ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Chenneerkkara panchayat of Kozhenchery taluk of Pathanamthitta 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.

The panchayat is situated at a distance of 3km to the north west of Pathanamthitta town and covers an area of 1950ha. The garden land comprises an area of 1673.5ha and is mainly cultivated with rubber and to a small extent with homestead crops like coconut, banana, tapioca and fruit trees. The wet land covers an area of 172ha which is mainly cultivated to paddy. An area of 52.2ha of the paddy fields has been converted for the cultivation of betelvine, tapioca, banana and vegetables. The soil series identified in the garden land are Ayroor, Chethakkal and Puthenpeedika. Sooranad and Mallassery series represents the wetland soils. The major portion of the garden land is under Chethakkal series (1085 ha) followed by Puthenpeedika series (472.4 ha). Of the wetland series, Mallassery occupies the major area (124.2 ha) followed by Sooranad series (52.2 ha).

Based on the characteristics of the soils three land capability classes such as III, IV and VI and four land irrigability classes viz. 2, 3, 4 and 6 were recognised. IIIes is the predominant land capability subclass and 4ts, the land irrigability subclass. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, Crop suitability, soil fertility and production potential of the soils were made. The main problems encountered in the panchayat are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are appended.