

Fertiliser Logistics and Port Handling Operations



The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi, organised a program on **Fertiliser Logistics and Port Handling Operations** at Visakhapatnam during 3-6 August 2026. Ms. G. Vidyadhari IAS, Joint Collector and Additional Magistrate, Visakhapatnam was the Chief Guest for the program. Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Director General, FAI, inaugurated the program and addressed the participants on virtual platform. Mr. R.K. Gupta, Joint President and Chief Procurement Officer, Paradeep Phosphates Limited and Mr. D. Ramakrishnan, Secretary, FAI, New Delhi, graced the occasion. Fifty-six executives nominated by 20 organizations took the advantage of the program.

Ms. Vidyadhari, while outlining the vital role of agriculture in Indian economy, apprised the trainees about the Andhra Pradesh State Government's vital infrastructure called Rythu Bharosa Seva Kendras (Farmer Reliance Service Centres). These centres are village-level one-stop-shop managed by a village-level agricultural assistant under State Department of Agriculture to provide certified agricultural inputs (seeds, quality fertilisers, pesticides, farm machinery, etc.), e-crop booking, farmer advisory training, and crop procurement services

directly to local farmers. In view of panic buying of fertilisers, more so of urea, District Administration has to step-in to inform the farmers that there is no shortage of fertilisers and there is no need for such panic buying. She felt that timely planning and procurement of raw materials against the demand forecasted for fertilisers is very important in the production of fertilisers. Towards this, fertiliser logistics plays a major role in making this vital input available to the farmers at right time. She quoted the success story of Apple company supply chain management in China at various levels of production, distribution and marketing. She appreciated the efforts of FAI for organising such a useful program for the executives of the member companies and hoped that this program will definitely develop new concepts on efficient logistics and port handling operations.

Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari explained the trainees about the Middle East and the Ukraine and Russia wars and their adverse impacts on world economy, supply-chain disruptions, import of fertilisers and raw materials, etc. The country is import-dependent to a great extent to meet its fertiliser demand either through import of raw materials/intermediates/feedstock or finished products. However, pro-activeness of the Government of India and the fertiliser industry, the situation is under control to make fertilisers available to the farmers for use in agriculture. He dwelt upon the vital role of western and eastern ports in precisely handling of finished fertiliser products, and raw materials being used for production of fertilisers. Modern technologies, in place at the port infrastructure, handling of cargo and port management, ensure smooth supply chains, and helping the fertiliser and agriculture sectors. He also briefed about the fertiliser policies related to urea and P&K sectors; emerging challenges in agriculture; potential of nature-based solutions & promotion of integrated nutrient management to reduce fertiliser consumption; importance of digital technology in agriculture for precision agriculture; and relevance of visit to Kakinada and Visakhapatnam ports to get insight of available infrastructure and port operations. While giving an overview of the Association, DG, FAI underlined the importance of regular and ad-hoc publications brought out by FAI Head Office and Regional Offices, and need-based training programs organised for the executives engaged in different disciplines of the sector, help in updating the knowledge of the industry personnel. He thanked Coromandel International for the all-out support in proper implementation of the program at Visakhapatnam and Bothra Group for Kakinada port visit.

Mr. R.K. Gupta informed about the challenges faced in import of raw materials and various supply chain management operations in the recent past. Businesses can turn these disruptions into opportunities. He also briefed about fertiliser policy. Mr. D. Ramakrishnan briefed about the activities of FAI, objective of the program and the topics to be covered by the learned faculties. Mr. Y.V.N. Murthy, Regional Head, FAI-SR, Chennai gave the welcome address at the inaugural function and also proposed vote of thanks at the end of the program. Eleven presentations were made during the program by the resource persons. Er. R. Shanmugam, Senior Associate Vice President (Manufacturing) and Unit Head of Coromandel International Limited, Visakhapatnam chaired the valedictory session and distributed the certificates to the participants.
