

The data indicate the wide variation among farming families in the amount of feterita purchased in a year's time. But, if we take the hypothetical case of the average family which buys 8.6 sacks of feterita and if we assume a consumption of one mid per day, then the 8.6 sacks provides food for the average family for 258 days (1 sack = 30 mids). A generalization that emerges from this analysis is that a typical farming family supports itself on its own millet for only about four months out of the year and buys feterita the rest of the time. A minority of the farmers, however, do not purchase any feterita. Presumably they are well supplied from their own production or they buy other types of cereal grain.

Some families purchase amounts of feterita that exceed their own consumption needs. To feed a donkey requires about 1/2 mid per day, for example. Women who make mariisa (sorghum beer) to gain a supplementary income may buy an additional fifteen mids per month above household consumption needs to be used in brewing.

A close relationship has been found between the selling of cash crops in bulk and the purchase of feterita by the sack. The relationship is most evident at el-Geifil where a truck owner hauls feterita to the village and exchanges it for the sesame held in the farmers' storage pits. The farmers are pleased with this arrangement because they trade sesame, which has reached its maximum price, for feterita, which is at a low price. Feterita is purchased from a variety of sources, of which the village merchant's shop and the jobber's truck are two that have already been mentioned (Table 28).

Table 28. Distribution of Feterita Purchases by Source

<u>Sources of Feterita</u>	<u>No. of Purchases</u>
Urban Markets ^a	20 (52.7%)
Village Shop	8 (21.1%)
Local Flour Mill	4 (10.5%)
Jobber (Truck Owner)	6 (15.8%)
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^aEighteen cases of purchases from el-Obeid, two from el-Rahad.

Feterita is most often purchased direct from an urban market, where the price is less than from other sources.

An analysis of the interview materials suggests that farmers are likely to adopt one of two fundamental strategies for buying feterita:

1. Feterita is bought by the mid daily or weekly. This strategy is used most often by poor farmers who rely heavily on their own labor as a source of