

# [***What is Soil Health Card: A Farmer's Guide to Sustainable Agriculture***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B4N-XGW1-DXMP-K1SD-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture's ***Soil Health*** Card Scheme aims to guide farmers in optimising ***soil health*** for sustainable and productive agriculture.

The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) introduced the ***Soil Health*** Card (SHC) scheme under its ***Soil Health*** Management (SHM) initiative. Launched on April 1, 2014, the scheme prioritizes making agriculture more productive, sustainable, and climate-resilient.

The National Informatics Center (NIC) has developed a web portal ([*www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in*](http://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in)) facilitating the generation of uniform ***soil health*** cards. The portal includes modules for sample registration, laboratory testing, fertilizer recommendations, and MIS reports.

Ensuring ***Soil*** Quality

The ***soil health*** card guarantees the quality of ***soil*** samples that have been tested in the laboratory. Every year the State Government refers one percent of all samples to a 'Referral Laboratory,' for testing providing an additional layer of analysis and certification beyond the primary laboratory results.

Financial Support for Farmers

To further make the ***soil health*** card lucrative for farmers, the scheme allocates Rs 190 per ***soil*** sample to State Governments, which covers the collection, testing, and distribution of ***soil health*** cards to farmers.

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

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

Understanding ***Soil Health*** Cards

A ***Soil Health*** Card is a 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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