

**AIKS Press Release : 5 March 2026**

In favor of urgent Publication

## **Stop the Imperialist War! Save Indian Farmers! Announce a Comprehensive Relief Package Now!**

**New Delhi, March 5, 2026:** All India Kisan Sabha today issued a scathing indictment of the Modi government's complicity in the US-Israel war on Iran, demanding an immediate and comprehensive relief package for millions of farmers, workers, and exporters whose livelihoods have been devastated by the conflict.

While the mainstream media obsesses over GDP percentages and trade deficits, the blood of Indian farmers is being spilled on the altar of American imperialism. The missiles that fell on Tehran have shattered the lives of Basmati growers in Haryana, banana farmers in Solapur, and grape cultivators in Maharashtra. This is not merely an economic shock; it is a direct consequence of the government's decision to align with war criminals and open Indian agriculture to plunder via recent trade deals with the US.

This unjust war has triggered the crunch of crude oil supply along with other economic & strategic concerns. Due to the escalating war situation, a significant surge is being seen in crude oil prices. Brent crude prices have seen a major jump in the past week, reaching around \$84. An increase of one dollar in crude oil prices raises India's import expenditure by \$2 billion. Amidst this, against the backdrop of economic stress created by the escalating war, the Indian rupee has witnessed significant volatility. On Thursday (March 5), due to the Reserve Bank's intervention, the rupee has barely managed to hold at the 91.82 level, making imports even more expensive. The farming community is likely to bear the maximum brunt of the rising crude oil prices. The crisis in oil availability directly impacts the production of fertilizers, which are essential for farmers. If the government does not increase the provision for fertilizer subsidy, there is a risk that fertilizer prices will remain at elevated levels in the upcoming season, further adding to farmers' production costs.

The war has choked the Strait of Hormuz, a lifeline for Indian agriculture through which 56% of our merchandise exports must pass. Overnight, the potential income of millions has turned into trapped debt. The government's response—mere "monitoring" of the situation—is a betrayal of the highest order.

### **The Carnage in Numbers: A Snapshot of the Crisis**

The following data, compiled from affected farmers and exporters, reveals the true scale of the disaster:

- **Basmati Rice:** 400,000 tonnes (worth ₹3,200 crore) are stranded—200,000 tonnes at ports and 200,000 tonnes at sea. Farm-gate prices have crashed by nearly 6% in four days, wiping out the income of 2.5 to 3 million farmer families.
- **Bananas:** 1,200 containers from Solapur alone are stuck in cold storage. Harvesting has stalled, and farmers face demurrage charges of ₹8,500 per container daily.
- **Grapes:** 6,000 tonnes are at risk; 300 containers loaded for export must now be unloaded and dumped in the local market at a fraction of the cost.
- **Onions:** 5,400 tonnes of Nashik onions are rotting at JNPT port, with the Dubai market shut down.
- **Poultry:** 80 lakh eggs destined for the Gulf are stalled daily, flooding the domestic market and crashing prices.
- **Employment:** In the Basmati belt alone, 1.6 crore person-days of work for landless laborers are at immediate risk.

### Our Demands: Justice for Farmers, Workers, and Exporters

The government cannot hide behind hollow budget allocations. Farmers need cash in hand today. All India Kisan Sabha demand the following immediate and long-term measures:

#### Immediate Relief Package

1. **Direct Financial Aid:** Provide one-time emergency cash assistance of ₹50,000 per hectare to all affected farmer families in the worst-hit sectors (Basmati, bananas, grapes, pomegranates, mangoes) as compensation for income loss due to price crashes.
2. **Procurement by Central Agencies:** NAFED and FCI must immediately purchase all stranded perishable produce (onions, bananas, grapes) at pre-crisis support prices (minimum ₹35/kg for onions, ₹25/kg for bananas) to prevent distress sales and rotting.
3. **Subsidy for Stranded Produce:** Provide an immediate subsidy of ₹2,500 per quintal for onions and other stranded commodities, as demanded by farmers.
4. **Waiver of Port Charges:** All demurrage, warehousing, storage fees, and port penalties arising from the war-induced situation must be completely waived or paid by the government.
5. **Loan Moratorium:** To prevent a debt trap, all agricultural loans and their interest for affected farmers must be completely waived.
6. **Compensation Fund for Laborers:** Establish a special fund to provide immediate financial assistance of ₹10,000 per month to porters, loaders, and agricultural laborers who have lost employment due to halted operations.

#### Long-Term Policy Demands

1. **Revoke Anti-Farmer Trade Deals:** Immediately revoke the recent India-US trade deal signed under tariff threats. Agriculture must be constitutionally kept out of any trade negotiations with imperialist powers.
2. **Stay Out of Imperialist Fronts:** The Government of India must immediately clarify that it will not participate in any military or strategic alliance (including I2U2 and QUAD) that drags the nation into US-led wars.
3. **Condemn the Aggression:** Unequivocally condemn the US-Israeli attacks on Iran and support international efforts to hold the aggressors accountable.

#### Conclusion: A Movement is Coming

The pain from the Strait of Hormuz is felt in every Indian village. If the government continues to sacrifice Indian farmers for the sake of American imperialism, the farmers of India will launch a movement far bigger than that of 2020-21.

**Stop the War! Save the Farmers!**

Issued by:

Yours Comradely



**Rajan Kshirsagar**  
President AIKS



**Ravula Venkaiah**  
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**APPENDIX: Detailed Statistical Data of Stranded Agricultural Produce (as of March 4, 2026)**

Commodity/ Product	Stranded Quantity	Approx. Value (₹ Crore)	Approx. Value (US\$ Million)	Major Destinations	Status
<b>Basmati Rice</b>	400,000 tonnes	3,200	370	Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq	200,000 tonnes at ports; 200,000 tonnes stranded in transit
<b>Onion</b>	5,400 tonnes	27	3.1	Gulf states via UAE	Stored in reefer containers at JNPA; risk of rotting
<b>Bananas</b>	350+ containers	45	5.2	Iran, Dubai	Stranded at JNPA / in transit; 1,200 containers stuck in Solapur
<b>Grapes</b>	6,000 tonnes (approx.)	60	6.9	UAE, Saudi Arabia, Europe	300 containers (3,900 tonnes) at sea must return; 10,000 tonnes at risk in vineyards
<b>Pomegranates</b>	150+ containers	30	3.5	Gulf states	Discharged en route; being returned at a loss
<b>Other Fresh Fruits</b>	2,000+ tonnes (approx.)	40	4.6	UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar	Stranded at JNPA
<b>Frozen Products</b>	1,500+ tonnes (approx.)	30	3.5	GCC states	Stranded at ports
<b>Poultry (Eggs)</b>	80 lakh eggs daily	7 (daily)	0.8 (daily)	Gulf countries	Export halted; flooding domestic market
<b>Sugar</b>	700+ truckloads	Data Pending	Data Pending	Middle East	Stranded in Maharashtra
<b>TOTAL (Minimum)</b>	<b>~409,000 tonnes + containers</b>	<b>~₹3,439 Crore</b>	<b>~\$397 Million</b>		