peaked during November in both years. This corresponded with the occurrence of the Islamic sacrificial feast—el-Id el-Adha—during which all who can afford it are enjoined by religious custom to slaughter a male sheep to be shared with the poor.

For the entire period covered by these data (i.e., March, 1980 – January, 1982), nomads constituted 42% of the sellers and 36% of the buyers. Another 21% of the buyers were butchers. The rest of the buyers and sellers in Abu Haraz market are either farmers or livestock merchants. The market records do not permit distinguishing these last two groups. Of course, some farmers are also livestock merchants. Information gathered from the market clerk indicates that the merchants who regularly buy livestock as a commercial venture in Abu Haraz market are local farmers who are wealthy and therefore have capital to purchase animals in groups.

Another way to look at the socioeconomic characteristics of buyer and seller is to consider their tribal affiliation which is recorded on the sales receipt. More than twenty-five tribes buy and sell livestock at Abu Haraz, but the majority of the transactions are made by only four tribes: (1) The Bideiriya is the dominant tribal group in the Abu Haraz area. Its members are all settled cultivators. (2) The Fellata are West Africans that have immigrated to the Sudan. The designation includes settled cultivators as well as fully nomadic groups like the Umm Bororo pastoralists. (3) The Shanabla are predominantly sheep and camel herders. They are the only pastoral group that considers the el-Obeid region to be their home territory. Abu Haraz is one of their main watering spots. (4) The Misseiriya are Baggara, or cattle herders, from South Kordofan. Altogether, these four groups account for 72% of the purchases for the period for which we have collected data.

A comparison of the buying and selling activities of the four tribal groups in Abu Haraz livestock market indicates the same rainy season pattern of buying activities that was encountered above (Figure 5). The Shanabla are the most important buyers in Abu Haraz market, followed by the Bideiriya, Misseiriya and Fellata. On the sellers graph, the Bideiriya are seen to be the dominant group. The Bideiriya also show a tendency to sell throughout the year even though the rainy season is the peak period for their sales.

Most of the nonrainy season sales were found to consist of goats. Goats are an important investment for settled cultivators, and they may be sold when money is needed. Another pattern which became evident from interviewing livestock marketers is that the nomads are selling sick, old and hurt animals and buying healthy ones in return, as well as they are culling male animals from their herds and replacing them with female breeding stock.

\[94\] Butchers were found to be major buyers of goats throughout the year.