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## 52 lakh farmers to get soil health cards

- Staff Reporter

*They would help reduce input cost for farmers in addition to giving better yield, says Pocharam*

Minister for Agriculture Pocharam Srinivas Reddy said that the government will distribute soil health cards to about 52.37 lakh farmers in the next one year.

Addressing farmers after formally distributing soil health cards at Gajwel constituency on Wednesday, Mr. Srinivas Reddy said that this programme was launched for the first time in the State. “The farmers can know about the health conditions of their soil. This was taken up on an experimental basis at Gajwel in Medak, Indravelli in Adilabad and Timmajipet mandal in Mahabubnagar district. The responsibility of soil testing was entrusted to a consultancy. Now the farmers can take up farming that suits the land instead of going for other crops,” he said. The Minister said that this would reduce the input cost for farmers in addition to giving better yield.

Informing that there are about 1.15 crore acres of land out of which 70 lakh acres are rain-fed and 45 lakh acres under borewells, wells and irrigation projects, the Minister said that these cards would be extended to all the 52.37 lakh farmers across the State in the next one year. Stating that stabilisation of support price and insurance are in the hands of Union government, Mr. Srinivas Reddy said that they have proposed Rs. 3,941 for a tonne of A grade paddy followed by Rs. 3,079 for B grade and Rs. 2,750 for maize to the Union government. He said that organic farming would be taken up in 15,000 acres under Paramparaagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

K. Prabhakar Reddy, MP, B Hukya Naik, JD Agriculture, and others participated in the programme.

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