Abstract

Nellikuzhy panchayat comprises an area of 2762 ha located in the western part of Kunnathunadu taluk in Ernakulam district. Panchayat includes two villages viz. Eramallor and a portion of Thrikkariyoor village. The detailed soil survey was done during 1996 and updating during 1996 September. Six soil series were identified. Main problems faced in the panchayat and also data pertaining to the villages were collected.

The garden land covering an area of 1835.1 ha is under rubber, coconut, arecanut, ginger, pineapple and mixed cropping of coconut with tapioca, banana, pepper, fruit trees, spices and vegetables. The wetland cultivated with paddy and vegetables is 920.9 ha. Rock outcrops occupy an area of 6.0 ha. There is no reserve forest in the panchayat.

During the soil survey, six soil series were identified in the panchayat. These include, Perumbavoor and Odakkali series which occupies garden land with an area of 632.6 ha, and 1202.5 ha respectively. Kothamangalam series occupies major portion of the wetland with an area of 406.3 ha followed by Charaladu series with 333.3 ha. Kuttamangalam series with 160.3 ha and Ikkaraanad with 21 ha. In wetland mostly 3 crops of paddy are being raised.

In gardenland the main limitation is the reduced soil volume. Gravel constitutes about 45% of the soil mass. The soils of the panchayat are medium is organize matter status and base saturation. Hence the maintenance of organic matter status should be given the main emphasis.