controlled by planting sesim II which is pest tolerant. However,



Thinning Simsim

in case of severe attack control is by spraying with Contra-Z at a rate of 400 – 500 mls / ha or 50 mls in 15 litres of water.

Harvesting / Drying

Sesim II is ready for harvest when the lower leaves drop off the plants or two capsules of the lower main stem show signs of opening. Harvest by cutting from the lower main stem using knives or sickles. Tie stem in bundles and dry on a rack for 1 – 1° weeks. Dry to 9 – 12% moisture content.



Threshing / Storage

Place dry bundles of dried Sesim II on clean sheets or cemented ground and beat with clubs or sticks. Clean by winnowing and remove leaves and smaller deformed seeds. Store in gunny bags on raised platform in a a cool dry place.

For more information contact

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GROW SESIM II



April 2003

Introduction

Simsim is one of the oil crops grown in the North and East of Uganda. Its seed is mainly used as sauce in food, the oil is for cooking and manufacturing of soap and margarine while the by-product is used as animal feeds. It also provides protein, which is very good for growth especially in young children.

Variety characteristics

Sesim II grows up to a height of 1 – 1.5 m. It is greenish in colour at early stages of growth but the leaves; stems and capsules turn purple at maturity. It is small and white seeded and good for confectionary. It yields 800 – 1000 kg / ha, is resistant to lodging tolerant to gall midge and webworm Sesim II takes 105 – 110 days to mature.



Drying Rack

Growth requirements

Sesim II grows well in fertile sandy loamy soils with high organic matter content. It requires about 700 – 1000 mm of rain well distributed per year

Seed selection

It is recommended that farmers buy and plant certified and dressed seed obtained from Serere Agricultural and Animal Production Research Institute (SAARI) and agents of Uganda seeds Project.

Land preparation

Prepare land for planting 4 – 6 weeks before planting. The seedbed should be of fine tilth to allow easy germination of the small seed.

Planting and spacing

Plant at the on-set of rains in March – April and July – August. Plant in rows at a spacing of 30 cm X 10 cm for easy weeding, spraying, harvesting and removal of off-type. 4 kg of seed is enough to plant one hectare.

Weeding

One to two weedings are recommended, starting 2 – 2° weeks after germination. Early weeding gives good establishment and high yields.

Thinning

This is done when seedlings have grown to a height of about 10 – 15 cm or 1 –2 weeks after weeding. Remove weak and diseased plants.

Pest and Disease Control

The major pests of simsim are gall midge and webworm. These are