ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Pothencode panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram taluk of Thiruvananthapuram district. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics of the panchayat viz., area, soils of the area, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

Pothencode panchayat comprising an area of 2044 ha is located in the northwestern part of Thiruvananthapuram taluk of Thiruvananthapuram district. Garden lands covering an area of 1621.87 ha is under coconut based mixed cropping system mostly in the homesteads. The area under wet lands is 94.57 ha. Normally, two crops of paddy are raised and vegetables and pulses are grown during the third crop season. An area of 293.97 ha, once under paddy cultivation has been converted for cultivating crops such as coconut, tapioca and banana.

Six soil series have been identified in the panchayat. Trivandrum, Thonnakkal and Mukkunni are the garden land soil series, while Amaravila, Marukil and Kunnathukal are the wet land soil series.

Agriculture in the panchayat is mainly rainfed. Dryland crops include coconut, rubber, tapioca, banana, vegetables, ginger, yam etc. Scarcity of water during summer is the major problem of the panchayat. Hence, possibilities of starting minor irrigation schemes need to be explored.

Crop yields are generally low in the panchayat which calls for appropriate soil and water management schemes and adoption of high yielding varieties.