

# Fertilizer scarcity may hamper crop cycle

## Scientist flags fragility in food systems today

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NEW DELHI

South Asian countries may see fertilizer scarcity in the next crop cycle as a result of the conflict situation in Ukraine and Russia, said Bram Govaerts, Director General of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA).

Dr. Govaerts, who is here



Bram Govaerts

to address a two-day high-level conference of South Asian countries on “Agriculture Research for Development,” said the biggest challenge was how to feed the world, which arose because of the three sub-challenges –

climate change, COVID-19 and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The meet, which began on Thursday, is specifically discussing the foodgrain situation in Sri Lanka and the impact of the recent floods on Pakistan’s food security.

Talking to presspersons, Dr. Govaerts said the world was seeing fragility on food systems. On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said the world needed to dissect the impact of it.

“The first impact was that 25% of the grains globally did not reach the areas where it should have reached. The

next impact is on fertilizers. Fertilizer scarcity is going to impact only in the next growing season, but this will have an impact on the whole world not only in those areas that import wheat from the conflict-hit regions,” he said.

For the foodgrain shortage problem, he said India was potentially a solution as the country produced a lot of wheat.

He said that there were several policy changes that could be adopted to address these crisis, but the key element was to stimulate investment in research and innovation.