ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Koovappady panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during the year 2003 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.

Koovappady panchayat is located in Kunnathunadu taluk of Ernakulam district and extends over 3118 ha. The garden land covers an area of 2124 ha. Coconut dominant mixed cropping with banana, tapioca, arecanut, pepper etc is prevalent in the garden land. The total area under wetland is 994 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. The soil series identified in the garden land are Odakkali, Perumbavoor, Irapuram, Kilikulam, Kurichilakode, Punnamattom and Kalady. The major portion of the garden land is under Odakkali series (533.5 ha) followed by Kurichilakode series (397.5 ha). Kothamangalam (710 ha), Ikkaranad (179.5 ha), Kuttamangalam (99.0 ha) and Charaladu (5.5 ha) are the soils identified in the wetlands.

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