

# « Yam's calendar »

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It is the yam culture which rhythms the Melanesian world time and the yam calendar during the four seasons.

## The first season : \*... June / July ...

Now we're in the fresh season : men are cutting bad weeds off in order to remake up the plantation.

They are also burning bad weeds and turning up side down the soil in order to form billons. During that time women are working in the village.

## Second season : ... August / September / October ...

Whales are arriving, blowing out of the water. We then know that it's the time for men to put the baby yams into the soil and for women to plant the water-taro around according to the Moon, which indicates the right time.

The king fisher is arriving singing " sim, sim, sim " to encourage new yams to come out and grow up.

The men put the stem on the tutor.

## Third season : ... November / December / January

At this time of the year, the yams don't need much care, so men go fishing, hunting or remove the roofs of the huts.

The yam and taro come into maturity.

It's the same for the banana tree and sugar cane which are the food store of the village.

It's the holiday period for the children.

## Fourth season : ... February / March / April

At the beginning of this season, starts the new yam ceremony that creates the abundance.

We then sacrifice turtles and many weddings are celebrated.

It's also the season when we can eat the black bird "the sacred bird " (Notou).

The yam ceremony can be held for one, two or more days depending on the region so on that occasion the yam are shared between the chief and his people.

\* The month of **May** is a transition period.