Glossary

Brahmaswoms- land owned by brahman families

Desom- a country, region or land

Devaswoms- land that belonged to Temples

Ezhavas – 'lower' castes, currently OBCs

Janmies- landlords

Kanji- rice gruel

Karimeen- Pearl spot fish

Kayal – lake, backwaters

Pulaya / Pulayars- dalit caste

Padashekharams- Padashekharam is a term used to imply the polder lands reclaimed from the Lake in Kuttanad. It also means literally 'a collection of fields' implying the management of farm activities as a collective process.

Kettuvallam- boat with a roof used for transporting goods

Kudikidappukaar- attached labourers who lived in hutments on the landlord's land

Mundu -Traditional dress of men

Onam- the harvest/festival time in Kerala

Onapanikkaar- attached labourer

Panikkaar – Workers/ labourers

Purampokku- waste land/ common land

Puzhukotta- baskets to remove pests from paddy crops

Sayip- White- skinned European/ American

Taravads- a joint family under matrilineal system. The descent and inheritance of property was traced through the females

Thamburan - landlord