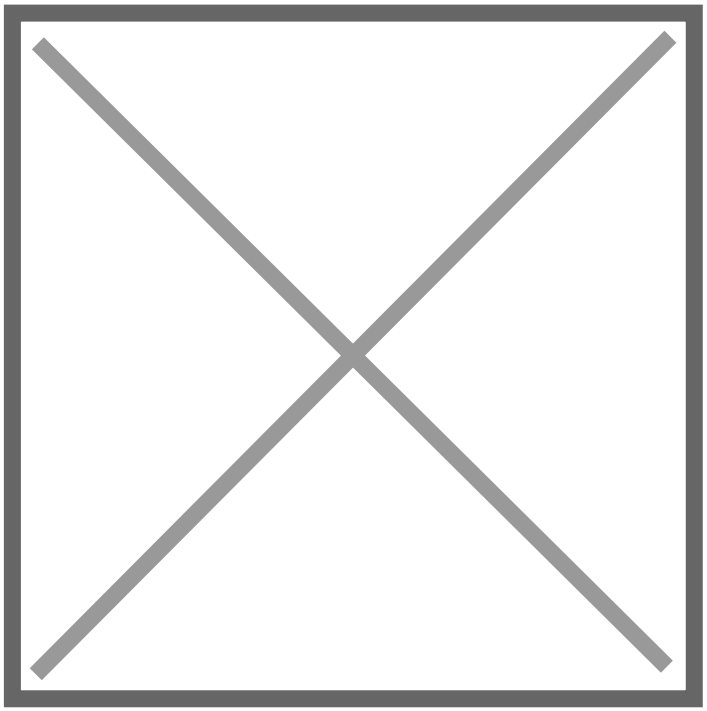
AgroSpectrum ASIA
Envisaging Future | Updating Present

Philippines fast-tracks plan for first domestic fertilizer plant

22 April 2026 | News

Government targets year-end groundbreaking to shield farmers from volatile global prices



Government targets year-end groundbreaking to shield farmers from volatile global prices

The Department of Agriculture is moving closer to a long-anticipated milestone: breaking ground on the countryâ??s first domestic fertilizer manufacturing plant before the end of the year, a strategic response to volatile global supply and rising input costs.

At a press briefing, Undersecretary Roger Navarro confirmed that the initiative has secured high-level backing from Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. The project, still subject to feasibility validation, is positioned as a cornerstone of the governmentâ??s long-term food security strategy.

If preparatory studies conclude on schedule by late Q3, officials are targeting a ceremonial groundbreaking between November and December. Full project approval could come within weeks, signaling unusually swift movement for a major industrial undertaking.

The timeline is ambitious: construction could begin as early as 2026, with a fully operational urea fertilizer facility projected before the end of 2027. That would mark a turning point for a country heavily reliant on imports and vulnerable to geopolitical shocksâ??particularly amid ongoing tensions affecting global fertilizer supply chains.

To support early-stage planning, the DA is pursuing a $1 million feasibility grant from the Asian Development Bank. In parallel, it is hedging near-term risks by strengthening regional procurement channels within Association of Southeast Asian Nations, engaging suppliers in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei.

Short-term relief efforts are already underway. The agency has deployed â?±500 million from its quick response fund to distribute biofertilizers to farmers, aiming to cushion the impact of persistently high prices. Current market rates remain elevated, with urea fertilizers selling between roughly â?±1,900 and â?±2,700 per 50-kilogram bag.

While execution risks remainâ??particularly around financing, infrastructure, and feedstock sourcingâ??the initiative reflects a broader shift toward agricultural self-sufficiency. If realized on schedule, the Philippinesâ?? first fertilizer plant could recalibrate the economics of local farming and reduce exposure to global price shocks.