Study on Crop Calendar

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Definition:

A crop calendar may be defined as the schedule, graphical or pictorial presentation of different operations (technologies) needed for producing different crops in respect of time.

Objectives

- To know the actual time of sowing and harvesting of different crops.
- To facilities for managing money.
- To assist in the proper distribution of labor.
- To assist inefficient management of crops.
- To know the actual time for applying fertilizer and pesticides.
- To record the results of different agricultural practices.

Utility/Importance of Cropping Calendar

- Different crop production technologies can be presented in a concise form.
- During the growth of different crops, the timing of applying different technologies for different crops in the field can easily be known.
- To know the timing of cultural operations of different crops in advance.
- For preparing a crop rotation schedule, a crop calendar is used as a guide.
- To help the farmers collect the required capital to invest in the production of crops.
- It helps in preparing a cropping scheme.
- Probable crop production cost and income can be calculated with the help of a crop calendar.
- Timing of the loan for crop production and its refunding time can easily be known with the help of a crop calendar.
- Farm management practices become easier.
- If there is a chance for the failure of any crop, then immediate measures can be taken for growing catch crops without interrupting the growing of scheduled crops.
- It helps to prepare a plan for diversified crop production.
- It helps to supply the information in changing the cropping pattern.
- It helps a businessman to procure seed, fertilizer, plant protection materials, cold storage management, storing, and export & import of different commodities timely by observing a crop calendar.

Types of crop calendar:

1. Tabular crop calendar
a) Detailed/ Descriptive
b) Month-wise

2. Graphical crop calendar
a) Horizontal
b) Vertical
c) Circular

3. Pictorial crop calendar

1. Tabular crop calendar

In this method, the names of the crops with variety, their production technology, and expected yield are presented in a tabular form.

(a) Detailed/ Descriptive:

In this method, a crop calendar is prepared in detail with different headings.

Advantage:
Detailed crop production information is available.
Disadvantage:
The lifetime of crops is not always available.

(a) Month-wise crop calendar:

Month-wise crop calendars are prepared with limited headlines with various information like production technology.

Advantages:
- Month-wise laborer management is easier.
- It helps to collect crop production inputs.
- Ideas can be taken to process the crop.
- Month-wise crop production can be taken easily.

Disadvantages:
- Date-wise crop production operation can not be found.
- Inputs and expected yield of the different crop is difficult to find out.

2. Graphical crop calendar

In this method, the life span of different crops (sowing/ transplanting, harvesting time) are presented in a line or bar graph.

a) Horizontal bar:

In this method, horizontal bar columns are made parallel to the X- axis. Months are placed in X- axis, and crops are placed in Y- axis. In this crop calendar, sowing and harvesting times are represented against the twelve months of the year.

Advantages:
- Ideas on the lifetime of different crops can be made at a glance.
- Sowing/transplanting and harvesting time can be known easily.
- Helps to prepare a chart of cropping patterns and cropping schedule.
- During cropping, different diseases, and insect attacking times can be presented.

Disadvantages:
- Only the life span of crops can be known, but other information remains lacking behind.

b) Vertical bar:

Bar graphs are prepared against the life span of different crops. Name of the crops are presented in the X- axis and months are presented in the Y- axis.

Advantages:
- Lifetime of different crops can be shown at a glance.
- Sowing/ transplanting and harvesting time can be known easily.

Disadvantages:

Only the life span of a crop can be known, while other information remains lacking.

c) Circular bar:

In this method, the life span of different crops for twelve months is arranged in a circular form like the dial of a watch/ clock.

Advantages:

- Life span of different crops can be known easily.

Disadvantages:

- Only the life span of a crop can be known, while other information remains lacking.
- Only the life span of a crop can be known easily where other information remains lacking.

With a limited area like a horizontal or vertical calendar, various crops cannot be incorporated in limited space.

3. Pictorial crop calendar:

Required information for crop production technologies are presented in a pictorial form.

Advantages:

- Looks very attractive.
- Illiterate farmers can easily understand.

Disadvantages:

- Preparation is very difficult.
- More costly.
- Required more space for its preparation.

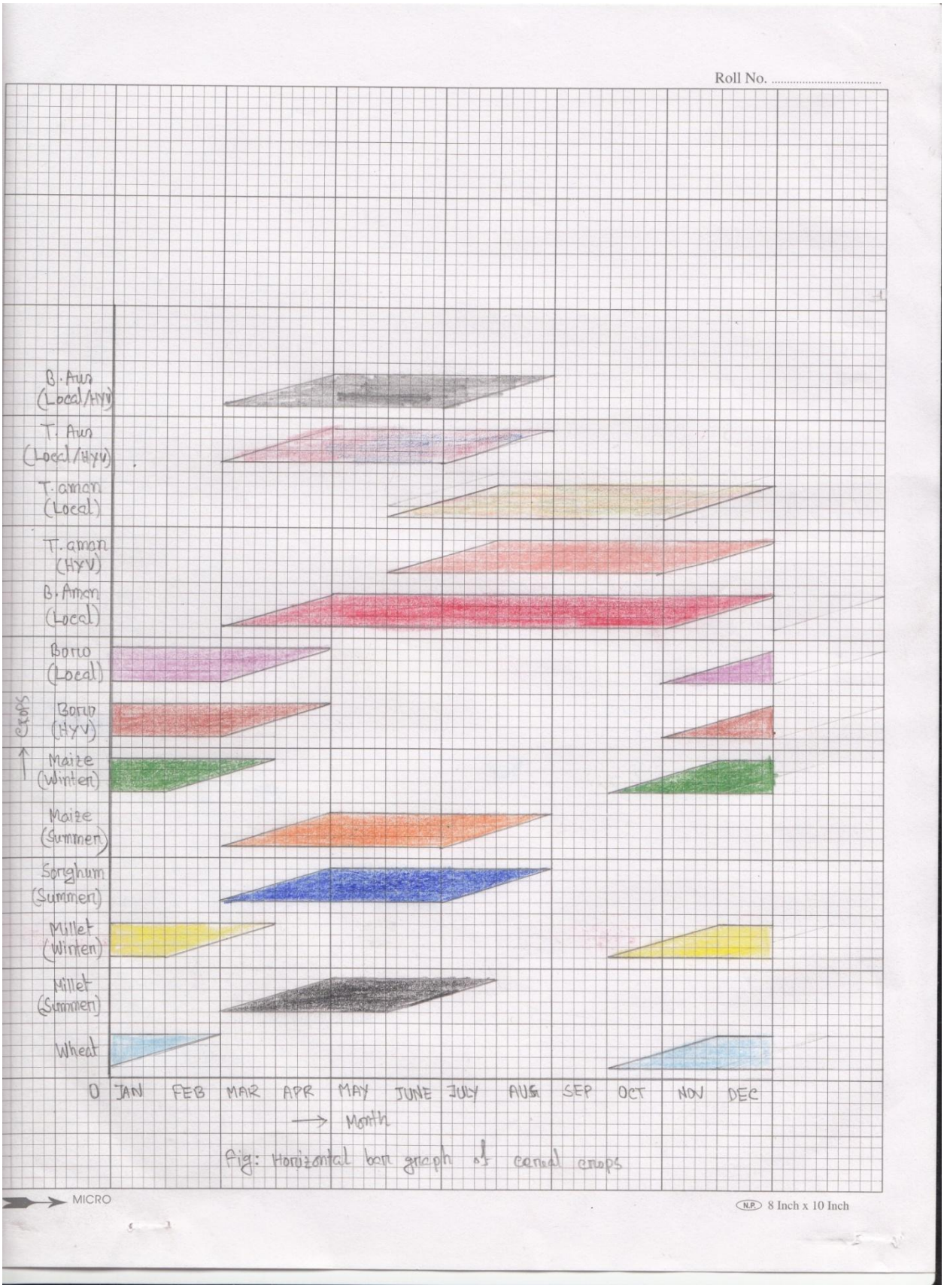
Preparation of month-wise crop calendar:

In preparation for a crop calendar as per month, different operations need to be done for the production of a crop, usually maintain under the following heads:

- Land preparation/ seedbed preparation
- Sowing/ planting/ transplanting time
- Intercultural operation
- Harvesting
- Postharvest operation

PREPARATION OF CROP CALENDAR AS PER MONTH
January 2023

Land/ seedbed preparation	Sowing/ planting/ transplanting	Intercultural/ nursery operation	Harvesting	Postharvest operation
Land preparation: Onion, millet, sugarcane, boro rice (local), watermelon, summer vegetables, sorghum **Seedbed preparation**: Boro rice, watermelon, winter vegetables.	**Sowing:** Sorghum, groundnut **Planting:** Sugarcane **Transplanting:** Boro, onion, tobacco	**Weeding, mulching, thinning:** Sugarcane, onion, boro rice, watermelon, tobacco, groundnut, summer vegetables. **Earthing up:** Tobacco **Irrigation:** Sugarcane, boro, onion, watermelon, tobacco, sorghum, summer vegetables **Topping:** Tobacco **Plant protection measures:** Sugarcane, tobacco, sorghum, onion, boro, summer vegetables, groundnut.	Sugarcane, Tobacco, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Field pea, Radish, Cowpea, potato, etc.	Sugarcane, filed pea, tomato



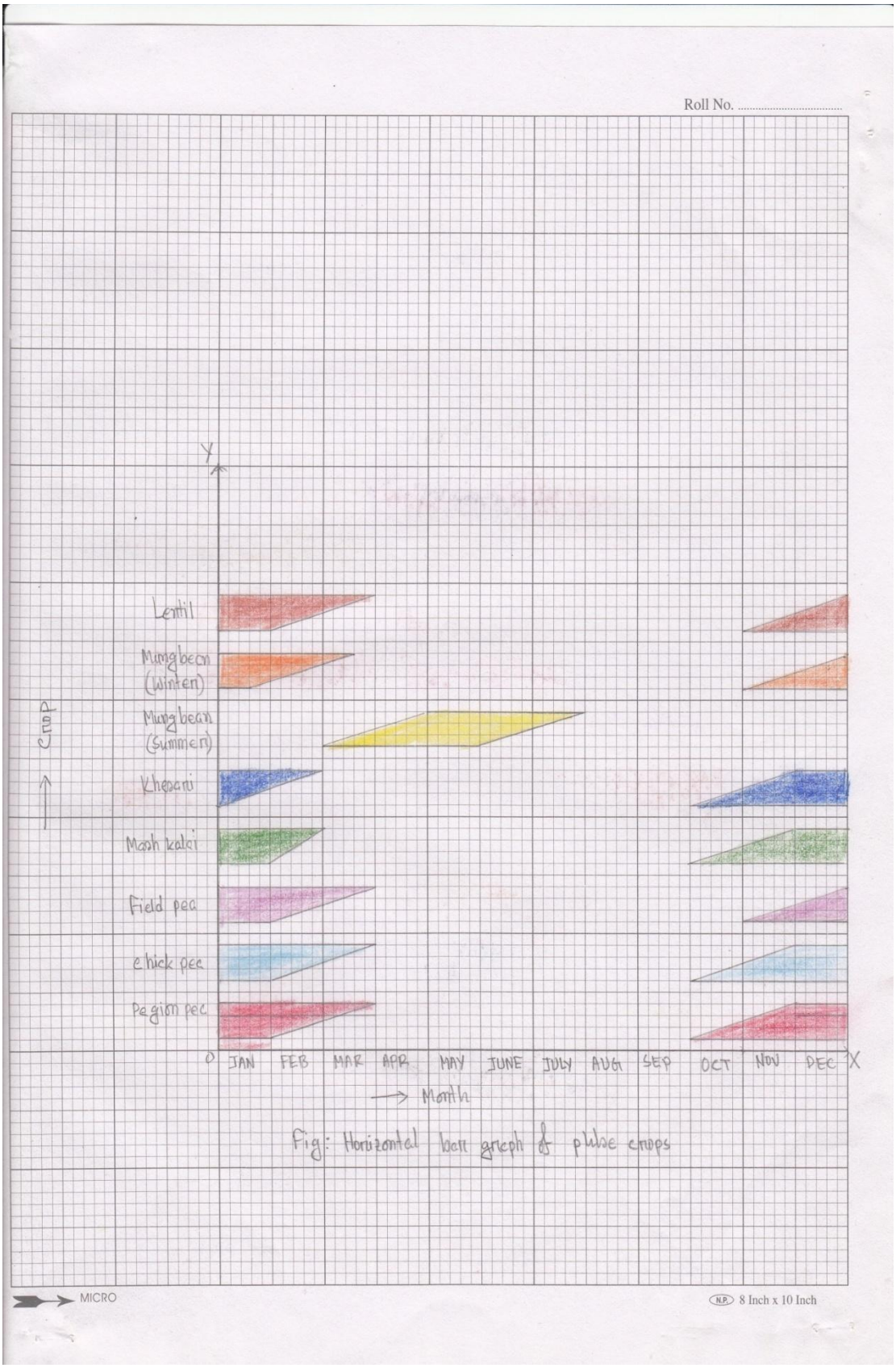


Fig: Horizontal bar graph of pulse crops

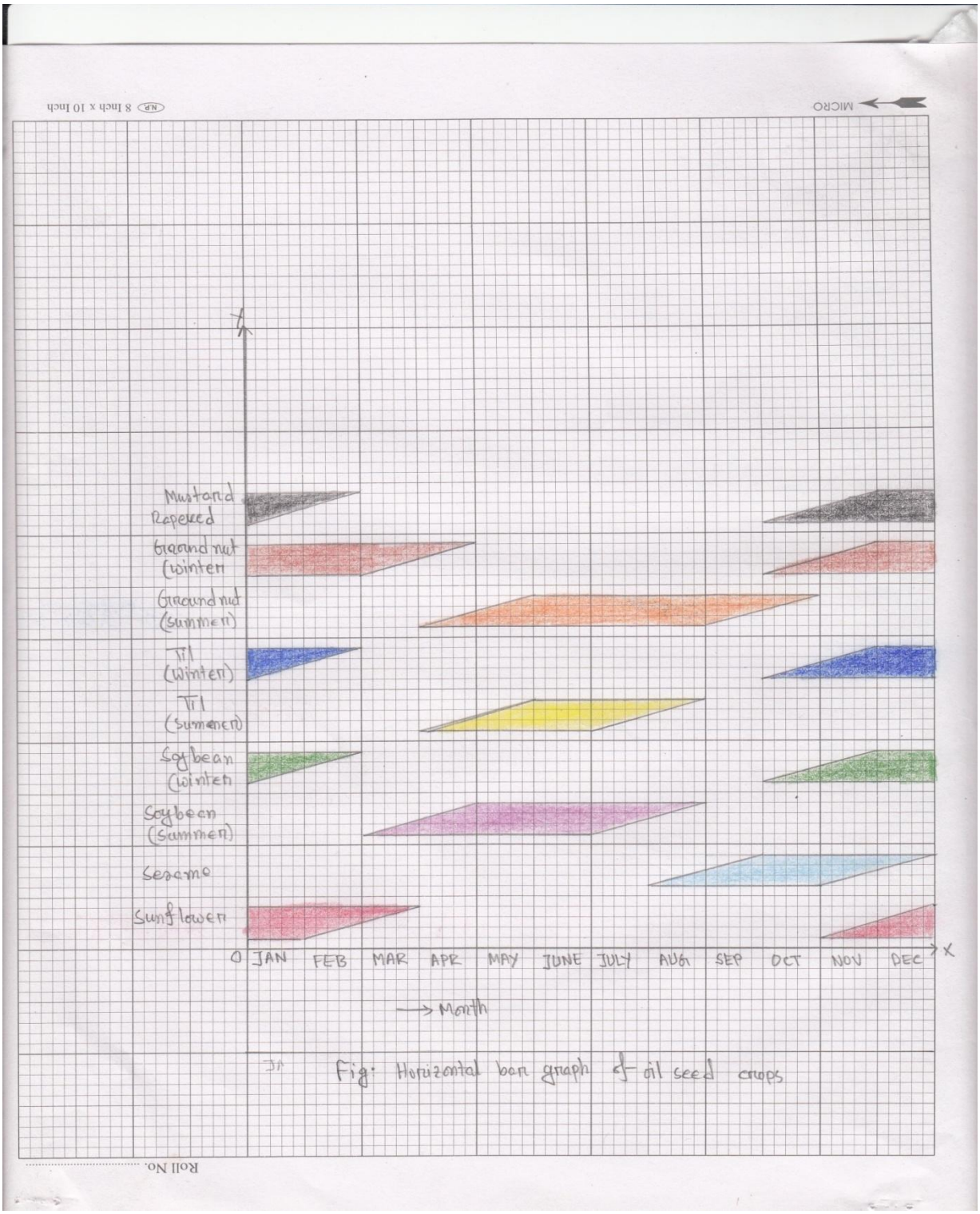
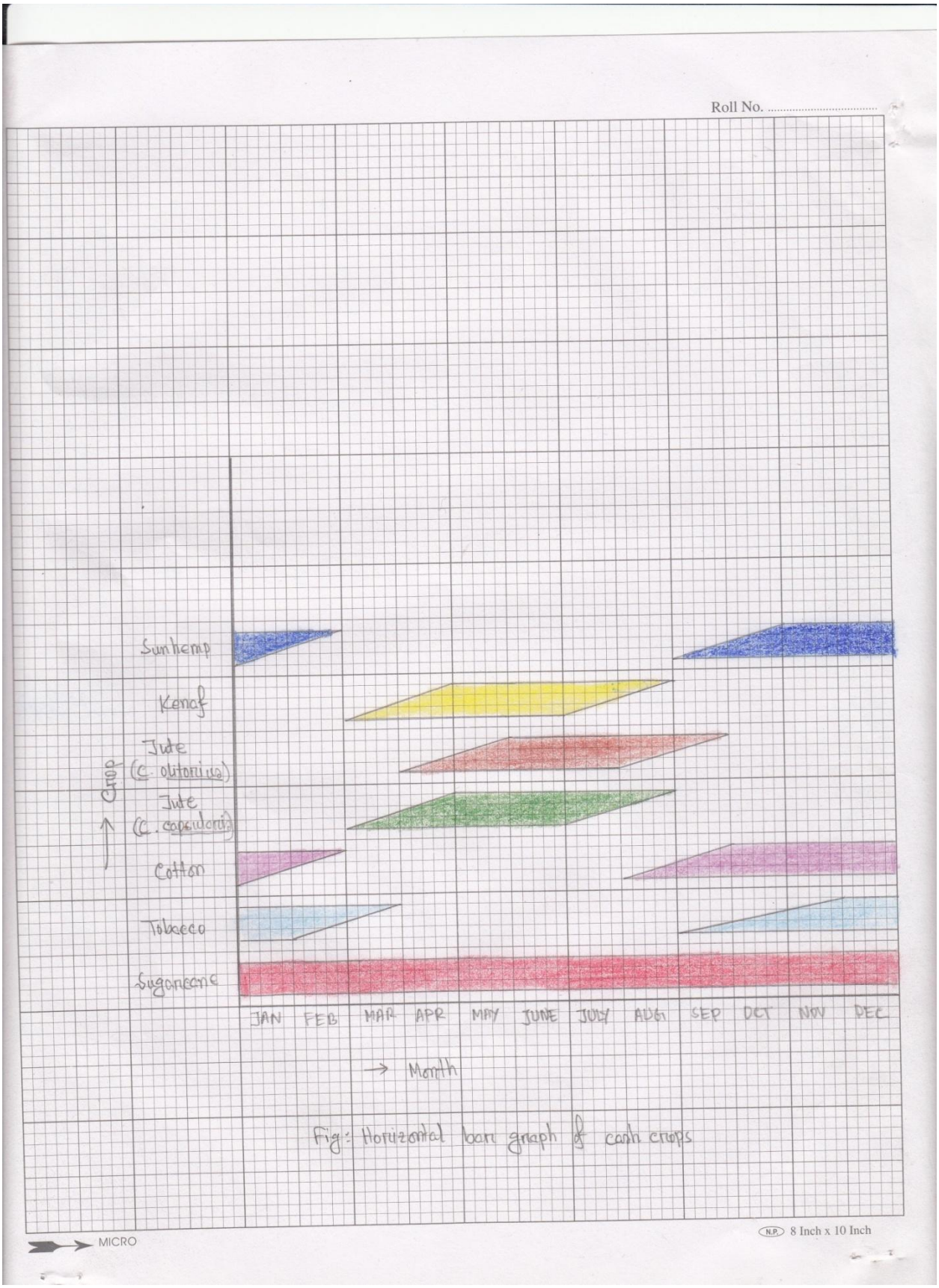


Fig: Horizontal bar graph of oil seed crops



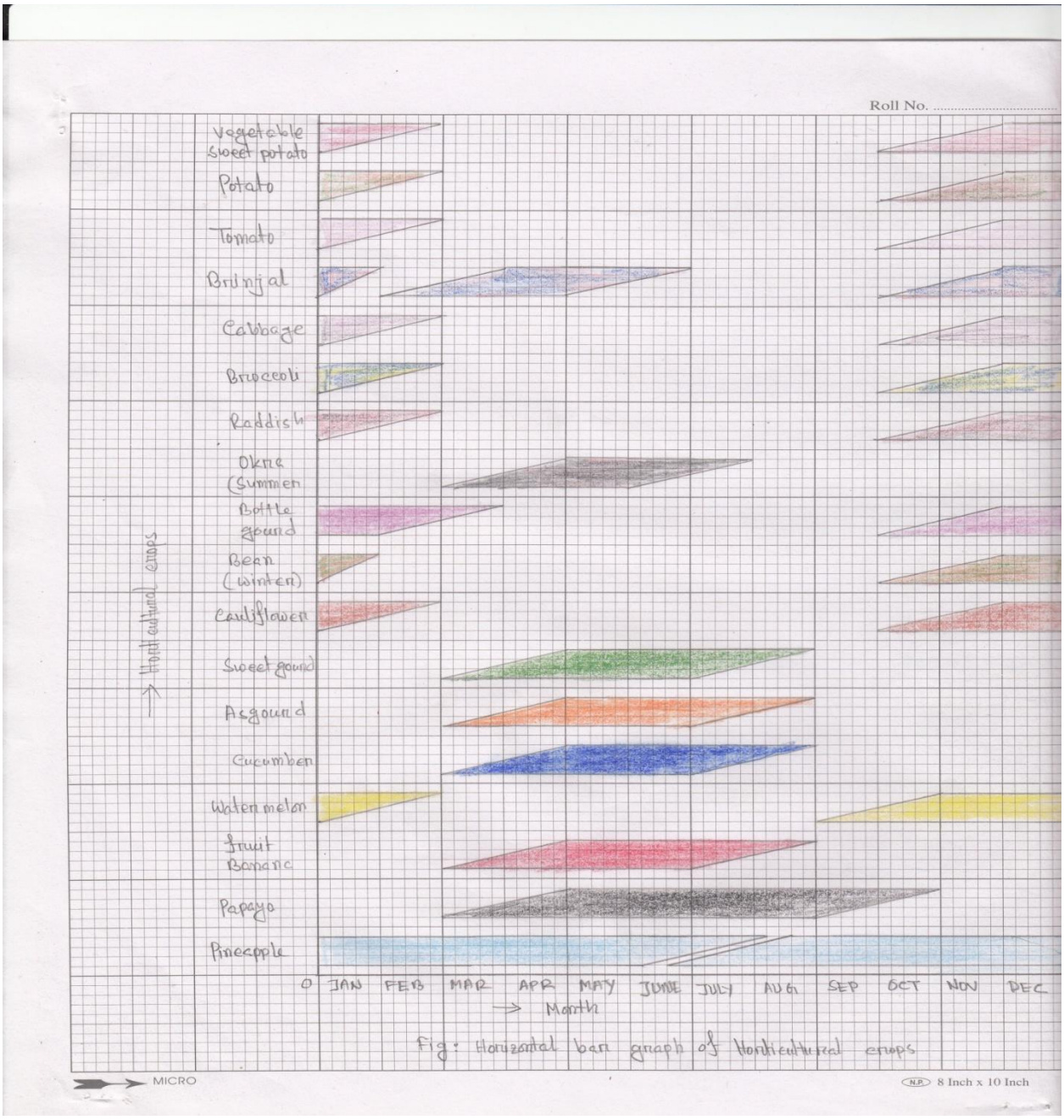
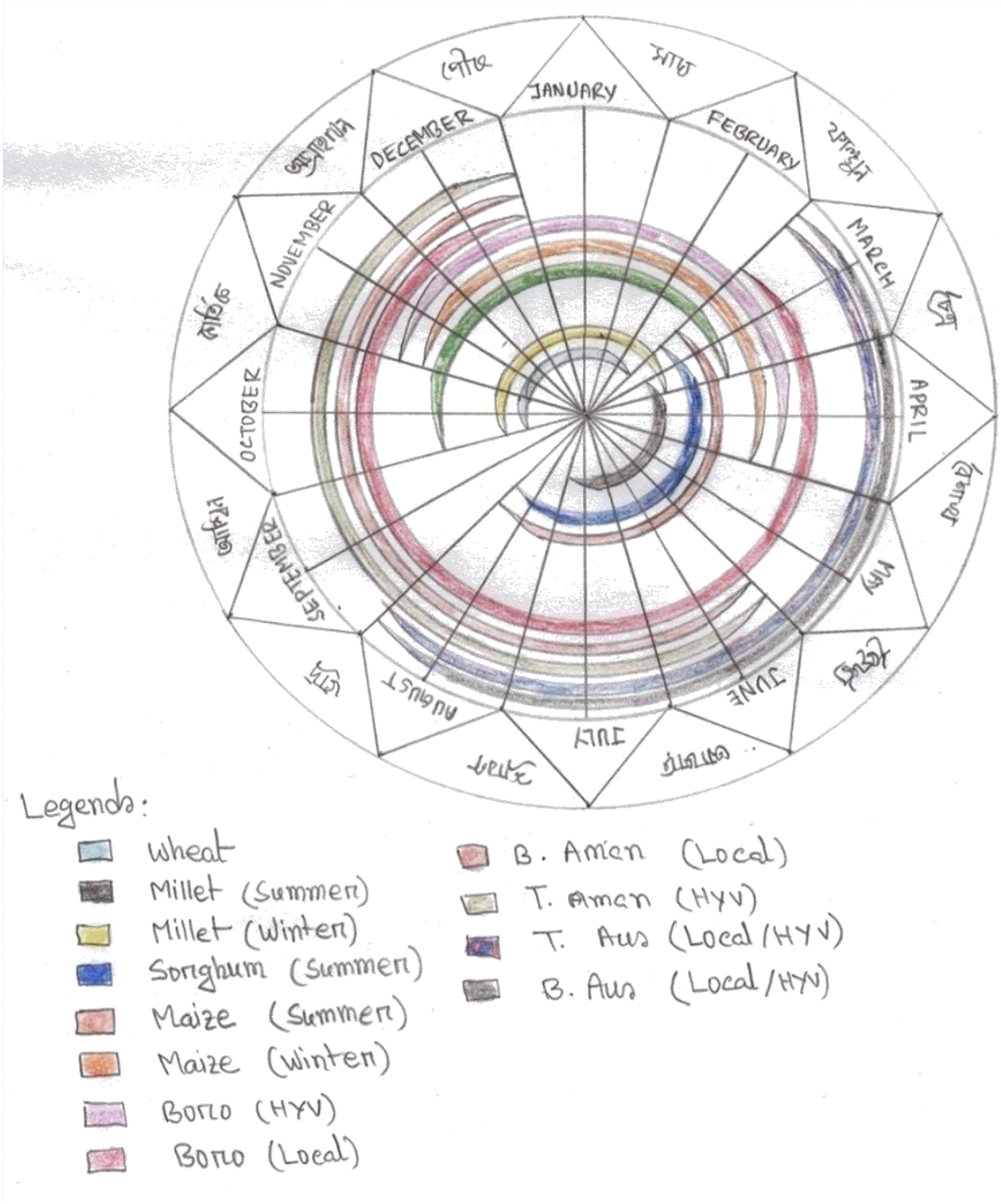
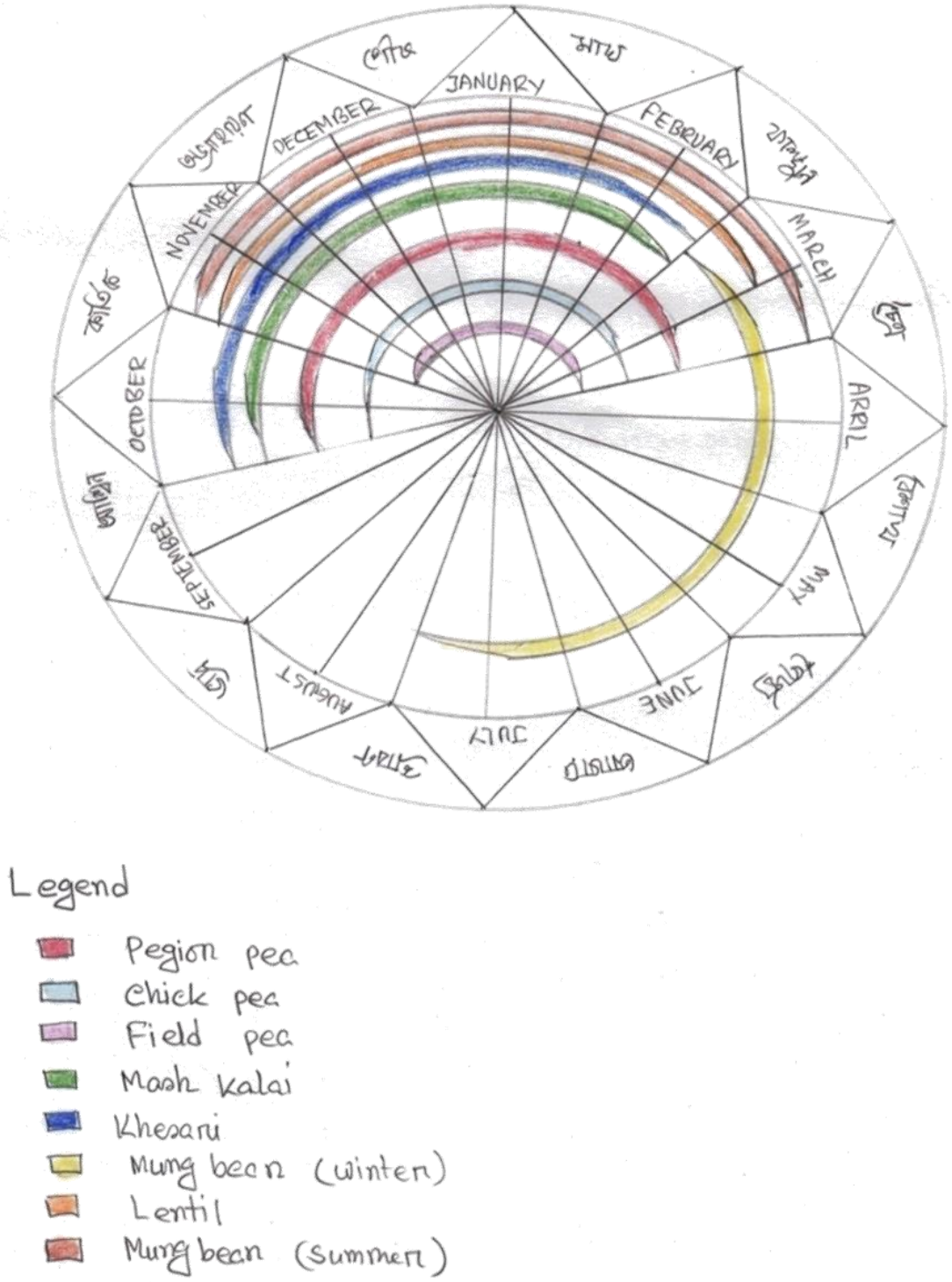


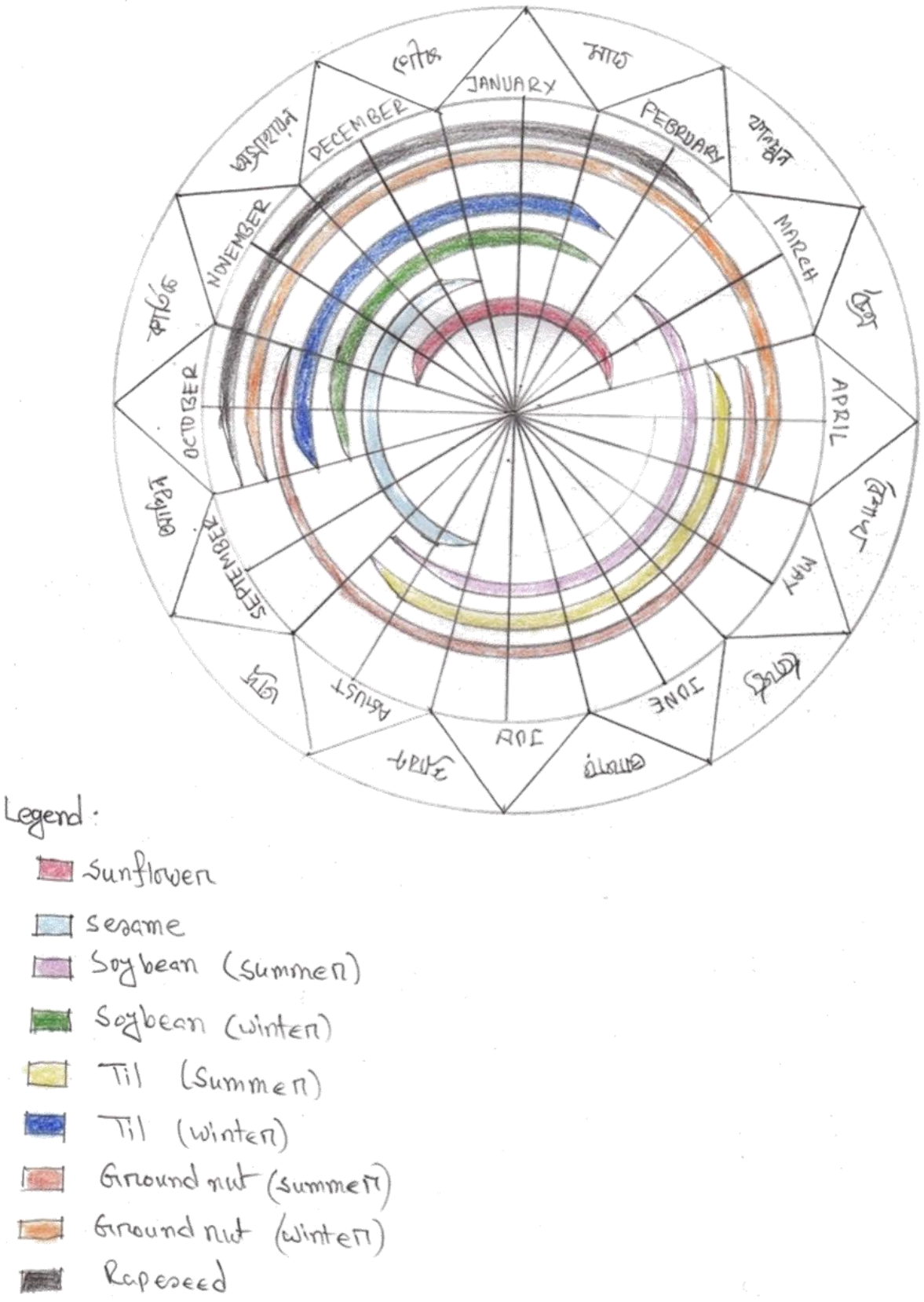
Fig: Horizontal bar graph of Horticultural crops



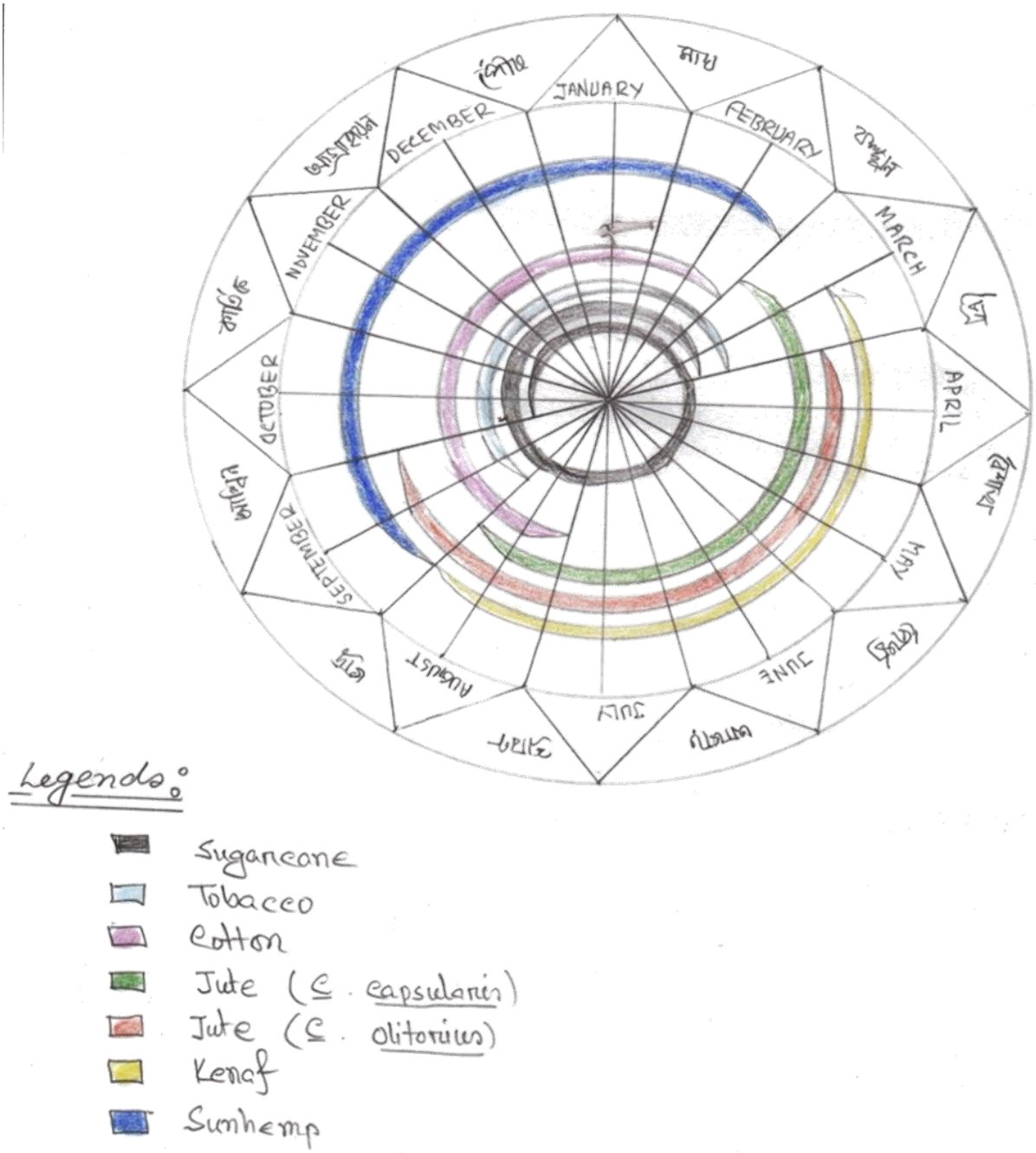
Crop calendar in the form of circular pie for cereal crops



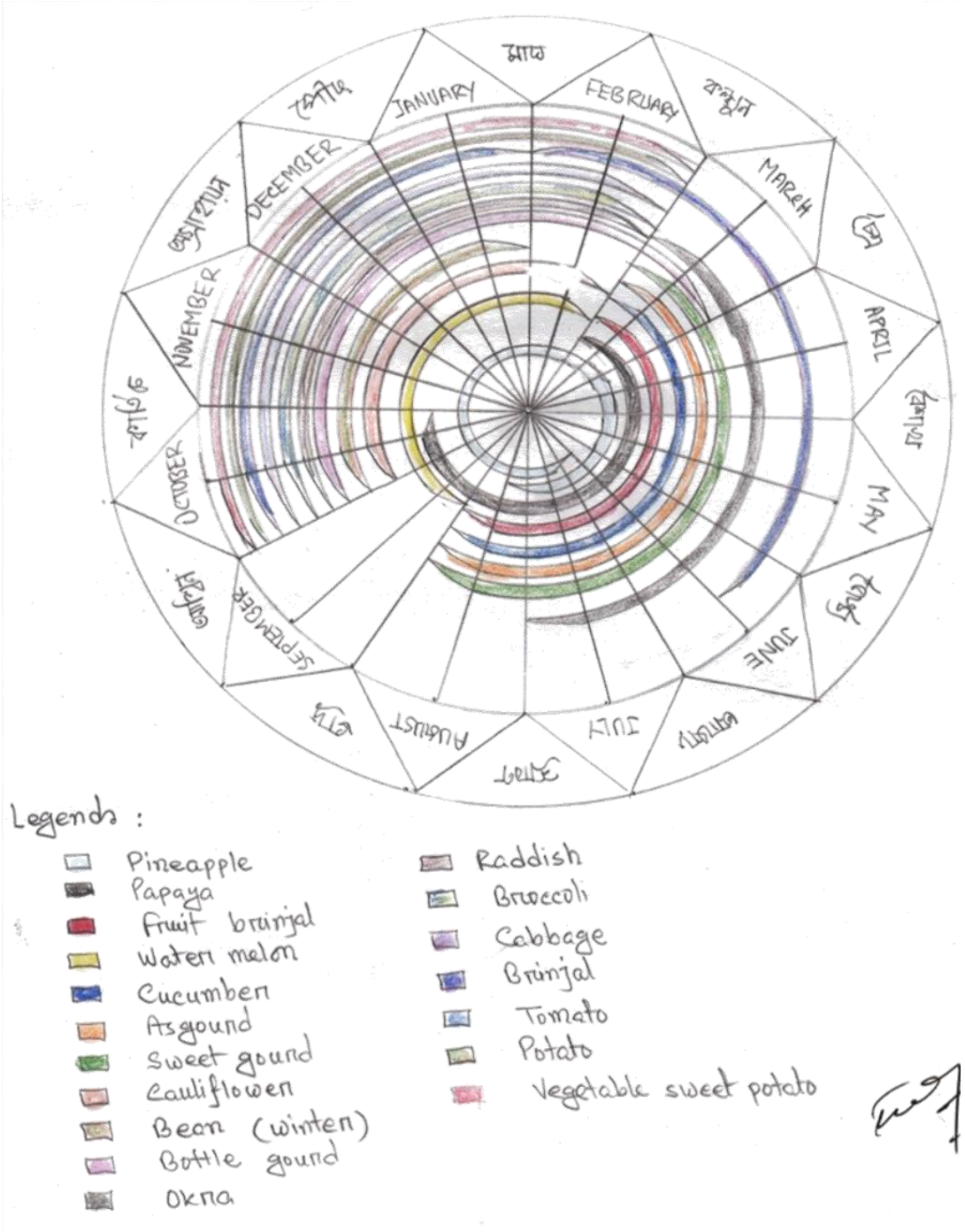
Crop calendar in the form of circular pie for pulse crops



Crop calendar in the form of circular pie for oilseed crops



Crop calendar in the form of circular pie for cash crops



Crop calendar in the form of circular pie for vegetables