Study Area
Kolli hills of Eastern Ghats lies in Salem District, Tamil Nadu and has an area of 418.5 sq km. Latitudinal and longitudinal range of Kolli hills are 11° 10' - 11° 30' N and 75° 15' - 75° 30' E respectively.

2.1 Situation: Kolli hills is bounded by Namakkal Taluk in the South and South west, Rasipuram in the North and North east, Attur Taluk in the North East and Tiruchirapalli district in the East.

2.2 Transportation: Motorable roads are available. Mini buses ply from Rasipuram, Namakkal and Salem. Major villages are interconnected by roads and bus services are available.

2.3 Altitude: Altitude of the hills varies from 1000 -1400m rising to 1450 m at Kuzhivalavu.

2.4 Topography: Slopes are quite steep forming several narrow and deep valleys and in some places raising abruptly from plains and generally precipitous near ridges, so that the edge of the plateau is sharply defined.
2.5 Drainage: Kolli hills are drained by two rivers, Vasishta nadhi and Swetanadhi. Swetanadhi arises from kolli hills and drains the northern side of Salem District. It is the catchment area and Periacombai and Aiyararu rivers. Vasishta nadhi called as Perar arises in the Aranuttumalai, bends eastwards and irrigates Attur Taluk.

2.6 Geology: Bluish grey to dark grey coarse grained rock of the charnockite group constitute the hill ranges. Charnochite are banded, gneissic or granulitic. The rocks have been divided into three – acidic, intermediate and basic depending on the amount of blue quartz present in them. Underlying rocks belong to Archean system and comprises of metamorphic of paratype and plutonic igneous from granite to dyle rocks. Bauxite, the chief source for the manufacture of Aluminium occurs as Cappings over altered leptinates and is quarried [Anonymous 1981].

2.7 Soil: – Soil type is red loamy and black soil. Soil depth is low on the Kollimalai Plateau [Lakshminarayanan 1990].

2.8 Rainfall: – Outstanding climatic feature of the tract is the evenly distributed rainfall. Both the monsoons are active. The North East monsoon is more active than the South West on the
eastern slopes of Kollihills, which accounts for 60% of rainfall. South West monsoon is more active on the Western slopes of Kollihills. Average rainfall is 100 cm. Average rainfall data for twelve years is given in fig.II.1.

2.9 Temperature: Hot weather begins in March and maximum temperature is reached in April - May. Mean maximum during hottest month is 28°C and weather cools progressively from about the middle of June and the mean maximum temperature drops to 22°C in November - December. Temperature falling below 10°C is not common. Frost is not unknown on the grasses of the valleys. Average temperature data for the last twelve years is given in Fig.II.1.

2.10 Tribes: Aboriginals of Kollihills, Kollimalayalis are considered to be the descendants of Chinnan. They originally belong to the vellalar community and are believed to have migrated from Kancheepuram to the hills for hunting and also in search of new pasture (Anonymous 1918). They are mainly farmers cultivating paddy in irrigated lands and tapioca and pineapple on slopes.

2.11 General Vegetation: Vegetation of Kollihills varies from scrub jungle in the foot hills to evergreen shola pockets. Other
major vegetation includes semievergreen, mixed deciduous, dry-deciduous and scrub forests. Much of the plateau is cleared leaving behind only some good sholas on the western side of Solakkadu. These sholas are very moist and evergreen, while forests on the eastern side of Koilur are dry and deciduous. Paruthais characterised by grasses and herbs is characteristic feature of Solakkadu.
Ombrothermic Graph

Fig. III

Rainfall (cm) vs. Month

- Max. Temp.(°C)
- Min. Temp.(°C)