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In Ootacamund (Nilgiris) region, studies pertaining to incident rainfall and its retention in the watershed indicated that cultivated bench terrace recorded the lowest retention peak and the deteriorated grassland the highest. For better utilization of incident rainfall (about 61%) on the watershed itself, bench terracing was quite effective. The weekly variations in soil moisture in all the plots were far above the permanent wilting percentage values. In deficit months for February to April, the soil moisture storage showed that the place will be subject to drought conditions even at relatively higher soil moisture level, provided that there is no equitable and favourable distribution of rainfall and inspite of the fact that the local atmosphere is less exacting.