

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2584
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11/08/2023

**DIGITAL RECORDING OF SOIL TYPES AND LANDS SUITABLE FOR
CULTIVATION**

2584. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to digitise the soil types and lands suitable for cultivation of various crops in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether adequate funds have been allocated for digital recording of existing lands under cultivation and classification according to the type of soil and its suitability for certain crops, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide financial and technical support to increase the growth potential and soil health in the country; and
- (d) the innovative methods prescribed by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Yes, the Government is already working towards digitization of soil types & land suitable for cultivation. Soil and Land Use Survey of India, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is engaged in soil survey, soil mapping in the country using satellite data and ground observations. The soil map depicts different types of soils and its geographic extent. This spatial data is in digital domain. Based on soil maps, the interpretation and derivatives maps are prepared, which includes soil suitability maps for major crops, land capability and other thematic maps for sustainable agriculture. The Government has initiated Nation-wide detail soil survey on 1:10,000 scale of entire cultivable area in the country for generation of village-level crop plans and planning soil-water conservation measures. Further, the Government has also initiated steps to build National One Soil Unified Information System (NOSUIS) for bringing all the available soil –

related data, generated by different organizations on one platform. The main aim of NOSUIS is to make digital soil type information, easily accessible to farmers, policy makers, academia, researchers and other stakeholders. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on the soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on the appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. The mobile application and Soil Health Card(SHC) portal helps in creating soil fertility maps across the country. Soil sampling bags have the provision of QR codes or bar codes, which ensure proper collection of soil samples with farmers and plot details and link it to the SHC result to minimize human interference in SHC recommendation.

Further, the Soil Health and Fertility of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) cafeteria scheme is implemented through the State Government with the objective to assist states in promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. This scheme has sub-components like, setting up/ strengthening Soil Testing, Fertilizers/ Bio fertilizers & Organic fertilizers Quality Control Labs, promoting Micronutrients, and testing soil samples to issue Soil Health Cards. The funds allocated and released during last three financial years under RKVY are as under:

Year	Allocated	Released(Rs. in crore)
2020-21	284.65	199.95
2021-22	42.56	8.76
2022-23	235.13	52.62
Total	2390.03	1388.30
