

Russia-Ukraine Conflict's Impact on Delhi's Air Quality

Western sanctions on Russia and disruptions in international rice trade have indirectly worsened air pollution in Delhi. This has altered cropping patterns in South Asia, leading to increased crop residue burning in both India-Punjab and Pakistan-Punjab.



by OJAANK IAS



Global Trade Routes

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01 **Global Trade Routes**
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05 **China's Trade**
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Global Trade Disruptions

1

VUCA Phase

The world has been navigating **Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity** for some time.

2

Food Commodity Market

Trade in **wheat, maize, pulses, and fertilisers** severely disrupted between **2022 and 2024**.

3

Indian Response

Indian government imposed a **ban on rice exports** to curb inflation, recently **reversed**.

Agri-Economic Landscape

India's Rice Production

Export-quality rice grown in non-traditional areas like Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh. Over 70% of world's basmati exports.

Pakistan's Rice Production

Pakistan's Punjab province grows basmati using canal-fed irrigation. Contributes around 17% of global Basmati trade.

New Test is out now 24 Jan 2025 at 01:00 pm ✨📚

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Factors Contributing to Crop Residue Burning

1 Mechanised Harvesting

Leaves behind stubble difficult to remove manually.

2 Basmati Characteristics

Residue unsuitable as fodder, long stalks harder to remove.

3 Time Constraints

Limited window for sowing Rabi crops after harvest.

4 Labour Shortage

Structural shift in labour force, increased reliance on migrant workers.



Environmental and Economic Challenges



Water Scarcity

Depleting groundwater levels and delayed monsoons complicate rice cultivation.



Pest Management

Non-native rice varieties vulnerable to pest attacks, increasing pesticide use.



Rising Input Costs

Increased fertilizer and pesticide costs due to global trade disruptions.



Government Initiatives

Crop Residue Management Scheme

Supports use of machines for residue management, mixing stubble with soil.

Agri-Infrastructure Fund

Funds projects to recycle crop residue and generate electricity from waste.

National Clean Air Programme

Promotes preventive measures to control stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.





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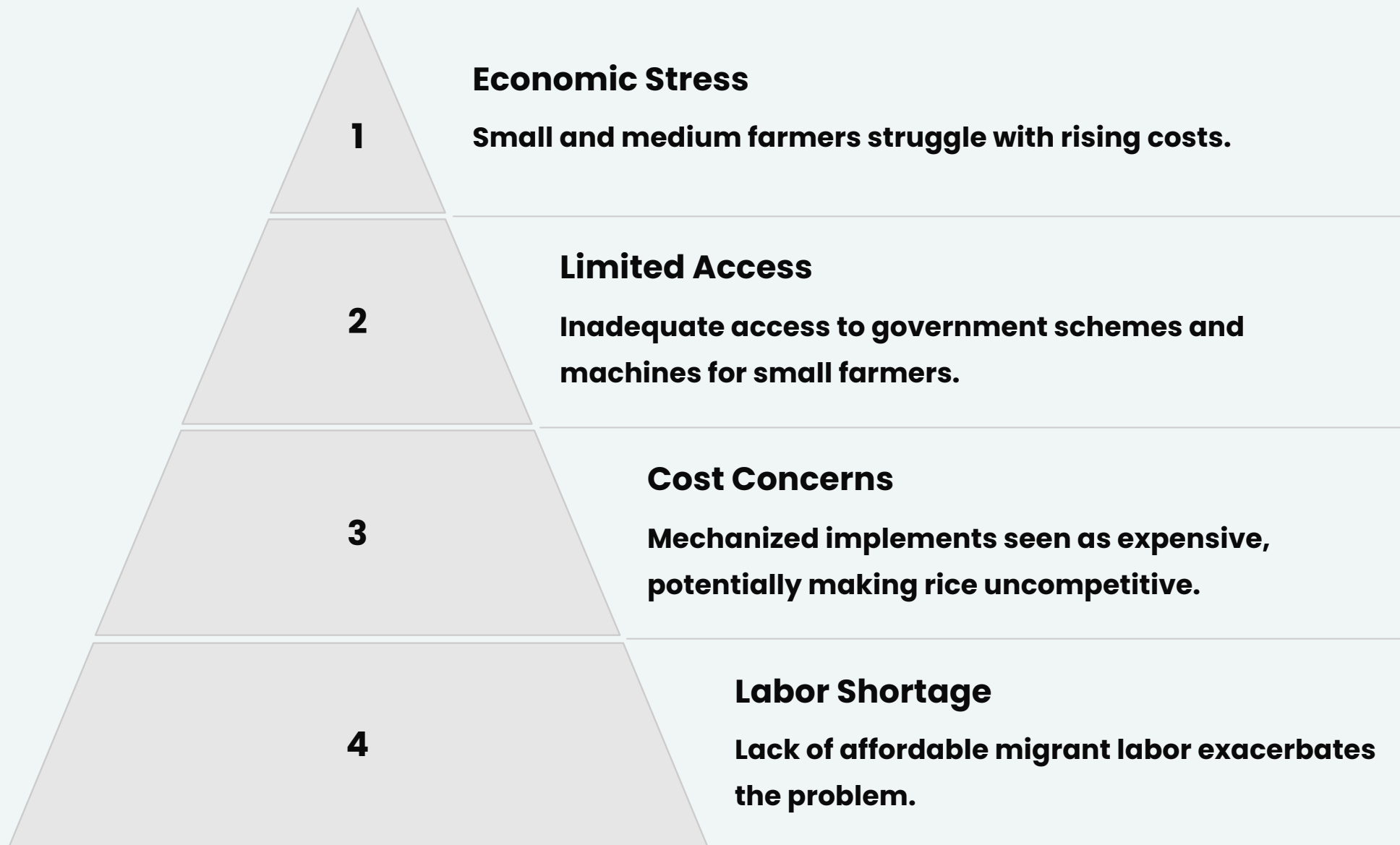
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Challenges in Implementation





Progress in Punjab

75%

Reduction in Burning

Punjab saw a 75% reduction in residue burning incidents from 2023 to 2024.

3.2M

Hectares Under Rice

Marginal increase in rice cultivation area in Punjab from 2023 to 2024.

Cross-Border Impact: Pakistan

1

Increased Production

Pakistan increased rice production to fill void left by India's export ban.

2

Export Growth

Pakistan's rice exports nearly doubled during 2023-24.

3

Crop Area Expansion

15% average increase in rice area between 2019-20 and 2023-24.



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Air Quality Crisis in Pakistan

1

Crop Burning Increase

Widespread crop residue burning reported in October 2024.

2

Policy Challenges

Implementation of air quality regulations hampered by current turbulent times.

3

Severe Pollution

Lahore and Multan became world's most polluted cities in October–November 2024.

Delhi's Air Quality Crisis

Wind Patterns

Usual wind patterns resumed by third week of November 2024, bringing pollution from Pakistan and Indian Punjab to Delhi.

Geographical Factors

Potwar plateau and Aravalli ridge create a funnel effect, accelerating polluted air flow into Delhi.

Farm Fire Impact

Farm fires contributed up to 35-40% of Delhi's daily air quality on certain November days.

Call for Unified Action



Global Interconnectedness

Western sanctions and rice trade restructuring indirectly impacted Delhi's air quality.

Regional Cooperation

Need for a unified, coordinated response to clean air action in South Asia.

Holistic Approach

Re-evaluation of all aspects for accelerating clean air action in our "Glocal" world.

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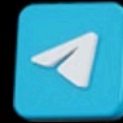


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