ABSTRACT

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

Koottickal Panchayat in Kanjiraappally taluk of Kottayam district having an area of 4471 ha. was subjected to detailed soil survey with an objective to collect the resource data with special emphasis on soil aspects. The data were then classified, interpreted and location specific recommendations made with regard to soil, land and water management aspects for the integrated and sustainable development of the panchayat. Ten soil series identified in the panchayat were Kankanikkuzhi, Kavali, Kolahalamedu, Koottickal, Plappally, Parathanam, Thalunkal, Umikunnu, Vazhikkadavu and Vengathanam among which Kankanikkuzhi soils occupied the maximum area.

Among the three land capability classes observed in the panchayat (IVe, VIe and VLes), the subclass VLes is found to cover maximum extent. The major land irrigability subclass 6ts among the three classes encountered (4t, 6t and 6ts). The major soil problem in the panchayat is soil erosion, which could be attributed to the highly undulating and rolling topography of the panchayat.