ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Pathanamthitta municipality. 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.

Pathanamthitta municipality comprising an area of 2350ha is located towards the north western portion of Kozhenchery taluk in Pathanamthitta district. The garden land covers an area of 1934 ha. Major crop of the garden land is rubber. Coconut, banana, tapioca, pepper and fruit trees are the other crops grown. Of the total area of 351.84 ha of wetland 81 ha has already been converted for other purposes like construction of buildings and cultivation of garden land crops. Of the remaining area of 270.85 ha paddy is cultivated only in an area of 85ha during mundakan season and the rest is kept fallow.

On Detailed Soil Survey seven soil series have been identified in the municipality. These include Adoor, Puthenpeedika, Chethakkal, Konni, Ayroor, Airavon and Mallasseri series. Puthenpeedika series occupies the major portion of the soils with an area of 1106ha followed by Chethakkal series (588ha), Mallasseri (139.85 ha), Airavon (131 ha), Konni (128 ha) and Adoor series (36ha). The miscellaneous soils occupy 81 ha.

Five land capability classes such as II, III , IV, VI and VIII and four land irrigability classes viz.2, 3, 4 and 6 are encountered. IVes is the predominant land capability subclass and 4st, the land irrigability subclass. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, Crop suitability, soil fertility and production potential of the soils have been conducted. The main problems encountered in the municipality are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are appended.