ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Kadakkarappally panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2007 to assess the resources of the area, to identify the problems and to suggest suitable development programmes for sustained and integrated development of the area.

Kadakkarappally panchayat is located in Cherthala taluk of Alappuzha district and extends over 894 ha. The panchayat is part of the coastal low land tract. The garden land covers an area of 719.0 ha and is cultivated with coconut, banana, cashew, vegetables, tapioca, etc. The total wetland area is 101.0 ha. Paddy is cultivated only in 9.5 ha. Koottumundakan system of cultivation is adopted. Water logging, salt water intrusion, pest and disease incidence, and high cost of cultivation are the constraints in paddy cultivation. The remaining area of wetland is either kept fallow or cultivated with vegetables during the summer. The soil series identified in the garden land are Kavur, Punnapra and Punnamada. The major portion of the garden land is under Kavur series (567.0 ha) followed by Punnapra series (120.0 ha). Thuravur series (101.0 ha) is the only soil identified in the wetland.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses III, IV and IVsw and land irrigability subclasses 3s, 3sd and 4sd were recognized in the panchayat. IVsw and 3s are the predominant land capability class and land irrigability class respectively. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, crop suitability, fertility and production potential of the soils are also included in the report. The problems encountered in the panchayat are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are appended.