African Sustainable Phosphorus Network (ASPNet)

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network
ASPNet

Connecting people across the phosphorus cycle

- From soil to food
- From waste to resource
- From science to implementation

Healthy soils

Resilient food systems

Sustainable phosphorus stewardship

THE ISSUE

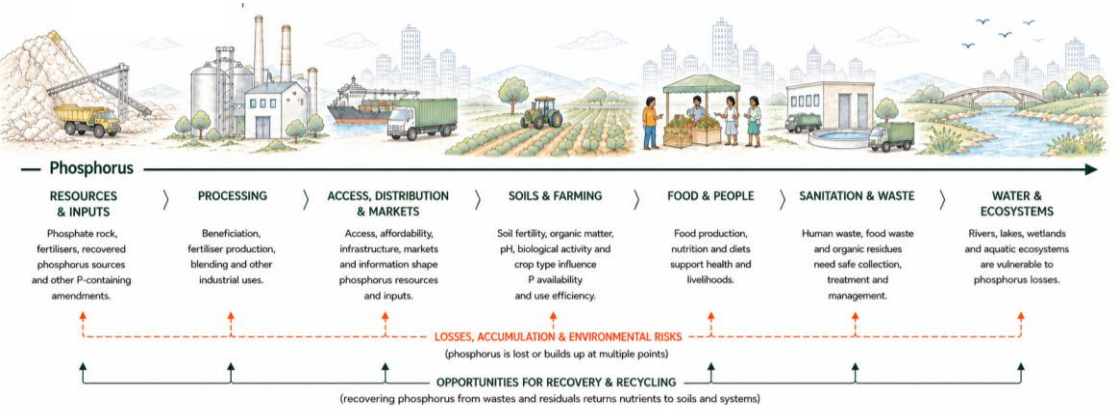
Phosphorus in Africa is not a single-input problem

It connects productivity, access, water quality, waste, trade, governance and livelihoods.

Phosphorus is fundamental to agricultural productivity, food security, ecosystem functioning and human well-being. Yet its distribution and management across Africa are characterised by striking contrasts. Many farming systems experience chronic phosphorus deficiency, low or imbalanced nutrient inputs and restricted access to appropriate fertilisers and other phosphorus sources.

At the same time, phosphorus is lost through food, farming, sanitation and waste systems, while poorly managed nutrient flows contribute to eutrophication, biodiversity loss and declining water quality. Africa also contains a major share of global phosphate rock resources, creating opportunities for agricultural development and regional value creation — but mineral resources alone do not guarantee equitable access or sustainable outcomes.

The central question is therefore not simply how to use more phosphorus. It is how phosphorus can be sourced, accessed, managed, retained, recovered and governed in ways that strengthen healthy soils, resilient food systems, environmental sustainability and long-term livelihoods.



The challenge is not simply how to use more phosphorus, but how it can be sourced, accessed, managed, retained, recovered and governed.

WHY ASPNET

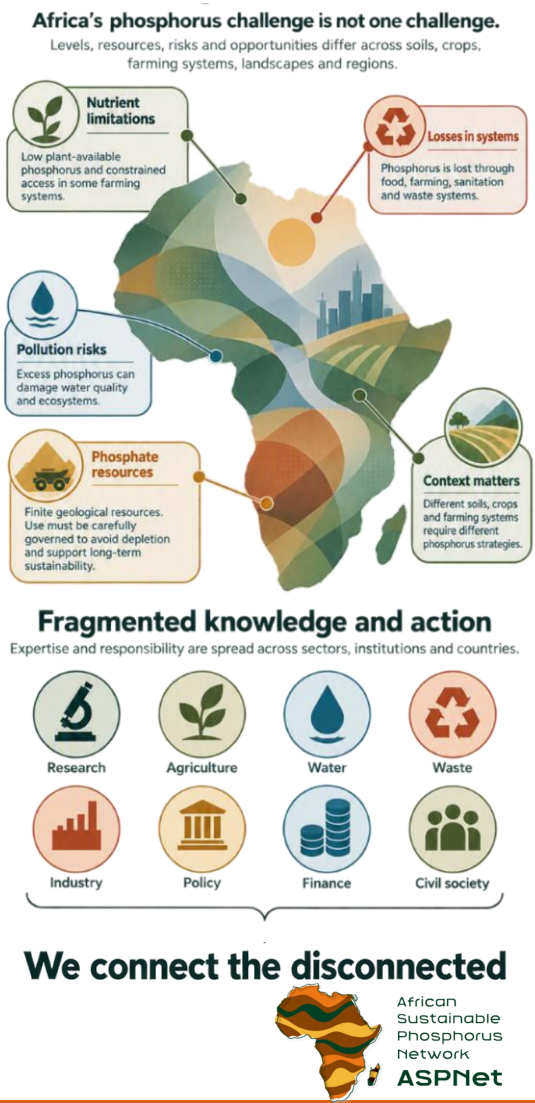
A network that no single institution can do alone

ASPNet connects African expertise across the phosphorus system while linking to appropriate international partnerships.

Phosphorus cuts across agriculture, soils, food, water, waste, mining, trade, climate, health and environmental governance. Yet knowledge and responsibility are often distributed across different disciplines, institutions and sectors. This fragmentation makes it difficult to connect evidence, policy, finance and implementation in ways that respond to real African contexts.

ASPNet was established to provide a long-term African platform through which those connections can be made. It is an independent, collaborative, non-profit continental network advancing sustainable phosphorus management through research, collaboration, capacity strengthening and knowledge sharing in support of food security, soil health and environmental sustainability.

African leadership does not mean scientific isolation. It means priorities, questions and solutions are shaped by African institutions, practitioners, researchers, farmers, communities and policymakers, while drawing selectively on international evidence, experience and partnerships.



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Healthy soils. Resilient food systems. Sustainable phosphorus stewardship.

ORIGINS

From SPS8 to a long-term African platform

The first Sustainable Phosphorus Summit convened in Africa created the basis for ASPNet and the P Action Plan for Africa.



The 8th Sustainable Phosphorus Summit was held in Accra, Ghana, from 30 September to 3 October 2025. It brought together African and international stakeholders under the theme Inclusive Pathways for Sustainable Phosphorus Futures in Africa and Beyond.

~120	550	>20	35
in-person delegates	online participants	countries	organisations

Convened by:

Across four days, participants delivered more than 60 presentations and undertook more than 20 hours of working-group collaboration. Three Expert Working Groups focused on the P Action Plan for Africa, a Global White Paper on phosphorus challenges, and early-career participation. A stakeholder consultation brought African researchers, practitioners, institutions and partners together to establish ASPNet as an inclusive and evolving African-led platform for sustained cooperation beyond the summit.

ORIGINS

From SPS8 to action

The summit established both a platform and a practical mandate for what came next.

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network ASPNet

The stakeholder meeting gave the emerging Network a practical mandate for what came next.

01 - P Action Plan for Africa
Coordinate its development, consultation and finalisation.

02 - Knowledge & collaboration
Develop an online platform for resources, expertise, collaboration and engagement.

03 - Dialogue & convening
Convene webinars, thematic dialogues and future African sustainable phosphorus meetings.

04 - A continental community
Build participation across research, universities, industry, farmers, water and ecosystem management, circular economy, regional bodies and young professionals.

The ASPNet stakeholder meeting brought together **25 African researchers, academics, thought leaders and industry representatives** from government and non-governmental organisations. Participants represented institutions across Africa and the wider phosphorus community, including universities, research organisations, industry, regional bodies and international phosphorus initiatives.

The meeting did more than establish the Network. It gave ASPNet a practical mandate to **coordinate the drafting and finalisation of the P Action Plan for Africa**, establish an online platform for resources, collaboration and engagement, convene webinars and thematic dialogues, and build a broad membership spanning research, universities, soil-science networks, the fertiliser sector, ecosystem and water management, circular-economy innovators, regional bodies, farmer organisations and young professionals

FARA was identified to host ASPNet, with support from UKCEH's West Africa Office and other partner institutions.

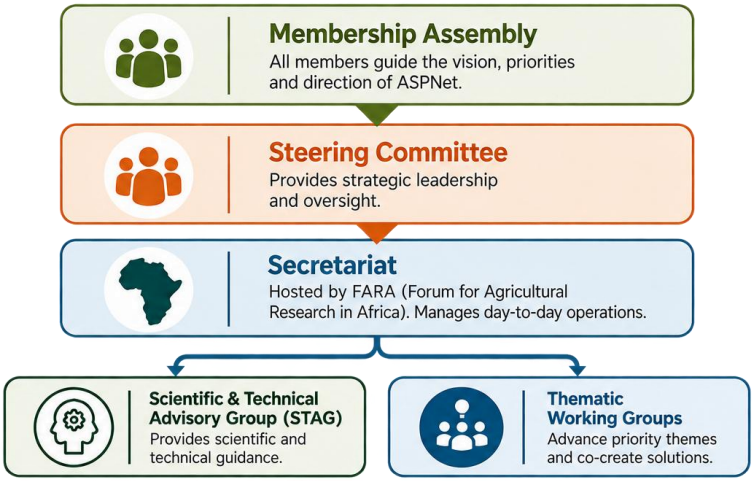
GOVERNANCE

African-led, formally governed, institutionally hosted

A practical structure for strategic oversight, scientific advice, day-to-day coordination and partner confidence.

ASPNet combines continental membership, Steering Committee oversight, independent scientific advice and an operational Secretariat. The Membership Assembly provides a consultative and endorsing role on strategic direction and major policy decisions. The Steering Committee provides overall governance, strategic guidance and oversight, including work plans, budgets, policies and resource mobilisation.

The Secretariat is hosted by FARA and is responsible for day-to-day coordination, administration, communications, record-keeping and reporting. A Scientific and Technical Advisory Group can provide independent advice, while thematic working groups can bring together ASPNet expertise around priority areas such as soil health, fertilisers, water, waste, recycling, data or governance.



ASPNet leadership

Steering Committee

Dr Collins Tay
Chair

CSIR: Soil, Climate & Water Representative

Prof. Kwame Agyei Frimpong
Member, University of Cape Coast

Prof. Wole Fatunbi
Member, FARA

Ms Adelaide Asante
Member, UKCEH

Dr Ruth Njoroge
Member, University of Eldoret

Dr Mariam Kiba/Soma
Member, INERA

Prof. Regis Chikowo
Member, University of Zimbabwe

Dr Christopher Aura
Member, KALRO

Ms Enam Gbekor
Deputy Secretary General, BKG Consulting

Dr Malika Mezeli
Secretary General, Lancaster University

FARA
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Hosted by FARA
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Partners
Including universities, research institutes, government agencies, industry and civil society across Africa and beyond.

PEOPLE

Collective expertise behind ASPNet

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network ASPNet

A leadership group spanning soil science, agronomy, water, institutional coordination, policy, research and implementation.



Dr Collins Korbla Tay

Chair | CSIR-Soil Research Institute

Hydro-geochemist and environmental toxicologist; Director of CSIR-SRI. Research spans soil and water pollution, hydrochemistry and regional water resources.



Prof Kwame Agyei Frimpong

SC | University of Cape Coast / APNI

Soil fertility and plant nutrition specialist and precision nutrient-management scientist, with leadership roles in African precision agriculture and soil science.



Prof Wole Fatunbi

SC | FARA

Agricultural research-for-development leader. Co-led AU technical work underpinning the Soil Initiative for Africa and Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan.



Ms Adelaide Asante

SC | UKCEH West Africa Office

Head of UKCEH's West Africa Office in Accra, supporting regional research partnerships, scientific delivery and the impact of UKCEH work across West Africa.



Dr Ruth Njoroge

SC | University of Eldoret

Soil scientist, educator and farmer-outreach researcher working on 4R nutrient stewardship, soil testing, agroecology, regenerative agriculture and climate impacts.

PEOPLE

Collective expertise behind ASPNet

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A leadership group spanning soil science, agronomy, water, institutional coordination, policy, research and implementation.



Dr Dohan Mariam Kiba/Soma

SC | INERA, Burkina Faso

Soil scientist focused on soil health, phosphate rock, organic and mineral fertilisers and crop diversification, including leadership of long-term fertility experiments.



Prof Regis Chikowo

SC | University of Zimbabwe

Professor of Agronomy researching sustainable intensification, soil organic matter restoration, N and P cycling, legumes, nutrient-use efficiency and crop productivity.



Dr Christopher Mulanda Aura

SC | KMFRI

Director of Freshwater Systems Research at KMFRI, with extensive research and management experience in aquatic systems, policy and funded research programmes.



Ms Enam Gbekor

Deputy Secretary General | EKG Consulting

Agriculture and project-management professional bridging research, industry and development, with experience in value chains, innovation and sustainable production.



Dr Malika M. Mezeli

Secretary General | Lancaster University

Soil biogeochemist and soil ecologist working on soil–plant–microbe interactions, phosphorus availability and recycling, and the research–policy interface.

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THE ACTION PLAN

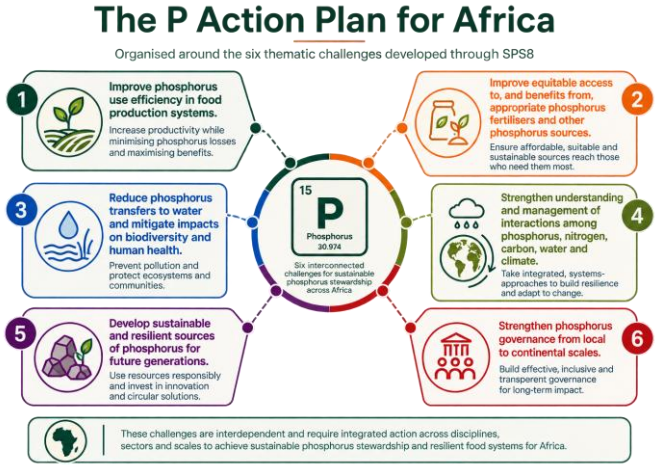
The P Action Plan for Africa

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network ASPNet

A living continental framework for translating shared phosphorus priorities into coordinated action.

The purpose of the P Action Plan for Africa is to provide a shared strategic framework for advancing sustainable phosphorus stewardship across Africa. It builds on the priorities and collaborative work initiated through the 8th Sustainable Phosphorus Summit (SPS8), translating them into practical policy directions and coordinated action that support food security, healthy soils, environmental sustainability and resilient livelihoods.

It is intended as an African-led collaborative framework, not the policy instrument of any single organisation. ASPNet supports its continued development, consultation, coordination and practical delivery in partnership with governments, regional bodies, research organisations, farmer organisations, industry, water and waste managers, civil society and communities.



A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT

Sustainable phosphorus management is necessary for food-system resilience, but phosphorus availability alone cannot resolve food insecurity.

In many phosphorus-deficient farming systems, increased and better-targeted inputs will remain essential. But lasting improvements also depend on soil health, water availability, crop choice, farmer knowledge, affordability, markets, livelihoods, governance and environmental sustainability. The Plan therefore supports context-specific solutions rather than a single pathway towards agricultural development.

IMPLEMENTATION

A framework designed to evolve through use

The Action Plan is not intended to end with publication. It is designed for consultation, pilots, review and learning.

The Action Plan proposes a phased pathway from foundation-building through demonstration to longer-term scaling and institutionalisation. Early implementation will focus on consultation and finalisation of the Plan, mapping stakeholders and initiatives, agreeing indicators, developing priority evidence syntheses and building pilot partnerships. Demonstration phases can then test regional and national approaches before effective models are embedded in policy, budgets and regional cooperation.

0–2 years	**Foundation**	Consult, map, agree indicators, build evidence and pilot partnerships
2–5 years	**Demonstration**	Implement and evaluate regional/national pilots; build data and training platforms
5–10 years	**Scaling & institutionalisation**	Embed effective approaches in policy and budgets; revise priorities through evidence

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

African leadership · context-specific action · equity & participation · whole-system stewardship · responsible circularity · evidence & accountability · learning & adaptation

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress will be assessed more broadly than through fertiliser consumption alone, including access and equity, productivity and profitability, farmer livelihoods, soil health, phosphorus efficiency and circularity, environmental outcomes, institutional capacity and resilient food systems.

PEOPLE AND CAPACITY

Emerging Leaders Programme

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network ASPNet

Building the community to advance sustainable phosphorus stewardship across Africa.



Sustainable phosphorus stewardship ultimately depends on people able to work across disciplines, institutions, sectors and national and continental boundaries.

The Emerging Leaders Programme is proposed as ASPNet's first flagship leadership and capacity-development programme — building the human capacity and long-term relationships needed to support implementation of the P Action Plan for Africa.

MORE THAN AN EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Emerging Leaders will bring together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, industry professionals, educators, innovators and development professionals in the early stages of their careers. Participants are connected by a shared commitment to sustainable phosphorus stewardship — not by a single profession or discipline.

MENTORING
Guidance from experienced practitioners and leaders.

CROSS-COUNTRY COLLABORATION
Building partnerships across institutions and countries.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE
Connecting expertise around shared phosphorus challenges.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Leadership, policy and communication skills.

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION
Turning knowledge into action.

A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO LAST

Participants become part of an ongoing ASPNet Emerging Leaders Community, creating relationships and opportunities that continue beyond individual events or training activities. Over time, ASPNet Champion Recognition may recognise exceptional sustained contributions to the Network and the implementation of the P Action Plan for Africa.

A PARTICIPANT JOURNEY THAT LASTS

CONNECT
Join the programme.

DEVELOP
Build skills and knowledge.

COLLABORATE
Work across disciplines and countries.

CONTRIBUTE
Be part of the Emerging Leaders Community.

RECOGNISE
Sustained contributions may be recognised.

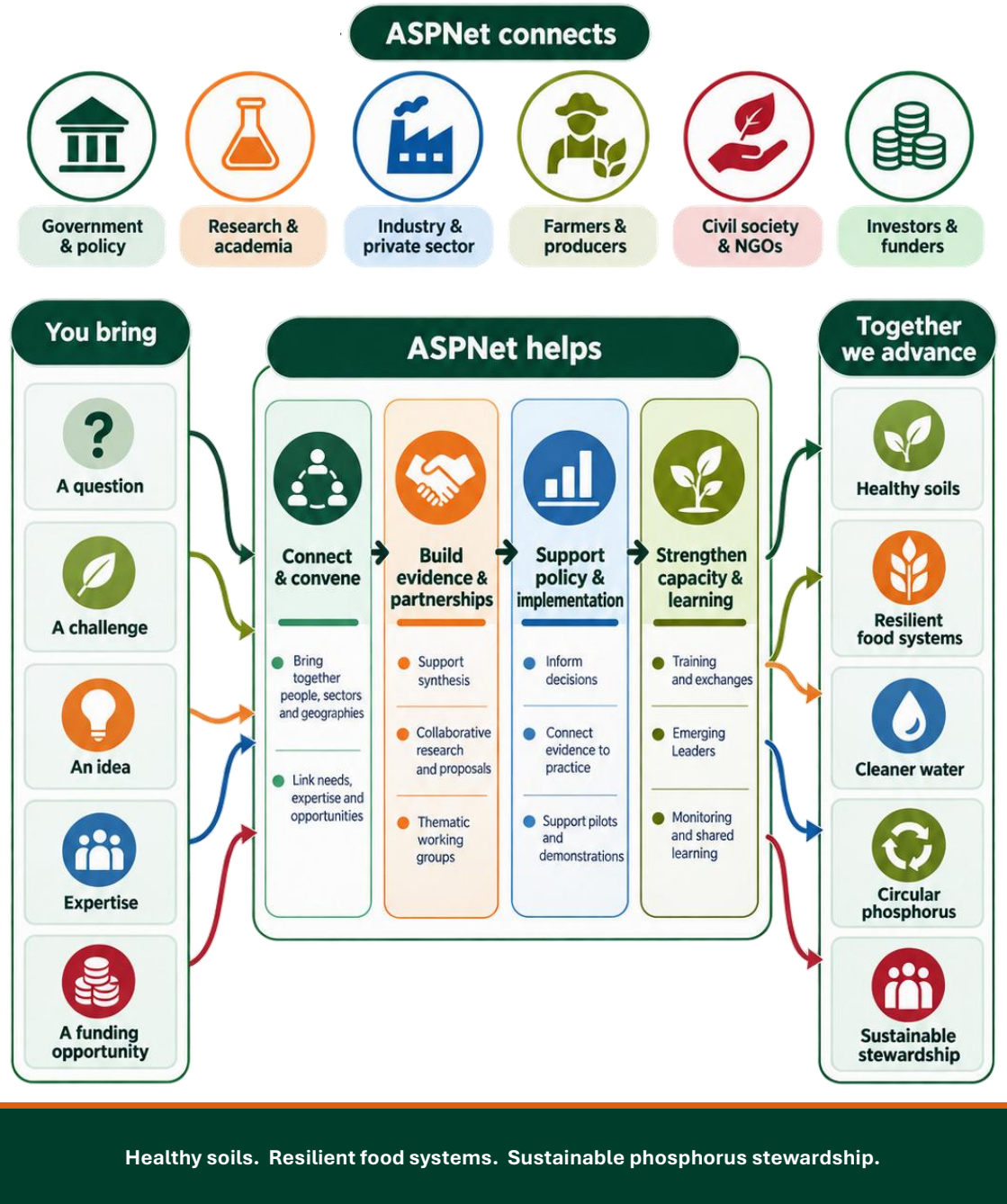
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PARTNERSHIPS

From ideas to action

A governed continental platform for work that is difficult to deliver in isolation.

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PARTNERSHIPS

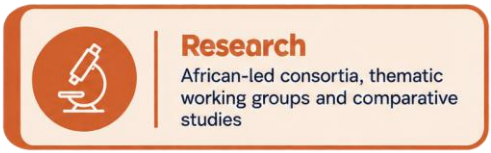
From ideas to action

African Sustainable Phosphorus Network
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A governed continental platform for work that is difficult to deliver in isolation.

ASPNet is a governed African-led platform for building the partnerships needed to advance sustainable phosphorus stewardship across research, policy, industry and practice.













ASPNet welcomes partnership, sponsorship, investment and strategic

Support can help advance the P Action Pan, Emerging Leaders, African-led research, implementation, partnerships and network infrastructure.

ASPNet welcomes partners seeking to support African-led research, implementation and capacity development — from the P Action Plan and Emerging Leaders Programme to collaborative research, demonstration projects, evidence-to-policy work and the infrastructure needed to sustain the Network.

Bring us a challenge, an opportunity or an idea.
Let's build the partnership around it.

Contact ASPNet
Secretariat: ASPNetSecretariat@FARAAfrica.org
Membership: ASPNetMembership@FARAAfrica.org
General enquiries: ASPNetInfo@FARAAfrica.org