

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1905
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1st AUGUST, 2023

IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH

1905. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any programme to improve the health of the soil and consequently increase the agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the farmers from time to time regarding the health of the soil and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any training has been given to the farmers regarding proper use of fertilizers to improve soil quality; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Soil Health Cards (SHCs) Scheme introduced in the year 2014-15 wherein a massive programme of soil sampling, testing and generation of SHCs was launched to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country. In Cycle-I (2015 to 2017), 10.74 crore grid based soil health cards have been distributed to farmers. In Cycle-II (2017 to 2019), 12.19 crore grid based soil health cards have been distributed to farmers. So far 23.17 crore soil health cards have been distributed to farmers. The fund allocated under the scheme since 2015 to till date is around Rs. 1585 crore.

Soil health card provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. This scheme has been merged as Soil Health & Fertility of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from the year 2022-23 and Budget Heads are also operated under RKVY Scheme.

The main objective of the scheme is to assist states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. Soil Samples is processed following standard procedures and analyzed for various parameters viz, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon, available Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulfur and micronutrients (Zinc, Copper, Iron, Manganese & Boron). Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status (low, medium & high) of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients (i.e. dose of fertilizer per kg per hectare) to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility that results in increase in agricultural production.

Government is also augmenting soil samples testing capacity in the country by setting up / strengthening of soil testing laboratories. So far, 12108 new soil testing labs (779 static, 123 mobile, 8811 mini labs and 2395 village level labs) have been set up and strengthening of 864 existing soil testing labs have been sanctioned to the states.

(c) to (e): Soil Health Card based fertilizer use advisories are issued to farmers through State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) Network from time to time. Demonstrations about balanced use of fertilizers based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper and integrated use of fertilizers are integral part of the scheme.

Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's trainings and 7425 farmers melas and 79 workshops have been organized through the State Governments under the Scheme. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also imparts training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on these aspects.
