ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Mararikulam South panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during September to November 2003 to assess the soil and land 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.

Mararikulam South panchayat comprising an area of 1907 ha is located in Ambalapuzha taluk of Alappuzha district. Physiographically, the panchayat comes under lowland region. The major crop in the panchayat is coconut. During the course of detailed soil survey four soil series were identified viz. Alappuzha, Kattur, Punnapra, and Cherkole series. Alappuzha series is major soil series identified in the panchayat area (824 ha).

The wetland covers an area of 69 ha and is mainly cultivated with paddy. Water logging, salt water intrusion, pest and disease incidence and high cost of cultivation are the constraints in paddy cultivation. The garden land covers an area of 1834 ha. In the garden land coconut is the major crop.

The soils of this panchayat are classified into five land capability subclasses such as IIIw, IIIs, IIIws, IVs and IVes and three land irrigability subclasses such as 3s, 3d and 3ds. The predominant land capability subclass is IVs and 3s, 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.