



## 3.1 million tons of subsidized fertilizer needed is provided

Hamid Rasouli, the CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC) announced the supply of three million and one hundred thousand tons of subsidized fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphate, and potash) needed by the country, saying that 2.9 million tons of this amount of fertilizer has been supplied so far through distribution broker networks and has reached the farmers.

Rasouli added, "According to the plan drawn by the Ministry of Agriculture, 3,200,000 tons of basic fertilizer should have been supplied to the market this year, of which the remaining 100,000 tons will be supplied by the end of the Iranian calendar year."

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company stated that now 90% of subsidized fertilizers are supplied from domestic production and only 320 thousand tons, equivalent to 10%, are supplied from import, which is considered a success for the country.

"According to statistics, 500,000 tons of subsidized fertilizers (azote, phosphate and potash) are strategic reserves of the country, which are replaced by old fertilizers every year to maintain the quality," Rasouli highlighted.

According to the official, Iran is now distributing nitrogen fertilizers and storing phosphate and potash fertilizers for next year's spring planting.

"The consumption of subsidized fertilizers this year shows a growth of 400,000 tons, equivalent to 24%, compared to the same period last year," he elaborated.

He added that the subsidized fertilizers required by the country are estimated to be between 4 and 4.5 million tons annually.

### • No problem in production and distribution of urea fertilizer with gas cut of petrochemicals

Elsewhere in the interview, Rasouli said that during January and February of this year, due to the worsening cold weather, the gas of some petrochemical plants was cut off, which affected the output of urea fertilizer.

"Therefore, in order to prevent the problem of urea fertilizer distribution, Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC) distributed 7 thousand tons of this product from strategic reserves in provincial brokerage networks so that farmers do not face supply problems, the official added.

### • We have no plans to increase the price of subsidized fertilizers next year

In another part of the interview, Rasouli said that this year, not only did his company not increase the price of subsidized fertilizers, but the prices also decreased by 45% on average. He added, "The reduction in the



price of subsidized fertilizers continued until the beginning of October this year, and due to budget restrictions, the prices returned to the previous year." Rasouli stated, "The Ministry of Agriculture seeks to reduce the pressure on farmers by implementing projects such as contract cultivation and model cultivation."

He stated that during the past year, four contract cultivation projects have been initiated by the Ministry and the fertilizers for these crops have been provided, clarifying, "The first contract cultivation project of wheat was implemented last year with the implementation of the Governmental Trading Company (Internationally known as GTC) of Iran at the level of 250,000 hectares and we supplied 100% of the phosphate and potash fertilizers required for that project in the amount of 70 thousand tons."

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company continued, "In the second wheat contract cultivation project with the Central Organization of Rural Cooperatives, all the needs of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilizers amounting to 12 thousand tons were provided by this company."

Referring to the contract cultivation of rice, he said that in this project, in addition to the full supply of required fertilizers, the company provided other inputs such as seeds and domestic pesticides and provided them to the farmers.

Rasouli pointed to the fourth wheat contract cultivation project this year on the level of two million hectares of irrigated land, saying, "This project is ongoing and we are supplying the fertilizer needed for this project."

### • Providing food security is achieved by supporting domestic production of agricultural fertilizers

Stating that the raw materials of 27 fertilizer producing factories have been imported and supplied by the Agricultural Support Services Company, he clarified that the import of raw

materials for fertilizer production is done in governmental rate currency.

Meanwhile, the manager of the self-sufficiency plan for agricultural fertilizers added, "If the private sector has a problem in supplying raw materials for fertilizer production, we will do it."

He admitted that this company has a sovereign responsibility in providing people with food, and therefore the company play the main role in timely supply of agricultural fertilizers.

Currently, about 90% of the supply and procurement of agricultural fertilizers, which is done by the Agricultural Support Services Company, is produced by domestic companies. All these domestic producers are from the private sector and in recent years, good investment and attention has been paid to this sector. Hamid Rasouli, who is also a member of the board of directors and CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company, added, "In the framework of the self-sufficiency plan for agricultural fertilizers in the past three years, 25 projects have been defined and started, of which 20 projects have reached the production stage. The remaining five projects will reach the stage of producing agricultural fertilizers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025), due to the large amount of work and investment. It is interesting to note that recent plans are often designed and implemented in the south of the country with an export perspective."

### • Inauguration of 3 agricultural fertilizer production projects in this Fajr decade

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company announced the operation of three subsidized fertilizer production projects at the same time During 44<sup>th</sup> Islamic Republic Revelation Anniversary, saying, "The total production capacity of these three projects is 100,000 tons of phosphate and potash fertilizers."

### • Adding mixed and non-chemical fertilizers to the distribution basket of the Agricultural Support Services Company

For the first time, combined and non-chemical fertilizers were added to the distribution

portfolio of the Agricultural Support Services Company in order to increase Agricultural production performance.

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company said, "With the interactions between the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Soil and Water Research Institute, combined and non-chemical fertilizers such as organic phosphate fertilizer and microbial phosphate fertilizer have been added to the fertilizer portfolio of this company."

Hamid Rasouli added that this year, using the capacity of knowledge-based companies, the company has begun to produce non-chemical and new fertilizers.

He stated, "We have now signed a contract with 13 knowledge-based companies on the production of 83 fertilizer products and these products are available to farmers Through ASSC's Distribution brokers." Rasouli stated that there are two parts of non-chemical fertilizers.

"One part of these fertilizers is subsidized in the amount of 30,000 tons and the other part is non-subsidized in the amount of 25,000 tons and is distributed among farmers," he said, adding, "In technical discussions and consultations, we always felt that, there are a potential market bio-organic and non-chemical fertilizers, and therefore we decided to add these fertilizers to the fertilizer portfolio of ASSC company."

Rasouli said that one of the strategies of the Agricultural Support Services Company is the development of combined and non-chemical fertilizers and admitted that next year, the company will distribute double the combined and non-chemical fertilizers of this year.

He continued, "Combined and non-chemical fertilizers will be supplied with the same level of support as we provide for chemical fertilizers."

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company said that subsidized support for compound fertilizers, which are in the groups of phosphate and potash fertilizers, has been set at more than 60% of their prices.

### • Issuance of 167 chemical fertilizer export licenses

157 licenses for the export of domestically produced agricultural fertilizers have been issued by the Agricultural Support Services Company during this year, according to Rasouli.

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company stated that the capacity of 157 domestically produced agricultural fertilizer export licenses is more than 273,000 tons.

Rasouli added, "As the Fertilizer Export Secretariat, we are careful to issue a license for excess fertilizer and control that subsidized fertilizer elements are not used in its production."

He stated that the fertilizers that have been licensed for export are non-nitrogen and include phosphate, potash, biological, microbial and organic fertilizers.

At the same time, Rasouli said that the amount of urea fertilizer export was 4 million tons.

He clarified, "Iran's agricultural fertilizers are exported to countries such as Brazil, Iraq, Afghanistan and Spain." The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company said, "Besides domestic consumption, there are markets for the export of agricultural fertilizers, which we should use."

He acknowledged about the strategic reserve of agricultural fertilizers in the country, saying, "Currently, the strategic reserve of agricultural fertilizers in the country is about 500 thousand tons, of which more than 300 thousand tons are nitrogen, 150 thousand tons of phosphate and 50 thousand tons of potash."

### • The need to buy agricultural inputs from reliable ASSC's brokers

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company said, "The production of low-quality and counterfeit fertilizers and Pesticides is not exclusive to now and has always existed. The official further stated that it has happened many times that some profiteers misused the Brand of the Agricultural Support Service company and well-known brands, so this year, the company had several cases in Khorasan and Kermanshah provinces.

Rasouli advised the farmers to supply their needed inputs such as seeds, pesticides and fertilizers from ASSC's brokers throughout the country.

He said that one of the ways to identify standard and fake fertilizers is their price, adding, "For example, if the cost of a bag of standard potash fertilizer is 1 million tomans, when it is purchased at the farmers' market at the rate of 200 thousand tomans, they should know. This fertilizer is definitely fake."

Rasouli added, "The Agricultural Support Services Company has 3,500 brokers where all types of fertilizers are available, and farmers can buy from these Brokers with confidence."

The CEO of the Agricultural Support Services Company said about the presence of the support services company in subsidized Pesticides, is less than five percent, and the rest is provided by domestic companies and the private sector."

He added that the government, as a governing body, must have the necessary reserves to balance the market and enter in special conditions, and this does not mean interfering in the market.