

Ques) Does the policy of fertilizers subsidy to farmers will work against the govt's stated goals for the agriculture sector? Examine.
(Agriculture)

Major success achieved in Green Revolution, which lead to the increased food production; the govt ensured fertilizers subsidy.

The total food production increased to 284 mmt in FY 19. due to usage of fertilizers. Therefore, the usage of fertilizers by the farmers to increase the yield and the fertilizer policy followed by Indian govt. not only seemed sensible but also necessary due to

- 1) Extreme weather conditions.

But excessive subsidy provided by the govt. pose a very serious threat to the Indian economy.

- 2) Increased demand for food grain.

Issue .

- Indian Govt has subsidized excessively the price of urea (N & NPK) due to which it has caused a rampant usage of urea fertiliz
- Excessive Usage of urea has led to the harmful alteration of the composition of the soil.

→ Excessive amount of urea in the soil, has further led to the soil contamination (ground water, soil and atmosphere contamination as well)

→ blue baby syndrome (methaemoglobinemia) named disease caused due to excessive urea content in food grain is widespread in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

→ This has further led to the decrease in the ratio of crop response to fertilizer from 13.6 kg grain/kg fertilizer to 2.3 kg grain/kg fertilizer in FY 19.

In such a scenario Govt plan to double farmers real income by FY 23 will be unachievable.
way forward.

→ Indian govt, instead of producing urea where cost of production is high, must import urea from gulf nation as, Natural gas required to produce urea is abundant with low cost of production.

→ Make direct cash transfer to farmers. Instead of urea subsidy will ensure that farmers buy fertilizer and use it a/c to the betterment of the soil.

Therefore, Govt must follow these measures in such scenario otherwise the aim will be left unachievable.