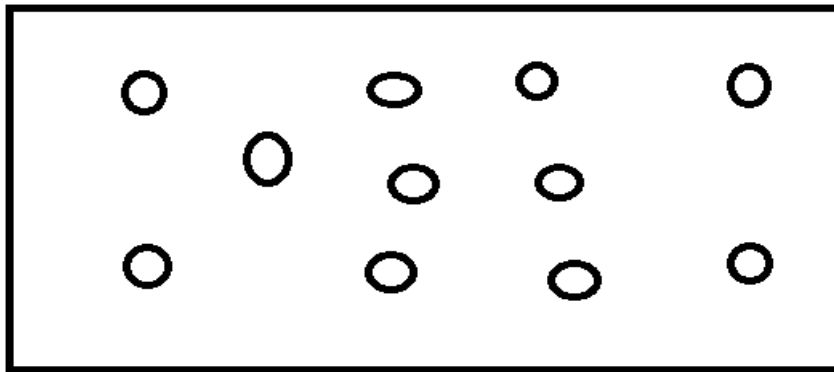


Collection Of Soil Samples For Crops

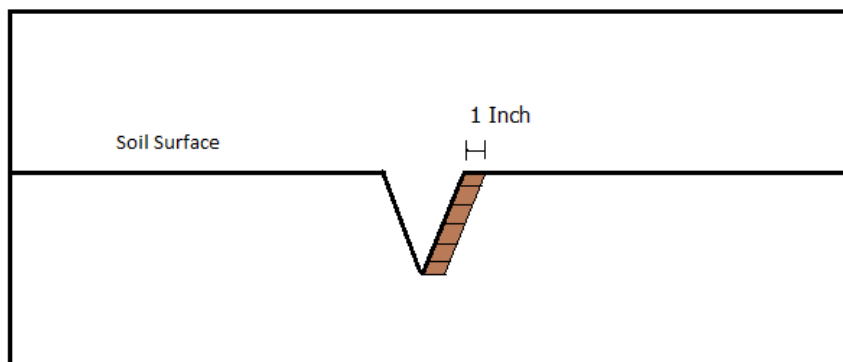
- i. Sample each field separately. However, where the areas within a field differ distinctly in crop growth, appearance of the soils, or in elevation, or are known to have been cropped or fertilized and manured differently, divided the field and sample each area separately.
- ii. **Sampling from Open fields:** To collect a composite sample from Open field, each area, scrape away surface litter, not the soil. Select a number of spots in the field (10 to 15 per acre) as shown in **Table-1**.

Table-1:



- iii. **Sampling from cropped fields:** Where crops have been planted in lines (rows), take sample between the lines.
- iv. Then take a uniform thick from the surface to plough depth. If a spade or a trowel is used, dig a v-shaped hole as shown in **Table-2**, then cut out a uniform thick slice of soil from bottom to the exposed soil face, collect the sample in your hand and place it in the bucket.

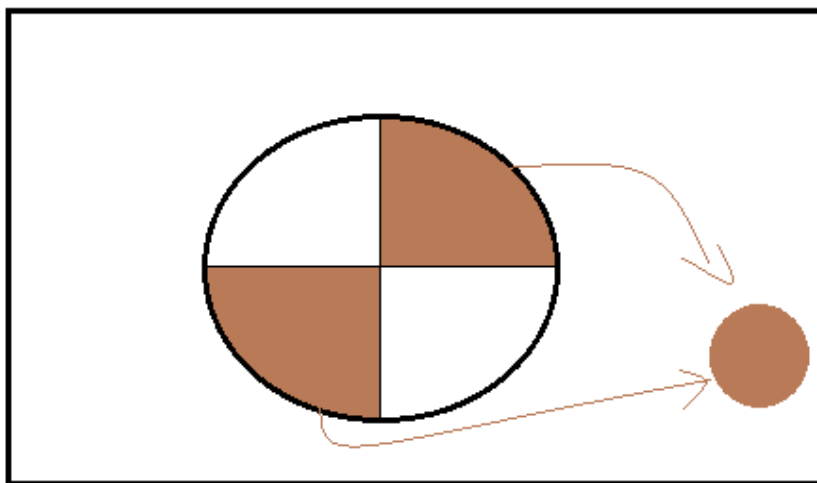
Table-2



- v. Pour the soil from the bucket on a piece of clean cloth or plain paper and mix thoroughly, discard, by quartering as shown in **Table-3**, all but $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 kg. Quarterly may be done by mixing sample well, dividing it into four equal parts, then rejecting two opposite quarters,

mixing the remaining two portions, again dividing into four parts and rejecting two opposite quarters, and so on up to the desired quantity of soil sample. The sample should be dried in the shade for an hour or two before it put into the cloth bag/container.

Table-3



- vi. Each cloth bag should be large enough to hold about 1 kg. of soil, and should be properly marked to identify the sample(Name of the farmer, village, Name of the field, depth of the sample).
- vii. Soil sample information sheet should be prepared for each sample. This sheet may be sent separately to the laboratory or enclosed with the soil sample.
- viii. Send the soil samples to the nearest Soil Testing Laboratory.
- ix. Keep a record of the Soil samples along with area sampled and a simple sketch/map for reference.
- x. Do not sample unusual area. Avoid areas recently fertilized, old bunds, near trees, compost piles, other non-representative locations.