



## Benefits of Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme to Farmers

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### INTRODUCTION

A soil health card gives information on the soil's nutrient status as well as recommendations on the nutrient dosage to be used to improve its productivity and health. It is a printed document that farmers receive every three years for their land ownership.

**Soil Health Card Day:** Soil Health Card Day commemorates the day when the SHC scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on February 19, 2015. The Ministry of Agriculture introduced the SHC scheme on December 5, 2015. SHC is a printed report which contains nutrient status of soil with respect to 12 nutrients: pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S), Zinc (Zn), Boron (B), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Copper (Cu) of farm holdings.

### Soil Health Card Scheme:

The Government of India launched the Soil Health Card Scheme in 2015 to help the country's farmers. This programme is also known as the Mudra Health Card Program. This initiative would assist farmers in the country in producing good crops by assessing the soil quality of their land. Under the Soil Health Card Scheme, farmers will be given a health card containing information on the soil type of their land, as well as information about the soil quality of their land. They can use this information to grow a good harvest.

### Benefits and features of Soil Health Card Scheme:

Following are the benefits and features of the Soil Health Card Scheme.

1. This plan provides a card that allows the farmer to identify the soil type in his farm area.
2. Farmers can boost the yield of their farm soil, based on strategies under this scheme.

3. If farmers know the type of soil in their land, it will be easier for them to plant crops based on the quality of the soil, resulting in better farming and more earnings.
4. The farmers will receive all information on their farm's soil via the Mudra Health Card.
5. This strategy aimed to increase farmers' revenue while also improving the soil's base and balance through applying fertilisers.
6. This strategy can also provide increased agricultural production at a cheaper cost.
7. The soil health card that will be supplied to farmers under this scheme will also include crop planting recommendations based on their lands.
8. This card also informs farmers about how much soil is present in the soil and for which crop, how much fertiliser should be used, and which fertiliser should be used.
9. Farmers' output will also grow due to the Soil Health Card Scheme.

#### **Information available on the Soil Health Card:**

The following information is available on the Soil Health Card.

1. The farm's productive capacity
2. Nutrient availability and deficiency
3. Water quantity present in the soil
4. List of other nutrients present on the farm

#### **Recent trend- New Soil Health Card Scheme:**

1. Now, Government of India has made some technological interventions in New Soil Health Card Scheme. The Soil Health Card portal has been revamped and integrated with a Geographic Information System (GIS) system so that all the test results are captured and seen on a map. To make the implementation/monitoring of the scheme smooth and to facilitate farmers an easy access to his soil health card, the mobile application has been made robust with the additional features i.e. restrict the sample collection region for the Village Level Entrepreneur/Operator collecting the soil samples, auto selection of the latitude and longitude of the location, generation of a QR code to link with the sample and test results of all samples directly on the portal from the geo-mapped labs, without any manual intervention. The new system has already been rolled out from April, 2023 and Samples are collected through mobile application. Soil Health Cards are generated on revamped portal. 56 Training sessions to States have been arranged for the new system.
2. Soil Health Card scheme has been merged in Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) cafeteria scheme as its one component under name 'Soil Health & Fertility' from the year 2022-23.