

### 3.4 Agriculture

The agricultural lands of this area are owned by the people of the Gounder community. Almost ninety percent of the land holdings belong to these people. The important agricultural products cultivated in this area are paddy, turmeric, plantain, sugar cane and betel leaf. However, the products such as onion, ragi and maize are also cultivated as inter crops. In the outer boundary of the fields coconut trees are also cultivated. Gingili, castor and Sorghum are the dry land crops cultivated in this area.

### 3.5 Characteristic Features of the Villages

#### 3.5.1 Housing Pattern

The area under study is mainly agricultural area and consequently most of the houses are constructed amidst the fields. Many farm houses could be seen in this area. Each hamlet is surrounded by the fields. The houses in the farms have been mostly built with bricks and tiles while some houses have reinforced concrete cement roofings. The agriculture labourers and other service caste people live in houses that have thatched roofs which bear clear evidence to their low socio-economic status.

The houses of the forward community people are located near and around the temple. Agriculture and other professional