

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 986
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2023

SOIL HEALTH KIT DEVELOPED BY ICAR

986 **SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:**

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that a soil health kit was developed by ICAR under the All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity that allows farmers to monitor soil health without scientific skills and equipment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Central Government to promote the use of such soil kits in India, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise list of total soil kits distributed in the last two years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) Yes Sir, Coordinated Centre located at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University of ICAR - All India Network Project on Soil Biodiversity has recently developed a soil health kit to assess biological health of the soils based on soil respiration using indicator “Gel probe” which changes its color based on the amount of CO₂ evolved from soil.

(b) The kit has been validated and demonstrated among various stakeholders namely farmers, students, scientists, state officials etc. to sensitize and create awareness.

(c) So far, 120 kits have been distributed to farmers of the State of Tamil Nadu.
