Abstract

Detailed soil Survey of Moorkanad panchayat in Perinthalmanna Taluk of Malappuram District was undertaken to have a soil and land resource inventory of the area. The objective of the survey was to prepare integrated area specific development plans based on the interpretative studies of the collected data.

The panchayat extends over an area of 3055.89 ha, of which 2984.6 ha is under cultivation. Wetlands occupy an area of 810.24 ha. Paddy is the major crop of the wetlands. Coconut based mixed cropping is practiced in the major part of the garden lands. Banana, Areca nut, Tapioca, Vegetables and Pepper are the other crops cultivated. Rubber cultivation is also prevalent. Cashew is cultivated in areas with hard ironstone.

Nine soil series, viz., Angadippuram, Chelakkad, Kottuvad, Mannamkulam, Pangu, Palamallur, Ramapuram, Valampur and Vatallur series have been identified in the panchayat. Of these, Pangu, Ramapuram and Valampur series are encountered in the wetlands and the remaining are garden land soils. Land capability classes II, III, IV and VI and land irrigability classes 2,3,4,5 and 6 are identified.

Crop suitability recommendations have been made for each mapping unit. In general, the soils of the panchayat are medium in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and potash status. In areas with moderate slope, earthen bunds fortified with vegetative cover and in steeper slopes, rubble pitched contour bunds are required to conserve soil and water. Suitable crop management suggestions have also been made.