

## HARVESTING PROCEDURES

The following presentation will briefly outline the steps used in harvesting each of the main crops grown in this area. All tools mentioned in this discussion are described in the preceding chart. Groundnut harvesting procedures will be discussed first, followed by sesame, sorghum and millet.

### Groundnuts (fuul)

1. sall                      The first process involves pulling the plants out of the ground. All members of the household participate with the exception of small children.
2. koom                     After the groundnuts are pulled from the ground, they are piled into small piles called koom. The size of the piles varies from one area to another. The length of time the groundnuts are left in these piles is anywhere from three to ten days.
3. dirra                    If the amount of harvested groundnuts is sizeable, they will gather the kooms into one large pile which is called a dirra. (If the amount is small they just leave them in kooms.) In this large pile, the groundnut seeds are turned upside-down so that the leaves are on the ground and the seeds are in the air. This helps in drying the seeds. The plants are closely packed together into a circular shaped-pile and will be left in this pile for as long as the farmer wishes to keep them like this. Usually not more than one month.
4. gareed                 This process involves removing the seeds from the plant. When the amount of groundnuts is quite large, the process of removing the seeds from the plants is referred to as dagg which means smashing.
5. fariik                  This process involves rubbing the seeds between the hands to remove stems and dirt. Usually this process is used when the groundnuts are planted in garduud soil.
6. mudraa                The seeds are winnowed to separate them from dirt.
7. keel                    This involves putting the seeds in sacks in the field. These sacks are brought back to the village by donkey, camel, cart or sometimes a lorry if the amount is quite large.

### Sesame (simsim)

1. gati9                    First, the stems of the sesame plant are cut using a munjal(see tool chart). Both men and women will participate in cutting.