

# Sector Brief – October 2015

**Current scenario: Soil Health Card portal developed for registration of soil samples in India.**

Union Agriculture Minister has launched PGS-India, Soil Health Card and FQCS Web Portals. Under the scheme, a Soil Health Card portal has been developed for registration of soil samples, recording test results of soil samples and generation of Soil Health Card (SHC) along with Fertilizer Recommendations. It promotes uniform adoptions of codes for e.g. Census Codes for locations. The system has sample tracking feature and will provide alerts to farmers about sample registration and generation of Soil Health Card through SMS and Email. At present, general fertilizer recommendations are followed by farmers for primary nutrients. However, secondary and micro nutrients are often overlooked leading to deficiency of nutrients like Sulphur, Zinc and Boron. This has become a limiting factor in increasing food productivity.

## **Future Trends:**

Crop insurance is largely untapped in India but premium from agriculture insurance has a potential to touch \$1 billion in 3-5years, says a report by Swiss Re. It will enable India to become a food-secure nation. Farmers should be provided affordable and easy access to facilities like vaccination of animals, advice on best farming practices, and market and weather information.

India has a huge potential in agri cooperation with foreign countries. Ukraine seeks to deepen agricultural cooperation with India. In the first eight months of 2015, agricultural trade turnover between Ukraine and India has reached \$795.7 million. The Fiji-India Business Council has sought technical assistance from India to further develop Fiji's agriculture sector. India leads in processed food exports and there is a growing market for these products in Australia and New Zealand.

## **Policy News:**

PM Narendra Modi has announced \$150 million for health, agriculture, and renewable energy sector in the country.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to a Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF). The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) will set it up through the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) by creation of a common electronic platform deployable in selected regulated markets across the country. An amount of Rs. 200 crore has been earmarked for the scheme from 2015-16 to 2017-18.