



# Haryana Farmers Face Fertilizer Shortfall

## Why in News?

Haryana, a state pivotal to **India's agricultural economy**, is facing an escalating **crisis of fertilizer shortage** and **penalty for [stubble burning](#)**.

- It highlights the **challenges of governance, rural distress**, and the delicate balance between policy implementation and farmers' welfare.

## Key Points

- **Fertilizer Shortages:**
  - Despite government denials at both the state and central levels, Haryana has witnessed acute shortages of [diammonium phosphate \(DAP\)](#), a crucial fertilizer for the [Rabi season](#).
- **Shortfall in Supply:**
  - A **38%** gap between assessed requirements and availability in October 2024, exacerbated by reduced imports despite stable global DAP prices.
- **Dependence on Imports:**
  - India's heavy reliance on imported fertilizers and raw materials like **phosphoric acid** has made the sector vulnerable to global price volatility and monopolies.
- **Policy Gaps:**
  - The introduction of **Point of Sale machines** to regulate [fertilizer distribution](#) has inadvertently restricted access, forcing many farmers to resort to black markets.
- **Stubble Burning:**
  - **Stubble burning**, a seasonal practice by farmers to clear fields for **Rabi sowing**, has drawn severe criticism for its contribution to [air pollution](#), particularly in the [National Capital Region \(NCR\)](#).
    - The Haryana government, following central directives, has imposed hefty fines and introduced "red entries" in farm records to penalize offenders.
- **Related Challenges:**
  - **Farmer Resistance:** Farmers argue that stubble burning is a necessity in the absence of viable alternatives.
    - **Penalties, FIRs, and blacklisting of crops** for procurement have fueled resentment.
  - **Disproportionate Blame:** While stubble burning is a contributor to air pollution, farmers feel unfairly targeted compared to other sources like construction and industrial emissions.
  - **Policy Contradictions:** Despite previous assurances of no criminal liability, the government has intensified **punitive measures**, creating distrust among the farming community.
  - **Broader Agrarian Distress:** The twin crises of **fertilizer shortages** and **stubble burning penalties** reflect deeper systemic issues in Haryana's agricultural governance.
    - Farmers also face challenges such as black-marketing of fertilizers, irregularities in mandi procurement processes, and inadequate support for tenant farmers.
- **Way Forward**
  - The issue calls for comprehensive strategies such as **promoting stubble management technologies** and incentivizing alternatives rather than punitive measures alone.
  - There is a need for better coordination between environmental objectives and agricultural

realities.

- Ensuring timely availability of essential inputs like fertilizers through robust procurement, storage, and distribution mechanisms.
- Developing farmer-friendly alternatives to stubble burning and providing adequate subsidies for technological interventions.
- Reducing dependency on imports through investments in domestic production of fertilizers and raw materials.

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