ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Karur panchayat of Meenachil taluk of Kottayam district. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics of the panchayat viz., area, soils, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

Karur panchayat comprises an area of 3684 ha. Of which wet land area covers 163.5 ha and garden land occupies 3243ha. An area of 221.5 ha of wet land have been converted for the cultivation of upland corps like rubber, tapioca, banana, cocoa etc. Rubber is the major crop of uplands followed by coconut, pepper, banana, tapioca etc.,

Based on the detailed soil survey seven soil series were identified in the panchayat. The soils identified in the garden land are Karamala, Ilakad, Palackattumala, Lakkattoor, Uzhavoor and Vallichira. Uzhavoor is the major garden land soil occupying an area of 960ha followed by Ilakad (870ha) and Vallichira (702ha). Marady series is the only soil seen in the wet land (163.5ha). Five land capability classes, namely, II, III, IV, VI and VII and four land irrigability classes, namely, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were identified in the panchayat based on the characteristics. Other interpretative studies like crop suitability, soil fertility, hydrologic grouping and production potential of the soils were made. Soils of the panchayat are low to medium in nitrogen and medium in phosphorus and potassium contents.

The information provided in the report includes location specific problems and their management practices for the integrated development of the panchayat. Interpretative maps are appended.