ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Kottappady panchayat of Kothamangalam taluk of Ernakulam district. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics of the panchayat viz., area, soils, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

The panchayat is located towards the north west of Kothamangalam taluk and covers an area of 3194.48ha. The garden land occupies an area of 2714.99ha and the wetlands coves an area of 479.49ha. Major crops include rubber, coconut, pineapple, paddy, tapioca etc. Odakkali (1569.95ha), Neriamangalam (982.10ha) and Thodupuzha (162.94ha) are the garden land soils. Kuttamangalam (211.03ha) is the major wet land soil. Kothamangalam, Ikkaranad, Charaladu and Varapetty are the other wet land soils. The area comprises of gently sloping to steep lands and the relief is normal to excessive.

Based on the characteristics of the soils three land capability classes such as II, III and IV and three land irrigability classes viz. 2, 3 and 4 were recognised. IVes is the predominant land capability subclass and 4st, the land irrigability subclass. Gravelly clay loam is the predominant surface texture. In general the soils are very deep and erosion is slight to severe. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, crop suitability and fertility of the soils were made. The main problems encountered in the panchayat are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are appended.