ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Paipra panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2009 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.

Paipra panchayat is located in Moovattupuzha taluk of Ernakulam district and extends over 3218 ha. The garden land covers an area of 2398 ha and is mainly cultivated with rubber, coconut, banana, tapioca, pineapple, pepper, etc. The total area under wetland is 748 ha. Paddy is the major crop cultivated. An area of 66 ha of the wetlands is converted for the cultivation of rubber, arecanut, tapioca, pineapple, banana etc. The soil series identified in the garden land are Odakkali, Perumbavoor, Kilikulam, Irapuram, and Punnamattom. The major portion of the garden land is under Odakkali series (1174.0 ha) followed by Perumbavoor series (527.0 ha). Kothamangalam (534.0 ha), Pezhakkappally (139.0 ha), and Ikkaranad (75.0 ha) are the soils identified in the wetlands.

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