ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Kumarapuram panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2000-2001 to assess the resources, to identify the problem and to suggest suitable development plans of the area. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics of land and soils of the area, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

The panchayat spreads over an area of 1110 ha and is located in the northern part of Karthikappally taluk in Alappuzha district. Physiographically, the panchayat comes under lowland region. The major crops in the panchayat are coconut and paddy. During the course of detailed soil survey five soil series were identified viz. Punnamada, Kannamangalam, Mannar, Karuvatta and Pallipad. Punnamada series occupies the major share of the panchayat area (346.5 ha). Paddy is cultivated in an area of 26 ha.

The soils of this panchayat are classified into three land capability classes such as III w, III s and IV ws and three land irrigability classes such as 2 s, 2 d and 3 ds. The predominant land capability subclass is III w and 2 d, the land irrigability subclass. 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.