

Perception and Adoption of Soil Health Cards (SHCs) by the farmers in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

G S Roy, S Neelaveni, P Venkata Rao and D Chinnam Naidu

Department of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College, Naira, A. P.

ABSTRACT

Soil testing is a tool for better management of the soil health as it indicates the nutrient and fertility status and it is pivotal for getting sustainable crop yields and also maintain sustainability of soil. In this context a study was designed to study perception and adoption of soil health cards by the farmers in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh with the objective of study the perception and adoption of soil health cards, to find out the deviations in adoption of SHC recommendations and to find out the constraints and suggestions regarding Soil Health cards. Expost facto Research design was followed. The total sample size was 60. Results revealed that among the selected respondent soil health card holders, 71.66 percent of the respondents had moderate perception followed by good perception (15.01) and poor perception (13.33). Soil health card holders adopted the fertilizer applications based on the recommendations of Soil Health Card. Results revealed that majority (81.66 %) of the respondent farmers adopted the recommended dose of phosphate fertilizers without deviation but 71.66 per cent of the respondent farmers adopted the excessive dosage of nitrogen fertilizer. Nearly half (53.3%) of the respondents adopted the lesser dose than the recommended dose of potash fertilizer followed by 41.66 per cent respondents adopted the recommended dose. Soil health card holder respondents perceived the constraints of delay in issuing Soil health cards (63.33%), lack of awareness about soil sampling (53.33%) and lack of guidance (38.33%). Respondent farmers suggested that timely distribution of Soil Health Cards (65.00%), awareness meetings on Soil Health Cards should be conducted (53.33%) and timely supply of fertilizers (46.66%). Department Officers perceived the reasons for non adoption of soil health card recommendations were lack of awareness among farmers on the importance of soil health and balanced fertilization (76.66%), lack of awareness about the importance of Soil Health Card recommendations (66.66%) and illiteracy of farmers and they don't know the fertilizer calculation (63.33%). Role of Agricultural Extension functionaries, KVKs and NGOs may be promoted to create awareness on soil testing and use of soil health cards.

Keyword: *Adoption, Perception, Soil testing and Soil Health Card,*