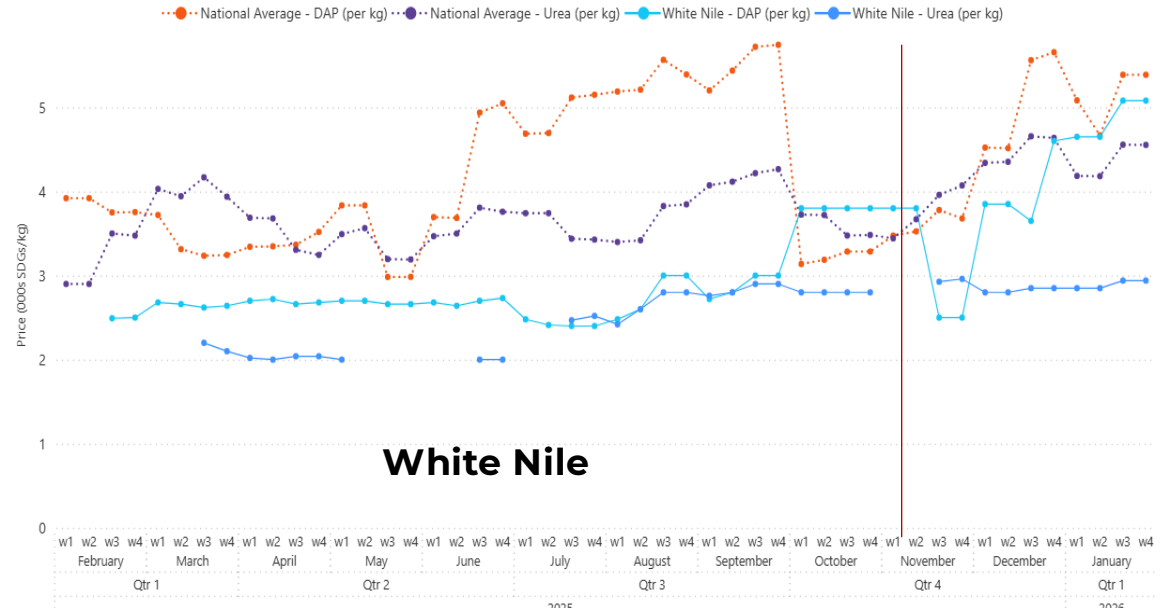
Inputs distributed in 11 States

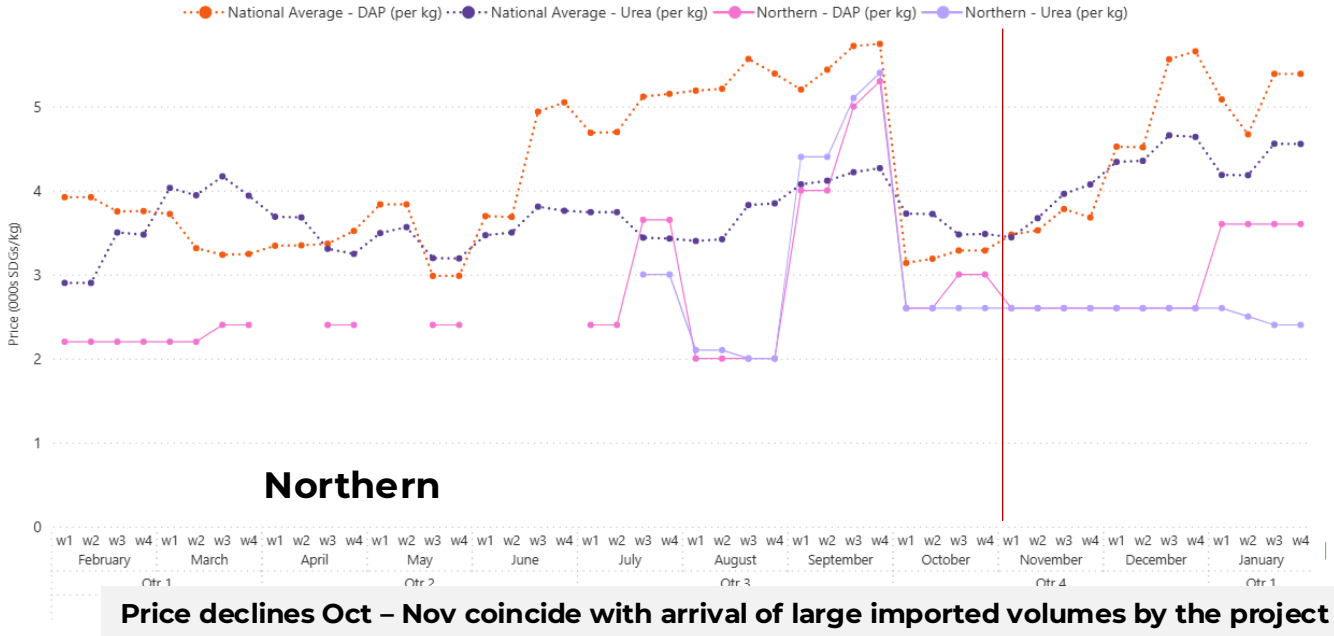
Fertilizer price trends

Source: IFPRI Sudan, Essential Commodities Monitor









Price declines Oct – Nov coincide with arrival of large imported volumes by the project

Take messages from the Sustain Sudan project

- Resilient private sector are key to rebuilding input supply chains and agricultural recovery in Sudan
- Innovative demand-side and supply – side financing, de-risking mechanisms and market brokerage are essential to catalyze private sector investments
- Monitoring, tracking and documenting impacts when working with private sector in a conflict setting requires innovative data collection approaches
- Increasing yields and livelihoods goes beyond fertilizer to complementary improved seeds, good agronomy advisories and crop protection
- There is a need for a larger de-risking fund to incentivize private sector investments to and provide finance to farmers to support recovery

Acknowledgements

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Thank You!