

farmers. Of these farmers, the average percentage of their total landholding rented out was 30 percent, and the amount rented averaged 16.59 mukhammas. The most common rental arrangement was futra (7 to 11 or 64%) followed by ijar/dugundi (2 to 11 or 18%) and by mukṭuu9iya (2 to 11 or 18%).

While the richer farmers usually rent-in land, the poorer ones rent it out. Of the 11 farmers who rented land out, 10 were cultivating 15 mukhammas or less. In fact, 5 of these farmers were cultivating 10 mukhammas or less. An explanation for this trend is similar to that given earlier. Poor farmers can't afford to hire the labor necessary to expand cultivation, even on their own land, so that they are renting their land out to gain some benefit from this resource.

Land sales are very uncommon in this area. We found only 2 cases where such purchases were made, and both buyers were women. Women may be purchasing land as a way to gain access to land since inheritance practices in this area make it difficult for them to accumulate large land holdings. Overall, the infrequent occurrence of land purchases illustrate the importance of inheritance to farmers in this region.

Cropping Patterns

The four most important crops in this area of North Kordofan are millet, sorghum, sesame and groundnuts. After a discussion of each crop, the planting and cultivation system is discussed.

Millet

Millet is the principal subsistence crop grown in this area. Thirty-eight of the 40 farmers cultivated this crop. Thirty-five percent of the cultivated land was in millet (249.5 mukhammas). In addition, for each farmer, the average proportion of his total cultivated land that was planted in millet was .38.

Several types of millet are grown in the study area. The local names for these types are dukhun baladi or dimbi, dukhun HireeHri and 9ish barnu.¹⁰ Dukhun baladi or dimbi is a late maturing variety (90-110 days), characterized by long slender candles and small seeds. Dukhun HireeHri is an early maturing variety (70-80 days) with candles which are shorter and thicker than baladi candles. 9ish barnu is an intermediate maturing variety (80-90 days) characterized by very long candles ranging from greenish yellow to dark brown in color.¹¹

¹⁰9ish barnu is also referred to as 9ish al-ghariib or maang.

¹¹See Appendix B for a typology of the millets grown in this area.