ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Cheppad panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture to assess the resources, to identify the problem and to suggest suitable development plans for the area. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics and soils of the area, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

Cheppad panchayat comprising an area of 1267 ha is located in Karthikapally 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 450 ha and coconut based mixed cropping is prevalent. The wetland covers an area of 586 ha. During the survey three soil series have been identified in the panchayat. Mannar (450 ha) is the soils identified in the garden land. Cherukole (256 ha) and Champakulam (330 ha) are the soils identified in the wetland. The panchayat comes under lowlands and floods and saline water ingress from Vembanad kayal are the major problems.

The land capability class encountered are II, III and IV and 2, 3 and 4 are the land irrigability classes. IIIIs is the predominant land capability subclass and 2s, 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.