

Fo ape n de This is your home Ibol la ken Fu ten le nya  
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Ibol la ken Fu ten le nya Fo ape n de This is your home  
Fu ten le nya Fo ape n de This is your home Ibol la ken

# Fo ape n de

Mee wurfo k'ñinto abuwi fo k'nishito nta lanę fo be a ler kpa,  
This ashi anye nane nyin ne anye nane che a na be atuwbi so.

# This is your home

Introducing you to the wisdom of your birthplace  
through the voices of your forefathers and foremothers.

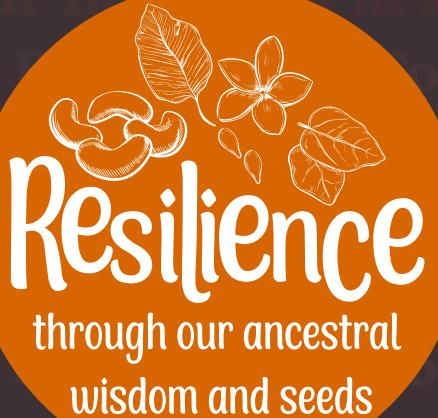
## Ibol la ken

ŋi ra baagli bora him lii wεε,  
lii di I ŋaa balaa nii Inaahana ban la ni

## Fu ten le nya

Wu bille naa ajie lō funyi. Yi ajanfu lō fun nyε,  
yi fu mankpaan mine ni fun sankpa mine bilfu jie





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# Introduction

Dearest daughters and sons of the lands of Sawla and surroundings. The wisdom and knowledge of our forefathers and foremothers is disappearing in our current generation. If this continues, our next generation will be strangers in their own birth land. A stranger in a strange land would find it hard to know how to take care of the land. In turn, the land will not be able to take care of them.



The Cultural Environmental and Human Development Association of Ghana (CEHDA-Ghana), is a non-profit organization founded by Mr Rashid Abubakar Iddrisu (Mr. Wari) - a native of this land - in allegiance with people from far away lands so as to think with the community how to reconnect back with this land and this culture that cares for you. The place that gave birth to you, and all of us, is a precious one. Over millennia, this place has given birth to many wisdoms through its natural existence. It has also given birth to many wisdoms through its plants, trees and rivers, as well as through the people and energies living here that care for the place. This place loves you!

We have put together this book to ‘re-connect’ us back to this place as well as to ‘re-member’ together how to care for this place; so that, in turn, the place can continue to care for us. We love this place and we would like that you love it as well, and that you care for it as yours. It is your home.

Anye che abarto nna, nbar kawol are be ashen k’ta so, ne anye anyini abar nta nlaŋɛ anye be afuli are so. Ne ansa abar nfra, kana ne k’diga ne anye aba akoli afuli na, ne afuli na gba aba kr akun anye so, anye bee sha afuli na ga, ne anye sha f’ne fo agba a baa sha afuli na, nsa akoli kumo so f’ne fiya. K’la fo pe nna.

Yaa səbi hɔnnaabuu yá tər yaa hinaa di du εŋ. Yaa maa kpau di ra liizi gunla yaa n niŋ du εŋ, guŋ gil ya haa wer di ra binni yaa hinaa. Yaa nɔŋŋi bɔnnaabuu, yaa ra nyinŋi lugɔ ii gba nɔŋŋi de, di ra binni u ni lugɔ ii hotte. Ii bolle.

Sí səb a gān ka wuŋ lε tɔɔ sí mataan a jie sín na i kaa a jie nya. Ka sín lε tier taa a lε sín na i kaa jie nya. Ka a jie nya lε lɪpb̩ kaara a lɛnɛ na wu kaa sí. Sí nūn a jie nyana na sí me buɔrɔ ka fu mī nū wu a lɛnɛ, na fu kaara wu fika a fu bon, a fu tɪr lε.

You see, for you to care for a place you need to know and understand the place, and this takes some effort. And with the effort big rewards come. Around here we say: **Keyí** (Ka dibi) ki kε k’má da ndan n yili, ne k’mán porwe afantan nkeni (in Ngbanyeto/Gonja); similarly, we say in Vagla: Daa maa haawa ezei di waa panwoɔ dɔɔwɛwɛe. And in Birfuɔr: **Tiɛba be na nūɔ ka waa de nie tɔ vaar ε**. This translates as: there is no tree that is grown without leaves on it. So, this means that nothing good comes easy. You have to work hard before you get a reward. So, with this proverb we are encouraging you to put all efforts to see this place well (and learn it well). The reward will be that you will see many opportunities here.

We have gathered all information from this little book by approaching your own grandpas and grandmas. We kindly went to their places and sat and asked them questions and listened, and listened. They were very generous and have remembered with us the value of this land and some of the traditional uses of its plants and trees. Some of these uses are being forgotten, and with it, we have been forgetting how to live in harmony with nature and with everything that makes us healthy, and makes this place rich and beautiful. Forgetting the value of the local plants makes us forget who we are, where we come from, and why being proud of coming from this place. So, be around elders. Go see them. Approach them well. They have sustained this place, and have been sustained by it, for many generations.

How did they do it? What do they know that you don't? Well, start by reading this book. As we say around here:

**Ngbanyeto/Gonja: Bo nyán, bonumú fin nú kusó ne kúwo bumo kuta/kutó**  
**Vagla: Bo nyán, bonumú fin nú kusó ne kúwo bumo kuta/kutó**  
**Brifor: Yõõ nõ a fu nimberfun won l e na be a ba põ**  
**Respect elders and you will hear what is with them.**

This is not a complete guide of the seeds around, nor does it contain all of the information about these seeds and about this place. In this book, we rather introduce some of the uses and values of some of the plants that you can still find around. So, this book is a work in progress and a teaser for you to get curious and to continue learning with your family and elders. Anyone is welcome to improve it. Our collaborating partner WIACT<sup>1</sup> will go beyond this research in the coming months and bring you more details. But for now, we wish that this little book helps us all remember some of the natural gifts we have around us.

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<sup>1</sup>WIACT World Institute of Africa Culture and Traditions is an indigenous organization that supports the revitalization of local languages and culture.

We wish that we continue to learn with you how to care for this land. We encourage you to respect your elders and learn with them how to gather and preserve these seeds and fruits. Learn to cook, drum, dance, make beauty and medicines with these plants. Grow into a proud daughter and son of this land.

As for the translations, we have made our best attempt to translate some key parts of this book into three local languages: [Ngbanyeto/Gonja](#), [Vagla](#) and [Birfuɔr](#). From now onwards we will use these colour codes to identify words and sentences in each of these three languages.

We acknowledge that there are more languages in this land that we could learn from and translate wisdom into. And we are sorry we couldn't reach them for now. We have translated some of the key uses, wisdoms and proverbs. We have done it so that the diversity of wisdoms of this land gets shared and employed by as many people as possible. Translations have not been easy and we know these are not final. Why? Because there are sounds we are yet to learn how to write and pronounce with the available alphabet. For this purpose, we are also collaborating with WIACT. If we are granted more life and time we will be improving this translation in years to come. Until then, this is our gift to you.

# **Asan kushun Idoo jaang Fu sun puorifu Thank you!**

We thank profusely each person and seed that fed and nourished this book. Deep thank you for your generosity and support, as well as for the generosity and support of those who sustain you. This is your book too, and we wish to make you all proud with its content and format.

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# Kujo - Hii - Nyuur - Yam

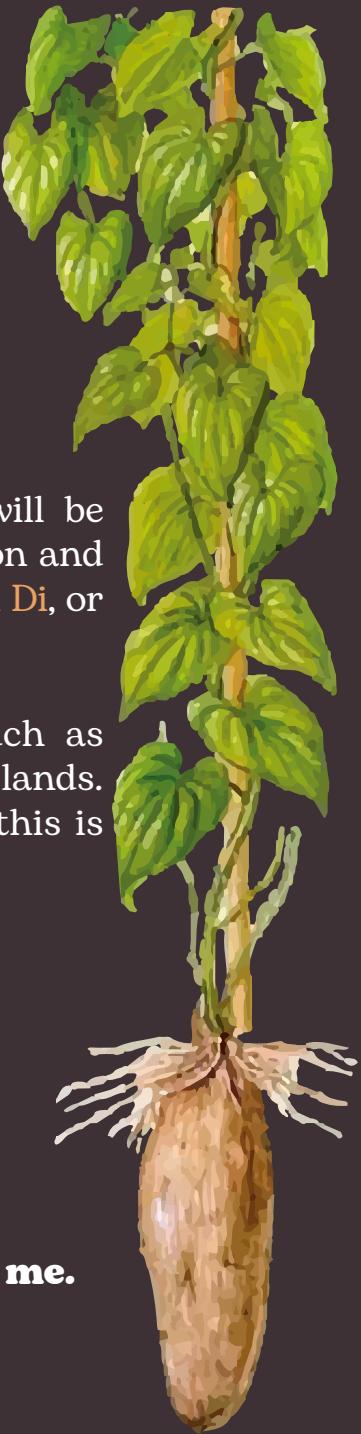
Dioscorea sp.



Yam is a traditional and ancestral tuber in this land. It connects us with our ancestors. Before anyone harvests a new kind of yam the elders connected to the gods of land will perform a ritual and pray for the health of the whole community.

Afterwards, the paramount chief would eat it and then it will be announced publicly that the new yam is allowed for consumption and commercialization. This ancestral ritual is called **Ka ajo jí**, or **Hii Di**, or **Di Nyuur** and has brought us together for centuries.

There are many varieties of yam and some old varieties, such as **Kuború**, **Juugbëe** and **Wassari** that can still be found in ours lands. This variety of yam is often seen as less valued to people and this is reflected in the following local proverb.



- Kuború lubi**
- Ajo ka nlowe, ban nyinji ma**
- Juugbëe chorgi**
- Di hii wa tunno, ba dan liizi n wia**
- Wassaridaarei**
- A nyusuo wa baar, ban tier ma naa**
- I am seen as a 'bad yam' today**
- But when the good yam finishes, they will remember me.**



Because this variety of yam is less valued by people, it is often discarded. But the proverb emphasizes that not because you don't prefer something you are to ignore it, or throw it away. You don't know when you will need that which you now undervalue. This proverb teaches the importance of caring for all beings. In times of shortage of that which you prefer you may need the less preferable option.

In the old times, this was the variety of yam that prevented people from starvation during hunger times. It doesn't taste as good, but it lasted longer and was the only alternative many times. So, don't ignore something you don't like. Take it, and keep it. Keep it while you keep on looking. Respect everything. Don't underrate it. Something may be healthy for you, although you don't see the value now. This is why farmers would continue growing this variety of yams. For the resilience of the community.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuɔr.

Kujo la Ngbanye be dankare be ajibi jinkprpo na,  
ne ba dɔ nsa adu kumo k'shito kafeto.  
Kujo be mbrga shi.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Kujo be kuso ne ba'ata  
kumo awuro ala: Kapel, k'gbama, ku nbelge,  
wasawasa, kujo kiso, kujo tuso ne a mo ne aka.

**Aloɔ chɛsó:** Be ye kujo bee chɛ  
ayurto b'sa ne aloɔ ko, anye wuro  
nbishito npin aloɔ mo ne kujo bee chɛ.

**K'shen waleso:** Kujo be kuso ne k'nyesi ne  
kumo be ka dɔ wale ela, k'ka ma njana awule.

**K'shentirso:** Aso mo ne a be bra kagbento jeja nta alanɛ ajo be ka dɔ anye afuliso  
ala: K'ji akpa(k'sa awule) be ashɛn, afuli be nchirga nta nlaŋa bɔrɛ be k'bawutaso  
kabre. ne ka na ne anye nyesti anye dra be ka dɔ ne anye gbagba be a dɔ jibi a le nsa  
ata b'foo piya na, bee nyesti ne ajo be ka dɔ bee mur.



**U diweezi:** I daŋ wer kpa hii di daai diukpila lugɔ: Kabilia, Bussaa, Hiiċċzii, Kirbaani, kibelge, Hiihallii, Wassawassa, Tibaani. ani anla n kawee.

**U tagzizi:** I daŋ wer nycc u pooh nii di chaa i binchiiraa. I daŋ wer nam Jugbe di koozi tagpañhoori gęe daalunne anhina ni, di faa i bɔra, di chaa i kpunej wiila. Hii la baanna yir: Firin dɔc tagzizi wiɛelaare.

**U tɔnazi:** Hii ɛɛ kumpattikuŋ la n ɛɛ yaa kunnɛ, waa hil ra ɔm, di kaa ra lɛɛ nennɛ.

**Nyuur bondiri:** Nyuur pɔ sin tuɔn maal bondi ycc nyantaan Kapala, Nyu duuraa, Chilkili, Nyu sɛenaa, Nyu buul, Nyu chiinaa.

**Baalsi ala fūn na de nyuur san:** a kuɔn a wu pɔnna ruɔn nyu ka a sa binkuɔn baal. A nyuur nya ban mɛ nycc taar ni vai amine fin tuɔn de sɔ īgan ku saā kɔbɔ tuotaar ɔɔr baal. A nyuursin buɔlo nyuwomo m̄i tara na baal sāfu yelsi a wu pɔ.

**A yelsun:** Wu in kɔb bon 'lɔ na na e, wu mā baa na ni wer koɔn ti le nya.

**Yel wonsi:** A yel wonaa kpɛɛ jaa īn a wer banyerfu ni a wer puɔr baarfū, a saa wafu mā liere na ni le bon burɔ ala na maà yaar ti ta ε na kpɛ a wer po.



# Adurbi - Zule - JIE- Millet

*Pennisetum glaucum*



Millet is a crop we have employed, since ancient times, to make different kinds of foods. For example, we make porridge for kids to develop strength in their bones. Women also take it when they give birth to regain strength and to increase the availability and nutrition of their breast milk.

When you sow millet, partridges are always alert and they come to eat it. Also, if the millet has sprouted and the partridges see it, they would come and eat it too.

So, when we farm it, we sow many seeds in one hole and one has to watch it so the partridges don't come and eat all.

Only when the seedling has grown taller, the partridges don't come anymore to eat the plant since it is not tasty anymore.

Once the seedlings have grown a bit, the farmer would transplant them from the hole to intersperse them in the land so that the millet grows better, with more space. When the millet is ready to harvest they let you know because their seeds bow their head down. It is beautiful to see.

It is in this context that elders would say:

**Kuyu feso (kutue feso), be purgui duboé**  
**Michɔɔzii ɔɔ pirgi zaahrii**  
**Ji sɛlaa ma sɔb kɔrma nimbir**  
**A transplanted millet surprises the partridge.**

This is said when you hear something that surprises you, or someone does something that surprises you. The reason is that when a partridge sees a grown millet in a place without having seen it sprouting, they would be shocked to have missed the chance to come and eat it while it was smaller.

Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuɔr.

Adurbi la ngbanye be adɔ jibi na, ne ba dɔ amo k'sa awule so, kuduli f'ne k'fitiri kul na, amá k'tenso gbrebi, k'bee sor kumuto na tenterenbi, ne asorso na beeache abarso kumo be kumu na so. Komu be k'tuweklan ne kumo abaja du sigsiga na.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Adurbi be daŋɛ k'buibi, Kpanchu, k'nu koŋɛ Akare, Pampa, kude, Tubani, Mansa, Apo, Kachunyan, Nyifu nyanso, Pampa gbituso, ne amo ne aka.

**Aloɔ chɛsó:** Be ta adurbi a chɛ aloɔ: ke bee chɛ jisijisi ka pɛ asa, kagbeni be kuloɔ, asa be Apun ka be ntin, Asa be kia nko ano ka bu. Adurbi be cheto neache kurwepo bee nye k'nyipo chu, ana ako nchu ne aduli k'nyipo ne ba anu amo nse na ata amoache anishi be aloɔ

**K'shentirso:** Adurbi be ka dɔ ne kushuŋ du kpakpa na ga, amo be k'dɔto, k'ten ne chila k'ke be wule ayir na ga, nbuibi bee sha amo be k'ji na ga, lon ne ana gba be sha amo be k'we. Kabre b'fɔɔ be ana gbiwi anye afuliso ajija adɔ jibi, amo so ne adurbi be ka dɔ ko basa kafɔn.



I dang wer kpa zule daali sinni ni diwee lugɔ; vug pito (sinbiili) / Kuuteazert), Kookoo (porridge), Zuldaalaa (boiled), Sagunnaa (with honey) Kikaari, Maansa, Fuura, Kpacharmia, Pampa. Zulesaw tama ɔɔ giluu tibaani sɔɔh du sum.

**U tagzizi:** Bang hal zule saw ani a bee la banna hee, i dang wer kpaa chaa borahong wiila lugɔ: Yisiyisi ani bichala bampirii wiila (Kpemkpemii). Hing bɔr zule saw di kpa tagpanghoori gɛɛ dalunne anhina di koozi donga ni, a daŋ wer hiini chaa hia n suwee. I dang wer kpa a sau di koozi nuu ni di faa bokuulaa. Di i kpa a sau di koo nii ni tagpanghoori gɛɛ daalunne ni, i dang wer kpaa sanzi bie maa ila, a nii ba. I dang wer kpa a sau di fɔg kobii tɛɛ hahsɔɔng, di kpaa chaa bie la n waa chal dɔɔwɛ, di wer kpaa gil ilanii ba. Di i halaa nyaari, di ɛɛ nii buua, i dang wer kpaa faa biifula ulee, di kaa wer kpa a (hɔɔhri) tag di saa fanfanni, ba ra yiraa tag.

**U tonazi:** U ɛɛ yaa kumpattikuŋ la n kpekkene, di wer hil. Usau ɔɔ ugzuu di wazi, i wer kpaa saa hɔpizikpila maa kuu. Koorii waa wette ra kpuu guŋ.

**U kummaa kpolloo:** U kummaa kpolloo, u bii lizaa du kpol, di kpa jaa, di haa nɛkpila hiŋ ɛɛwɛ, u huma humaa kpolloo.





**Būdiir ala fun na tuɔnde jie mal:** Jie pɔnsin tuɔn maal būnyursi ni būdiir nyantaan: Sanomnaā, Buul, Jiduuraa, Jiburaa, Kpool, Sapire, Jō senaa, Sagarkpoo bii Sagrnyaar ni Jō chiinaa.

**Baal safu tūmč jie pc:** Jō chiinaa ni jibie 'wɔbfu na tuɔn sa igan vaar baal ni nyaa yelwonsi bibiir pc. Jie jō na ntɛɛtaar vai t'iin na suūn na sa polkpɛen baal. A jie jō ban buni kaã fun tuɔn de sɔ jie kɔor na ka. Jie jō ban 'lɔr ni vai tiin amine fūn tuɔn de pɛe mā bir. Jibuul mā vɛn ka padɔor igan lɛ wa wɔn dɔ baar, Jibuul mā vɛn ka inan bie nyɛ baal saäfu ti lɛ vɛ ka bir kuɔn wa. Jis enaa ban niɛ bun kuɔn na tuɔn sa igan ɔbɔ a igan pc. Jibie ban ɔyɔɔ buun pc juur na tuɔn pɛe nibie. Fūn lɛ tuɔnde jie jō sal jier.

**Yelsun:** A jie m~ tuɔn ara būburɔ jaa pc ka mɔ billo mī maã tuɔn wuɛ, wu m~ tuɔn baa wer nkoɔ pc. A jie jō nmā vɛn ka a saa jē kor. Moɛ maã tuɔn wu a yoo a lɛɛ.

Yel wonsi: A jie gmafu ben tuo ni a bir irfu a lɛ puɔ naa ka a nɛ loɔ tūmč ba lɛ bebee ɛ ka a vɛ a jie tūmɛ kaar fika wu kpemɛ na a gmafu soɔ.



# Aboyu - Sogmia - Kamaan - Maize

Zea mais



Maize has been for many generations the basis of our diet. Many of us eat TZ very regularly, which is one of our main meals in the area. But TZ is a word in Hausa. In Ngbanyeto/Gonja we call it **kude**, in Vagla **Kuu**, in Birfur we call it **Saa**. TZ is made of maze together with guinea corn flour, cassava flour, millet or other flours. It is so old that when people were hungry in the past and had nothing to eat in the house, they would go to the neighbours and ask for maize flour to prepare something. Because they knew that in every house there is always maize.

There is a proverb that says:

**Fu ban che asa be anyi be alo,  
fo aboyu ne a bin we ne fo pin akanye alenfia.**

**Di i hanj chaa nebel nyina wiila, i sogmiare u oo hee i zum a nyaaggore  
Fuu wa saa nire nyime baal a fuu kamaana le wun 'wob. Kaa na wu kaa  
bog ka wu nyime sa wu naa.**

**When you treat someone's teeth sickness, it is your mace that they  
will eat and it is then that you will know and they are healed**



This proverb teaches us not to abuse the generosity of someone that treats you well. In other words don't take advantage and eat the mace of the person that fixed your teeth. This proverb also teaches us not to be ungrateful and is employed to refer to the character of a person.

Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuɔr.

Aboyu bee dan ne k'tuweklan ne kumo be abaje, K'baje na bee dan na apege k'boyulunti ne kumo be ajefo, ne aboyu na bee lar kumo k'boyulunti na to. K'ko kati kumu to, ne kati na bee cheto ne k'boyu na be nya aleŋ. Aban wul atuweklan na so, a fo k'buri nfta ne awɔl, ne be fulwe amo be ajefo, ne aka k'fr. Lon be jimene na to ne bibina wurana bee kute Abul-lɔŋtorbi (abulonbi) ne adra shen asa nbia.



**Ajibi wuroso:** Aboyu be wul kude, adaŋɛ Pampa, kpanchu, abuibi, banku, kochunya, pamap nyangara, ajibi wita/wito, nyolo, mansa,Dukuno, kpaklo, poncheta, k'kare, Kuŋkuno(apo), ne amo ne aka.

**Aloɔ cheso:** Aboyu bee che awusa ne amati loo, ne asa be achikpa ka puŋi, ne mbia wuribi ka be dese aboŋful klan so.

**K'shen waleso:** Aboyu la ajibi mo ne fintin dɔ amo k'le a nyo kafe konwuleto, fin nantin ndɔ amo nse nan du adɔ jibi poti nwiye amo to.

**K'shentirso:** Amo ashentirso a la awule, a maa sha awule ne k'jiakpa(k'sa awule) kpa kpaso be ashen.





**U diweezi:** I daq wer kpa səgmia di kuari diwee lugc: Kuu, Baŋku /Kookoo, Dəkunu, Siŋ, Səgimiūraa, Kikaari. Səgmicəzaa. Səgmiaahmu dəc nuu la hinniŋ wer lizuu di kpa ra daali diwee.

**U tagzizi:** I daq wer nam səgmia saa, di kpa huuhnuu koozi a ni di kuari hìiny ni miiri tagzi. I daq fuuh səgmidaa di nam, di kpa nii buua, di kpa tagpanhoori gəe daalunne aŋhina koozi a ni, á ee binchiiraa tagzi, di kaa wer kpaa chaa kpuŋorgaa. U ziŋzige ɔɔ weruu hiini bichala la n chɔowəe ra fiiush. Di i kpaa di koozi siga gəe kalənku ni di nam sau daali kobii, i daq wer kpaa duŋni bichala chal tunaa.

**Faalaasəgmia wessi wia:** Faalaasəgmia wer hillə á lii biini. A diwee ge du sum kaali boronizi horfalaan naa. A diwee gba waa chɔgi manaq.

**U kuŋçonnaa:** Kunla yaa faalaasəgmia irizi n na ɔmuu donyaai dikuu bər birgaazi, hɛehraa chɔgaa ani kooriichɔgaa aŋhina wia. Banna nyiŋŋi səgmihiŋŋa yawaa di kaali yaa faalaasəgmia wia, gun chɔgi a yoolaa.

**Büdiir ala fun na tuɔn de kamaan maal:** Kamaan po sɪn rɔɔn maal büdi yoo nyantaan: Samonaa bii Saa, Buul, Sagarkpoor/Sagarntaar, sɪn tuɔn de kamaan duun daā.

**Laäfiɛ yelsi ala na be kamaan po/baal safu tumɔ kamaan po:** Kamaan kpol ban ni nyɔɔtaar ns siiŋ na tuɔn sa kɔr ni nyɛfere baal. A tampieł ala a kamas kpol po ban ni nyɔɔtaar ni kuuŋ ni vai amine mli tɔnɔ sara binkuɔn baal, na a le sara kɔbɔ tuorthaar jie mɔrfu baal.



A kama lanjooł mi mā vēn ka bibiir ,aā durč ndu soō pē. Sapire bii buul na yi a kamaan pō ban nyccotaar nī bē~ nī kl' jō m~ vēn ka inan maā tuon biblentcō s.

**Yelsun ala na be a s̄ paal nya kamaan pē:** A paal nya Kamaan in ycc jaa a maale joro war soō 'lō an buloε. A kamaan saa mā nūmc na ka a wū saa maā ni so~ pē.



**Yelwonsi:** A ka paal pō kamaan yelwonsi lē a saa waa liefu ni lē a saa ni maa wa chen teerē, a wer ba lē tara puorē. Ka a moi ma de a kamaan nie, A kama pila nire jaa na bučr jun a kama jie daa maā doe.



# **A**tuwe - Jaagu - Chii - Guinea corn

**Sorghum bicolor**

This is a traditional crop used in our lands to make many traditional foods and beverages. We make wine from this plant. This wine brings many people together and it helps us think through matters. Elders would often say "as we drink we think " to teach that one is not to overdrink, so that you get to the point of losing your capacity to think or behave cordially among others. We also use this wine to connect with our ancestors. For example, during the annual celebration of our ancestral gods, which takes place in many villages such as in Mankurma, we make a beverage called **n'sa** in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, in Vagla **sinj** and in Birfuor **daā**.

This beverage is for the ancestors to glorify our health and the land, as well as to bless everything around us. During this celebration and with this wine, we give thanks to the gods for their protection, we offer gifts, share food, and pray for the health of the community.



**N'sa daŋɛ po be lanta ma pan ndisan  
Sen (sinj) daali waa da bora ra nyaa udiɛe  
Dāan duraa man faa dagburu uyir puoe**

**In the house of the person cooking a guinea corn drink**  
(also called Pito or Chapalu)  
**would never lack big fire wood.**



You see, to cook guinea corn local drinks well, one needs to have big pieces of firewood and tend to the fire well. If you don't, then the guinea corn drinks will not be good. So, this proverb for example can teach us to behave well or to train our kids to behave well so that they don't bring problems in the house. For instance, if there are well-behaved kids in a house, people would say that in that house there is big firewood to cook guinea corn.

Local uses are described in [Ngbanyeto/Gonja](#), [Vagla](#) and [Birfuɔr](#).

Atuwe ne adurbi be mbryga menshi, amoale anka ala kafeto be adɔ jibi, amo atuweklan ne amo abaje du momolbi. Atuwe be asorso gba wo amo amuto na, awuro nbul ne bibi na be chɛ nbul na so. Aban fara ayu amuto afo k'teŋ amo. Nfta na awul, pien mbri nk'nchila amo to.



**Ajibi wuroso:** Atuwe be wul kude, adaŋɛ nsa, Pampa, Kpanchu, B'ga, Mansa, Kpakulo, Akare, Kochunyan ne amo ne aka.

**Aloɔ cheso:** A bee che ayirto bel ade, abiibi asá be ayirso, atuwe be nchu bee se ne mbia wurbi be nye aleŋ.

**K'shen waleso:** Atuwe la ajibi mo ne ba atin a dɔ amo nawule, fin nantin ndɔ amo nse nan du adɔ jibi poti nwiye amo to.

**K'shentirso:** Atuwe la adɔ jibi mo ne amasha awule be ashen, ama kabre anye kuiya n'yi ne k'se ne abɔre chu be k'bawuta bee chirga, loŋso ne atuwe be ka dɔ ko kafɔn kabre nsa be dɔ po.



**U diweezi:** Jaagu aahmuu summε kaali jaagu maa. Bañhina ra nyiñji jaagu aahmu sinnε (pito) di kaali u huñju siñ. Bañhina ge ra nyiñji u huñju siñ (u siñ waa kεeg). Jaagu gba diweere Kuu, Kookoo, Tibaani, Kikaari, di ra cham u kuu ra nycc, di ra εε Maansa.

**U tagzizi:** I dañ wer bør jaagu pañhoori di nycc, a ra chaa sɔɔçonne. Di sɔ a nii ge, i sañgbana dañ tuñ. I dañ wer kpa a sinzaga gεε a sahalaa di chaa børahøn wiila. I dañ bør jaagu ni tagpañhoori gεε daalunne añhina di kpa a nii chø bichala u na fɔñja. I dañ wer daali kobii di chaa nεr la n waa wette ra lul, di chaa hahsɔɔñfalií ani wiilahiñ la n.

**U tɔnazi:** Jaagu wer hillε.

**U kuñçonnaa:** A waa yoola dɔçwε dikuu a nuu verge wia ani añ waa koorii añhina lugɔ togii wette wia.

**Būdiir ala ban mā de chi maal:** A jaa gbu a chi jie mā tõmõ na gar a chi pila. A ten amine nün daã duun a chi jie na tõmõ tiche ka a tēn amine nün a chi pila daã na mā i da'maar. A chi mī sī mā de wõn mall: Saa/Samomaan, Sapirε, Chi cuuraa, Buul, Sagrnyaar bii Sagarkpoor nī Sakúñ.



**Baalsi ala fun de chi saān:** A chi ur ban duu nnā tuōn saān 'maar baal. A chi ur kuōn ala ban duunmī fuun so fun nyen igan tul baal safū. Kēe ban bu nī kūōn bolm benur swōmtiche 'yōō kuōn pō ku wō ku nyū nā nyen baal safū. A bir sāmā mī na tuōn saān igan wōmō baal a lē mī nī wu jule a chi jō chiinaa mī na tuōn saān a igan wōmō baal. A chi ur mī ban duu nyōctaan vai mā vēn ka bibiir nyē igan kpōm. Chi biil mī mā tuōn vē ka nīrē nyē 'wōbaa baal saāfū, chi buul mī mā vēn ka padōor nyē igan kpē,, chi bujul mī mā lē vēn ka baalsi ni nī jēor mī nyē igan kpēm. Chi jō ban nyōctaan nī vai duu de ku pōc na m~ cōcōp kpolkō ku nyū nā tuōn saān a baal. Chibie juur mā pēen nibie ka a kakiē mī sala nibki cōcōbaal.

**Chi yelsun:** Chi ba joro bōbul jaa wō mā tuōn ara bōbul jaa pō.

**Chi yelwons:** Nibē yōō jie balē buōcō a chi nitaan kamaan nī moē na mā bul wō pō.



# Akulonku - Kalanju - Kolo - Groundnut

*Arachis hypogaea*

Our traditional local groundnuts are beautiful and come in many varieties. Some of them are violet colour! **They are often bigger than the foreign ones.** We have eaten groundnuts for centuries, either fresh, roasted, or processed in other ways. For instance, we make oils and pastes from groundnuts. The thing with our local groundnut is that they take a bit longer to grow than the foreign ones, but they can produce more under good conditions and one can get more oil.

Our elders would say:

**Akulonku aye a nyi abr,  
amanfo amo nborobi  
Kalanju ŋɔ a zum dɔŋaa,  
ka a waa εεwε lugɔ a εε biinεεrii  
A kɔlo 'yer ika ba bɔɔn taa  
tiche baa kaara fika yibε ε**

**Groundnut say they know each other,  
but it would not be like their twins.**



You see, when you break groundnut from different shells, they look alike, but will never be twins. This teaches that you have to trust people slowly, because no matter how much you feel you know them, you don't know them like a twin. Remember, groundnuts resemble but they are not like the one coming from the very same shell as you!



Local uses are described in [Ngbanyeto/Gonja](#), [Vagla](#) and [Birfuor](#).

Akulonku la Ngbanye be adɔ jibi na, ne ba dɔ amo Ngbanyeto be kafeto be abɔre jinkparpo so, amo be kadɔ masha k'sa awule leŋpo so, ne abɔrechu demta ga. Adɔ pun so ne k'la shshir puapuaso ne ba dɔ amo. Abi wuro abi k'sa wule to na, ne a bee ntin a la abi koŋwule n'ya fo bibi ana k'jefo koŋwule to. Akulonku be afatan ba nba ka ki kachuninyifu agbngban, afo k'tia, nchuwe, nfeta, pien nboré amo.



**Ajibi wuroso:** Anye be lera nku ashi amo to, a bee daŋɛ apo, baa we amo abuŋbun, atoso, a kɛ so, adaŋɛ so ne, ashshenbi kɛso (kulkulbi) ne amo ne a ka.



**K'shen waleso:** Akulonku dra na bee tij awule ne amo be bibi na bee che bibi demta. Fin tin dɔ amo nwiyeta adɔjibi poti to. Fin tin dɔ amo k'jiakpa (k'sa awule) koŋwule so nfe demta.

**Akulonku be ashentirso:** Anye be akulonku dra be asheŋ tirso a la kabre basa ka bee nyesi amo be kadɔ, nsa dɔ nbroni piya na, ase ne a bee luwe anye afuli na so.

**U diweezi:** I dañ wer kpa kala di kuari diwee lugo: Kalañku dɔzi /Kpuliikpulii /Lukui /Kalañku nuu /Kalañkucoozaa /Kalañkuhalaa /Nyañja dɔzi ani Kañlañkuhuuri.



**A tagzizi:** Hiñ cɔzi kalañku di nama a ee ɣmɛra tagzii. Hiñ uuri kalañku, a nii ee sɔsɔŋ tagzii. Hiñ siñ kalañku, a nii fiiniihuñja tagzii. Hiñ nam kalañkubii tama di koozi tagpañhoori gëe dalunne añhina ni dañ wer hiini hilula wikipoglaare.

**A tɔnazi:** Faalaa kalañku bee jañjɔzii di wer hil ni bɔr cheraazi. A dɔc aniiyaa verge. Awia di i duua bɔr, a dañ di binni ahorò di a t̄eeri haa ra lii a bɔdee.

**A kuñonnaa:** Yaa faalaa kalañku yoola chɔkkɔɔ dikuu Agrik hina n ba kalanfalaa ni wia. Hernanii nyaaiwia.



**Būdiir:** Sí mā tuon de kōlo duun Jier, Kpilekpile, Kōlo kāan, Kōlsenaa, Kōl duuraa, Kōlvaar jier, Kōl kara, Kōc ní Kamaan duufu.

**Baalsi ala kōlo na sāana na:** Kōlsenaa ban nle mā sāan bibiir natie baal. Kōlduuraa kūon sara n 'maar baal. Kōl 'lōraa kūon na tūon sāan duor pila baal. Kōl bie bilan ban nle nyoccaar ní vai na tūon sūn ccd ccocraa a sōo 'lōno wun woccc.

**Kōlo yelson:** A kōlo anya mā nyan woor a māa le joro war ε ní a wer liefu ε. A Kōlo anya nyarsí mi mā suu na. Fun tūon de a wer bo'yen lōno kō kōlo chiin yomū ata. A kōlo anyā fun tūon bin a pebe kor. A kōl bur dēdwimē Vēn ka a kōlo anya bale nyere daa a daa po ε kpel a kāan a kōl bur yor nā tara gar yaa. A wer mi māa le nyere ε.



# Kokulwu yi /dibi - Soon daa - Tōon tie - Shea tree

*Vitellaria paradoxa*



Shea is a traditional tree that strengthens our health and offers many socioeconomic opportunities locally, especially for women. The tree and its fruits offer us medicine, food, cooking oil, and protection. For instance, the oil from the shea nut protects our skin from the sun, especially kids. We always use it for new born babies. We use the oil to massage the baby while bathing them, or after their baths. We massage the joints and pull them to make the baby strong. It also helps relax the babies to sleep well at night.

Shea is also used in celebrations for our ancestral gods. Elders who know about moisture and rain can predict the amount of rainfall in the year by observing the behaviour of the bees and the shea trees. They can also call for rain to come.

And you know what? Where you find shea nut trees you will always see lots of bees. Bees help plants and other crops to bear fruits. Bees make the best honey from the flower of the shea nut tree!





They always say that:

**Atilpo che, be abuto, ma pan ka ku wiya/wiye**

**Hahsɔɔŋ dia waa nuulee ra nyaaa**

**Fu kū wa faa kāñman padɔɔr diem ε**

**You can never miss a calabash full of shea butter  
in the room of a lady who just gave birth.**

If a woman who just gave birth tells you that there is no shea butter in the place she is probably not being honest with you. Because there is always shea butter in a house where a lady has recently given birth. The mum would prepare that one before the baby is born. Or the mum of the women giving birth would prepare it. So, what does this proverb mean? Well, proverbs often have many meanings. This one can be used to inform someone about the attitude of another person, either good or bad. For instance, this proverb could be used to warn you about the greediness of someone else.

One can also use this proverb to praise the generosity of another person. For example, if you find that there is someone that is always ready to help you, or offer what they have, you could use this proverb to say that this person makes sure that you have what is needed in each moment.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuor.

Kokulwu la ngbanteto be keyi gboŋ na, nsa ala keyi nyɔso, ne kumo be ayurso du nyangran/nyirfa. k'la keyi mo ne k'ko asorso jiso ne ba tre amo apol, ne apol na mara ko k'bi ne ba tre kumo kakuwulbi. Kakuwulbi na ko ajefo ne ba ta amo awuro kedi, nta kedi na awul kwaya ne ba tre kumo k'gbanyekwaya. Kakuwulbi na gbagba, ne be ko alera nku buŋbuŋ.



Shaban Shabihu Lubna  
Sawla Girl's Model Junior High School

**Ajibi wuroso:** K'ko asorso jiso, a be lera Nku ne nkuna bee daŋɛ, a bee agbiti ayurso, anyie nbia asa bumo aleŋ awibito, awul kwaya ne ba tre k'gbanye kwaya, adeŋi k'bore jembuso atre bore. Fo ba nchie kumo be ayurso, nchu fulful bee ler kumoso ne ba amo awuro k'mer.

**K'shen waleso:** Kakulwu la keyi mo ne anye ma du amo anye be afuli so, amo gbagba ana kor, nsa ko k'chita so demta nsa anye.

**Aloɔ cheso:** Kakulwu bee che k'jompulo, Achu ne apun, ne aloɔ damta.



**K'shentirso:** N'yi/ndibi be kuiya shi ga kabre anye be afulina so, basa nyesi kudo nsa kuiya n'yi/ndibi afa, acho ajanwule haali nba ka kuiya nkulwu yi ki ke. K'se ne nkulwu bee luwe anye be afuliso, nkulwu la n'yi mome a ko tuno demta.

**U diwee wiεelaa:** A nombiilaa(mulazi) summɔɔ, a sɔɔh du sum. A bee(choona), ba kpa ra εε nuu, di ra kuari nuufɔglii, di kpaa ra daali diwee.

**A tagzizi:** Di i bɔr a pañhoori di koozi tagpanhoori gεε daalunne aŋhina ni εε sɔɔcɔŋ ni bichiiraa tagzii, di kaa ra chaa bichalli nyina wiila ni hiwiila. Hiŋ hɔŋ u hεga, a nii εε hεεhzaa ni hiwiila tagzii. Choona ba kpa ra kuari nuufɔglii, di kpaa ra bug biifula, di kpaa ra εε fanfanni (tag). Hiŋ fuuh chokewa, a hɔɔhri εε bɔrahɔŋ ɳmεra tagzii. Hiŋ kpa choona di koozi a hɔɔhri ni εε ɳmεra ni naahuhrigaazi tagzii. U pañhoohilaa εε biifula nyaŋ tagzii. Hiŋ daali u lunne, a nii εε hia biini ani bɔra ɳmεra tagzii. Hiŋ siŋ a hεga, a nii εε hiiŋ tagzii. Di I kaa po u hεga hee ra chaa hiwiilaa. U pañhoori εε kunzenaare ba kpa ra εε naana wia lugɔ tinnanchɔgaa dunŋaa di lii diini gεε di kpaa ra goori nεra dunzi.

**U wiεelaa aŋhina:** U nuu εε kebinyiŋŋi kunnε di tεε haana. Ba ɔɔ kpa u chombilee di mizi koŋlaa ni, donii gileεε ra siizaa. Soondaazi ra guu daazi arjhinaa lugɔ Atiah, dule gεε wiila gileεε ra zuua. U pañhoori ni u nɔna waraa chol ɔɔ giluu hεri ra du sum di ra tεε kumpattikuna. Ba ɔɔ kpa u pañhoorii di ra εε naana wizenaa aŋhinaa, lugɔ doonŋ lawaa tam di ba waa hum hunzenaa aŋhina lugɔ lee gεε hahfalaa wia. Ba ɔɔ kaa kpa u pañhoorii di ra sɔm koo dikuu ɳmεεna wia, di kaa kpaa ra tεε naabalaa jaan gεε di ba waa nyiŋŋi miazi kumaa.

**U kujɔnnaa:** Yaa waa zumme lugɔ soondaazi εε kunzenaa yaa ra tɔgzaa, ya ra guua lugɔ kumpattikuna. Aabuu gille yaa ra tee di ra chem niŋ, di ra fuuh hɔla, di ra lizaa yaa kooni ra yaa lugɔ: Atiah kooni fɔŋfɔŋ.



**Būdiir:** A tōon biin mā nyuro na nūč. Sí mā le den a chuun bie tō kāa, Jíer ne Samina. Sí mā le je na a kāa tilē bun tiin. Sí mā di nā a wōmō.

**Baalsi a tōon tie na sāa na:** A tōon tie vaar ban duu nycchaar ní vai, a kūon ala na tōon sāan 'maar baal, binkūon tilē sāan bibiir nyī əbə baal. A tōon biin mā nyuuro na nūč tie pēbe ban duu mā ngmaa tiir tilē sāan puč baal. A kāa ala nayi a tōo tie pō sí mā den maal kā ieraa, ní kā kpien ala sín m- de sōrcēs līgāma gara jaa bipile. Sí mā le den a kāa mōn samina. Achuon pēbe tanpel mā tōon sāan tatiē baal. A chuon pēbe tanpel ban bun kāa nā tōon sāa gbē'mōr ní nyē 'yaal pō nā dō paal tī wōno a cōr bal duu a vakōo ku nyū a əbə na baar naā. A tōon tie nyibē mī fūn duu na tōon sāa puč natir ní natie a igan pō. A tōo tie pēbe ban 'lōr kūon pō mā tōon gmaa kōr, fūn mī le 'wōb a pēbe mī a mī nā tōon sāa puč baal. A tōon tie vaar tara nā tōno yōo tun vuurpō yelsi nyantaan: a tōoin tie vaar mā diin sí dēbe baar tilē goo síe.

**Yelsi amine sín de tōon tie maal:** A chuon kāa in sōr 'lō pōbō nā mā nyē libir. A chabal nā yi a chuon pō tuon kūon, sí mā den chōrchōr tiir ka dun māa tuon yaa 'wōbē ka baalsi māa mī le tuon nyccō yaa ε. A tōon tie vai nī a tōon mō nā mā lo a tēen mā sūu nā ka a tēen nyē puōr ala wa pūo. A tōon vaar tara nā tūmo vuursi yelsi pō nyantan saa diifū a kpenchaan sōo ala e yelmaa kōo benbe nyantaan: pōcōpaalaakulfu bīl kuor. Sí mā le den tōon vaar ber nī a sí suo būkuorsi ka nānyibe māa 'la ju ε, sí mā le den tōon vaar lom tampel tī pāa piel a chi ngmafui.

**Yelwonsi:** A tōon tie tara na yelsi kpēl wōn tara tōnō gar a tiir amine. A vēn nā ka nibē ngmara a tōon tiir loorō, gboorō saalaa, popaalaa chōcrfū nī lakadii kōfū. 'Wōr wōmō nā mōn fūn tōon di bīl fūn le ngmiin a kūon nyū. Fūn le tōon de 'yōōbuul pō bīl su sāanaa pō ka a nūmō.

# K'lawe - Kilinkaagu ንጋ - ወርጉ - Saba tree

Saba senegalensis

The saba tree is a vine that grows around the branches of other trees, without harming them, to hang their very nutritious fruits on them. We make juice from the fruit and use the shells to start a fire. We also make a very strong starch from the saba tree to glue things together. This is the very starch that is employed to glue certain pieces of our traditional xylophones.



Something we can learn from Saba tree is that it usually does not hang on trees that bear fruits for human consumption. This tells us that though there are trees that do not bear fruits for us humans, they are important because they support other trees that provide us with nutritious food.

And here is a proverb:

**Klawé ayé ba ma agbongbá mo ne a bi tor  
Kiliŋkaagu ነጋዬርድ, "Ba wàá zagi n ነና አ ተሪ chol."  
A 'ውር ፍጥራ, ba kū tūc mī a maa 'ውርመ እብ ይ  
Saba tree said they don't shake me to fall.**



One could get mangoes or shea nuts by throwing a stone at them, or shaking the tree. But, as for Saba tree, it won't work. The proverb teaches that you can't apply force to reach your goal. It won't turn out. To get the klawé fruit, you need to go slowly, and climb the tree, and touch it with your hand and then take it. So, don't apply force on somebody to achieve what you want. Go at it slowly, gently.

Local uses are described in [Ngbanyeto/Gonja](#), [Vagla](#) and [Birfuor](#).

K'lawe la k'ferebi na ne k'bee miye n'yi so, k'bee sor fane gongonturbi, asorso na ba nbel kumo be ayirso/ayurso bi ki kachunonyifu, ne ala asor jiso. K'lawe be abi na be adobe bee wuro anuso, ne kochunyaŋ ne be ko amo awul kude.

**Ajibi wuroso:** kochunyanuso, ne kochunyanuso na bee wul kude, adaŋe pampa,k'la kepunto jibi na nsa be kpanpo, be dɔpo ne nbia ashi akon be jimeni.

**K'shen waleso:** K'lawe be aferebi wɔribi ne kumo be nlinji bee chε mbia be ajonpulɔo ka bee b'sa, a bee cha/chε achu ne apuŋ be aloɔ. K'lawe ko k'mar ne be dɔpo be ta amo a pε mbuibī.

**K'shentirso:** K'lawe k'la k'ferebi a miye n'yi so na, ama ka bre ka na ne ba kuiya n'yi acho ajanwule, abanŋe amo afa na so, k'nyesi ne amo ashen du kpakpa.



**U diweez:** I daŋ wer di u nɔŋaahmu di hoo  
daaleegee di lizi u nii kuari lugɔ siŋ.  
I daŋ kaa wer kpaa jaa di daali kobii gee di  
saa kuu.

**U tagziz:** U kela ni u lunne nii ee biifulli  
ulee tagzii. U paŋhoori ni u lunne nii ani a  
lunnihilaa ee hia tagzii.

**U wiɛela aŋhina:** Ba oo kpa u kelle di ra  
lauri zumbizi.

**U kujɔnnaa:** Donyaai dikuu bɔr birgaa  
ani yaa n summ lugɔ tɔna wiɛelaare wia.

**Baal 'wɔrc na tūɔn sāa a wɔls:** Nī a  
nyibɛ nā tūɔn vɛ ka bibiir ḥgan 'wɔrc baar.  
A 'wɔrc vai nī a ntibɛ ben 'mantaar duu nī  
a ɔwɔr ngmīlɛ mī nā tūɔn sāa puɔ baal.

**A yūmō ō amine:** A kāa nā mā yi a pɛɛr  
pɔ fun tūɔn de bɛr mɔdun bil.

**Yelwons:** A 'wɔrc joro nā war kpɛl nā mā  
liɛrɛ.



# Kachuni yi/dibi - Suul daa - Do tie - Dawadawa

**Parkia biglobosa**

This tree offers many gifts and it helps us identify colours, contributing in this way to the formation of our languages. In our local languages we don't have a word for the colour "yellow". We don't need it. We instead refer to the colour of the dawadawa fruit to mean "yellow". In Ngbanyeto/Gonja to say yellow we say: **kachuní nyifú** and this is also the word used to refer to the dawadawa flour. Similarly, in Vagla we use the word: **suul**, and in Birfuɔr we use: **doɔr**.

We employ dawadawa for many things. It is a natural tincture and a nutritious condiment for soups. Also, dawadawa has a special scent that one can recognize from miles away. It is like no other. And mice know it! When they smell it, they come to look for the dawadawa.



Here is a proverb that may come in handy in your lives:

**Ne fo ma sha blanbuti/jangbrga,  
fo pe, fo ma yili achun fo abutó**

**Di haa nyinji dangbonzi du i dia,  
gilée wàá dau siñja de**

**Ala i faa buoro 'won ε,  
taa bine kān a fu die pɔ ε**

**If you don't like mice to be in your room,  
don't keep dawa dawa in your room.**

This proverb teaches us to be alert and prevent unnecessary problems. Don't bring dawadawa to the house if you don't want mice there! Or don't complain about mice in the house if you are the one who has brought dawadawa to the house. Also one could use this proverb to advise someone to not be greedy. One cannot be greedy and then expect that others would offer help when you ask for it.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuor.

Kachuni la ngbanteto be keyi gboŋ na, nsa ala keyi mo ne k' ko asorso jiso, ne ke baa sha k'sor, ke bee lera kuso tentenbi nba gbul k'polbi, nba wuro atoto ne adu mushimushibi. Pien ne ke ba sor nlera ashilbi tentenbi. asorso na du tentenbi nsa wo ajefo to, ne a la k'fitiri bunbun, ama a ban mbel kumo be kayurwol na be ki kifitri wolso na. Kuré, ne be ta agberge achuwe amo, ama be ko bee ka adi achuwe amo. Ba fulwe amo ne awol, Ni ne nna pien nk'nfta amo ne aman wol ni ne na mara.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Ako nyifu ne ba aji amo. Ba awuse amo, agbngban alera nyifu, ata amo, adanɛ, pampa, kude, afunɔ anuu, ne amo ne aka. Achunobi na mara, ba afor amo na nfta ne awol, pien ne be danɛ amo nwuro achun gbagba ne a be danɛ apo bebelso.

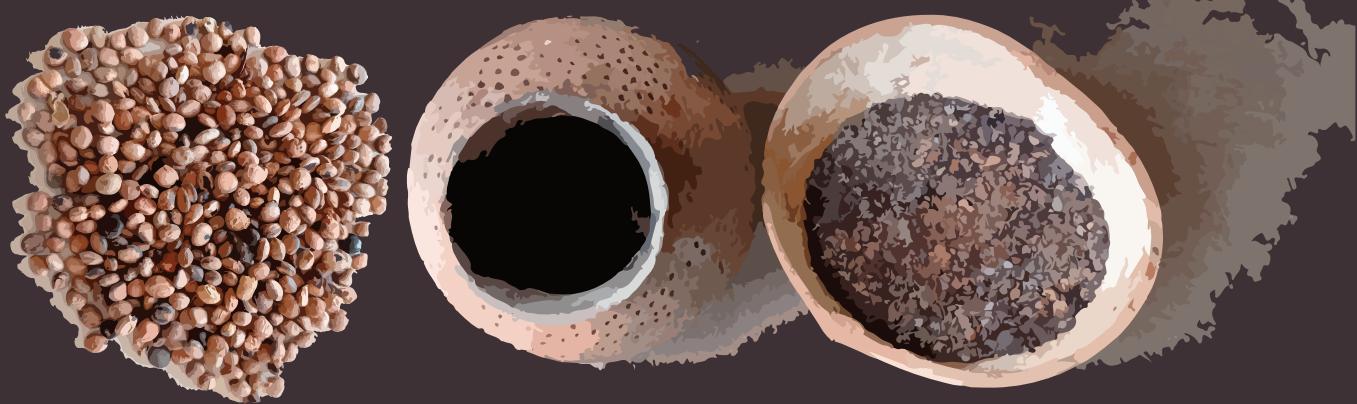
**Aloɔ cheso:** Fo ba nkor kachun be bibi na ne alar abarsa (alabasa) nwi abarto a bee che mbuibi be kuloɔ mbia so, Nk'lan be kuloo, awuse ne ayur bel ade.

**K'shen waleso:** Kachuni la n'yi mo ne anye ma du amo anye be afuli so, amo gbagba ana kor, nsa ko k'chita so demta nsa anye.

**K'shentirso:** N'yi/ndibi be kuiya shi ga kabre anye be afuliso, basa nyesi kudɔ nsa kuiya n'yi/ndibi afa, acho ajanwule haali nba ka kuiya Kachuni yi ki ke. K'se ne nkulwu bee luwe anye be afuliso, Kachuni la n'yi mone a ko tuno demta.



**U diweez:** Ba kpa u beere di ra daali siŋŋaa di ra daa dɔzi. Di kpa u sudug di jaa ra daali kobii, di kpaa ra koozi sɔgmissau ni di ma ra hɔŋ (Nyaŋkpokpo). Di kpa u sau di ra kuari sudug.



**U tagzizi:** Di i nam u bee, i danj kpa a sau ra chaa bichalii wiilaa, di ra chaa sɔsɔŋ. Di I kpa sau koozi yazi ni εε bɔra pooraa ni kuŋwema pooraa tagzii. Ba ɔɔ kpa u nɔhilaare di fuuh tag di ra daali dɔzi, di chɔg u daa hɛga ni u nɔna di ra chaa ŋmɛra. I danj wer kpa bee sau di lug alibaasi koozi a ni gεε nuu ni chaa zumbiee n lauwɛ. I danj wer kpa a bee sau koozi nii ni di chaa chal wiila. I danj wer siŋ u hɛga gεε di bɔraa di kpa chaa kibirmaa gεε hiiŋ. I danj wer bɔr u lunne di kpa a nii sɔ di chaa nyuwiila. U lunne nii ra chaa sɔsɔnnɛ. I danj kpa u paŋhoori di koozi gεelɔŋ ni chɔg, a εε dɔzi kunduula, di kpa a nii bɔrahɔŋ wiila, di kpaa chaa bɔ-ɔrgaa. Di hilula lɔ haanɔ, u danj wer nyɔɔ chaahnii a hiinuu.

**U wiɛelaan aŋhina:** I danj wer bɔr u nɔna di kpa a nii di lii (wɛjɛzi, viini, etc.). A ba fuuh sunkeelaa di saa tag (fanfanni). Ba faa kpa u paŋhoorii di ra suah wɛjɛzi aŋhinaa. Ba pergi u daazii di ra kpaahzi diinii, di kaa kpa u nɔna di ra lauri nyinni. Wii la na chɔgi u wiare: u daazi mɔnnaa ra ha pεε, di ra pergi, di ra fuuh hɔla, ani yaa n waa zumme lugɔ u dɔɔ tɔna wiɛelaare.

**Būdiir:** A dōjun sī mā tūon de maal nī kan bīl tōn kan nā sī duun jīer. A dōjō sī mā sāa di. A dōjō sī mā la den fuol dun.

**Baalsi ala dotie na sāa na:** Sī mā tōn a dōjun nā sī jē bibile na tāana, sī mā le tōn dōjun nyōotaan nyaar bē natir mōraa a mā vēn ka a natir pur. Bōntul for fu fun tūon tō sō. A dōtie pēbe nā ko nī a duor pēbe nā tūon sāa gbontor. Ka a wū bie ban nīl 'yōo kāa nī jāmā mīl mā sāa bibile lubile/libile baal. A dōjun ban nīl 'yōo kūon pō nyū mā tūon sāa dofu baal. A dōtie pēbe ban 'lōr bīl duu nā tūon sāa 'maar bīl kōr baal. A dōnyibē ban duu kūon nā tūon sāa ju 'wōbō baal al e fu so nāa. A kūon ala fun tūon le de sāa nī 'maar baal. A kūon nā a dōtie ban duu nā tūon sāa līgan vaar baal nīl mōrfu. A dōjun ban ku cd nā dōcōp mā suun ka a dōcōfū māa wō wū ε.

**A tūmō amine:** A kan sor sī mā den kpaar waarr ban nyūl ka a nyilε. A dōpēbe mīl mā tūon gboo jiē mon samina. A tenkoro ba mā dōo de dō vai se sīl pō. A duor daar ba mā den kpan yir sī mā le tūon de dō pēbe nyōr jīmε.

**A yewonsi:** A duor yelwonāa le ban mā ngmara yaa dagbōraa tile gbooyaa saalaa, nibē ba bōo a wu yelsun nīl a wu tumō ε.



Bozumah Ljalia  
St. Monica's R/C Junior High School



# Kaklia yi/dibi - Kondaa - Gon tie - Cotton tree

*Ceiba pentanra*



Cotton trees have always travelled and lived with people in our culture. They are not ordinary trees that grow in the forest like other trees do. Rather, whenever you see a cotton tree in the forest, it means that people have lived there before or someone has planted it there; for example, a hunter. You see, some trees travel with people!

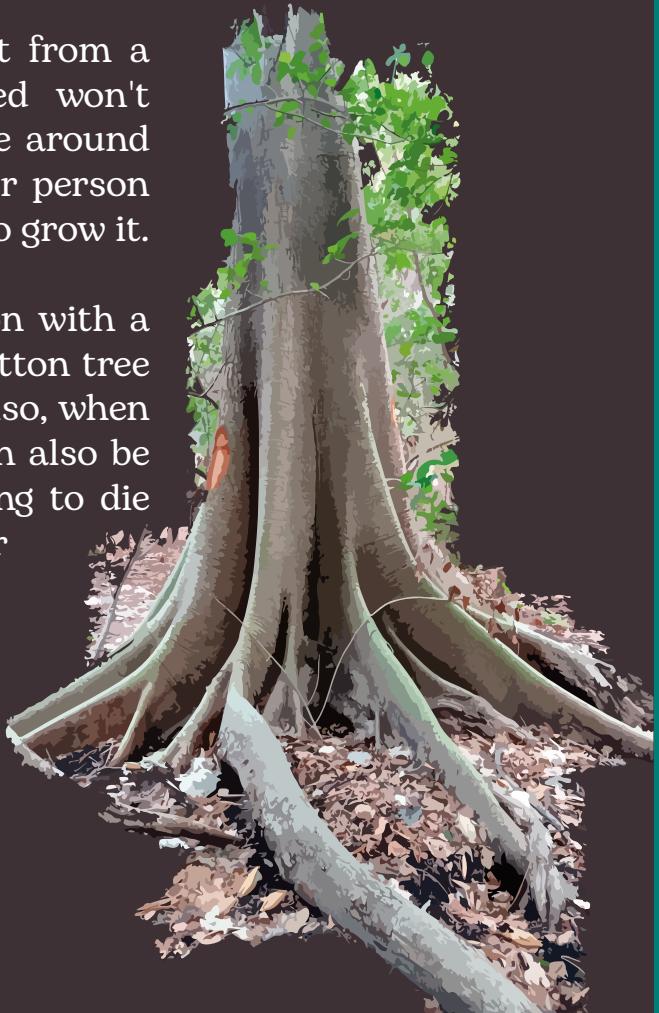
In the old times we used to trade with many products from the cotton tree. We harvested the cotton to make pillows, to make oil lamp wicks, or to make cloth and sell it. Also, in the old times, the spouses of the chiefs would use the cotton to spin and weave very fine cloth for them. The wood was also used for construction. The seeds were also used (and still are!) to make kɔntɔn soup and it is only the Paramount Chief of the gonjas that we bury with this wood.



Some elders shared with us that if one is not from a certain age when sowing this tree, the seed won't germinate. So this tree grows with older people around who know how to bring them to life. A younger person would need to consult with them to know how to grow it.

It is said that this tree has a special connection with a jinn and when a bird is perched singing on a cotton tree or on a kaoba tree it is telling you about rain. Also, when a certain bird is perched on a cotton tree it can also be sending a message that an elder person is going to die soon. After three days of singing you would hear that an elder person has died.

The cotton tree is one that when growing alongside others will always grow taller. So the tree does not allow any other tree to see their crown. So, in a way, the following proverb teaches us that we must always work hard to not be defeated, and to not allow people to look down on you, or disrespect you.



**Ka klia aye aman nyesi ne mo bargasa keyi awu mo kumo be nfirinto.  
Kon heεhzɔɔre lugɔ u ηmene maa wàá sɛe daa maa n lugɔu na u nyubaan**

**A gôtir anyana lε 'yer ika a kû sɔɔ ka a t̄ir amine nyε a ba jusal sɔɔ ε**

**This tree said that it will never allow another like them to see at the  
top of their head.**





Local uses are described in  
Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuor.

Kaklia la keyi gbon na, ne k'la keyi fuful nsa la dankare be keyi. ne ke na ala n'yito be awurche, ako afantan wurbi ne ba tre amo chapra. Ne ba ta amo adanɛ apo, Ke bee wuro atóto pien nba wuro asorso ne adu domponbi nsa ala k'fitiri buñbuñ. K'ban dan nluwe ke bee wol na, keyi na so, ne be chuwe amo nbore nlera amo ajefo, nsa ka amo alentenpu. Alentenpu na mara, ako bibi ne ba tre amo akɔntɔnbi, amo ne ba ta awuro kontɔn.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Kontɔn na be lera nku, nsa adanɛ apo bebelso, nsa ta alentempo na aloŋɛ mputi, ne aso dese so, mo nee adu numɔnumɔ. Ba cho kumo nsuni awuro kadi, nta amo wuro kwaya.

**Aloɔ chesó:** Ba ata Kaklia be ajefo a che apun be kuloɔ, ne aloɔ damta ne ashen wurso mon a ka.

**K'shentirso:** Anye ma du amo kabre, Nse na kuiya amo abanɛ a fa, acho ejaŋwule.



**U diweezi:** Ba kpa u pañhoorii di ra daali døzi. U bee døø nuure (Køntøñ nuu) di kaa a køntøñ di ra daali døzi. Ba oo fuuh u daare di ee tag, di kpa ra døzi, di kaa kpaa saa fanfanni (tag).

**U tagziz:** Ba kpa u kumiire di ra tø ñmøra. Di hee u høga di ra chaa hiwiila. Di oo siñ u høga di ra chaa bichalli zumbee. Di bør u høg di gbur a nii du i nua, a ra chaa nyina wiilaa. Di kaa a nii di ra so bichalli, a hiini ba nyina lii wiila.

**U wiælaa aghina:** Yaa kpa u kumiire di ra du kputizi ni matireesizii, di pergi u daa ra kuari taaboozi.

**U kunjønnaa:** Wia la koñ n na ɔmmuu: U mønaa ha pøø, u pergaal øø taaboozi gøø di ra fuuh høla. Yaa n waa kaa zum lugø u døø tønaa, n waa yoola døøwe dikuu boronizi kunjalaa n su yawa wia

**Büdiir:** A gon vai sì mā den duun jøer. A gon mñ mā lø ku sìn kää ka si mā de duun jøer. Gon tie mñ sì mā gboon jøø duun jøer.

**Aalsi ala fun de gon sääan:** Sì mā den gon fiøl natir. Gon tie pøør fun 'wøb nã tøøn sää puø baal. A gon tie pøøø ban 'lør kùøn po ngman po nã tøøn sää libile baal. Gontie pøøø ban duu gbøl mā tøøn sää nyim 'wøbø baal. Gon tie pøøø ban duu ban tøøn de so bibiir ka a vø ka bibile nyime nã mää lø ɔøre.

**A gon tie tøømø amine:** A gon pøør sìn tøøn de gboon buun. Nã sì lø de a gon maal kapur ka a tie mñ lø e dakpaaraa.

**Yelwonsi:** A yelwonsi ala goon tie nã tara lø ban mā ngmara yaa kpaara nì yie tilø gboøø nì saalaa. Nibø yøø jie mää buøø a goon daar ø bojum a daapø dayor nã kpiøn mā ben a daapø.



# K'lera yi/dibi - Sogli daa - Tukar tie - Baobab tree

*Adansonia digitata*

Baobab is a traditional tree that has cohabitated with people for centuries. It is a very generous tree. One can use the baobab to make tea and we use the shell for many things such as to pour water and food. And it would make a delicious juice.

Similar to the cotton tree, this is a tree that you will find living alongside people. Bees like to build their hives on it. We use baobab in many of our ceremonies and some people believe there are spirits or ancestral energies that live around them. For example, when someone dies we use the baobab leaves to make soup at the funeral. We also use that soup when we make the annual celebration for our ancestors. This soup is called in Ngbayeto/Gonja **k'furma**, which means “it sprays on me”, because the texture of the soup would make it so that, if you are eating it while there is wind, it would spray all over you.



Asante Ofovokiaa Mercy  
Sawla Girl's Model Junior High School



It is hard to trace when or who exactly first settled in this area since there was an old commercial path going through these lands ancestrally. But in Vagla baobab is called Sogli which closely resembles the actual word Sawla. So, it is said that the name of Sawla originated after a reference to a baobab tree under which some of the people coming through this area first settled.

There is a proverb that says:

**Ka por akumá ne n'nye ndan, mane abel ne mee ji**  
**Mannii gille n hel, a waa lug̃ sumaa n na di**  
**Le le a be ka i nūc a kp̃e ea ba i Yɔɔ lē dire ε, bii bɔɔ jine le ε**  
**It is by nature that I grow big, not because**  
**I have enough to eat or because I am living well.**

The story says that some trees when seeing a baobab would be jealous and say: “what do you eat to become so big?” and the baobab would respond: “It is by nature that I grow big, not because I have enough to eat or because I am living well.” This proverb cautions people from jealousy and mistrust. When you suspect that somebody is doing something illicit, just inform yourself well first. It can be that they are just hardworking and good and that their wealth comes from their good performance and not from stealing or doing something bad.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuɔr.

K'lera la dankare be keyi na, ne k'la keyi fuful. Nkpal kumo kishi so, ne ke yili nsa n'yito be awura nko jebote (jiaburntenji) ke bee purwe afanta ne be ko amo adanje apo ne tre amo k'furma, ne atoto na gba be wuro apo. k'ko asorso jiso ne aduli gɔndɔ nsa adu kpakpa, ako afuibī ne a be wule ga. Ba chuwe asorso wolso na nna, nbure amo ajefo na, nke lera adobina nfta, pien nba wuse, ngbngban amo.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Amo bibi na ba tre amo akɔntɔnbi, ne a bee lera nku, nsa awuro kɔntɔn ne ba ta amo adanje apo.

**Aloɔ chesó:** Be ban kurwe kebia ne aman ko aleŋ, ba fulwe K'lera be ajefo na npulɔ nchuto abr mo, a be nye aleŋ na, k'bee che kiya bu so, achɔ kedi awuro kwaya.

**K'shentirso:** K'lera la ape be keyi na,  
nsa la keyi mone kumo ne basa ana  
china ama kabre anye ma du amo,  
loŋso ne a bee luwe.



**U diweezi:** I dañ wer hee u bee hég huu. Ba oo kpa u pahnoohilaare di ra daali dɔzi(Kuuka). I dañ wer kpa u nɔŋ sau di daali dɔzi ni kobii.

**U tagzizi:** A ba kpa u hégaa di du lee biini di ee nii sinna hópiziaa aŋmene di sɔ bichalli la n kɔɔlɛs (u bɔra bɛŋ ka teŋ u waa ha, a gilee waa tɛu nyuwiila), a tɛu fɔŋja. Di i nam u hégaa di kpa faa bɔkuulii mɔɔ ka vɔɔu oo giluu wàá ɔr. Di i nam u bee tɔ zallaabinii ra chaaabuu. Di mɔŋ u hég di sɛɛuh lugɔ tua di kpa tɔ taghɔŋlaa nua di a waa bɔr, a guŋ har, i dañ kaa wer kpa faa biifula ulee, wàá kaa wii yɔɔ. I dañ wer kpa u fiiri koozi dɔzi gɛɛ kobii ni di kpa kpa chaa zɛɛmuŋ.

**U kumɔnnaa:** U mɔnaa ha pɛɛ ani yaa n waa zumme lugɔ u ee tɔna kuna kunnɛ.



**Büdiir:** A tuor sɪ mā muu nāa. A tukar vamaar bii a kūɔn sɪ mā den sal jier. Sɪ mā le den a tuor jō maal ní buul.

**Baalsi ala tukar tie ní na tūɔn sāa:** A tukar tie ban chɛpel puɔl ngman pɔ so inan bie mā tara na kpɛm. Fuun wa suoro tāan wu vɛ ka a kūɔn siir a ju ɛ. A tuor bie ban kab bii kɔb de pɔɔ gbontor nā tūɔn 'māa. A totie sɪ mā tūɔn maa wu ku liɛ poɔcɔ ka sɪ pɔɔ tiin sìn duul tile tūɔn sāa bibile nyūo baal. A totie puur ban de 'yɔɔ jier pɔ bii buul pɔ nā tūɔn sāa mā sumō.

**Yelwonsi:** A ngmafu ban mā ngmara yaa in yelwona, bojun nibɛ ba bɔɔ a wu tɔnɔ ɛ.



# K'che yi/dibi - Huu daa - Chiraa tie - Ankye tree

*Blighia sapida*

It is a medicinal tree. This is why people preserve it and plant it in town. From the bark we make a powder that is used as treatment for stomach ache, and for pains during pregnancy. The leaves are used to treat fever and the fruits to make soup. Also, seeds are used for traditional “board games” that we often play on the ground.

There is a proverb that says:

**K'che man nyi abi moni awo k'lawe be  
apunto ne ata nlatō, n ka ta mo abi asa  
afa a sa durnya**

**Huu waa zum bee la n du kilin̄kaagu biini  
ka u siigi, ka pilli u hora di ra bagli  
durnya.**

**Chira ba bōc bie ajmen̄ wōc na tara a wu  
puom̄ ε (bii a pε̄r pε̄c ε) a wōc i jaa gbul,  
tiche ka a chira wile awu bie kurc awer**

**The ankye fruit doesn't know how many  
seeds the saba tree fruit has in its  
stomach (or shell). While the saba fruit  
keeps quiet, ankye shows their seeds to  
the world.**



The story says that ankye trees and saba trees live in the same place. Ankye tree has a fruit that opens and shows few seeds. As for the fruit of the saba tree, it contains many seeds but the fruit doesn't open easily. This is why we say that ankye always shows the seeds they have while saba keeps quiet and doesn't show the many they have.

The story says that ankye trees and saba trees live in the same place. Ankye tree has a fruit that opens and shows few seeds. As for the fruit of the saba tree, it contains many seeds but the fruit doesn't open easily. This is why we say that ankye always shows the seeds they have while saba keeps quiet and doesn't show the many they have.

So, one can use this proverb to mean different things. This proverb can be used to teach that one should not show off what they have pretending they are better than others. Because, there may be others around who have more, or know more than them, but they stay humble and tempered. For instance, younger generations connected to new technologies may feel they know many things and show it off. Meanwhile, an elder who has been living for many years in a place may know many more things about life that they don't show so readily. Just like the saba tree, one needs to court the elders to open their shell and see the many wisdoms they have.

On the other hand, one could also teach honesty with this proverb. For instance, when a person is transparent and honest, you could use this proverb to indicate that this person is like ankye, since they show what they have inside.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuo.

K'che la keyi fuful ne k'bee sa kayul, nka a la dankare be keyi, nsa ko asorso jiso, nka la a pe be keyi. k'ba nfara asor, kumo be asorso na la k'fitiri buñbuñ nna, pien nba fara apre, ne k'ban ya mbel, kumo k'jefo na be bañe na.



**Ajibi wuroso:** Kumo apunto na ko adobi fuful ne acho bibi nyoso so, ne ba aji amo nsa, ata bibi na mara a to kibii. Kumo afanta na be ta amo awuro tubani.

**Aloç cheso:** K'che be afantan be chε :achuu, ne be ka ku kebia pupurbi be kututu, K'bee cheto ne adan apun che(adanpuche) bee kurwe nsa ma nu abesa ga, kumo key be ajefo bee chε apunto be k'loo.

**Dankare shen:** Anye be dankareto, ne asa ba npan mbe afute ne be wuro mo keli nse wul keli due na baa tie kude na nna adeŋi K'che be afatan so, nko ban tie kumo nwuta kawi to nse bra K'che be afatan nba nase nta kude ne kawi na nbe amo so.

**K'shentirso:** K'che la ape be keyi na, nsa la keyi mone kumo ne basa ana china ama kabre anye ma du amo, anye ma du amo nse na kuiya amo abanje a fa, acho ejawule lojso ne a bee luwe.



**U diweezi:** A ba di u humanne (u hukpeg, I hia oo ra wiiu). Di i haŋ uuri u hukpega nyiŋ, i daŋ kpaa daali dəzi. A ba kpa u paŋhoorii daali tibaanii, a sočh du sum.

**U tagzizi:** A ba hoŋ u paŋhoorii di ra teŋ wiila ni bɔwiila, di kpaa ra chaa hɛntajaa, ŋmɛra ani bɔmɔnnaa. Di kpaa ra chaa bichalli nyaq gɛɛ gee. Di hilula lɔ haŋ, u daŋ wer nyɔɔ a nii ú lul ni bɔsɔna, A ba po u daa wiifurii ni wiicholii hɛgaa di siŋ lee biini di kpa tagzizi aŋhinaa di chaa kpemkpemii. A ba kpa a niire di yag a bɔra la n na wii ni.

**U wiɛelaa aŋhina:** Di lee kpuwɔɔ ba saa kuu tɛɛ a lalii, u paŋhoori ninɛɛ a ba kpu dau. U beere ba kpa ra ta dari.

**U kuŋɔnnnaaa:** U wiɔnnnaare lugɔ yaa n waa zumme lugɔ u diwee ni u tagzizi dɔɔ wia.

**Būdiir:** A chiraa sɪ mā 'wɔb nāa. A chir pɛbe sɪ mā gbɔɔ yɔɔ jie duun jɪer. A chire vai sɪ mā den maal tumpāan ka a vɛ ka a numō.

**Baalsı chiraa nī na tūɔn sāa:** Chiraa vai ban kar duul nā tūɔn sāa 'wɔbɔ nɪrɛ nā ngmaa yuɔr nī natɪɛ. Jinkā suɔ mī mā tūɔn so ka a jinkā baar. A chiraa vai ban duul ku pɔɔ ku so ti nyū mā vɛn ka a wu dɔɔfu māa wō wu ε. Ka a mā lɛ vɛ ka a jar yi fɔɔ. A chiraa pɛbe sɪ mā tūɔn de sāan mɔrfu baal. Sɪ mā tūɔn de sān nyaa baal. Ka a pɛbe ala nā bɛ a mütōon purfu jie nī a mütōon murfu jie ban 'lɔr ngman pɔ nyɔctaan vai amine mā sāan nyāa baal.

**Tūmō amine:** Si mā den a chiraa bie.

## **K'gbelebi yi/dibi - Zagbiŋ daa - Dābiinaa tie - Savannah blood plum**

**Haematostaphis barteri**

This is a tree that doesn't usually grow very tall in the region. One can often find them around rocky areas where trees or plants can't grow. You find them at times in groups, but most often you will find them in pairs or standing alone. Farmers and hunters are often the ones that find them in the forest and bring their fruits to town. Women, when they go for firewood, may also find it in the forest and bring fruits back home.

This tree teaches us that, even when the soil may not be good for farming, it is good for the savannah blood plum, which provides us with many things such as nutritious fruits and medicine. Hunters and nomadic people used to dwell for a time in rocky areas and eat the fruits from this tree. If you observe well, you would be able to find traces of their presence around those rocky lands.

There is a proverb that says:

**Akama ne mo k'pr ashenj**  
**Ner maa dɔɔ u kipattɛ. Yaa maa wàá wer εε kpaj**  
**Tɔbɔn chiira lɛ i tɔ bɔdira. Kɔsibɛ pɔ lɛ a dābiliɛ ma ara.**  
**Each one what they want.**

This proverb means that different people have different comfort areas. While you may be surprised that the savannah blood plum lives in rocky areas, this is where they like to grow and they offer good services there. Even if you wouldn't like to live there, others may prefer it and would be beneficial for all. Everyone has different preferences. We do not all have to be the same. In a way this proverb teaches the value of diversity of life and nature.



Local uses are described in Ngbanyeto/Gonja, Vagla and Birfuor.

K'gbelebi la kupunto be keyi na ashi anye afuli so, k' ma dan ga pien nsa sor. kumo be asorso na bee ji, Ke bee sha abeso be k'yili na, ne k'sa awule mo ne k'la ajombu be kakpa. k'ba nfara asor, kumo asorso na la k'fitiri buñbun nna, aba n'ya mbel nfo k'ji, a bee ki k'gbele be kayurwol nna.

**Ajibi wuroso:** Agbelebi be asurso na be ji nse na, daŋe Pampa. Ne be kɔ kumo be afanṭaŋ a daŋe apo.

**K'shen waleso:** Agbelebi be afanṭaŋ ne kumo be nlinji be che aloɔ damta, be nimu dar anyi kana ne ba awuro amo pien nk'ta amo chɛ aloɔ.

**K'shentirso:** K'gbelebi k'la kupunto be k'yi nna, anye ma du amo, ne basa na kuiya amo a le, akuiya amo a chɔ ajaŋwule, K'se ne amo n'yi bee luwe.



**U diweezi:** Ba ra di u nɔnaa di kaa ra lizi a nii lugɔ siŋ. I daŋ kaa wer kpa u nɔna nii di koozi kobii ni. I daŋ kaa wer u paŋhoori di daali dɔzi.

**U tagzizi:** A ba bɔr u pahoori ni u lunnee di chaa sɔsɔŋ (zagfiiri). I daŋ kaa wer kpaa chaa bɔwiila, nyuwilla ani siwiila. A ba u lunne nii di kpa tagzizi aŋhinaa di koozi a ni di faa bɔra la huahzi n duwɛɛnɛ di gil a lii I bɔra. Di i ŋɔ i zɛɛmuŋ, I daŋ u keljiga, di kpa a hɔchri koozi. Wia la n na u daazii a mɔnnaa, di kpaa ra fuuh hɔla dikuu yaa n waa u tɔna zumme wia.



Kipo Mahama  
Sawla D/A Junior High School



**Budii 1e:** Dābiinaa in bu wōmō fun na di ala wa muč bīl ka fun nyu. Fun tūon maal buul nyu. Ka a vaar mī i jīer. "A dābiinaa mī i tīe." A wū vaar ni a nyibē mī sāana na īgan tul baal nī 'maar, ju 'wōbō, nibie baal. A wū nyibē 'mataan vai amine mī na tūon sāa nyaalfū. Naa mī sāana masūmō. Fūu kab a wile niē nyōc bul pō nyu.

**A yelwonsi:** A wū yelwonaan na be a tīe nya pō le ka si na a tīr anyana a jaa le ba ḡmara gbōcō saalaa, sīn ba bōcō a ba tōnō e.





