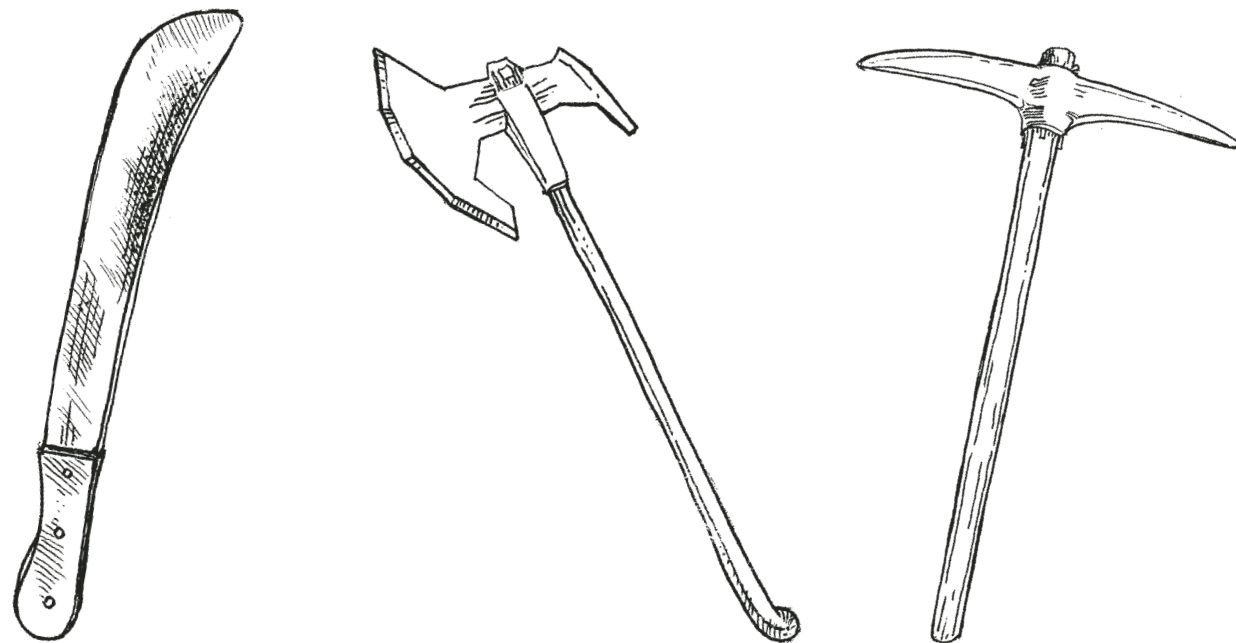


08 Harvesting Tools

Always use a clean cutting tool. Make sure that there is no rust on the blade.

- Use a sharp, long and narrow-bladed knife or machete.
- You can also use a sharp axe wide enough for the shoot, or a *dao*, or a narrow-bladed spade. ■



09 Post-Harvest Handling

WHEN THE cut end of the harvested shoot is exposed to the atmosphere, there are chances of spoilage due to the action of micro-organisms. The shoot will gradually lose moisture and become dry, sometimes even within a day.

- Keep the sheath on for as long as possible, before processing.
- Keep the shoots as cool and moist as possible.
- Handle with care and with clean hands.
- Process the shoots as soon as possible. ■

