

# [***‘Farmers must protect soil health’***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69T8-53K1-DXJR-H1CJ-00000-00&context=1516831)

The Times of India (TOI)

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**Body**

Dharwad: Highlighting the importance of ***soil*** and water management, agriculture experts have called upon farmers to protect the ***health of soil*** which is degrading at a fast rate.

At the function to mark World ***Soil*** Day organised at University of Agricultural Sciences here on Tuesday, the experts said that excess use of chemical fertiliser and water abuse have resulted in fertile land turning saline, and that the situation is alarming in some parts of North Karnataka, which are known as sugarcane belts.

“As the ***soil*** is losing its fertility, it has led to less yield, and farmers are incurring heavy loss. This apart, the farmers to grow maximum food in limited space, are using excess chemical fertiliser, which is poisoning the land. The agricultural fields are turning barren due to loss of micronutrients, and the yield is also on the decline over the years,” they observed.

The need of the hour is to effectively practice ***soil*** and water management, which are essential for retaining the fertility of the land, they said.

Chief conservator of forest Manoj Kumar said that ***soil*** holds the key to the progress of agriculture sector. While focusing on a high yield, the farmers should not neglect the ***health of the soil***, he said.

UAS director of extension SS Angadi advocated the need for efficient ***soil*** management, and to prevent wastage of water.

Research has proved that by changing the crop pattern, the fertility of the ***soil*** can be increased, and this will directly benefit farmers to get more yield, he said. Instead of opting for monocropping, farmers should take up integrated cropping which will protect the ***soil health***, apart from fetching good revenue for them, he said.

Professor VR Kiresur presided. ***Soil health*** cards were distributed to farmers. TNN

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