Abstract

Soil Survey of Karakulam panchayat in Nedumnagad Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram district was undertaken to collect information on the resource base in the panchayat. The survey was conducted during the month of October and November, 1999. The data obtained was then interpreted to arrive at suitable suggestions for the development of the area. The panchayat extends over an area of 2501 ha. The gardenland covers an area of 2067.52 ha. The soils identified in the garden land are Nedumnagad, Trivandrum, Vilappil, Karamana and Mukkunni series. Nedumangad series covers an area of 1027.77 ha (47%), Vilappil series 627.76 ha (28.96%), Trivandrum series 284.04 ha (13%), Mukunni series 81.95 ha (3.78%) and Karamana series an area of 46 ha (2%). Kuttichal series is the only soil identified in the wetland and it occupies an area of 10 ha. The soils in the converted wetlands (317.79 ha) are classified under miscellaneous land type. Rocks occupy considerable area in the panchayat especially in Kallayam, Ayanikkad, Enikkara and Paravoorkkonam wards.

The major crops cultivated in the gardenland are coconut, rubber, banana, tapioca, pepper, cashew, fruit crops and tuber crops. Most of the area under wetland is converted to garden lands for the cultivation of coconut and mixed crops. Paddy is grown only in a very limited extent.

The main problems in the panchayat are drought, severe soil erosion, conversion of wetlands and quarrying.