ABSTRACT

Soil and land resource inventory of Vettoor panchayat was undertaken by the Soil Survey wing of the Department of Agriculture during 2006 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.

Vettoor panchayat is located in Chirayinkeezh taluk of Thiruvananthapuram district and extends over 682 ha. The panchayat lies in the lowland and midland region. The garden land covers an area of 634.0 ha and is cultivated with coconut, banana, tapioca, vegetables, etc. The total area under wetland is 5.0 ha. Paddy is the main crop cultivated. An area of 43.0 ha of the original wetlands has been converted for cultivation of tapioca, banana, arecanut, etc. During the course of soil survey, four soil series were identified. The soils identified in the garden land are Varkala, Cherunniyoor, and Poovar series. The major portion of the garden land is under Varkala series (431.0 ha) followed by Cherunniyoor series (173.5 ha). Marukil series (5.0 ha) is the only soil identified in the wetland. The soils identified in the converted wetlands were classified as Miscellaneous soils.

Based on the characteristics of the soils, land capability subclasses IIw, IIIw, IIIe, IIIes, IVe, IVes, IVsw and V1es and land irrigability subclasses 2d, 3t, 3sd, 3st, 4t and 4st 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.