

9. Quality Control of Fertilizers

9.1 Fertilizer Control Order, 1999

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (SRO No. 375-Law/99) has promulgated 'The Fertilizer Control Order, 1999' and 'The Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956' by a Gazette Notification (Reg. No. DA-1 dated 27.12.99) to enforce quality control of fertilizers. According to this order, MOA will advise the Government regarding procurement, import, sale and marketing of fertilizer and to evaluate the new fertilizers/fertilizer materials/organic fertilizer/plant growth regulators/ hormones etc. through laboratory testing and field experimentation/evaluation.

Regular monitoring of fertilizer marketing and fertilizer inspection is essential to ensure the availability of standard and quality fertilizers in the market to protect the interest of the farmers, the honest manufacturers and traders and to check fraudulent practices. The Government can appoint Fertilizer Inspector as per order of Fertilizer (Control) Act 1999. The role, TORs, duties and responsibilities of Fertilizer Inspector have been explained in Fertilizer Inspection Manual, 2003.

9.2 TORs and Responsibilities of Fertilizer Inspector

The Government may appoint any officers (TAO/AAO/AEOs/similar ranking officers) of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) as Fertilizer Inspectors. TORs of a Fertilizer Inspector are given below:

- Inspector can visit/enter any fertilizer factory, fertilizer godown, carrying transport and distribution centre to collect relevant papers and fertilizer samples for inspection.
- He shall report to the higher authority of any fault found regarding fertilizer production and marketing.
- He can initiate any proceedings/case against any defaulters.
- He can ask explanation against any person involved in fertilizer storage and sale for any sorts of adulteration.
- He can collect any fertilizer sample as per standard procedure for sending to the Govt approved laboratories for analysis.
- The Govt approved laboratories shall complete the analysis of fertilizer sample or fertilizer material within 21 (twenty one) days of receipt of samples sent by Fertilizer Inspector and the lab authority will send the results of fertilizer analysis within the stipulated period to concerned Fertilizer Inspector, Deputy Director (Agril. Extension) and concerned person/manufacturer/organization.
- The Inspector can issue order to stop selling of any fertilizer if found/doubted adulterated.