



## RESEARCH PAPER

# Study on impact of soil health card based fertilizers recommendation on crop productivity and farmer's income - A case study in Saharsa district of Bihar

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**Abstract :** Soil is the basic component of agriculture which contains nutrients and provides to plant for proper growth. Due to indiscriminate use of fertilizer the soil health has degraded in recent past. Considering these facts Government of India has launched soil health card scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Since inception of soil health card scheme in order to increase agricultural production and sustain soil health, a large number of soil health cards have been distributed to the farmers of Saharsa district of Bihar. In order to assess the impact of soil health card, on production, productivity of maize crop and farmer's income by studying the economics of cultivation of maize crop, the present study was carried out in Saharsa district of Bihar. The present work has been comprise of 140 soil tested farmers before and after the application of recommended doses of fertilizer as per soil health card. An interview schedule was prepared for the collection of data from the beneficiaries of soil health card. Data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. The data indicated that yield of maize crop increased by 4.12 per cent, after adopting recommendation of soil health card. The net income per acre increased from Rs. 3566 to Rs. 8558 (58.33%) after adoption of recommended doses of fertilizer. The B:C ratio increased by 23.11 per cent after adoption of soil health card. Thus, issue of soil health card to the farmers which carry crop wise recommendation of nutrients and fertilizer required for the individual farm to help farmers to improve productivity and net income. However, there is an urgent need to aware farmers about the importance of soil health card with the help of information technology as well as strengthening of present infrastructure of soil testing laboratories to increase quantity and quality of soil sample testing.

**Key Words :** Soil health card, Productivity, Income, Sustainability

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