

mind, we asked farmers when they started planting, replanting, first weeding, second weeding, cutting or pulling and threshing. This information was collected on each of the main crops they grew. In addition, we asked farmers when they started clearing their fields for next year's cropping season.

One problem we encountered in these inquiries was that farmers were not always conscious of the exact dates they began these activities. Several cues were used to jog farmers' memories such as having them relate the timing of the activity to important religious events like Ramadan, or having them indicate what month in the traditional Islamic calendar the activity took place. Usually farmers were able to specify what part of the month the activity began such as the first, the middle or the end, but it was not possible for them to be any more accurate than this. For this reason, the following charts which specify the timing of cropping activities for each crop are quite general as far as dates are concerned. However, they do reflect general patterns in the timing of such activities. The following discussion briefly summarizes the data on these charts taking each crop separately.

#### Millet Cropping Activities (1981-1982 Season)

1. Planting - The first planting of millet by sample farmers occurred between the first of April and the first of July. The most common planting period was from the first of May to the first of June. Seventy-one percent of the farmers planted their millet before rains (rameel) and 29 percent planted after rains (nadaaya). Farmers planted their millet early for several reasons: 1) to avoid the peak seasons of pests such as santa (*Cyrtocamenta* spp.) and birds; 2) to take advantage of all possible rainfall in a cropping season; 3) to hire labor for planting which is relatively inexpensive and available; and 4) to obtain a food crop from their field as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the timing of the first millet planting is not always appropriate and replanting is a common practice.
2. Replanting - Replanting of millet occurred between the end of May and the middle of July. The most common replanting period was from the end of June to the middle of July. Sixty-five percent of the farmers surveyed replanted, and most of these after rains (87%).
3. 1st Weeding - The first weeding of millet occurred between the end of June and the first of August. The most common first weeding period was from the first of July to the first of August.
4. 2nd Weeding - The second weeding of millet occurred between the middle of July and the end of September. The most common second weeding period was from the first of August to the first of September.
5. Cutting - The cutting of millet occurred between the end of August and the first of January. The most common cutting period occurred from the middle of October to the first of November.