ABSTRACT

Thirupuram panchayat comprising an area of 857 ha is located in the southern region of Neyyattinkara taluk. The garden land covers an area of 732.64 ha which is cultivated with coconut, tapioca, banana and fruit trees. The total area of wetland is 30ha and is cultivated with paddy during the first and second crop seasons. Vegetables and pulses are grown as third crop. Most of the paddy land is now converted and crops like banana, tapioca and vegetables are usually grown.

Five soil series have been identified in the Panchayat. These include Poovar, Neyyattinkara, Vellayani, Vizhinijam and Marukil series. Vellayani series with an area of 535.51 ha. (62.5%) occupies the major area of the Panchayat followed by Neyyattinkara series, which has an area of 111.92 ha. Marukil series comes under the wetland which comprises an area of 30 ha(3.93%). Miscellaneous or made up land covers an area of 11.49ha. (1.31%)

Coconut is best suited for the garden land. The area near to the Neyyar river is best suited for betel vine. Due to improper management practices, the yield is not high. The yield can be increased by adequate application of organic matter, providing irrigation, plant protection measures, adoption of suitable soil conservation measures, etc. During summer, this Panchayat experiences drought and during the rainy season, Neyyar river overflows and damages the crop.

The entire area of the Panchayat is classified into capability classes viz., II, III and IV with the limitations. The limitations in each class of land are denoted by ‘e’ erosion, ‘s’ soil and ‘w’ wetness of the soil. The land irrigability classes noticed in the panchayat are 2d, 3t and 4t where ‘d’ denotes the limitation due to drainage and ‘t’ due to topography. Each land capability class and irrigability class are discussed in the report with land use and land management recommendations in the report. Studies on Hydrologic grouping, fertility status and crop suitability status have also been undertaken.