ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Elampalloor panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2006 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.

Elampalloor panchayat is located in Kollam taluk of Kollam district and extends over 1480 ha. The panchayat is part of the midland tract. The garden land covers an area of 1248.25 ha and is cultivated with coconut, banana, tapioca, pepper, cashew, vegetables, etc. The total wetland area is 198.75 ha. A single crop of paddy is raised in 35 ha. Rest of the area is cultivated with tapioca, banana, etc or kept fallow.

An area of 27.75 ha of the original wetlands has been converted for cultivation of crops like tapioca, banana and tuber crops and for non-agricultural purposes. The soil series identified in the garden land are Varkala (1053.5 ha) and Thonnakkal (194.75). Kottankara (195.5 ha) and Vembayam (3.25) are the soils identified in the wetlands.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIIe, IIId, IIIdes and IVes and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 3t, 3st and 4st were recognized in the panchayat. IIIes and 3st 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.