

INTEGRATED NUTRIENTS MANAGEMENT

In the Inter active Session, Vice Chancellor of Haryana Agriculture University, Hissar informed about the deficiency of Potash in Haryana soils, as a result of which the productivity has come down to 300 kg./ha. As such, he advocated the need of use of Potash in Haryana soils for increasing the agriculture production and to raise the productivity level to the desired extent. Director Agriculture, Haryana mentioned that there is a need to use Gypsum in alkali soils, promoting use of Potash, extension work for promoting judicious use of fertilizers and he also mentioned that it is likely that during Rabi 2006-07 Haryana State may fall short of urea. Director Agriculture, Government of Punjab emphasized the need for deciding the appropriate pricing policy of SSP fertilizers. He mentioned that SSP is a better Phosphatic fertilizer but in view of the lack of its pricing policy, its consumption is coming down. He also mentioned that use of Gypsum to ameliorate soils and also emphasized the need of balanced and integrated use of fertilizers.

Director Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan emphasized the need for promotion of organic farming, improving soil health, nutrient management and application of micronutrients in deficient areas identified through soil testing programme. He also felt that State may fall short of DAP for which Govt. of India should take necessary steps to meet their requirement. Director Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat apprehended shortage of urea during the Rabi 2006-07. Representative of the Maharashtra State mentioned that the NPK ratio in the State is coming around the ideal ratio of 4:2:1. Representative of the Tamilnadu State mentioned that there is a shortage of MOP in the State and he requested that Govt. of India should take steps to improve its supply position. Govt. of Karnataka mentioned that there is a need to provide funds to the extent of Rs.25 crores for fertilizer buffer stocks.

Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of UP expressed the problem of availability of urea and DAP during the critical months of Rabi 2006 and he indicated that requirement of DAP during Oct.-Nov. and upto 15th Dec.2006 is expected to be 2.44, 3.80 and 2.45 lakh M.Tonnes respectively. He suggested that Govt. of India should persuade the concerned manufacturing units to maintain the supply position to the required extent in the State.

Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of M.P mentioned about low consumption of fertilizer in the State. He suggested that small packing of fertilizer need to be promoted in tribal areas and subsidy need to be provided on small bags also. Director Agriculture, Chhatisgarh informed that there is an increase in the consumption of fertilizer in Kharif vis-à-vis 2005 Kharif. During Kharif 2006 the increase is expected upto the extent of 27% and during Rabi 2006 - 07 the increase is expected to be 32%.

Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of Orissa mentioned that there may be shortage of MOP and problem is also being faced in the transportation of the fertilizer from the rake point to the remote areas and accordingly requested that fertilizer transport subsidy need

to be increased to remove the transportation problem. Director Agriculture, Assam mentioned that in the State organic farming has become focus area. Director Agriculture, Tripura mentioned that enormous transportation cost involved in transporting of fertilizer from the nearest rail head to the remote areas inside the State and requested that urea, MOP and DAP should be supplied at the block headquarters at MRP and he also informed that in Tripura State the urea is being sold above the MRP in remote areas of Tripura.

Recommendations

- Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash(MOP), Single Super Phosphate(SSP) fertilizers are the decontrolled fertilizers and are free from movements and price controls. All the State Govts. need to tie up the supply plan with the concerned fertilizer lead supplier to maintain and supply of these fertilizers and to ensure timely availability in all parts of the States. In case of any gaps in supply Plan, DOF & DAC be consulted well in advance.
- State Govts. need to strengthen the extension agencies for promoting judicious use of fertilizers .
- Gypsum is used for emalioraty the alkali soils. Though it is not a fertilizer but State Govts. need to identify the areas where it is required to be used and necessary arrangements need to be made to apply Gypsum in alkali soils in improving the soil conditions. In case of any difficulty / problems, State Government may consult NRM Division in the Ministry.
- SSP is a good source of supplying phosphorus as well as Sulphur deficiency is observed in many parts of the country, its application is useful particularly in oilseed crops. State Govts. need to tie up its supply arrangement with SSP manufacturing units for regular supply of SSP fertilizer in the State.
- Application of micronutrient particularly Zinc, Boron, Molybnum etc.need to be promoted to get optimum yield . The application of these micronutrient has to be based on soil test and need to be applied in deficient areas identified through soil testing programme.
- State Govts. need to make necessary efforts to bring the NPK ratio round about 4:2:1 .
- The concerned State Govts. may be in touch with Deptt. of Fertiliser for their additional requirement of urea over & above the allocated quantity.
- There is already a provision to pack fertilizer in small bags, State Government need to encourage supply of fertilizer through small bags in inaccessible areas / tribal areas. Such a step will increase the fertilizer consumption.

- The prices of urea are statutory fixed, its sale fixed above the MRP to the farmers, attracts action under FCO/ECA, State Govt. particularly Tripura State need to take immediate steps in this regard.
- Matter relating to supply of fertilizer from rake point to remote areas & increase in transport subsidy may be taken to up by the State Govts. with Department of Fertiliser.
- Use of organic manure need to be encouraged to maintain soil health & concept of organic farming should be promoted.
