

“National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility”

The Government is promoting soil test-based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally organic manures like farmyard manure, compost, *Nadep* compost, vermi compost and green manure to maintain soil health and its productivity. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers, since subsumed under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, provides for the promotion of soil test-based application of chemical fertilizers, strengthening of soil testing facilities in the country and setting up of compost plants for conversion of biodegradable waste into organic manure.

Now, Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers is taken out from the purview of Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme and now named as “National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility” with an outlay of Rs 429.85 crore for 11th Five Year Plan period. In addition, Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute Faridabad (CFQC& TI)/Regional Labs have also been subsumed in NPMSF scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2009. The NPMSF scheme is introduced from November, 2008.

The salient features of the scheme is given below:

NATIONAL PROJECT ON MANAGEMENT OF SOIL HEALTH & FERTILITY

The National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSF) is the new scheme and comprises three main components. These components are:

- A) Strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs)
- B) Promoting Use of Integrated Nutrient Management, and
- C) Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories.

New Scheme (NPMSF) for 11th Five Year.

A STRENGTHENING OF SOIL TESTING LABORATORIES

- i Setting up of new Soil Testing Laboratories (Static) – Physical Target during 11th Plan Period 500 Nos
- ii Strengthening of Existing Soil Testing Laboratories – during 11th Plan Period 315 Nos
- iii Capacity Building through training of STL staff/extension officers/farmers and field demonstration/ workshop etc. on balanced use of fertilizers – during 11th Plan Period 5,000 trainings for STL Staff and Field Functionaries, 1,000 trainings for farmers and 1,500 Field Demonstrations.
- iv Creation of Data Bank for site specific Balanced Use of Fertilizers -
- v Adoption of village by STLs (10 Villages each) through Frontline Field Demonstration (FFD) – during 11th Plan Period 8000 villages

- vi Preparation of Digital District Soil Maps and Global Positioning System (GPS) based Soil Fertility Monitoring – during 11th Plan Period 500 digital district soil maps

B PROMOTING USE OF INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- i Promotion of Organic Manuring – during 11th Plan Period 0.5million ha
- ii Promotion of Soil Amendments (lime/basic slag) in Acidic Soils – during 11th Plan Period 0.5 million ha
- iii Promotion and Distribution of Micronutrients – during 11th Plan Period 0.5 million ha

C STRENGTHENING OF FERTILIZER QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES (FQCLS)

- i. (a) Continuation of Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute Faridabad (CFQC& TI)/Regional Labs- during 11th Plan
- ii. (b) Strengthening of CFQC &TI/Regional Labs including setting up of 4 new Regional Labs- during 11th Plan
- iii. Strengthening/upgradation of the existing Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories – during 11th Plan Period 63 Nos.
- iv. Setting up of new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories by State Governments – during 11th Plan Period 20 Nos.
- v. Setting up of Fertilizer Testing Laboratories by Private/Co-operative Sector under PPP Mode For Advisory Purpose – during 11th Plan Period 50 Nos
- vi. Setting up of 250 new Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTL) in country.
