ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Edathala panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2004 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.

Edathala panchayat is located in Aluva taluk of Ernakulam district and extends over 1598 ha. The panchayat is part of the midland tract. The garden land covers an area of 855.0 ha and is cultivated with coconut, rubber, tapioca, arecanut, pepper, vegetables, etc. The total wetland area is 472.0 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. Miscellaneous land, which includes the barren land, filled up paddy land, township and building occupies 177.0 ha. The soil series identified in the garden land are Kangarappady, Perumbavoor, Kilikulam, Irapuram and Kurichilakode. The major portion of the garden land is under Kilikulam series (301.0 ha) followed by Perumbavoor series (259.0 ha). Kothamangalam, Kuttamangalam, Ikkaranad and Ayiroor are the soils identified in the wetlands. Major portion of the wetland is occupied by Kothamangalam series (253.0 ha) followed by and Ayiroor series (191.0 ha).

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