6. Threshing - Threshing of millet occurred between the middle of October and the end of January. The most common threshing period was from the middle of December to the first of January.

7. Land Clearing - Farmers in our sample began clearing land for next year's cropping season between the first of January and the first of May. The first of March and the first of April were the most common times when farmers said they begin clearing their fields. (Since land clearing data are the same for all crops, they will not be repeated in the discussions which follow.)

Sesame Cropping Activities (1981-1982 Season)

1. Planting - The first planting of sesame occurred between the first of May and the end of July. The most common planting periods were the first of June and the end of June/first of July. Seventy-three percent of the farmers planted their sesame after rains (nadaaya), while 27 percent planted before the rains (rameel). Farmers tend to plant their sesame later than millet because it is more susceptible to wind erosion. This also accounts for planting sesame after rains. They wait to plant their sesame until the rains are more frequent, which usually occurs in late June. They can afford to wait with sesame because it does not have to contend with seasonal peaks in pest attack to the same extent as millet.

2. Replanting - Replanting of sesame occurred between the first of June and the end of July. The most common replanting period was the first of July. Thirty percent of the farmers surveyed replanted, and most of these after rains (82%).

3. 1st Weeding - The first weeding of sesame occurred between the middle of June and the end of August. The most common first weeding period was from the first of July to the first of August.

4. 2nd Weeding - The second weeding of sesame occurred between the middle of July and the end of September. The most common second weeding period was from the first of August to the first of September.

5. Cutting - The cutting of sesame occurred between the middle of August and the first of January. The most common cutting period was from the middle of October to the first of November.

6. Threshing - Threshing of sesame occurred between the first of September and the first of February. The most common threshing periods were the first of December and the first of January. 30

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30 These two peak threshing periods probably correspond to two different varieties of sesame.