ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Valakam panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during the year 1990 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.

Valakam panchayat is located in Muvattupuzha taluk of Ernakulam district and extends over 2372 ha. The garden land covers an area of 1675 ha. Coconut dominant mixed cropping with banana, tapioca, arecanut, pepper etc is prevalent in the garden land. The total area under wetland is 656 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. Of the total wet lands 126 ha is converted for growing other crops. The soil series identified in the garden land are Odakkali, Perumbavoor, Irapuram and Punnamttom. The major portion of the garden land is under Perumbavoor series (711 ha) followed by Irapuram series (504ha). Ikkaranad (286ha) and Kothamangalam (244ha) are the soils identified in the wetlands.

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