

# [***India : Union Minister Shri Arjun Munda and Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurate four major key initiatives of Agriculture Sector i.e Revamped Soil health card portal & mobile application, School Soil Health Programme, Krishi Sakhi convergence Programme and Cent***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BHX-TS91-JDJN-600P-00000-00&context=1516831)

Mena Report

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**Body**

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Arjun Munda and Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated jointly four major key initiatives of Agriculture Sector i.e Revamped ***Soil health*** card portal & mobile application, School ***Soil Health*** Programme, Krishi Sakhi convergence Programme and Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institutes (CFQCTIs) portal for fertilizer sample testing today in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

During the event, Shri Arjun Munda said that the objective of these initiatives is to benefit the farmers even in remote areas and enable them to do farming with ease. He said that if our farmers are empowered by all such facilities, then they will make an important contribution not only for themselves but also for the country and the world. Union Minister said that the government is doing this work to create a cooperative-based India with the basic mantra of prosperity through cooperation.

Shri Arjun Munda also highlighted the importance of ***soil***. He said that ***Soil*** is our mother earth and it is our responsibility to keep the ***soil health*** good for the sake of every living being. Shri Munda said that the role of Krishi Sakhi is very important in maintaining better ***soil health***. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, this great force has emerged, which can educate farmers about ***soil health***. He said that with women empowerment, we are moving towards meaningful results while taking steps towards the goal. Union Minister also highlighted the role of students in maintaining the good ***soil health***. He said that the school ***soil health*** programme is the key initiative which will guide students to understand the importance of ***soil*** and our environment. Under this, ***soil*** laboratories were established in some Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas in rural areas. Training was given to students and teachers, who would participate in the development of their villages and agriculture sector.

During the event, Shri Giriraj Singh said that Krishi Sakhi Training Program has been launched as a joint initiative to certify Krishi Sakhis as Para-Extension Workers. He thanked Prime Minister Shri Modi that ***soil health*** has been given prime importance since he came to power at the Centre. Shri Singh said that in the form of programs like Krishi Sakhi and Drone Didi, a big force is engaged in doing good work in the country. He stressed upon the role of ***soil*** organic carbon in making the ***soil*** healthy and said that when the ***health of soil*** and animals improves, the ***health*** of humans also improves automatically.

Shri Giriraj Singh said that Real time data will also be available through the facilities launched today. He highlighted the role of Krishi Sakhi in making aware the farmers for sustainable agriculture practices and said that Krishi Sakhi will not only benefit farming, but will also increase its credibility in the society and will also increase confidence among farmers. He also advised to use organic and natural farming practices for wellbeing of the entire humanity. Shri Singh expressed hope that the market of organic products will increase significantly in the coming days. He urged to ensure contribution of all Krishi Vigyan Kendras in promoting organic farming. Union Minister Shri Singh said that the institutions related to agriculture should also keep real time data of carbon. He said that through such facilities, work is being done to implement Prime Minister Shri Modis dreams 100 percent in the country.

Revamped ***Soil health*** Card Portal and Mobile Application - ***Soil health*** card portal has been revamped and mobile application has been introduced for ***soil*** sample collection and testing. Portal has ***soil*** lab registry and the status of labs can be seen on real time basis. Labs are mapped with geo-coordinates on the portal. Portal has facility to show the real time data of ***soil*** sample collection, test in labs and generation of ***Soil Health*** Card. App based QR code enabled ***soil*** sample collection system has been introduced in ***Soil Health*** Card Mobile Application. Under the new Portal, Centralized Dashboard at National, State and District Level have been provided. Geographic Information System (GIS) analytics are available on real time basis. Farmer can download ***Soil Health*** Card (SHC) through SMS Notification and by entering mobile number on the portal. Portal is having fertilizer management, Emoji based ***Soil health*** card, nutrient dashboard, heat maps of nutrients. Progress can be monitored now on real time basis through this initiative. Now, geo-coordinates of farmers filed from where samples are collected are being captured automatically through mobile application. App also registers plot details and workable in online and offline mode. Farmers can keep track of their ***soil*** sample till generation of ***Soil Health*** Card.

School ***Soil Health*** Programme- Department in collaboration with Department of School Education and Literacy has undertaken a pilot project on school ***soil health*** programme. Under the project, 20 ***soil*** labs were set up in 20 schools of Kendriya and Navodaya Vidylaya of rural areas. Study modules were developed and training was given to students and teachers. Mobile application was customized for the school programme and portal is having a separate segment for the programme where in all the activities of students has been documented. Now, this programme has been scaled up in 1000 schools. Kendriya Vidyalya, Navodaya Vidyalya and Eklavya Model Schools have been taken under this programme. Schools are being onboarded on the portal and online batches are being created. DA&FW through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will setup ***soil*** labs in these schools. School students will collect ***soil*** samples, test in the labs set up in schools and generate ***Soil health*** Card. After generating ***Soil Health*** Card, they will go to the farmers and educate them about recommendation of ***Soil health*** Card.

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