



SOIL SAMPLING

WHY?

- Provides useful information about the chemical and nutrient properties of soil.
- Monitor nutrients and pH management (lime requirement)
- Determine the fertilizer requirements.

WHEN?



1. After first ploughing



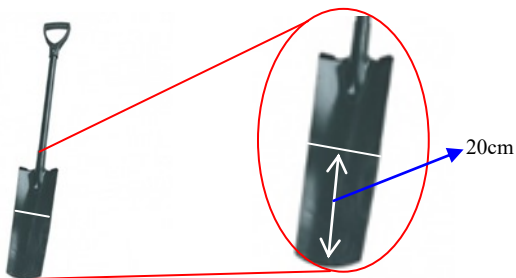
2. End of fallow land



3. Straight after harvest of the last ratoon before soil cultivation

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Clean spade marked at 20cm height.
- Clean plastic bucket, plastic bag, tag & card



SRIF - FERTILIZER ADVISORY SERVICE											
Soil Sampling Card						Form: SRIF/MS/01/02					
Soil No. (SRIF)	Date: _____					Station	Date Recd.:				
Soil No.	Owner's Name	Field No.	Field Name	Field Size	Field Type	Soil Type	Soil Depth	Soil Moisture	Soil Temp.	Soil pH	Soil EC
Soil No.	Field No.	Field Name	Field Size	Field Type	Soil Type	Soil Depth	Soil Moisture	Soil Temp.	Soil pH	Soil EC	Soil Analysis
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HOW?



Remove trash /weeds / Vegetation. From the soil Surface before taking the sample Dig a hole of 20cm depth

....soil sampling for optimum fertilizer input....

Take soil samples from the hole at 5cm above or below the 20cm depth.

- Collect 20 sub samples as a representative sample in 0.4ha (1 acre) and 1 soil sample in consequent 0.4ha (1 acre) (same field).



Place sub-samples in a clean plastic bucket/bag.

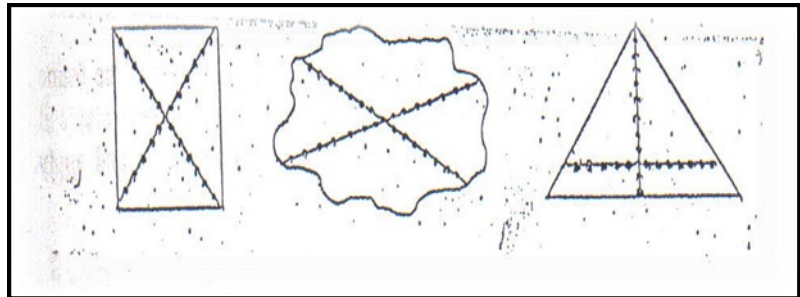
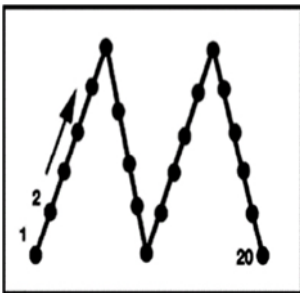


Mix them together within the bucket/bag



Take about 250grams portion and place it in a clean plastic bag.

SAMPLING PATTERNS?



WHAT IS THE TURNAROUND TIME FOR SOIL TESTING?

- Turnaround time is dependent on the number of samples received.
- Depends on the condition of soil received. (Wet, large lumps, etc.)
- Generally takes approximately 2-6 weeks to return soil results to respective sector office.

BENEFITS OF TIMELY SOIL ANALYSIS?

- Increase yield = increase economic return.
- Prevents over fertilising = cost saving
- Increase fertiliser use efficiency.
- Improve soil health
- Determine lime and nutrient needs

REQUIRED INFORMATION BEFORE SENDING SOIL TO SRIF: (WRITE ON TAG)

1. Farm number
2. Growers name
3. Sector name/number
4. Date of sampling
5. Sampled by
6. Crop age: fallow/plant
7. Soil type