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**Neukirchen-Vluyn, 25.03.2026**

# BREAKING NEWS – Price shock at sowing time – Fertiliser prices skyrocket – what to expect in the long term

**The situation in the Middle East continues to escalate.**

Petrol and diesel prices are hitting record highs, the Euro is losing ground against the US dollar, and fertiliser prices are skyrocketing...
All this is set to have disastrous consequences for the development of the new crop – as failing to sow now will affect harvest yields in late summer.

The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most important trade route for fertilisers; this Gulf region is home to the largest fertiliser manufacturers and exporters.
The disruption to supply chains "has resulted in traders withdrawing all price quotes following the outbreak of the war in Iran and adopting a wait-and-see approach when it comes to the conflict".
The timing could not have been worse. In March and April, farmers will return to the fields following the winter break - ploughing and fertilising the fields, and beginning the spring sowing. Those who fail to fertilise now will lose out on yield.

Stocks in Europe are largely depleted. Although the retail sector had stockpiled a large quantity of imported fertiliser by the end of 2025, this was by no means sufficient to meet the total demand for spring sowing.
Artificial fertiliser was already expensive prior to the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War, but prices have skyrocketed since the war began. The price of nitrogen fertiliser has risen by over 30% in recent days.

**Fertiliser guarantees food security**

The fertiliser shortage is catastrophic for the global food supply. If farmers are unable to apply fertiliser, the result could be millions of tonnes less in harvests. About half of the world's food is grown using fertiliser. If we were to stop using conventional fertilisers tomorrow, switch entirely to organic farming and cultivate every single hectare of land, the Earth would only be able to feed a population of around four billion people.
A blockade lasting several months would have a significant impact on consumer prices.

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**Alternative sources**

There are other major producers of artificial fertiliser, such as the USA, Canada, China, Morocco and Russia.
Since the start of the year, punitive EU tariffs have been in force on imports from Russia and Belarus. China prefers to reserve its available supplies for its own population and does not play a significant role as an exporter,
and the US itself has no export volumes available, as farmers have been prioritising their own needs since the Trump tariffs were introduced.

**Initial consequences**

Our farmers have limited options during this crisis, which has struck right in the middle of the sowing season. They could use less fertiliser, or none at all. They could switch over to organic fertiliser. Or they could grow crops that require less nitrogen, such as soya beans instead of nitrogen-hungry maize.
Significantly less maize is being grown in Italy and France on average this year than in previous years. In Germany, too, maize cultivation is being significantly reduced.
This will hit production for 'green' gas generation particularly hard – but the food sector will also be affected.

Even if the war were to end soon, it would take weeks for prices to return to normal and for logistics from the export ports to run smoothly once more.
However, based on the current information, it is more likely that the situation will escalate than ease, and there is little prospect of the war ending any time soon.

**Long-term impact**

Reduced use of fertiliser will also lead to a significant drop in crop yields. In the long term, this could lead to a shortage in the market and huge price increases.
Please keep this in mind when further securing your supply chains.

The agaSAAT team and your direct contacts are always available to assist you in the event of any questions.

Please call us on +49 (0)2845-91460

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