



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

## Urgent funds needed to purchase essential fertilizer before planting season begins

Tigray's *Meher* season is just 4 to 6 weeks away (June/July 2022). With the rainfall outlook favourable (normal to above-normal), the season offers a critical and cost-effective opportunity to improve food availability across the region. However, limited access to agricultural inputs (particularly fertilizers, but also seeds) is a major threat to the season.

The Government of Ethiopia has offered humanitarian agencies access to fertilizer (at a cost of USD 1 350/tonne) through a government facility to support vulnerable households in the Tigray region.

As of 16 May, Agriculture Cluster partners have sufficient funds to avail of only 5 800 tonnes of fertilizers – just under 10 percent of needs. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is therefore calling for urgent funding from resource partners to enable Cluster partners to immediately secure 60 000 tonnes of fertilizer from the government facility and ensure farmers have it in-hand before the start of the planting season. This can be done through resource partners allowing the modification of existing programmes or by providing additional resources immediately. Compound fertilizer (NPS) is applied during planting (July–August) and top dressing (Urea) is applied three to four weeks after planting.



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## Tigray

Urgent call for assistance



Agriculture Cluster requires  
**USD 96 million\***

\*including transport costs  
of USD 100/tonne



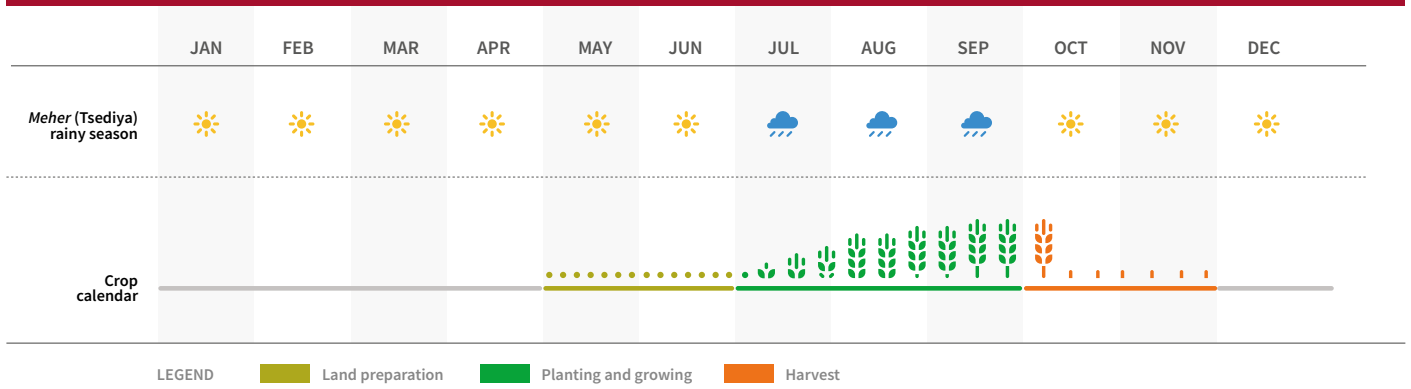
Funding required by  
**end of June 2022**



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The Government of Ethiopia has requested FAO, as the Cluster lead agency, to urgently indicate quantities of fertilizer for purchase in order to prioritize these against competing demands from the commercial sector. The existing humanitarian truce offers an important opportunity to deliver inputs to Tigray.

## Seasonal calendar for Meher (Tsediya) season, showing planting, growing and harvest times for key crops



In 2021, Tigray's farmers produced 900 000 tonnes of staple foods (40 percent of normal production), equivalent to 7–8 months of annual cereal needs for the region. With limited humanitarian assistance and commercial supplies, the rainfed crops and irrigated vegetables have been key to the survival of Tigray's rural families, including internally displaced people (some 1.8 million people), about 60 percent of whom reside with host communities.

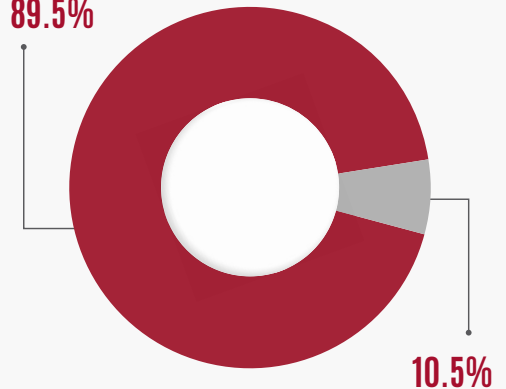
The production in 2021 was possible because farmers had access to 27 000 tonnes of seed, of which 7 600 tonnes was improved seed, and 54 000 tonnes of fertilizers provided by the government and Agriculture Cluster partners. Without both improved seeds and fertilizers at least at similar levels to 2021, farmers will likely see a considerable drop in production compared with the previous year. This will further increase levels of acute food insecurity. If farmers receive the inputs they need, they will be able to harvest and begin consuming the produce from October 2022. Alternatively, without these inputs, the peak hunger period will extend until the next harvest in October 2023.

## Funding for Agriculture Cluster

FUNDING GAP

**USD 86 million**

**89.5%**



FUNDING TO-DATE

**USD 10 million**

## Contact

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