

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2098
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09.08.2024

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOIL HEALTH CARD PROGRAMME

2098. SHRI R. DHARMAR

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Soil Health Card Programme;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this programme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the number of farmers enrolled under this programme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of targets set and achievements made so far under this programme across the country along with its objectives and aim;
- (e) whether Government has made some amendments/revamped this scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): Soil Health & Fertility Scheme is being implemented by Government since 2015, wherein Soil Health Cards (SHCs) are issued to farmers to improve the health of the soil . SHCs encourage judicious use of fertilizer including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers. SHCs provide information on nutrient status of soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health & fertility.

(b): Rs.3,822.49 lakh was allocated to Government of Tamil Nadu under the scheme during the last three years and current year i.e. 2021-22 to 2024-25. Out of this, Rs.2,333.74 lakh was released/sanctioned to the State Government and Rs.1,711.64 lakh was utilized by the State Government. The details are as under:

Rs. in lakh

Year	Allocation	Released/Sanctioned	Utilized
2021-22*	294.00	-	-
2022-23	999.49	499.74	499.74
2023-24	1,602.00	1,602.00	1,211.90
2024-25	927.00	232.00	-
Total	3,822.49	2,333.74	1,711.64

*Fund could not be released due to pending compliance of Department of Expenditure guidelines by the State Government.

(c): 14,25,057 farmers have been enrolled under Soil Health & Fertility Scheme in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year. Details are as under-

Year	Number of farmers enrolled
2021-22	3,22,544
2022-23	4,50,633
2023-24	3,92,000
2024-25	2,59,880
Total	14,25,057

(d): The aim and objective of the Scheme is to promote 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 fertility. Soil Health Cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. So far, 24.17 Crore Soil Health Cards have been generated across the country since 2014-15. Once the Soil Health Card is generated, the advisory/guidelines are given to farmers through Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Krishi Sakhi etc. Till date, 6.8 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's training programme and 7425 farmer's mela have been organized across the country to educate farmers regarding proper use of fertilizers as per recommendation of Soil Health Card to improve soil quality. Under the scheme, 1068 Static Soil Testing Laboratories, 163 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories, 6376 Mini Soil Testing Laboratories and 665 Village Level Soil Testing Laboratories have been established across the country.

(e) & (f): In order to make scheme more useful for farmers and facilitate the farmers /stakeholders to access accurate information on real time basis, the soil health card portal has been revamped and soil sample collection through mobile application has been introduced during 2023-24. Under the new Portal, Dashboards at National, State and District Levels have been provided. Progress of sample collection, testing and generation of Soil Health Card can be seen on real time basis. Farmer can download Soil Health Card from the portal by entering mobile number. Online soil lab registry, fertilizer management, nutrient dashboard, heat maps of nutrients are available on the portal. Now, geo-coordinates of farmers field from where samples are collected are being captured automatically through mobile application. QR code enabled sample collection through mobile has been introduced which facilitate proper sampling of soil. App also register plot details and workable in online and offline mode.
