period because their crops do not germinate.

2. Farmers will sometimes mobilize communal work forces to perform difficult tasks. Although such labor arrangements are on the decline, communal labor is still quite important for threshing millet. The timing of millet threshing is such that it does not compete with other farm tasks demanding labor input, and communal labor is still used to perform this task.

3. To meet their labor requirements, many poor farmers depend on the labor of most of the members of their household. This is because they can't afford to hire outside labor to work on their farms.

4. To pay for the labor costs of the coming cropping season, farmers hold their sesame crop obtained from last year's harvest until April or May. The sale of the crop at this time ensures that funds will be available.

5. Because some poor farmers cannot afford the labor inputs necessary to cultivate the land they own, they rent it out by futura (10 per cent of the crop output). Renting ensures that they gain a portion of the production obtained from their land. Other rental arrangements function in the same way.

6. Some farmers are organizing their own self-help credit programs. For instance, a group of farmers in one village rented a tract of land and worked it through communal effort. The output gained from this farm was then sold and the cash used as a credit source for poor farmers in the group who needed cash to pay for labor. But, activities like this are not very common.

Recommendations

1. In addition to being advantageous to low rainfall condition, the introduction of short-maturing varieties of millet and sorghum would have a positive impact on the labor practices of poor farmers. These varieties would provide an early appearing food source in poor farmers' fields which would relieve them of the necessity to work for other farmers for cash to purchase food. Presently, our findings indicate that most farmers do their second weeding during August, which is about the time poor farmers run out of food. As a consequence, poor farmers' fields may not receive a second weeding. Thus, early maturing varieties may enable such farmers to redirect their labor inputs into their own fields. Currently, these farmers do not have access to these varieties because they are not readily available or they can't afford them. (Ways to increase this access is discussed under Access to Seeds.)

2. Credit programs could be developed and set-up in villages in the area to provide funds to farmers to help pay for labor