

TF (2) 16036/16

Directorate of Agriculture  
Thiruvananthapuram

22/04/2016

Circular

**Sub: -** Annual Plan 2016-17 Scheme on Soil Health Management and Productivity Improvement - **SCHEME FOR MONITORING SOIL HEALTH CARDS-** Working instructions-issued-

**Ref: -** 1.G.O.(MS) No.28/2016/AD dated 03/02/2016  
2. Circular No. TP(2) 10507/16 dated 10/04/2016 & 04/04/2016 of  
Director of Agriculture

As per the reference cited Government have accorded sanction during 2016-17 for the implementation of the scheme component "**Scheme for Monitoring Soil Health Cards**" for an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs under the head of A/c 2401-00-800-28 Plan from the total financial outlay of Rs. 2626.00 lakhs under **Soil Health Management and Productivity Improvement** Scheme. Provision has been given through Green Book for its implementation in the current year itself.

Soil test based fertilizer recommendation play a vital role in ensuring balanced nutrition to crop and also in preventing wasteful expenditure on the use of costly chemical fertilizers. The main benefits of the soil testing are to prevent the non judicious application of chemical fertilizers and to prevent the contamination of water bodies, ensure balanced nutrition to crops & to improve the production and productivity and to reduce the cost of cultivation of crops.

Fertilizer application based on soil test data reduces non judicious application of fertilizers and contamination of water bodies. Scientific cultivation practices coupled with balanced fertilizer recommendation will improve productivity. Soil test fertilizer application prevents the wasteful expenditure on the use of mineral fertilizers and reduces the cost of cultivation. Soil health cards which is issued as a part of the routine analysis

from the soil testing labs to the farmers are intended to make the farmers aware of the nutritional status of the soil. Future cropping patterns can be planned effectively by the farmers leading to increased productivity.

District Soil Testing Labs and Mobile Soil Testing labs of Department of Agriculture and Research institutions of Kerala Agricultural University, ICAR are the Government agencies undertaking the analysis of soil samples. The soil testing labs of the Department of Agriculture analyze the soils samples of farmers collected through Krishibhavans and issue soil health Cards showing present nutrient status, fertilizer recommendations for cultivation of different crops requested by the farmer. This programme is mainly intended to monitor the soil health cards issued through department labs as a part of their routine analysis so as to analyze how far the farmers are aware of adopting these practices recommended through department labs.

In 2009 the State Planning Board has prepared a document on soil testing in Kerala to strengthen the soil testing services. The present status of soil testing in the state, issues in each laboratory, potential for analysis, gaps in analysis, and an action plan for strengthening of laboratories were covered in the report. The Department of Agriculture has a network of 14 District Soil Testing laboratories. These laboratories analyze pH, EC, organic carbon, available P and K of the soil samples and are now equipped with Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer for the analysis of micro nutrients also.

#### **Objectives:-**

The main objectives of the scheme are as follows.

- Monitor the use of soil health card issued to the farmers through department labs as a part of their routine analysis.
- Evaluate the adoption level of recommendations shown in the soil health card
- Evaluate the benefits of adoption of soil health card recommendations
- To take corrective measures and assess the additions required

in the recommendations issued in soil health card

**Programme:-**

Selected farmers of each Krishi Bhavans will be contacted personally by the Agricultural Assistants and get the details of soil health cards issued, the adoption level of recommendations given in the soil health cards, benefits out of that etc. For recording the details of recommendations adopted and the benefits obtained out of this, a printed booklet will be issued from the Krishi Bhavan to the selected farmers and train the farmers to record the details in it. On verification of the printed booklets maintained by the selected farmers the effect of soil health card and adoption level can be monitored.

In each block, 2 Krishi Bhavans will be selected randomly for monitoring the soil health cards. From these selected Krishi Bhavans 10 farmers each will be selected randomly and the soil health cards issued to these farmers should be monitored. For recording the details pertaining to these selected farmers a printed booklet will be issued from Krishi Bhavans to these farmers. The extension personnel will motivate the farmers to record the details in the printed booklet. These records will be used for monitoring the soil health cards and adoption level of recommendations.

**Implementing areas:-**

This programme will be implemented in all the districts of the State. Total 304 Krishi Bhavans will be selected for implementation and the farmers selected will be 3040 nos.

**Financial outlay:-**

The amount required for the implementation of this programme during 2016-17 is ₹ 10.00 lakhs as given below.

Sl. No.	Item	Amount ( ₹ lakhs)
1	Purchase and printing of registers for farmers and Krishi Bhavans	3.60
2	Hire charges of vehicles as per requirement	3.00

3	Conducting awareness programmes, seminars and group discussions	2.00
4	Documentation of the programme	1.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.00</b>

In case of any savings arises in any one of the above components it can be utilized for implementing other components.

**Mode of Implementation: -**

The soil health cards will be issued to the selected farmers based on the analysis of the soil samples collected from the farmers field. The recommendations are also recorded in the soil health cards. The extension officers of the Department of Agriculture had already explained to the farmers about the importance of adoption of recommendations. Two Krishibhavans of each block should be selected for the monitoring of the adoption of recommendations in the soil health cards. From each Krishi Bhavan atleast 10 farmers will be selected for this programme. The selected farmers will be given printed booklets for recording the adoption of practices and the production and productivity of crops. These details should be collected by the Agricultural Assistants and consolidated reports given to the Agricultural Officers of the Krishi Bhavans. The Agricultural Officers should send the details to the Assistant Directors of the block and they will in turn report the details to the Assistant Soil Chemist. All the Assistant Soil Chemists of DSTLs will report the data to the Directorate of Agriculture through Chief Soil Chemist. The data will be processed and maintained at the State level by the Chief Soil Chemist for future use.

The Agricultural Officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan, Assistant Soil Chemist & Agricultural Officer of DSTLs should monitor the adoption of soil test data and give necessary direction to the farmers as and when required. The feed back of the results should be forwarded to the concerned laboratory. The laboratory should maintain a follow up register containing the details such as name and address of the farmer, location of sample, survey no, date of sampling, date of analysis, analytical data,

recommendation, etc.

At district level ASCs of DSTLs in each district will make arrangements for the conduct of the programme under the supervision & guidance of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM) who is in charge of the scheme in the district. He will supervise the selection of Krishibhavans, timely conduct of training in the selected Krishibhavans, co-ordination of the District Soil Testing Laboratories, reassigning the district level target to District Soil Testing Laboratories. The ADAs of the block will help the ASCs in selection of Krishibhavans, collection of soil samples, timely transportation of the samples to the labs and issue of soil health cards to the farmers & its monitoring.

Funds for all the components will be allotted to the Chief Soil Chemist who in turn will reallocate the same as per the scheme to the ASCs of DSTLs in each district with copy to the concerned PAOs for information. At the State Level the implementation of the programme will be monitored and reviewed regularly by the Chief Soil Chemist in the monthly meeting of the ASCs and report the progress to Director of Agriculture every month.

Assistant Director of Agriculture of the Block shall ensure that the Agricultural officers under their jurisdiction will coordinate and implement the programme as per the scheme.

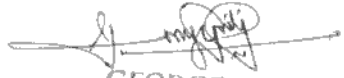
Expenditure will be met from the funds provided under the Head of Account 2401-00-800-28 Plan during 2016-17.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

Copy to:

- CA to Director of Agriculture
- CA to Additional Director of Agriculture (Plg)
- All PAOs
- Chief Soil Chemist & ASCs
- Stock File
- DDA IT cell for publishing in the website

  
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**SCHEME FOR MONITORING SOIL HEALTH CARDS**

Sl. No	Districts	No.of soil health card to be monitored
1	Thiruvananthapuram	220
2	Kollam	220
3	Pathanamthitta	160
4	Alappuzha	240
5	Kottayam	220
6	Ernakulam	280
7	Idukki	160
8	Thrissur	320
9	Palakkadu	260
10	Malappuram	300
11	Kozhikkod	240
12	Wayanad	80
13	Kannur	220
14	Kasargod	120
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3040</b>