ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Elanji panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2005 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.

Elanji panchayat is located in Muvattupuzha taluk of Ernakulam district and extends over 2948 ha. The panchayat is part of the midland tract. The garden land covers an area of 2516.0 ha. Rubber is the major crop cultivated followed by coconut, vegetables, tapioca, banana, etc. The total wetland area is 432.0 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. Pineapple, banana, ginger and vegetables are the other crops raised. The soil series identified in the garden land are Odakkali, Perumbavoor, Kilikulam and Irapuram. The major portion of the garden land is under Odakkali series (1550.75 ha) followed by Kilikulam series (337.25 ha). Kothamangalam, Kuttamangalam and Ikkaranad are the soils identified in the wetlands. Major portion of the wetland is occupied by Kothamangalam series (218.5 ha) followed by Ikkaranad series (138.0 ha).

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIIe, IIIes, IVe, IVes and VIe and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 2t, 2st, 3t, 3st, 4t, 4st and 6t were recognized in the panchayat. IVe and 4t 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.