ABSTRACT

This report deals with the soil and land resources of Manikkal panchayat of Nedumangad taluk of Thiruvananthapuram 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 located towards the south western part of Nedumangad taluk about 16km north of Thiruvananthapuram city and covers an area of 3334 ha. The garden land covers an area of 2260.28 ha and is cultivated to rubber, coconut, tapioca, banana, cashew etc. Wet land accounts an area of 406.92 ha, of this an area of 323.92 ha has been converted for the cultivation of garden lands crops such as coconut, banana and tapioca. In the wetland, paddy is raised during the first and second crop seasons. During the third crop season it is either left fallow or cultivated to pulses and vegetables. Four soil series have been identified in the garden land. Trivandrum series with an area of 1010.30 ha occupies the maximum area. Other soils found in the garden land are Nedumangad (794.52 ha), Thonnakkal (407.13 ha) and Vilappil (48.33 ha). Amaravila (51.00 ha), Marukil (26.00 ha) and Kuttichal (6.00 ha) are the soils identified in the wetland.

Based on the characteristics of the soils four land capability classes such as III, IV, VI and VII are and four land irrigability classes viz. 2, 3, 4 and 6 were recognised. IVes 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.