Indian Economy · GS - III

India's dependence on imported fertiliser raw materials exposes its agricultural sector to geopolitical disruptions and global supply-chain uncertainties. Analyse the implications of potash import dependence and suggest measures to strengthen fertiliser security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Fertiliser security, potash imports, Belarus, geopolitical sanctions, supply-chain resilience, food security, nutrient-use efficiency, alternative sources, domestic production, balanced fertilisation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Potash, a major source of potassium for crops, is essential for plant growth and agricultural productivity. India's dependence on imported potash exposes its fertiliser supply chain to international market volatility and geopolitical disruptions.

Implications of Import Dependence

1. **Geopolitical vulnerability:** Sanctions and international conflicts affecting major exporters, including Belarus and Russia, can disrupt supply routes.
2. **Price volatility:** Global price fluctuations and currency depreciation can increase fertiliser costs and subsidy requirements.

3. **Agricultural productivity:** Supply shortages or unaffordable inputs can adversely affect crop nutrition and farm productivity.
4. **Food security:** Persistent disruptions may indirectly affect agricultural output and the stability of food supplies.
5. **Fiscal pressure:** Higher import costs can increase the government's fertiliser subsidy burden.

Measures to Strengthen Fertiliser Security

- **Diversification:** Develop reliable supply partnerships with multiple exporting countries.
- **Strategic reserves:** Maintain appropriate buffer stocks to manage temporary disruptions.
- **Domestic capacity:** Explore economically and environmentally viable domestic sources and alternative technologies.
- **Nutrient efficiency:** Promote soil testing, balanced fertilisation and precision application to reduce wastage.
- **Alternative resources:** Encourage appropriate use of organic manures, biofertilisers and nutrient-recycling technologies.

Conclusion

Reliable international partnerships remain important for India's potash security, but long-term resilience requires diversified imports, efficient nutrient management and reduced vulnerability to external shocks.

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