

Annexure-6

“ADVISORY SERVICE ON FRUIT PLANT NUTRITION TO THE FRUIT GROWERS OF THE HIMACHAL PRADESH”

This service facilitates the citizen to apply for analysis of the representative leaf samples drawn from his orchard. The service provides to diagnose the nutrient status of the orchard along with the recommendation for judicious application of nutrients and fertilizers to meet the nutritional requirement of plants in the orchard. The Senior Analytical Officer, Directorate of Horticulture, Navbahar, Shimla-2 is authorized to get the leaf samples analyzed and issue recommendations on the application of manure/fertilizers/ macro/micronutrients.

Specified Procedure for leaf analysis and issue of recommendation:

(1) The orchardist submits an application on the prescribed format for collection of leaf samples at particular physiological stage from his orchard or submits the application along with healthy leaf samples already drawn by him from his/her orchard to the Horticulture Development Officer of the block/centre.

(2) In case the application is not accompanied with the leaf samples, the Horticulture Development Officer advises /gets the leaf samples drawn as per specified procedure.

(3) The Specified Procedure for drawl of leaf samples from the orchards is as follows:

1. Mark the area to be sampled.
2. Sample should represent the general condition of the orchard. Provide proper information about orchard in prescribed information sheet given in application.
3. Do not expose the collected sample to the direct sun and excessive heat. Dry the collected leaves in shade or if possible send the collected clean samples immediately to nearest drying and Grinding centers.* (Link for Centers)
4. Take mid point leaves with petioles from the current year growth.
5. Do not take leaves from the diseased or off type plants.
6. Collect leaves variety wise and write information on individual packets containing samples.
7. Collects leaves diagonally in a block of selected trees, picking 2-4 leaves from each alternate trees on right and left. Collect samples which are easy in reach and from all sides of plant.
8. Avoid samples from plants which are in shady area, outside on border and are towards dusty roads.
9. Take about 40-50 leaves in a sample.

Deciduous Fruits: Plants which shed their leaves in winters (Apple, Pear, Cherry, Peach, Plum, Apricot and Almond). Pick leaves from the mid-point

of current season's terminals growth, between July, 1 and August, 15. If sample is to represent the general condition of the orchard, do not take leaves from the spurs.

Citrus : Pick 4-7 months old spring cycle leaves from non-fruiting terminals.

Mango: Pick leaves during peak period of flowering from the latest mature flush and from middle of terminal growth. Samples should be from the nonflowering terminals.

Grapes: Select the youngest mature leaf from the bearing primary shoot well exposed to light between July, 1 and August, 15.

All the orchardists in Himachal Pradesh are eligible to avail the service of leaf analysis from the department of Horticulture (H.P.). The application form is available at annexure -1. No specific supporting documents with application form and the service is provided free of cost.

Steps involved:

Step 1. The applicant shall submit the application in prescribed format, along with the leaf samples.

Step 2. The application along with samples will be routed to the respective Horticulture Development Officer (HDO).

Step 3. The HDO, who receives the application for leaf analysis service shall validate the application form and condition of leaf samples.

- a. If the applicant's details are incomplete, the HDO will assist the applicant to complete the form based upon information provided by him.

Step 4. The accepted applications and leaf samples will be forwarded to concerned laboratory for analyzing the samples for available nutrients ranges and for recommending the minerals/ fertilizers.

Step 5. The Competent Authority will issue the analysis report and recommendations to the farmers. A digital report with recommendations will be uploaded. He will email a copy to HDO and marks the Application status as completed.

Step 6. The applicant will be notified about the completion status along with the recommendation.