



**Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs,  
Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Development**

**Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Plan**

**2019 / 20 Maha Season**

**National Fertilizer Secretariat**

## **Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution Plan – 2019 / 20 Maha Season**

As stated in the state policy statement, the Government of Sri Lanka has made all necessary arrangements to implement subsidized fertilizer distribution programme in 2019 / 20 Maha season too. The government policy is to provide 50 kg bag of major three fertilizer types such as Urea, Triple Super Phosphate and Muriate of Potash at Rs. 500/-. All the farmers those who are cultivating Paddy in the paddy fields, extent not exceeding 02 hectares are entitled to obtain these fertilizer types at subsidized price. In addition, when the water availability is not sufficient for productive paddy cultivation, as per the decisions made at the Cultivation Committee Meetings, farmers those who are cultivating Other Field Crops and Vegetables in paddy fields without creating any barrier for cultivating paddy in the next season are also qualified to get subsidized fertilizer.

The main objectives of this programme are to,

1. Minimize cultivation costs and thereby production costs in paddy farming sector
2. Encourage farmers to cultivate paddy
3. Convert abundant paddy lands in to productive
4. Increase productivity and production
5. Increase farming income and make paddy farming is a economically viable agricultural practice
6. Eliminate Rice scarcities in the domestic market and to ensure food security
7. Export traditional Rice varieties to international market at very high prices

The annual financial requirement for this programme is approximately Rs. Mn 35,000 and with the unpredictable nature of fertilizer price fluctuations in the international market, the financial requirement for year 2019 is estimated as Rs. Mn. 35,000 to meet the target. When compare to actual commercial prices of chemical fertilizers, the Government bears nearly 90% of the fertilizer cost and only balance 10% is the farmer's contribution to fulfill their total fertilizer need.

### **Fertilizer Need Assessment Process**

Prior to season the chemical fertilizer need is assessed by deeply considering the cultivation targets and fertilizer recommendations introduced by the Department of Agriculture based on the agri ecological zones and irrigation systems. Village level information is collected to estimate regional, district and national level fertilizer need. The Agrarian Services Centre area is the most effective planning base for this process.

With the coordination of Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and the Irrigation Management Division, the Department of Agrarian Development is responsible to timely estimate fertilizer need for given season on Agrarian Services Centre basis and develop regional level fertilizer distribution mechanism based on the need and locations of the fertilizer stores. To facilitate this process, District Fertilizer Coordination Committees have been established in each and every District with the direct supervision of District Secretaries / Government Agents. Additional District Secretary is the Chairman and Agrarian Development Deputy / Assistant Commissioner or District Assistant Director of National Fertilizer Secretariat is the Convener of this committee where all the district heads of the stakeholder organizations including state fertilizer companies are members.

After identifying fertilizer need and formulating distribution plan for the district, based on the Agrarian Services Centres, it is responsibility of the District Fertilizer Coordination Committees, to discuss it at the District Agriculture Committee to get final approval by confirming the accuracy of the need assessments and time targets.