



Soil Testing Programme

The Soil Testing Programme organised by Birla White, is an initiative to educate farmers about soil fertility and productivity.

A study of the soil profile is imperative from the crop husbandry point of view, since it reveals the surface and the sub-surface characteristics and qualities such as depth, texture, structure, drainage conditions and soil-moisture relationship which directly affect the plant growth. A study of soil profile supplemented by physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil will give full picture of soil fertility and productivity.

Objective of the Programme:

As part of the initiative, the farmers were given a soil health card which will educate them about the deficiency of major and micro nutrients, as well as provide information on the measures to be taken. It has been scientifically proven that if the farmers follow the steps recommended in soil health card, there will be a substantial improvement in productivity.

Methodology:

The CSR Team organised group meetings in different villages and the soil testing programme was conducted at the doorsteps of the farmers. The CSR team associated with conducted soil and water testing in their mobile soil van for 122 farmers across different villages.

The best part of the programme was that farmers got the services at their doorsteps and a soil health card was given to them 15 days later. The soil card provided a detailed analysis of the deficiency of major nutrients such as potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus and micro nutrients such as iron, manganese, zinc, copper and chlorine. The report also stated the pH value of soil and its electrical conductivity.

Deficiency Symptoms of Major Nutrients in Plants

Nitrogen

- Light green in colour
- Lower leaves turn yellow
- Dries up quickly

Phosphorus

- Dark green in colour
- Lower leaves turn yellow
- Stunted growth
- Smaller leaves

Potassium

- Leaves turn brown in colour
- Slender stem

