

Soil Health Management

The main objectives of the scheme are:

- a) To facilitate and promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers, including secondary and micro nutrients, in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers, for improving soil health and its productivity.
- b) To strengthen soil testing facilities and provide soil test based recommendations to farmers for improving soil fertility and economic return to farmers.
- c) To improve soil health through Sustainable Organic Farming.
- d) To facilitate and promote use of soil amendments for reclamation of alkaline soils for improving their fertility and crop productivity.
- e) To promote use of micro nutrients for improving efficiency of fertilizer use.
- f) To upgrade the skill and knowledge of technical personnel and farmers through training and exposure visits including demonstrations on farmers fields regarding conceptualization of Integrated Nutrient Management.
- g) To ensure quality control of fertilizers through strengthening of existing fertilizer quality control facility in FCO laboratories as well as Bio Pesticide Laboratories of the State for effective implementation of "Fertilizer Control Order".

Guidelines for implementation of Soil Health Management scheme:

- SHM will aim at promoting location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management including residue management, organic farming practices by way of creating and linking soil fertility maps with macro-micro

nutrient management, appropriate land use based on land capability, judicious application of fertilizers and minimizing the soil erosion.

- The various components are setting up new STLs and MSTLs, strengthening of existing State STLs, capacity building through trainings, creation of data-bank for balanced use of fertilizers, which is site specific, preparation of digital district soil maps, promotion and distribution of micronutrients, strengthening and setting up of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories and reclamation of Alkaline / Saline soils / Acidic soils.
- At State level, process of implementation will be monitored by State Standing Technical Committee (SSTC) and State Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (SMSA)/State Level Committee (SLC).
- States will ensure submission of detailed Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) by 10th of first month of next quarter. Similarly, detailed Annual Progress Report (APR) should be sent to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture within three months, after closure of financial year.
- At field or village level, Panchayats will be involved in overseeing day to day process of implementation.
- At district level, monitoring will be undertaken by Joint Director/Deputy Director Agriculture in collaboration with respective Zilla Panchayat Raj Institutions.