



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# From Fertilizer Markets to Future Harvests

*Implications of the 2026 Middle East Conflict on Energy, Fertilizer Trade,  
and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific*

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# A Logistical Bottleneck With No Viable Workaround

## The Math of the Blockade

**35%**

**Crude oil exports**

*transiting the Strait*

**20%**

**LNG exports**

*routed through the Gulf*

**20–30%**

**Fertilizer exports**

*depending on specific product*

**55–80%**

**Food import dependency**

*Gulf states (excl. Iraq & Iran)*

## Immediate Price Reaction

### ENERGY

**+60%**

Brent crude vs. pre-conflict

**+70–90%**

Natural gas (global)

**–10M bbl/day**

Gulf production shut in

### FERTILIZERS

**+40–60%**

Urea prices vs. pre-conflict

**No buffer**

Zero strategic stockpiles globally



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# The most important impacts are not visible in food prices today

## Critical farmer decisions already underway:

- Fertilizer application
- Crop choices
- Planted area
- Access to credit and inputs

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01 *Conflict*

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02 *Energy & Fertilizer Disruption*

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**03 *Farmer Decisions Today***

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04 *Harvests 2026–2027*

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05 *Food Security Outcomes*

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# Why Asia and the Pacific Is Especially Exposed

## I

### Input Exposure

- Imported fertilizers
- Imported energy

*India: fertilizer price → fiscal shock*

## II

### Production Exposure

- Current planting seasons
- Rice & maize sensitivity

*SE Asia: timing decisions underway now*

## III

### Fiscal Exposure

- Subsidy pressures
- Limited fiscal space

*Pacific: import & production pressure*



# Different Shocks. Same Vulnerability.

*COVID-19*

*Global*

Logistics & supply chains

*Ukraine War*

*Black Sea*

Food trade & grain supply

*Red Sea Crisis*

*Asia–Europe routes*

Shipping routes & costs

**Strait of Hormuz**

*Middle East / Asia*

**Energy & fertilizer**

**The issue is no longer the shock.**

**The issue is the vulnerability.**



# Protect the Next Harvest

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## 01 Keep Trade Flowing

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- Avoid export restrictions
- Alternative trade corridors

## 02 Protect Production

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- Inputs access
- Credit for farmers
- Farmer support programs

## 03 Reduce Dependence – Smarter Farming

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- Nutrient-use efficiency
- Soil health investment
- Diversified input sourcing

## 04 Build Risk Architecture

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- Early warning systems
- Agricultural insurance
- Trigger-based financing

*The answer cannot be paying more for the same vulnerability.*



# From Crisis Response to Resilience Architecture

## Agrifood Systems Transformation Is Becoming a Risk Management Agenda

- Shocks are becoming more frequent
- Production systems remain exposed
- Resilience must be built before the next crisis

*“We are already in a period of transformation. The question is whether we can shape it, or whether we are simply reacting to it.”*