

2. khulba After cutting five to seven plants, the stems are piled into small piles called khulba. They are left in these small piles for one to two days.
  
3. dirra  
or tuka1  
or masharr<sup>1</sup> After a day or two, the khulbas are gathered together in one of three types of large piles. A dirra is a very large circular pile of sesame stems approximately one meter high. Its main advantage is that a large amount of sesame can be stacked in such a pile. The second type of pile is called a tuka1. It is smaller than a dirra, but the main difference is that sesame stems put in this type of pile are stacked upright, with the pods pointing up in the air. This type of pile has two advantages: 1) it prevents the seeds from being spread out on the ground if a late rain should come in October; and 2) stacking the stems this way better protects the seeds from ants and termites. Tukals are often used by farmers who grow simsim HireeHri, which is an early maturing variety. This type of sesame is often put in drying piles before the end of the rainy season. The third type of drying pile is called a masharr. These piles are less uniform than the other two, and usually involve laying the stems out in a broad shallow pile so they dry quickly. The masharr pile is often used by farmers who are in need of cash in a hurry. The sesame is put in such piles so that it can be sold as soon as possible. Farmers who have to pay back loans to merchants or who are in need of buying household necessities will use such piles. The normal drying time for a masharr is ten days. As for dirras and tukals, the drying time is fifteen to twenty days. Farmers will put DDT around all three types of piles to protect them from ants and termites.
  
4. Haṭṭ This is what the whole process of threshing sesame is called.  
  
Haṭṭiṭa Women will often take some of the sesame stems from one of these large drying piles before threshing really begins and shake them into a reeka or an empty sack. This sesame is used for home consumption and is called Haṭṭiṭa.
  
5. shi9ba Men will use a tool called a shi9ba to remove the seeds from the stems and pods by raking the plants. The stems are then pulled aside from the seeds.

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<sup>1</sup>A threshing floor is often prepared before farmers begin piling their sesame in large piles. The piles are then placed on top of these floors. The same process is done for sorghum and millet.