

# Soil Health Card Scheme

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Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. It is being **implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments**. A Soil Health Card is used to assess the current status of soil health and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management.

## Features of Soil Health Card Scheme

- A Soil Health Card displays **soil health indicators and associated descriptive terms**. The indicators are typically based on farmers' practical experience and knowledge of local natural resources.
- The card lists soil health indicators that can be assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment.
- SHC will contain the status of soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely **N,P,K (Macronutrients); S (Secondary-nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micronutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters)**. Based on this, the SHC will also indicate **fertilizer recommendations** and soil amendment required for the farm.

## Objectives of the Soil Health Card Scheme

- To issue **soil health cards every 3 years**, to all farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices.
- To **strengthen functioning of Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs)** through capacity building, involvement of agriculture students and effective linkage with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/ State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).
- To **diagnose soil fertility related constraints** with

standardized procedures for sampling uniformly across states and analysis and design taluqa/ block level fertilizer recommendations in targeted districts.

- To develop and promote **soil test based nutrient management** in the districts for enhancing nutrient use efficiency.
- To **build capacities of district and state level staff** and of progressive farmers for promotion of nutrient management practices.

### Benefits of Soil Health Card Scheme

- The scheme will monitor the soil and will give farmers a formatted report. So, they can decide which crops they should cultivate and which ones they should skip.
- The authorities will monitor the soil on a regular basis. One in every 3 years, they will provide a report to farmers. So, **farmers need not worry if the nature of the soil changes due to certain factors**. Also, they will always have updated data about their soil.
- The work of the government does not stop at listing down measures required to improve the quality of the soil. In fact, they will **also employ experts to help farmers in carrying out the corrective measures**.
- Farmers can **study the soil management practices**. Accordingly, they can plan the future of their crops and land.
- Generally, in government schemes, the person carrying out the study for a particular farmer gets changed. But in the Soil Health Card scheme, the government is paying attention that the same person carries out soil analysis for a farmer. This will further enhance the effectiveness of the scheme.
- The soil card will give the farmers a **proper idea of which nutrients their soil is lacking**. And hence, which crops they should invest in. they will also tell which fertilizers they need. So, ultimately, the crop yield

will see a rise.