ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Kulakkada panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during September-November 2005 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.

Kulakkada panchayat is located in Kottarakkara taluk of Kollam district and extends over 2918 ha. The garden lands cover an area of 2280.8 ha and are mainly cultivated with rubber, coconut, banana, tapioca, pulses, pepper, etc. The total area under wetland is 453.3 ha. Paddy is cultivated only in 201 ha. The remaining area is cultivated to tapioca, banana, tuber crops, betel vine, etc or fallowed. An area of 65.9 ha of wetlands are converted for the cultivation of garden land crops and for construction purposes. Ten soil series are identified in the panchayat. Ummannoor (807.90 ha) is the major soil identified in the garden land followed by Kottarakkara (622.50 ha). The major wetland soil is Mylom series (350.90 ha) followed by Kunnakkara (49.6 ha). The soils in the converted wetlands were grouped as Miscellaneous soil.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIle, IIles, IIls, IVes and Vles and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 2t, 2ds, 3t, 3st, 4st and 6st were recognized in the panchayat. IVes and 4st 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.