Abstract

Detailed soil survey of Rayamangalam panchayat was undertaken in 2001 to assess the resource potential of the tract identify problem areas and suggest ameliorative measures. Rayamangalam Panchayat extends over 3677 ha in Rayamangalam and Perumbavoor villages. The dryland area accounts for 65% of the total geographical area. Paddy is the major wetland crop, coconut, of the drylands. Eight soil series were identified namely, Irapuram, Odakkali, Nadukani, Perumbavoor, Kilikulam, Pezhakkappilly, Kothamangalam and Ikkanad. Irapuram series extends over the major dryland tract and Kothamangalam, of the wetland. In general, soils of Rayamangalam Panchayat posses medium nitrogen, low to medium phosphorus and high potash content. The land capability classes encountered in the panchayat are II, III, IV and VI of which the class IIw predominates. The land irrigability classes encountered are 2, 3, 4 and 6, of which 2d class predominates. Crop suitability, production potential and hydrologic grouping studies are undertaken. The soils, in general are very deep, major tract is below 10 % slope (72%) and erosion, moderate.