ABSTRACT

Chathannur panchayat comprises of an area of 3376 ha. The panchayat is located on the southern dissected midland laterite region of Kollam district. The garden land covers an area of 2491.36 ha and coconut, tapioca, banana, pepper, vegetables cashew and arecanut are the major crops grown. Relatively a large area of the panchayat is under water comprising of polachira(100 ha), kayal (34.84 ha) and permanently waterlogged area on the western border (42.52) ha. An area of 614.56 ha of the panchayat is under wetland and paddy is the major crop grown in these tracts.

During the Detailed Soil Survey carried out during January to March 1999, 10 soil series have been identified in the panchayat. They are Varkala, Thonnakkal, Cherunniyoor, Nedumangad, Chirayinkeezhu, Veliyam, Amaravila, Kottankara, Kuttichal and Marukil. Varkala series is the major garden land soil and it covers 1522.88 ha of the panchayat followed by Cherunniyoor series with an extent of 440.16 ha. Amaravila series forms the major wetland series with an area of 303.84 ha followed by Marukil series with an area of 138.24 ha.

Coconut based mixed cropping is the most suitable cropping pattern for the panchayat. Cashew or rubber may be cultivated in area having more than 25% slope and with low soil volume. Polachira may be renovated and used for water harvesting and fish rearing. Pepper, arecanut, banana and vegetables are recommended for cultivation in the valley fringes.

The soils of the panchayat are, in general, deep and erosion is moderate. Four land capability sub-classes are identified viz. II w, II e, III e and IIIe of which IIIe is the predominant land capability sub-class which extends to 1356.32 ha. 2 d, 2 t, 3 t and 4 st are the four land irrigability sub-classes of which 3 t is the major land irrigability sub-class. The major constraints in land management and agriculture and their suitable management is dealt with briefly. Various interpretative maps are appended.