

- 1-2 case studies of each of the six geospatial components have been completed. In North Eastern States, the site suitability plan for horticultural expansion in 1 block in each State has been completed.
- Under R&D study the precision farming and signature study work have been completed.

Under Sample Survey component, field work of Phase-I and Phase-II has been completed in all the participating States.

(c) The project will be helpful in the development of horticulture sector of the country in the following aspects:-

- More accurate and reliable early estimates of horticultural crops would be helpful in making strategic policies for sectoral horticulture development, promote exports, and reduce Post Harvest losses by creation of Post Harvest Management infrastructure like storages, markets etc. in strategic areas identified through Remote Sensing.
- The geospatial studies will help in horticultural expansion in highly suitable areas identified through Remote Sensing and horticultural infrastructure development, which will give farmers higher productivity and thus increase their income.
- The precision farming studies will help in improving the 'resource use efficiency' of horticultural farming thereby increasing the productivity and income of farmers.

Issuance of Soil Health Cards

1292. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Soil Health Cards (SHCs) issued to farmers so far;
- (b) the details of total expenditure so far;
- (c) the details of SHCs issued in Kerala;
- (d) the details of sample collected for issuing SHCs in Kerala; and
- (e) the total number of mobile labs and mini labs started during 2014-15 to 2016-17?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Under Soil Health Cards Scheme, so far 1007.64 lakh and 96.34 lakh soil health cards have

been issued to farmers in cycle-I (2015-17) and cycle-II (2017-19) respectively and an expenditure of ₹ 36833.67 lakh is incurred.

(c) and (d) A total number 740232 Soil Health Cards have been issued to farmers and 183790 soil samples collected for issuing Soil Health Cards in Kerala.

(e) The State Governments have set up 48 mobile labs and 4747 mini labs during 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Decrease in nutritional value of foodgrains

1293. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per reports of National Institute of Nutrition, our foodgrains, vegetables and fruits are losing their nutritional food values sharply;

(b) if so, the details of nutritional values of various food items recorded in evaluation study;

(c) whether scientists have also suggested any corrective measures to improve the nutritional value of food products because it is very sensitive matter;

(d) whether the Institute has also studied about nutritional values of grains, vegetables and fruits of other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) As per the recent Indian Food Composition Tables-2017 (IFCT) on 150 nutrient and bioactive substances of various foodgrains, vegetables, fruits etc., there was no sharp increase or decrease in the macro and micro nutritional content of foodgrains, vegetables and fruits compared to the previous data base. However, some of the nutrients in various foods have shown little decrease or increase, which is considered to be normal variation in food analysis. The detailed report containing more than 500 pages, as prepared by National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad is available on the website link: www.ifct2017.com.

(c) The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have developed many high yielding varieties/hybrids which have quality attributes also. Some of the high yielding nutrient