ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Kattakada panchayat of Neyyattinkara taluk of Thiruvananthapuram 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.

Kattakada panchayat with an area of 2254 ha is located in the northern region of Neyyattinkara taluk. The garden land covers about 2104 ha. of which 1458 ha. is under coconut and the rest is occupied by Tapioca, Banana, Pepper, Rubber, Areca nut, Ginger, Pine apple etc. The wet land covering an area of 150 ha is mainly put under paddy, banana, and pulses. Vegetables are cultivated on a small scale in these lands.

Among the garden lands soils, Vizhinjam series occupies the major area of 1374.85 ha followed by Vilappil series of 492.21 ha. Marukil series form the major wet land soils with an area of 150 ha.

Coconut is well suited on the garden land soils except certain portion of the panchayat when the slopes are a little above 15% and low ground water table. Tapioca and Banana can be given as inter crop in between coconut palms.

Studies reveal that the yields of crops in both wet and garden lands are low due to unscientific crops and soil management practices. There is ample scope to increase the yield economically if the farmers are advised to adopt certain simple management practices like addition of organic matter, providing irrigation, adoption of soil conservation and plant protection measures, liming, correction of nutrient deficiencies etc., to overcome the limitations posed by the soils in the area.