ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Ottasekharamangalam panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2005 to assess the resources of the area, to identify the problems and to suggest suitable development programmes for sustained and integrated development of the area.

Ottasekharamangalam panchayat is located in Neyyattinkara Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram District and extends over 1837 ha. The panchayat lies in midland and mid-upland region. The garden land covers an area of 1684.5 ha and is mainly cultivated with rubber, banana, coconut and tapioca. The total area under wetland is 8 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. About 95% of the wetlands are converted for the cultivation of crops like coconut, banana tapioca etc and for construction purposes. During the course of soil survey, five soil series were identified viz; Nedumangad, Aryancode, Vizhinjam, Vilappil and Marukil. Nedumangad series (962 ha) occupies the major area followed by Aryancode series (330.5 ha). Marukil is the only soil identified in the wetland.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIe, IIw, IIIe, IIIs, IVe, IVes and Vles and land irrigability subclasses 2t, 2d, 3t, 3st, 4t, 4st and 6st were recognized in the panchayat. IVes and 4st are the predominant land capability class and land irrigability class respectively. Other interpretative studies like hydrologic grouping, crop suitability, fertility and production potential of the soils are also included in the report. The problems encountered in the panchayat are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are appended.