ABSTRACT

Soil land resource inventory of Vellarada panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during December 2003 to March 2004 to assess the resources of the area to identify the problem and suggest suitable development of the area. The report gives a detailed account of the general characteristics of the area, soils of the area, major problems and management requirements, interpretations and recommendations for various uses.

The panchayat spreads over an area of 3160 ha and is located in the eastern part of Neyyattinkara taluk in Thiruvananthapuram district. The panchayat spreads over midland, mid upland and upland. The major crops in the panchayat are rubber, banana, and tapioca. During the course of detailed soil survey nine soil series were identified viz. Nedumangad, Vilappil, Mukunni, Kallar, Chempakathippara, Palode, Vizhinjam, Kuttichal and Marukil. Out of these Marukil and Kuttichal cover the wetland area. Nedumangad series occupies the major share of the garden land (809 ha). Wetland covers an area of 93.5 ha where tapioca, banana etc are mainly cultivated.

The soils of Vellarada panchayat are classified into four land capability classes such as II, III, IV, and VI and 3 land irrigability classes such as 2, 4, and 6. The predominant land capability subclass is Vles and 6st, 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 that are encountered in the panchayat and its suggested management are dealt with briefly. Interpretative maps are also appended.