

in accurately determining the labor costs of poor farmers who rely heavily on family labor, we opted to base these calculations on only those farmers who paid for all labor operations necessary to grow these crops. Although it is possible that these calculations slightly over-estimate the cost of labor for poor farmers, they provide a basis upon which to compare each of the crops grown.

Table 14. Labor Expenditure Per Mukhammas by Crop

<u>Type of Crop</u>	<u>Average Total Labor Costs</u>	<u>Range</u>
millet (n=10)	20.69 L.S.	14.00 L.S. - 27.22 L.S.
sesame (n=11)	20.50 L.S.	17.80 L.S. - 24.65 L.S.
groundnuts (n=7)	33.45 L.S.	27.41 L.S. - 38.30 L.S.
sorghum (n=4)	21.22 L.S.	18.33 L.S. - 23.20 L.S.

The findings in Table 14 indicate that the average total labor cost per mukhammas to grow millet was about the same as it was for sesame and sorghum. Farmers were investing about 21 L.S. a mukhammas on labor when they grew any one of these crops. These findings made sense because the spacing pattern used by farmers in planting these crops is nearly the same, and therefore weeding costs would be similar. It also appears that threshing costs were not that much different.

As for groundnuts, the average total labor cost per mukhammas was much higher than it was for the other crops. Farmers were spending 33.45 L.S. a mukhammas on labor for groundnuts. This was approximately 12.50 L.S. more than for the other crops. This high average labor expenditure is due to the closer planting of groundnuts than other crops, which means that planting takes more time and effort. Likewise, weeding groundnuts takes more time and effort. Therefore, the cash investment required to grow groundnuts was quite high when compared to the other crops, which could explain why farmers tended to plant smaller plots of this crop.

The next step was to determine what the farmer gained in output from his labor investment in each crop. Therefore, the average output gained from each crop was calculated. The following discussion presents our findings on crop output.

#### Crop Output

To determine the average yield per mukhammas for each crop, we took the total number of sacks produced in a crop and divided by the number of mukhammas planted in that crop.