

Study on Impact of Soil Health Card Scheme

I. Study by NPC

National Productivity Council (NPC) carried out a study on 'Soil Testing Infrastructure for Faster Delivery of Soil Health Card in India' and submitted its report in February , 2017. The study was conducted in 76 districts in 19 States covering 170 soil testing labs and 1700 farmers. Overall the feedback received from the farmers of different States covered under the study indicates a wider acceptance of the Soil Health Cards. In absence of the Soil Health Cards, it was acknowledged by the farmers that adequate quantity of fertilizers and micro-nutrients were not being applied by them earlier and this had affected the productivity of crops It was found that :-

- More than 90%of farmers surveyed informed that they have not got their soil tested before the implementation of this scheme.
- 92% farmers reported of not using balanced fertilizer and micro nutrients in absence of information related to availability of nutrients in their soil.
- As a result of application of fertilizer and micro-nutrients as per the recommendations on the Soil Health Cards, it was reported that there has been a decrease of use of chemical fertilizer application in the range of 8-10%.
- Overall increase in the yield of crops to the tune of 5-6% was reported due to application of fertilizer and micro nutrients as per recommendations available in the Soil Health Cards.

II. Feedback from Farmers

A feedback from 21 States covering 171 districts has been received from States Governments and has been compiled. The feedback shows:-

- **Application of fertilisers as per the recommendation of soil health cards led to savings in nitrogen fertilisers like urea there by resulted in reduction in cost of cultivation.**
 - **Rice-** the cost of cultivation is reduced by 16-25% and savings of nitrogen is found to be around 20kg/acre.
 - **Pulses-** 10-15% reduction in cultivation cost and savings 10kg/acre of urea is observed.

- **Oil seeds** – Reduction in cultivation cost is 10 - 15 % and savings on Nitrogen is 9kg/acre in sunflower, around 23kg/ acre in ground nut and around 30 kg/acre in castor.
 - **Cash Crops** – In case of cotton, reduction in cultivation cost is 25 % and savings on nitrogen fertiliser is around 35 kg/ acre
 - **Horticulture crops:** In potato, 46 Kg/ acre of nitrogen saving is observed.

- **Judicious use of fertilisers also resulted in increased production of crops.**
 - **Cereals** - increase in production 10 - 20 % in paddy, 10 -15 % in wheat and jowar.
 - **Pulses** –increase in production 10 to 30 % in pulses.
 - **Oilseeds**- increase in production around 40 % in oil seeds
 - **Cotton**- increase in production around 10-20% in oil seeds

- **Savings on fertilisers and increase in production also resulted in increased income to the farmers.**
 - **Paddy:** Increase in income around Rs.4500/- per acre in paddy.
 - **Tur:** Increase in income Rs.25000-Rs.30000/- per acre in tur.
 - **Sunflower:** Increase in income around Rs.25000/- per acre
 - **Groundnut:** Increase in income around Rs.10000/- per acre
 - **Cotton:** Increase in income around Rs.12000/- per acre
 - **Potato:** Increase in income around Rs.3000/- per acre