

Research Article

Soil testing towards sustainable agriculture and land management : Farmer beliefs and attitudes

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Summary

In present scenario, sustaining the declining productivity consequent upon depleting soil fertility due to imbalance use of fertilizers and thus deterioration of chemical, biological and or physical properties of soil is the main concern of scientists. Balance use of fertilizers is one of the important indicators of better productivity, sustainable land management and better soil health. In order to attain higher productivity and profitability, farmers need to realize that fertility levels must be measured, so as the recommendations can be used to manage long-term soil fertility. The present study undertaken regarding response to soil testing revealed that nearly 74 per cent respondents shown favourable response which was reflected by rise in nutrient consumption per unit area and their enhanced annual net income under various cropping patterns. They were in agreement with the fact that soil testing is the ultimate way towards sustainable agriculture and land management. The study also publicized that majority of the farmers under study had knowledge about soil testing and applying the knowledge gained from the scientist of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Katni, Department of Farmer's welfare and Agriculture Development and IFFCO. Most of the respondents were disagreed with the attitude statements and revealed unfavorable attitude towards soil testing. More than half of the farmers were in agreement with the statements 'soil testing is necessary for sustainable land management and it is important for future generation'. Response to soil testing, in general, was reasonable but, still much attention is needed to inspire the farmers for soil testing practices by organizing trainings on its importance and role in soil fertility management for sustainable crop production followed by soil test and health campaigns.

Key words : Response, Knowledge, Attitude, Soil fertility, Soil testing, Sustainable agriculture

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