

KERALA STATE LAND USE BOARD – TECHNICAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION

Kerala State Land Use Board was established in 1975 under Department of Planning and Economic Affairs, Government of Kerala and is functioning as a full fledged department. The Department is functioning as an agency to assist the State Government to frame policies for optimum land use and natural resource management in the State, with the basic objective of providing necessary advisory support on matters related to the optimum use of land and land resources viz; soil, water, plant, animal system. The Department also uses the technology of remote sensing and GIS to cater its requirement.

- The major **objectives** of Land Use Board are review of existing land uses in the State and exploring possibilities of effective land use in a sustainable manner. The objectives includes, taking effective measures to protect good agricultural lands against (i) depletion on account of soil erosion due to wind, water, sea. (ii) water logging and salinity (iii) loss of fertility (iv) urbanization and industrialization. The department advises the government regarding land use policy in general with particular references to the problems relating to conservation, development and management of lands.
- The main **functions** of the department are (i) to collect and collate data on land resources and land use (ii) to undertake surveys on current land resources and land use (iii) to initiate studies on appropriate land use and related aspects (iv) recommend appropriate policy framework to help the Government to arrive at correct decisions on land and (v) to administer and co-ordinate the implementation of the decisions of the Govt. related to land use without displacing the existing agencies.
- State Land Use Board has a niche of natural **database** on land resources and many organizations are making use of these facilities available in the department. The department organizes awareness among students, youths, farmers, planners and men of all walks of life on need for conservation, development and management of our most precious land resources. The available database includes (i)land use, geomorphology, structural geological map, proposed land use and soil conservation map of Idukki district, (ii) land use, geomorphology, transport

network, drainage network, settlements, watersheds of Kerala in 1:50,000 and 1:12,500 scale, (iii) wasteland map of Kerala in 1:50,000 scale, (iv) soil series, depth, erosion, drainage, AWC, texture, land capability and irrigability in 1:250,000 scale, (v) PRM maps (hardcopy & softcopy) in cadastral scale, (vi) agro ecological zonation map of ten districts in 1:50,000 scale and (vii) wetland (Paddy land) map of Kerala in 1:12,500 scale.

- The important **services** provided by the department includes (i) preparation of land and water related thematic resource maps, (ii) delineation of watersheds, (iii) agro-ecological zonation, (vi) recommendation of suitable land use, (v) preparation of watershed based master plans for LSGIs, (vi) studies on land resources, (vii) awareness on land resource conservation and management (viii) consultancy service on land use planning & GIS for various line departments, LSGIs, etc.

Organisational Set Up & Infrastructure

The department has its State office (Headquarters) at Vikas Bhavan Complex, Thiruvananthapuram. There is a Regional Office for the department functioning at the Municipal Shopping Complex, 2nd Floor, D- Block, Patturaickal, Thrissur – 680 022. The department is presently working with the following sections for carrying out the administrative and technical responsibilities entrusted with it. Land Use Commissioner is the Head of the Department.

Technical Wing

Technical Officers in the cadre of Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Agricultural Officers from disciplines of Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Soil Survey & Statistics is entrusted with the planning and implementation of the technical programme as per the mandate of the department and also for the implementation of the different plan schemes as envisaged in the plan document of Government. The Regional Office at Thrissur is set up for the implementation of the Plan Scheme “Resource Survey at Panchayat Level” *ie.* Panchayat Resource Mapping Programme (PRM). The Regional Office is headed by an Assistant Director with supporting technical & administrative staff, created as temporary plan posts and project mode staff for carrying out the PRM programme.

Cartography, RS & GIS

Toposheets, cadastral maps, aerial photographs, satellite data, land resources data at macro and micro level generated through the projects are maintained by this wing. The Cartographic wing of the department is headed by a Cartographer with Draftsman, Planning Surveyors, Laboratory Assistants and Cartographic Assistant as supportive staff.

Administrative Section

Headed by the Senior Superintendent with supporting ministerial staff in various cadre.

Geoinformatics laboratory

It is equipped with computers and softwares capable of analyzing remote sensing data and resource maps for land resource management and planning. The Geoinformatics lab provides a new environment in natural resources planning by meeting the challenges of implementing the new IT paradigm in all aspects of land resource planning. The lab's hardware's include high end workstations, server, scanner and other packages for digital data analysis and for interpretation of digital imageries. The customisation packages are developed for preparing user friendly information systems for different users. The service of this lab is provided to all line departments and LSGIs. The Lab also imparts on-going program of training staff on GIS technology required to the operation of the lab.

Major Projects

- One of the major plan schemes implemented by the Department is generation of resource maps at cadastral level through the Panchayat Resource Mapping Programme (PRM). Comprehensive data base on land and water resources required for local level planning has been generated. The State Planning Board (SPB) has recommended for digital updation of the data base already created through PRM and for creating awareness and training in utilizing these data base at LSGI level for meaningful planning, as a follow up action. The SPB has also recommended that the State Land Use Board should initiate action programmes for formation of data base.
- One of the major consultancy projects implemented by the Department is the preparation of watershed based action plans for the Local Self Governments.

Many line departments are demanding for the digital output of the already created the data base under this project. There is also great demand from LSGIs for creating awareness and training in utilizing these data base at LSGI level for meaningful planning, as a follow up action.

- Presently the department is functioning as the Technical Support Organization for preparing the Detailed Project Report for Block Panchayats under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme. The State Level Nodal Agency of IWMP has entrusted the department with the preparation of Preliminary Project Reports for Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts. Airport Authority of India, Town Planning Department, Local Self Governments and several other agencies has awarded consultative GIS projects.

Project Team

Project Director	R. Sanalkumar <i>Land Use Commissioner (i/c)</i>
Project Leader	S. Edison <i>Joint Director</i>
Project Team	Nizamudeen. A <i>Deputy Director</i> V. Njanaprakash <i>Cartographer</i> Yasmin. L. Rasheed <i>Agricultural Officer</i> Tina Bhaskaran <i>Agricultural Officer</i> Shyamkumar. S. L <i>Soil Survey Assistant</i>
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