

# [***Understanding Soil Health Card: A Farmer's Manual for Sustainable Agriculture***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B4G-SCJ1-DY46-201D-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

January 18 -- The ***Soil Health*** Card (SHC) scheme, introduced by the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) under its ***Soil Health*** Management (SHM) initiative, aims to enhance the productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience of agriculture. Launched on April 1, 2014, the scheme employs the National Informatics Center (NIC) web portal ([*www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in*](http://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in)) to facilitate the generation of standardized ***soil health*** cards. This online platform encompasses modules for sample registration, laboratory testing, fertilizer recommendations, and MIS reports.

Ensuring ***Soil*** Quality The ***soil health*** card assures the quality of ***soil*** samples tested in the laboratory. Each year, the State Government refers one percent of all samples to a 'Referral Laboratory,' providing an additional layer of analysis and certification beyond the primary laboratory results.

Financial Support for Farmers To enhance the scheme's appeal to farmers, it allocates Rs 190 per ***soil*** sample to State Governments, covering the expenses of collection, testing, and distribution of ***soil health*** cards.

The scheme has a total outlay of Rs. 568.54 crore for three years, starting in the fiscal year 2015-16.

Guidance and Support The Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) Division in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation regularly guides State Governments in technical matters, offering assistance to both state governments and farmers.

Understanding ***Soil Health*** Cards A ***Soil Health*** Card is a personalized report provided to each farmer, detailing the nutrient status of their land and offering advice on fertilizer dosage and ***soil*** amendments. The card covers 12 parameters, including macro and micro-nutrients, and physical parameters.

The card contains the status of macronutrients like Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium; secondary nutrients like Sulphur; micronutrients like Zinc, Iron, Copper, Magnesium, and Boron; and pH and Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC).Sampling Norms and Procedure

***Soil*** samples are drawn in a grid pattern, with 2.5 hectares in irrigated areas and 10 hectares in rain-fed areas. Trained personnel, including staff from the Department of Agriculture or outsourced agencies, collect samples twice a year, avoiding shaded areas

***Soil*** samples are tested in static, mobile, or portable facilities, either owned by the Department of Agriculture, outsourced agencies, or academic institutions under supervision.

Farmers receive ***Soil Health*** Cards once every three years, recording changes in ***soil health*** and providing valuable insights for sustainable agricultural practices.

The ***Soil Health*** Card Scheme stands as a practical tool, equipping farmers with essential information to enhance agricultural productivity, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable farming practices across India.

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