



## SOIL TESTING FOR SUCCESSFUL AGRICULTURE

### Why soil testing?

Soil testing is meant for finding out basically the chemical and physical parameters of soil health and then deciding appropriate nutrition management to ensure good crop growth, yield and quality of produce. Based on specific requirements, even the biological health parameters are also tested for decision making.

### Is it a must to get soil testing done? If yes, why?

For an efficient and profitable agriculture, it is an absolute necessity to do soil testing at regular interval. This will help in understanding the status of soil health.

It should be understood, growing agricultural crops is not by natural selection but by introduction. This, along with our agronomic manipulations, results in changes in soil health parameters. Hence, in most situations, this would not provide optimum growing conditions for the "crop". Soil test will help understanding this.

This is like having a regular health check-up in human beings.

### What are the benefits of soil testing?

Soil testing in short term guides in developing appropriate agronomic program for maintaining soil health and an efficient crop nutrient management depending on the crop. It also helps in managing problematic soils by taking suitable remedial measures to make it more fertile and productive.

### What should be the frequency of soil testing?

Soil testing should be done at least once in three years. In case of high cropping intensity, it is recommended to do soil testing prior to each cropping season.

### Does soil testing help in fertilizer recommendations?

Yes, definitely. In fact, decision on fertilizer application should be based on soil test values to meet the requirement of the intended crop to be grown. This helps not only in making balanced bioavailability of nutrients but also avoiding possible wasteful applications.

Key to this guide is the proper way of drawing samples, and accurate analysis and the interpretation of the results.

### What are the parameters that the soil sample has to be analysed?

Soil can be analysed for the following parameters depending on requirement:

- pH, EC, Organic Carbon, Calcium Carbonate
- Major secondary and micronutrients
- Physical parameters such as textural classes, BD, PD, Water Holding Capacity, Salinity/ Sodicity parameters.

**As a part of our customer support, we should encourage  
all our farmers for soil testing.**