ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Arookutty panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey Unit, Department of Agriculture during January - February 2007 to assess the soil and land resources, to identify the problems and to suggest suitable development plans for the area. The report gives a detailed account of the general land characteristics, soils of the area, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

Arookutty panchayat encompass an area of 1110 ha is located in Cherthala taluk of Alappuzha district. Physiographically, the panchayat comes under lowland region. The major crops in the panchayat are coconut and paddy. The garden land covers an area of 525 ha and coconut based mixed cropping is prevalent in the area. The wetland covers an area of 187 ha. A single crop of paddy (pokkali cultivation) followed by prawn culture is the traditional practice followed in the wetlands. During the survey, four soil series were identified in the panchayat; Kavur (343 ha) and Kattur (138.0 ha) soils in the garden land and Cherukole (132 ha) and Thuravur (55 ha) soils in the wetland. As the panchayat is located lowlands, floods and saline water ingress from Vembanad kayal are the major problems.

The area has been classified under land capability classes III and IV and the land irrigability classes 3 and 4. IVs is the predominant land capability subclass and 3s, the land irrigability subclass. Loamy sand is the predominant surface texture. In general the soils are very deep and the erosion is slight or nil. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, crop suitability, soil fertility and production potential of the soils were made. The main problems that are encountered in the panchayat and its suggested management are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are also appended.