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Q72

Consider the following statements: The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at 1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation. 2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality. 3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands. Which of the above statements is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Option (a) is 1 and 2 only. Soil Health Card does not aim to expand irrigated area, nor is it a bank tool to size crop loans from soil quality. Both 1 and 2 are false. This option is not the key.

(b) Official key

The scheme tests soil and recommends nutrient doses so farmers avoid blanket NPK use. Checking overuse of fertilisers is the intended outcome in statement 3. Statements 1 and 2 are not scheme aims. Hence 3 only is the official key.

(c)

Option (c) is 2 and 3 only. Banks do not set loan quantum from the card. Statement 2 is false. This option is not the key.

(d)

Option (d) is all three. Irrigation expansion and bank-loan assessment are not SHC objectives. This option is therefore wrong.

Summary

Official key is (b) 3 only. **Soil Health Card (2015)** reports NPK, micronutrients and pH and advises fertiliser doses. That is meant to curb excess chemical use. It is not an irrigation-area programme and not a credit-appraisal device for banks. Only statement 3 is correct.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Soil Health Card cycle

Originally a two-year testing cycle for farm holdings

Nodal ministry

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Parameters

N, P, K, S, micronutrients, pH, EC, organic carbon

PM-KISAN / irrigation schemes

Separate from SHC; do not confuse with AIBP or PMKSY

INM

Integrated Nutrient Management, the agronomic idea behind SHC

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