

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 195**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21/07/2023

**SOIL HEALTH CARD AND MICRO IRRIGATION**

195. SHRI RAVICHANDRA VADDIRAJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Soil Health Card Scheme has been implemented in the State of Telangana;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers who have been issued Soil Health Cards in the State of Telangana;
- (c) whether Government has achieved the objectives for which Soil Health Card Scheme has been implemented and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has implemented any scheme for coverage of area under micro irrigation throughout the country to benefit farmers community; and
- (e) if so, the benefits being gained by farmers from the said scheme and the achievements made thereunder so far?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Soil Health Card scheme is implemented in Telangana State from 2015-16 onwards. The year wise number of Soil Health Cards distributed in Telangana State under Soil Health Card scheme are detailed below:

Sl. No	Year	No of SHCs distributed
1	2015-16	2520380
2	2016-17	3033602
3	2017-18	2516181
4	2018-19	2326328
5	2019-20	110664

(c) : Yes, the major objective of Soil Health Card scheme is to issue soil health cards to all farmers of the country to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilisation practices.

- Accordingly the scheme was implemented in Telangana State as per the guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.
- Soil samples were collected and analysed for 12 parameters ie., PH, Organic Carbon, EC, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, Zinc Iron, Copper, Manganese and Boron.
- Soil health cards were distributed to the farmers interpreting the soil test results and encouraging them to adopt soil test based fertiliser recommendations.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from the year 2015-16 for coverage of area under micro irrigation in the Country to benefit the farmers community. During the year 2015-16 to 2021-22, the PDMC was implemented as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. From the year 2022-23, the PDMC is being implemented under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems. Micro Irrigation helps in water saving as well as reducing fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour expenses, other input costs and in overall income enhancement of the farmers.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of 55% to Small & Marginal farmers and 45% to Other farmers is provided for installation of Micro Irrigation systems. NITI Aayog conducted evaluation study on Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme in 2020. The major findings of the study are as under:

- The scheme is relevant in achieving national priorities such as substantially improving on-farm water use efficiency, enhancing crop productivity, generating employment opportunities etc.
- Micro irrigation adoption has helped to save water and water use efficiency improved around 30% to 70%.
- Created direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- Income of farmers has increased in the range of 10% to 69%

So far, an area of 78.5 lakh ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation in the country through PDMC scheme with release of Central Assistance of Rs. 18335.62 crore to States. Out of total area reported under Micro Irrigation, an area of 3.24 lakh ha has been reported in Telangana State with release of Rs. 712.54 crore as Central Assistance to the State under PDMC scheme.

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