Abstract

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

Cherukole panchayat is situated in Ranni taluk of Pathanamthitta district. Detailed soil survey of Cherukole panchayat was conducted during April -May 1999. The panchayat has one village viz., Cherukole with eight wards and covers an area of 1561ha. The garden land constituting 1440ha is cultivated mainly with rubber. Crops like coconut, arecanut, cocoa, cashew, tapioca, banana etc are grown in homesteads. Wetland comprising an area of 76.7ha is cultivated with paddy. The wet land which have been converted for the cultivation of garden land crops constitute 29.3 ha where coconut, tapioca, banana and vegetables are cultivated. River, streams and other water bodies constitute about 15.0ha.

Based on the soil survey, five soil series have been identified, of which, garden land soils are represented by Kumaranperoor, Chethakkal and Ayroor series and the wetland soils are Airavon and Mallasseri. Crop suitability and fertility studies were undertaken along with the interpretation of data for land capability and irrigability classification of the soils identified in the panchayat. Soils of the panchayat fall under six land capability classes namely IIIw, IIle, IIIes, IVes, Vles and VIles and irrigability classes identified in the panchayat are 2d, 3d, 3t, 3ts, 4ts, and 6ts. Soils of the panchayat in general are low in nitrogen and medium in phosphorus and potassium content. Interpretative maps are also included in this report.