ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Ummannoor panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during the year 2000 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.

Ummannoor panchayat is located on the central part of Kottarakkara taluk of Kollam district and extends over 3443 ha. The garden lands cover an area of 2863.38 ha and are mainly cultivated with rubber, coconut, banana, tapioca, pepper, tuber crops, and miscellaneous fruit crops. The total area under wetland is 577.12 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. About 15 % of the wetlands are converted for the cultivation of crops like coconut, banana tapioca etc and for construction purposes. The major soil series identified in the garden land are Ummannoor, Chadayamangalam, Ittiva, Ezhukone and Kottarakkara. The major portion of the garden land is under Ummannoor series (1602.26 ha) followed by Chadayamangalam series (682.76 ha). Kunnakkara (253.96 ha), Mylom (172.90 ha) and Pooyappally (150.96 ha) are the soils identified in the wetlands.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIe, Ills, IVe, IVes and Vles and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 3t, 3st, 4t, 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.