

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1096
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

QUALITY OF SOIL

1096. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to improve the quality of soil to increase production;
- (b) if so, whether farmers training and workshops are being organised at panchayat and village level for quality enhancement and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any training has been provided for the enhancement of arable barren land under the said programme; and
- (d) if so, the number of farmers of Chhattisgarh benefited by participating in training and workshops and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government is implementing the Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme since 2015 to provide soil test based fertilizer use recommendations periodically to the farmers in the country. Soil health card provides nutrient status of the soil along with prescription about balanced and integrated use of inorganic and organic fertilizers to maintain good soil health that results in increase in production.

Apart from SHC, Government is also implementing Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme to augment soil samples testing capacity in the country through setting up / strengthening of soil testing laboratories. So far, 12682 new soil testing labs (499 static, 113 mobile, 8811 minilabs and 2395 village level labs) and strengthening of 864 existing labs have been sanctioned to the states.

(b): SHC based fertilizer use advisories are issued to farmers through State Government 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. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for farmers training and workshops, demonstrations on farmer fields and organizing farmer melas. Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's trainings and 7425 farmers' melas and 79 workshops have been organized/conducted through the State Governments at Panchayat and village level under the Scheme. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also imparts training, organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on these aspects.

(c): Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based fertilizer application through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio-fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients with 4R approaches i.e. right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer in order to improve the quality of soil to increase crop production. In addition, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies (RCTs) are also advocated. ICAR has developed location specific bio-engineering soil & water conservation measure, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkali, waterlogged and acid soils, selection of suitable crop including agroforestry interventions to reclaim and develop barren lands. It also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects. Government is focusing on creating awareness and education the farmers about organic farming practices under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development of North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) schemes.

(d): In Chhattisgarh, under Soil Health Mission 141 farmers' mela, 3145 trainings and one workshop were organized between year 2018-19 to 2020-21 at different levels.
