ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Purapuzha panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2007 - 2008 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.

Purapuzha panchayat is located in Thodupuzha taluk of Idukki district and extends over 2352 ha. The panchayat lies in midland and midupland region. The garden land covers an area of 2087 ha. Rubber is the major crop cultivated followed by coconut, pineapple, tapioca, banana, pepper etc. The wetland covers an area of 110 ha and is mainly cultivated to paddy. Occasionally other crops like banana, tapioca, pineapple, vegetables etc are also raised. During the course of soil survey, four soil series were identified. Manakkad, Karimkunnam and Cheenikuzhi are the soils identified in the garden land. The major portion of the garden land is under Cheenikuzhi series (1062.0 ha) followed by Karimkunnam series (832.0 ha). Purapuzha (110.0 ha) is the only wetland soil.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, the soil of Purapuzha panchayat were classified into six land capability sub classes and six land irrigability sub classes. The predominant land capability sub class is IVe and land irrigability sub class is 4t. 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.