



INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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F.No. 1-12/2008-SW&DF

June 9, 2008

To



Dr. A. SUBBA Rao  
Director  
Indian Institute for Soil Science  
Nabi Bagh, Berasia Road  
Bhopal (MP)  
FAA - 0755- 2733310

Subject :- Regarding RTI Information on "Organic Carbon"

Sir,

Shri Atul Kumar Singh, New Delhi has sought the information on the following points under RTI Act :

- i) What was organic carbon in our soils before green revolution?
- ii) Was it between 3-4%?
- iii) Now it is reported to be about 0.04 to 0.05 - is it correct?
- iv) What is the minimum i.e. critical? Is it 0.08?

You are therefore, requested to kindly send the pointwise reply to the Council by return fax/ E mail.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. A.K. Misra

A.S.M.

9/6/08

(P.D. SHARMA)  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOILS)

14/6-2008/RTI/1155

F. No. PS/12-4/2008  
Dated 09/06/2008

To

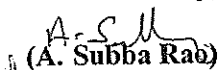
Dr. P.D. Sharma  
Assistant Director General (Soils)  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II  
PUSA GATE New Delhi - 110 012]

Sub: Regarding RTI Information on "Organic Carbon"

Kindly refer to your letter No, 1-12/2008-SW&DF dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 on the subject cited above. The desired information item wise is furnished below:

1.	What was organic carbon in our soils before green revolution?	Cultivated soils of India before green revolution (Reference from Jenny and Roychaudhury, 1960) IndoGangetic plain = 0.416% (Alluvial soil) North West India=0.446% North East India =1.31% (hilly region) South east=0.32% West coast =0.74% (Dry coastal region) Deccan Plateau=0.53%
2.	Was it between 3-4%?	No, it is not true that average soil organic carbon percentage in Indian soils is 3-4%. Only North West Himalayan (Dehra Dun-Mussoorie it was 1.44-3.3.7% where the precipitation was 216 cm to 224 cm at 1524-2134m elevation (Reference Jenny and Roychaudhury, 1960). Rest of cultivated soils, it is not true.
3.	Now it is reported to be about 0.04 to 0.05 - is it correct?	No
4.	What is the minimum i.e critical? Is it 0.08?	There is no critical or threshold limit available for the same. It varies from 0.1 to 1% and minimum is 0.5% organic carbon.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A. Subba Rao)  
Director

✓ CC: Dr. A.K. Misra, PIO

PS  
AKM  
9/6/08