
From Soil to Success: The Unseen Benefit of Soil Testing

The story of Gunabhai Gujjar, a farmer from Dhokadva, Gujarat.



Mr. Gunabhai Gujjar, from the village of Dhokadva in Gujarat, India, is a farmer with 4.5 acres of land. He has been growing cotton and other crops for 35 years.

In the early years, he used chemical fertilisers without soil testing, often scattering DAP and other fertilisers indiscriminately. Sowing seeds without certainty was a common practice.



He joined the agriculture program in 2015 – 2016. Everything changed when he joined this program run by SSKK -Shikshan Ane Samaj Kalyan Kendra(supported by Better Cotton and Cotton Connect). Through frequent training sessions, monthly learning group meetings, and field visits by our Field Facilitator, he has gained invaluable knowledge. A dedicated facilitator named

Jignesh Gujjar visits his fields regularly to provide insights on enhancing soil fertility. Based on soil testing reports, the facilitator recommends the precise nutrients needed for his soil.

Gunabhai attended a significant training session held in Kodinar, which highlighted the benefits of soil testing. His soil test results revealed imbalances: high levels of Nitrogen and DAP but low Organic Carbon. By following these recommendations provided by the program's facilitator, he has seen a 15-20% improvement in production. "My crop and soil have changed dramatically since past years," he says. The Organic Carbon content in his soil is gradually increasing, making it more porous and friable. This care for the soil has led to higher quality crops, as well as lower costs.



Last year, he was trained to make Biochar fertiliser. For the next few years, he aims to maintain the Organic Carbon content in his field using biochar and reduce chemical fertilisers, supported by the Organization's resources, training and campaigns.

To maintain soil fertility, he has adopted several practices:

- Organic Matter: Using grass, Leaves, and crop residues helps retain nutrients.
- Crop Rotation: This maintains soil fertility and nutrient balance.
- Deep Ploughing: Loosens the soil and provides more oxygen to the roots.

Through these efforts, guided by the organisation, he has been continuously improving his soil's health. The encouragement he receives feels like a new lease on life. He says, "The program's commitment to preserving the environment, restoring soil health, and maintaining human health is commendable.

He said that he is thankful for the support of the programme partner and would encourage other farmers to look for similar support systems.