ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Mangalapuram panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram 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.

Mangalapuram panchayat with an area of 2166 ha is located in the north western region of Thiruvananthapuram taluk. The garden land covers about 1656.7 ha and is cultivated to Coconut, Tapioca, Banana, Cashew, Rubber etc. The wet land covering an area of 292.8 ha is mainly put under paddy, banana, and pulses. Vegetables are cultivated on a small scale in these lands.

Among the garden lands soils, Thiruvananthapuram series occupies the major area of 744.7 ha followed by Thonnakkal series of 740.5 ha. Other garden land series encountered in the panchayat are Kazhakuttam, Poovar and Mukkunni. Korani is the wetland series identified in Mangalapuram panchayat.

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.