



KGID
2026
SEJONG

Fertilizer Subsidy Policy Measures

Jeongseung Kim

Research Fellow, Korea Rural Economic Institute, South Korea

Contents

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea
2. Fertilizer Support Programs
3. Changes in Fertilizer Use and Soil Organic Matter
4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea

- 1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea**
2. Fertilizer Support Programs
3. Changes in Fertilizer Use and Soil Organic Matter
4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea

Government-Led Fertilizer Supply (~1987)

- 1961: Nonghyup (agricultural cooperative) designated as the fertilizer business agency
- 1961–1977: Construction of mineral fertilizer factories — 7 government-owned, 4 private
- 1961–1987: Government subsidies for chemical fertilizers; Special Account for Fertilizers (~2012)
- **1982: 1st Fertilizer Industry Rationalization Measure**
 - Excess supply capacity relative to demand for inorganic fertilizers
 - Production reduction through closure of urea and compound fertilizer facilities
- **1987: 2nd Fertilizer Industry Rationalization Measure**
 - Liberalization of fertilizer production and sales
 - Import liberalization and tariff reduction (1988: 20% → 1994: 8%)
 - Free market competition: company-based allocation → open competition
 - Fertilizer price normalization: abolition of dual pricing system
 - Privatization of 4 state-owned fertilizer factories

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea

Post-Liberalization Support Programs (1988~)

- 1989~: 0% VAT applied to fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural machinery
- 1991–2005: Price loss compensation for inorganic fertilizers
 - Gulf war
- 1997~: Subsidy for organic fertilizer program implemented
- 2008–2009: Price loss compensation due to raw material price surge
- 2010–2012: Customized fertilizer subsidy program
 - Promoting optimal fertilization
- 2016~: Financial support for raw material procurement for inorganic fertilizers
- 2022~: Price loss compensation due to raw material price surge
 - Russia-Ukraine war
- 2027.12~: Support for essential agricultural materials in response to supply chain risks (planned)

2. Fertilizer Support Programs

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea
- 2. Fertilizer Support Programs**
3. Changes in Fertilizer Use and Soil Organic Matter
4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

2. Fertilizer Support Programs

Inorganic Fertilizer

- **Price Loss Compensation**

- Implemented when raw material prices surge due to supply chain disruptions (e.g., wars, geopolitical instability)
- Purpose: to alleviate increased farm management costs
- Compensates up to 80% of the inorganic fertilizer price increase compared to the previous year

- **Financial Support for Raw Material Procurement**

- Purpose: to ensure a smooth supply of inorganic fertilizer raw materials
- Low-interest loan support for inorganic fertilizer manufacturers

- **Tariff Quota for Raw Materials**

- Urea: quota rate 0% / basic rate 2.0%
- DAP: quota rate 0% / basic rate 2.0%
- Potassium chloride: quota rate 0% / basic rate 0.0%

2. Fertilizer Support Programs

Organic Fertilizer

- **Organic Fertilizer Subsidy**

- 1,500 KRW/20 kg (2010) → 1,000–1,100 KRW/20 kg (2019~)

- **Composted Organic Fertilizer (Grade-based Differential Support)**

- Higher grades receive larger subsidies

- Grade 1: 1,200 KRW/20 kg → 900 KRW/20 kg

- Grade 2: 1,000 KRW/20 kg → 800 KRW/20 kg

- Grade 3: 500 KRW/20 kg → 800 KRW/20 kg

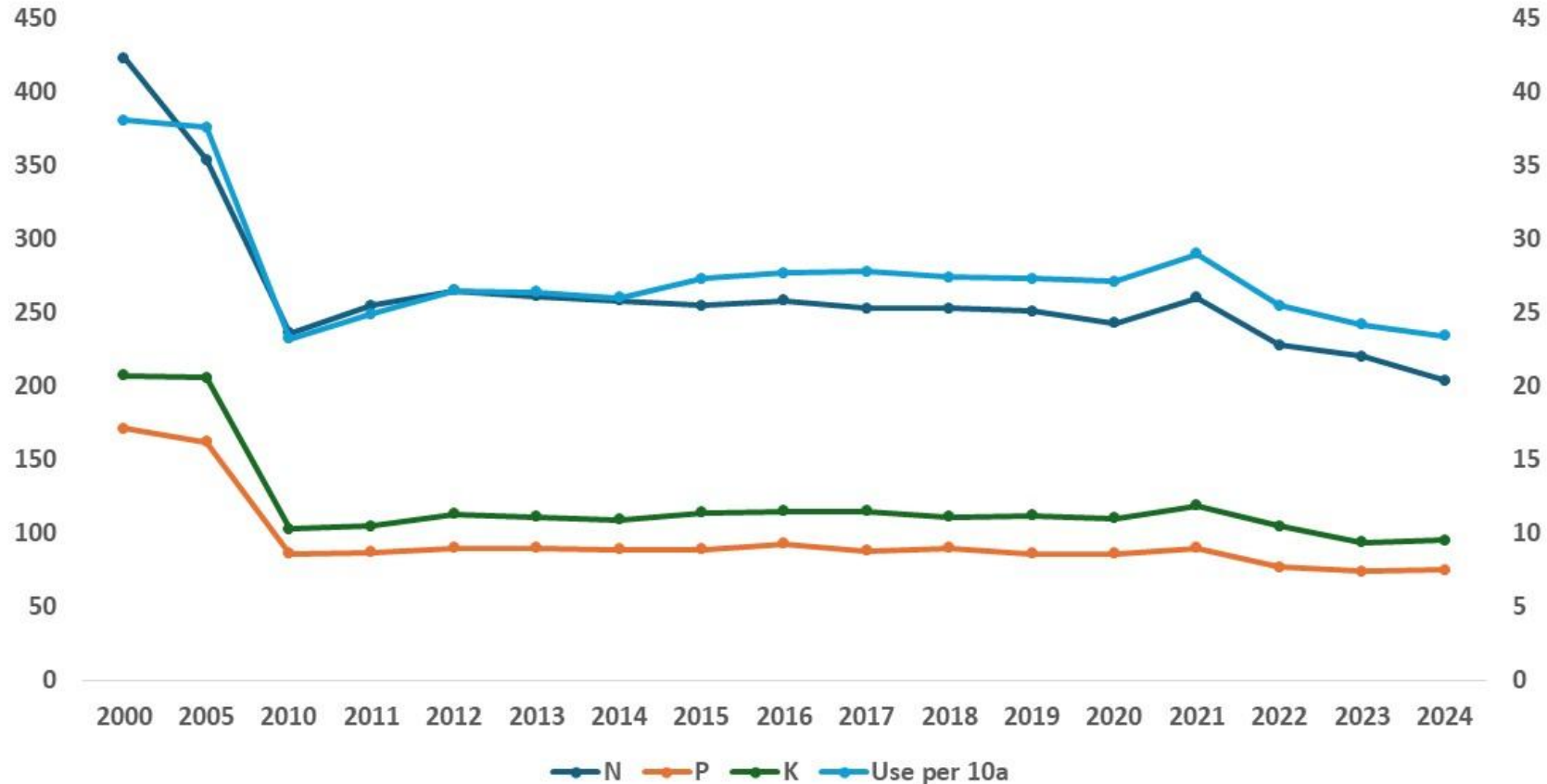
3. Changes in Fertilizer Use & Soil Organic Matter

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea
2. Fertilizer Support Programs
- 3. Changes in Fertilizer Use and Soil Organic Matter**
4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

3. Changes in Fertilizer Use & Soil Organic Matter

Changes in Inorganic Fertilizer Use

- Fertilizer use has declined since 2000
- Usage has stabilized at a steady level since 2010

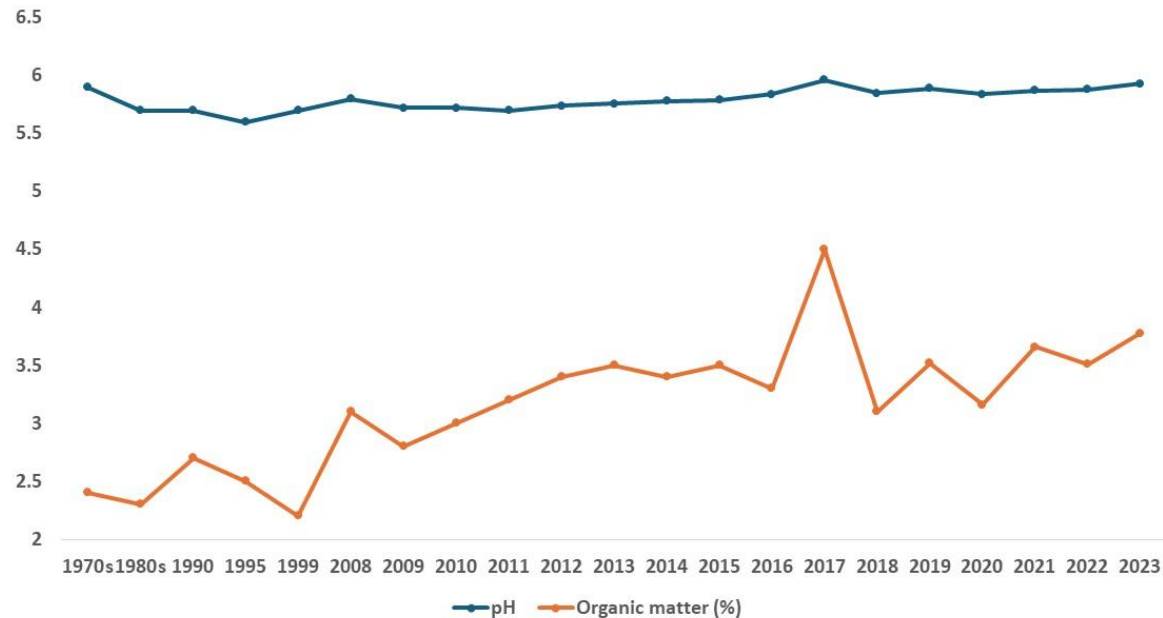


3. Changes in Fertilizer Use & Soil Organic Matter

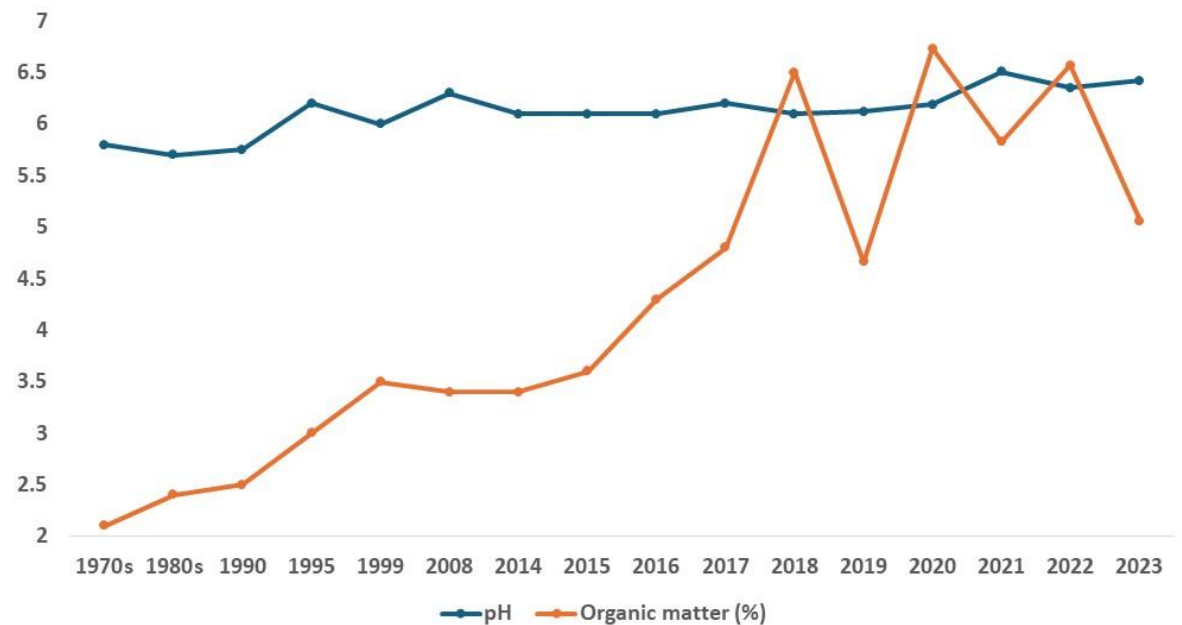
Changes in Soil Organic Matter

- No significant change in soil pH
- Soil organic matter content shows an increasing trend

<Rice Paddy Soil>



<Upland Soil>



4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

1. History of Fertilizer Support in Korea
2. Fertilizer Support Programs
3. Changes in Fertilizer Use and Soil Organic Matter
4. **Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production**

4. Building Supply Chains for Stable Agricultural Production

Supply Chain Resilience

- Stockpiling of key raw materials (urea, DAP, etc.)
- Transportation cost support for joint purchasing of raw materials
- Early warning system for international market monitoring

Fertilizer Quality & Efficiency

- Strengthened fertilizer quality management
- Improved labeling of fertilizer ingredients and content

Research, Development & Education

- R&D support for CRF, organic fertilizers, etc.
- Education on optimal fertilization practices for farmers
- Professional development for fertilizer sales representatives

Thank you for Listening