ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Ottur panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during the year 2010 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.

Ottur panchayat is located in Chirayinkeezh Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram District and extends over an area of 949 ha. The panchayat lies in the mid land region. The garden land covers an area of 785.75 ha and is mainly cultivated with rubber, coconut, tapioca, paddy, banana, pepper, arecanut and vegetables. The wet land covers an area of 109 ha and is mainly cultivated paddy. During the course of soil survey, nine soil series were identified viz Trivandrum, Vilappil, Nedumangad, Varkala, Cherunniyoor, Thonnakkal, Poovar Vembayam and Marukil. The soils identified in the reclaimed paddy fields were grouped as Miscellaneous soils. Trivandrum series occupies the major area (185.5 ha) in garden land, followed by Vilappil series (152 ha). The soils seen in the wetlands were Vembayam (57 ha) series and Marukil series (52 ha).

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIIw, IIIe, IIIes, IVe, IVs, IVsw and IVes and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 2t, 3d, 3t, 3s, 3sd, 3st, 4t and 4st were recognized in the panchayat. IVe and 3t are the predominant land capability class and land irrigability classes 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.