

Part 2: Setting Up a Blending Operation

2.2 Selecting a site

Setting up a blending operation

Three steps:

1. Select a site for your blending operations (session 2.2)
2. Select the type of bulk blending plant (session 2.3)
3. Construct the blending facility (session 2.4)



Port versus Farm area

First key question:

- Should the blending facility be **nearby the port** or **nearby clients** (farm areas)?



versus



Port versus Farm area

Nearby port	Nearby farm area
Short receiving time imported raw materials	Longer receiving time imported raw materials
Less need for storage of final blends	More need for storage of final blends
Less risk of double handling raw materials and finished products	Higher risk of double handling raw materials and finished products
Lower cost of final blend products due to absence of transport and other costs	Higher cost of final blend products due to addition of transport and other costs

Port versus Farm area

Nearby port	Nearby farm area
Small-scale bulk blending operations may not be profitable	Small-scale bulk blending operations can be profitable
Large-scale bulk blending operations can be profitable due to quicker turnaround times	Large-scale bulk blending operations may not be profitable due to slower turnaround times
More expensive facility setup due to extra port fees and charges	Less expensive facility setup due to no extra port fees or charges

Port versus Farm area

Nearby port	Nearby farm area
Higher risk of corrosion to steel components due to saltwater in the atmosphere	Less risk of corrosion to steel components due to saltwater in the atmosphere
More susceptible to major humidity issues	Less susceptibility to major humidity issues
Can be far from farmers or the final consumer of the blend products	Closer to farmers, the final consumer of the blend products

Other aspects

Select a site that is:

- Easy to locate.
- Easily accessible by road and rail (if or when applicable).
- Located in a well secured area.
- Located in an area with little or no competition. This can accelerate industrial momentum and assure market edge.
- NOT located in or close to a residential area.
- NOT located near any body of water. Where the site is by the quayside, within a port, all design regulations and parameters must be strictly adhered to.





Final advice for site selection

- **Hire a qualified, experienced consultant to assist in the site selection**, preferably one who has previous experience in developing fertilizer bulk blending projects from scratch.
- **Hire an expert to conduct a sound environmental impact assessment** and ensure the laws, policies, and regulations of the community are adhered to.
- **Source and engage direct and indirect labor** from within the community's environs.
- **Know your neighbors.** Forge relationships with them for sustainable security practices.

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