

Table 15. Yields of Principal Crops

<u>Type of Crop</u>	<u>Average Yield (sacks)</u>	<u>Range (sacks)</u>
Millet (n=38)	1.14	0.00 - 3.00
Sesame (n=37)	1.06	0.04 - 2.10
Sorghum (n=11)	1.09	0.14 - 3.00
Groundnuts (n=19)	6.58	1.67 - 15.83

The average yield per mukhammas for millet was nearly the same as that for sesame and sorghum (Table 15). All three crops yielded slightly more than one sack a mukhammas. As for groundnuts, the average yield was 6.58 sacks per mukhammas.

Despite the seemingly high output for groundnuts, these yields are quite low and reflect the adverse environmental conditions farmers face in this region of North Kordofan. Insufficient rain, poor soil conditions, and numerous pests hurt production. It also is adversely affected by poor seed quality, the lack of pesticides, and insufficient labor. Given the situation these farmers find themselves in, their ability to make a living from farming is amazing.

Estimated Net Cash Gained Per Mukhammas for Each Crop

To determine what farmers net gain in earnings was after labor expenditures were deducted, we divided the average value of crop produced by the average total labor cost. This ratio indicated the amount of cash gained from crop output for every unit of cash invested in labor.<sup>45</sup> Crop output was converted to cash by using an average market price for a sack of the crop and multiplying this by the average yield for that crop. The market prices we used were averages of the 1981-1982 crop prices of the El Obeid Government Crop Market.<sup>46</sup>

Analysis indicates that for every L.S. a farmer put into labor to grow millet, he received an average of 1.87 L.S. in return at current market prices (Table 16). This was the highest rate of return to labor for any of the crops grown. Farmers were making 18.07 L.S. for every mukhammas of millet they grew after total labor costs were deducted. Although most farmers didn't sell their millet, this is a good indication of the value of this crop to them. The millet would have been even more profitable if farmers could consistently produce two or three sacks per mukhammas. Such yields were not uncommon in this area. In addition, farmers could generate more revenue from their

<sup>45</sup>The calculation of this ratio excludes the costs of other inputs like seed and chemical inputs. Compared to labor costs, these other input costs are minimal.

<sup>46</sup>These crop prices have been collected two days a week for the past six months.