

& corn plants that have organic fertilizers combined with the inorganic has higher rates of nutrient uptake by the plant and have higher yields than those obtained by the best farmers in the areas not using organic fertilizers.

#### 7. WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE IMPACTS OF HIGH FERTILIZER PRICES?

The past months are marked by the continuing and spiraling cost of various fertilizers especially that of Urea, the most commonly used fertilizers by the rice and corn farmers in the country. The cost of a 50 kg bag Urea fertilizer increased from PhP900.0 from PhP550.0 per bag. The magnitude in the increase cost of fertilizers is affected by their proximity of the farming areas to the location of the fertilizer suppliers and to the location of loading points of fertilizers.

*Affect the cash needs of the farmers*

The high fertilizer cost will definitely increase the immediate cash needs of the rice and corn farmers in starting off their farming activities.

*Wrong choice of fertilizers causing losses in crop yields and income*

Most likely, the farmers will reduce their fertilizers and buy only fertilizers they are very familiar with, this time most likely urea, which is very expensive. This can result in reduction in yield and a subsequent loss in income.



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## Primer for "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI"



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1. WHAT IS "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program: "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI"?

The "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program: "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI" is a **Cost Reduction Strategy through judicious and minimum fertilization**, adopted by the Department of Agriculture to guide farmers, particularly the hybrid and certified rice producers, for using the **right mixtures of fertilizers and the timely selection** of the most **soil-appropriate** type and amounts of fertilizer grades that will ensure optimum crop yields and better income without causing decline in soil fertility.

2. WHAT POTENTIAL BENEFITS ARE DERIVED FROM THE "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program: "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI"?

- **Sustain the yields** of certified and hybrid seeds ( 5 to 7 tons per hectare) with **reduced number of bags of fertilizers**. Under the "TIPID ABONO", only 3 to 4 bags of chemical fertilizers, compared to current price which is 6 to 9 bags per hectare, mixed with 5 bags organic fertilizers are recommended.
- Reduce the cost of production of rice and corn by as much as PhP 2,200— 4,130 per hectare (37-46 percent less) or an aggregated savings of PhP 1.1 Billion—2.27 Billion if the 500,000 hectares covered by the GMA program.
- Create opportunity for an annual savings of 2 bags of urea (one bag of urea per cropping) or based on 500,000 hectare program rice area under the GMA rice program, an equivalent of potential annual savings of PhP800.00 Million worth of saved/unused area through the use of practical technology of the PhilRice, the Leaf Color Chart
- Support Small Scale Organic Fertilizer Industry and potential job generation of about 6,000 persons per one production cycle

3. WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR ON RICE PRODUCTION?

The successful expansion of planting or irrigated lands planted to hybrid and certified seeds resulted in unprecedented increase in the national rice production exceeding 14.0 Million metric tons and at the same time increase the average yield of rice from 3.2 metric tons per hectare to almost 3.6 tons per hectare per cropping after almost 2 decades of yield stagnation.

4. WHAT ARE THE FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM OF ACTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUSTAIN HIGH YIELDS AND IMPROVE INCOMES IN RICE PRODUCTION?

The follow-up program of action by the incumbent Secretary after increasing rice yield through the use of hybrid and certified seeds is the reduction of cost of production and the improvement in the overall production efficiency to ensure further increase of farmers' income and continue the improvement of supply of rice for national food security.

5. THE COUNTRY HAS MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOILS. HOW CAN "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program: "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI" HELP IN ENSURING THAT THE FARMERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT TYPE AND RIGHT AMOUNTS OF FERTILIZERS FOR THEIR CROPS?

The "Tipid Abono" Fertilization Program: Bawas Gastos, Saganang Ani" is likewise aimed at developing a National Fertilizer Distribution Guide Map which will provide guidance for fertilizer dealers and suppliers in the distribution of grades, types and volume of fertilizers appropriate to the soil conditions and crops planted in each province in the country.

The "Tipid Abono" program will identify for the farmers and fertilizer suppliers the specific areas that will require special fertilizer grades:

1. Micro-nutrient deficient soils—zinc and sulfur for rice, boron, in corn
2. Acidic soils, which will require more lime application to supply magnesium and improve the availability of phosphorous for corn and other upland field crops
3. Degraded soil that are low or depleted of organic matter, which will have special requirement for compost or animal manures or commercial organic fertilizers

6. WHAT FERTILIZERS ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE "TIPID ABONO" Fertilization Program: "BAWAS GASTOS, SAGANANG ANI"?

- The Tipid Abono Bawas Gastos, Saganang Ani Fertilization Program advocates for the judicious use of fertilizers
- The Fertilization Program recommends the combined use of organic and inorganic fertilizers. However, in areas where organic fertilizers are costly and are not available another set of recommendations are provided, this time with no organic fertilizers.

Based from the results of the Balanced Fertilization Strategy, the use of organic fertilizers showed that there is an increase in the efficiency of fertilization and the uptake of plant nutrients. Correspondingly, the increase in yields for both wet and dry season were sustained.

These results were corroborated by the plant tissue analysis, which showed that rice