



Cultural, Environmental, Human Development Association

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Ancestral Recipes Book

foods to reconnect with your land and people You are invited!

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Introduction

This is a book of ancestral and traditional local recipes gathered from women from the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba district in the Savannah Region (Ghana) for the benefit of all.

Our ancestral foods bring us closer to our culture and keep our values and traditions alive. Some steps of the cooking elaboration of some of the dishes have a specific cultural implication. When we prepare our recipes we connect with our ancestral spirit, with our land and we realign with our families. Through the process of gathering the ingredients and preparing them we learn of the importance of caring for our land and rivers. Preparing and sharing traditional and ancestral food brings unity among the people in the community. It is part of our cultural heritage that is gradually fading away.

The knowledge and wisdom for the preparation of these recipes was handed down by our ancestors from generation to generation. Now they are in the hands of our elders, mostly the women. But today our younger generations in the

Savannah Region are no longer learning old ancestral recipes from their elders. We are losing the traditional food culture in general in our region because society is not taking care of their food inheritance. We would argue that this is because younger generations are not connected to their elders and their wisdom as it was before. They don't inherit their traditional knowledge from them, and as the elders pass away, some of these recipes are also dying with them.

Some of the recipes that we have collected in this book from interviews with elderly women are still known and cooked, but are not valued by the younger generation. Others are completely gone. Losing them means losing the culture, familiar memories, ethnic identity and nature. Even our sense of taste, diseases associated with the food patterns, physical development and the way of thinking about food are changing.



This is the main reason for this recipe book: to give value to 13 ancestral recipes and to integrate them into our current food system. This is why our team is working with elders from the community to preserve and restore this knowledge for the health and resilience of the future generations. If younger generations learn the recipes, they will be passed them down to the next generation, along with a care for the land and the rivers that provide the necessary ingredients to keep alive the food inheritance of the people of Savannah Region.

Eight elderly women with knowledge about local ancestral recipes, from different ethnic groups based in Sawla (Savannah Region), were brought together to share their wisdom to the broader community. Afterwards, these women were interviewed in their kitchen while they were cooking these dishes in order to capture all the process and cultural values involved. They claim that the knowledge they inherited, from their grandparents, must be kept alive, as well as the connection between the local foods and nature.

According to women interviewed these are the reasons of the lost of ancestral food:

- Nowadays, young generations have no interest in sitting with elders to learn these recipes.
- There is the belief that the local food is fading away because the preparation of traditional food involves more time and effort than foreign foods. However, this belief is not completely true since there are traditional recipes that require a simpler preparation like Pampagbutiso and are also getting lost. This means that the difficulty of the preparation is not a factor of food disappearance.



- Tastes are changing, increasingly influenced by the West. Globalization is moving away the traditional food taste and therefore, gradually pushing away the local gastronomy. Local food tastes that are now considered "less tasty" are no longer familiar to the younger generation, they are being substituted by foreign/western and "artificial" tastes not connected to nature and the land, but rather to fashion and unhealthy habits.
- New generations today are giving less value to traditional food while considering the western food as superior.
- The traditional dishes are not prepared in restaurants for commercial use.
- Many farmers have stopped farming some of the crops that were used to produce these dishes like millet.
- The young generations doesn't know the benefits of the wild vegetation that is used to prepare the local dishes like "bonbo" plant.

Are we still on time to bring back our ancestral food?



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank profusely each person and seed that fed and nourished this book. We acknowledge your generosity and support, towards the information elaborated in this book. This is your book, and we wish to make you all proud with its content and format.

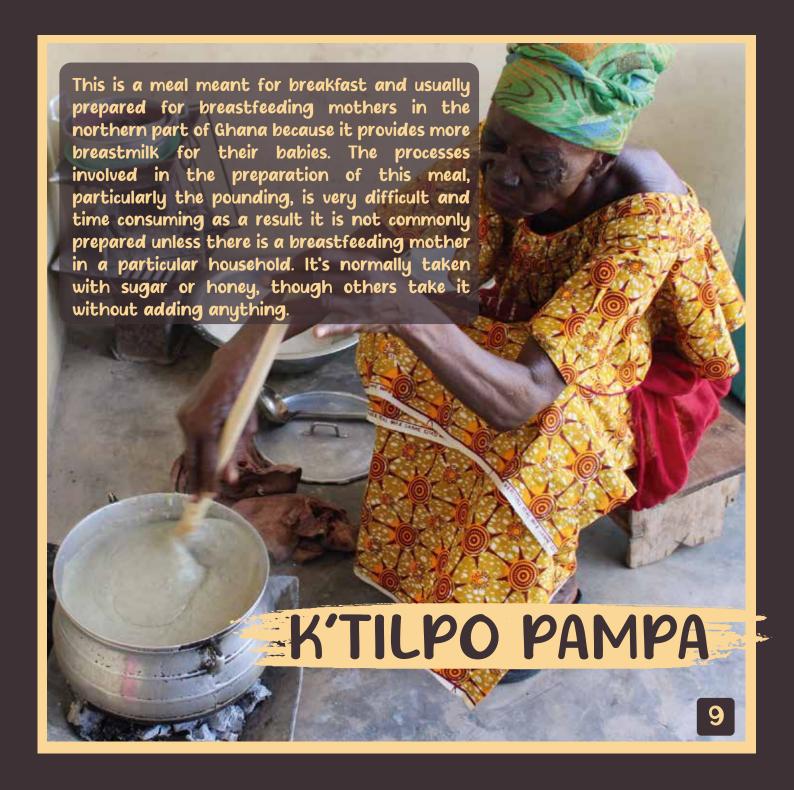
A tender acknowledgement to Carmen Ayllón Medrano who captured all the significant moments of the cooking process and listened with her empathy and opened heart to the stories and wisdom of the women.

A special thank you to Mr Rashid Abubakar Iddrisu (Mr. Wari) for visioning this book, to to Lucia Acosta Hurtado for her passionate coordination. A warm thank you to Hawawu Iddrisu and Bonsinaah John Bakari, from CEHDA Ghana team, who have coordinated the interviews with the elderly women. Thanks to the rest of the CEHDA team: Osman Kroyurto Abubakari, Hanatu Abdulai, Yahaya Felix Omar and Asamoah Kontinantey.

To the women who carry the wisdom that we are bringing back and that shared them happily with us: Bimata Buah, Hawa Bakari, Mary Rose, Achulo Mariama, Saaka Mary, Ebal–tey Catherine Bobinena, Dakuri Hanne, Abu Ayishetu.

The translators Kizito Banaamwine Asumah (Dagaari and Wala), Sumbenali Addai (Brifor) and Biyuori Zieme Timothy (Vagla)





Ingredients:

Millet flour and shea butter

STEP 1: Put water on fire to boil.

STEP 2: When the water starts boiling you add a bit of shea butter into it to make the K'tilpo pampa smoother.

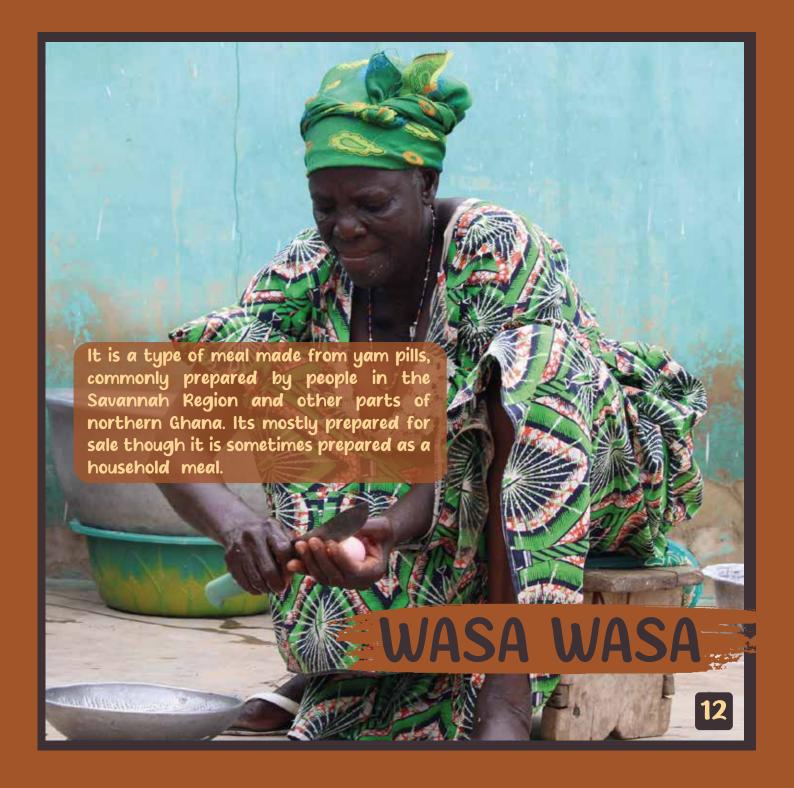
STEP 3: Gradually add the millet flour and stir until it becomes a little bit thick.

STEP 4: Leave it on fire for at least 20 minutes and add sheabutter.

STEP 5: Take it from the fire and allow it to cool down a bit before serving.







Ingredients: Yam shell, shea butter and onions.

STEP 1: Get your yam shell and grind into flour. After, sieve it.

STEP 2: Put water on fire and place a perforated basin on the pot, sealing the space between the perforated basin and the pot with a mixture of cassava flour and water closing all the places where the steam can escape.

STEP 3: Fetch the flour in a basin or calabas.

Then you add small water and stir with your hand continuously for some time. The flour will be moulding by itself as you keep stirring.



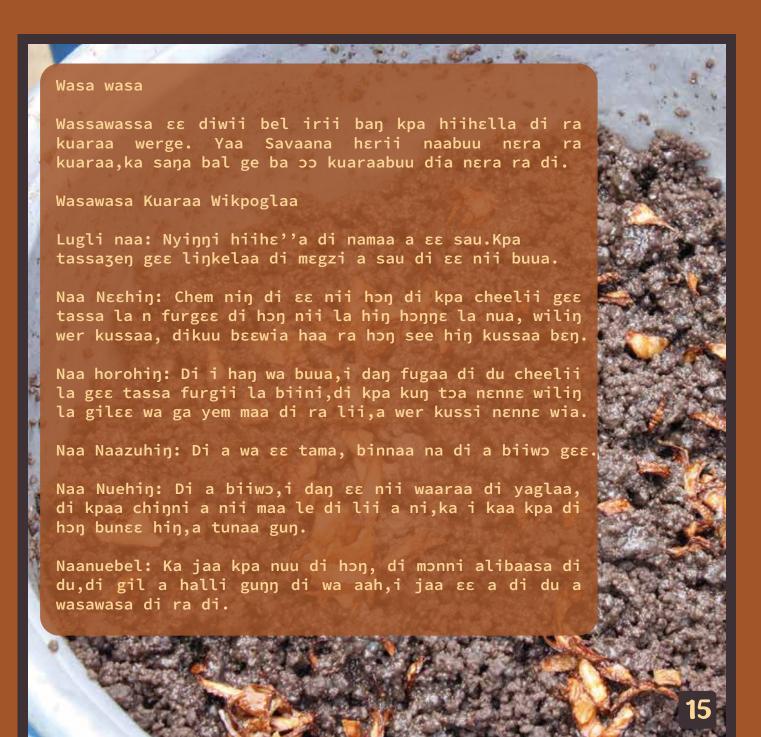


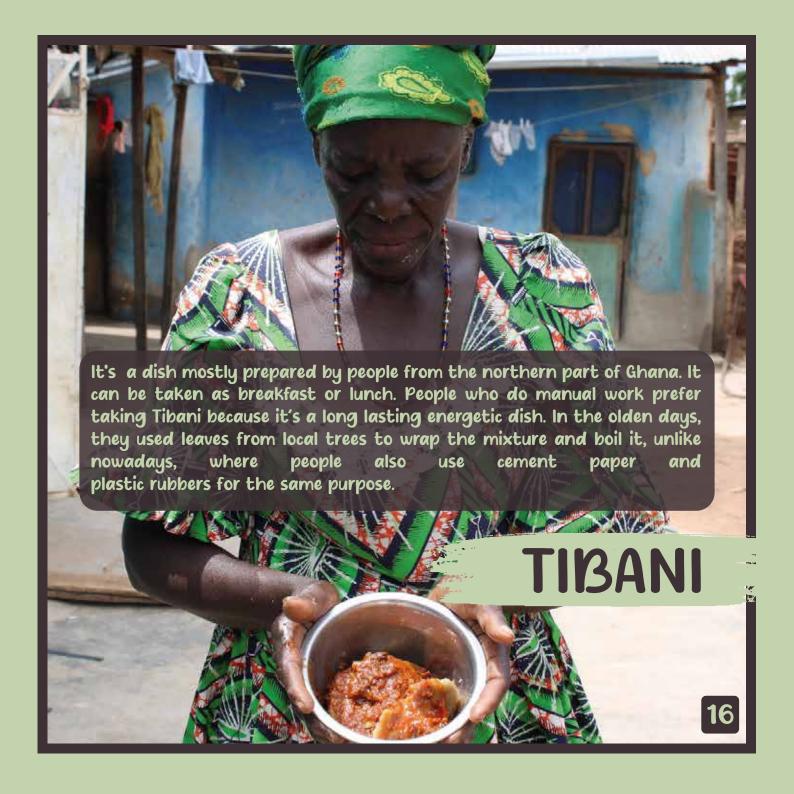
STEP 4: Pour the mixture into the perforated basin on fire and cover it with a clean material to prevent the vapour from coming out to aid the cooking. This is done because the vapour is used to steam it because you don't boil it into the water.

STEP 5: Once the first steaming is done pour the mixture into a basin and wash it and drain it completely before you put it on the fire again for the second steaming.

STEP 6: After taking the wasa wasa from the last steaming, you pour it on a basin and allow it to cool down.

STEP 7: Put your shea butter on fire and add some chopped onions to the oil. After the onion is fried, take it from the fire and sprinkle it on the wasa wasa and it is ready for consumption.





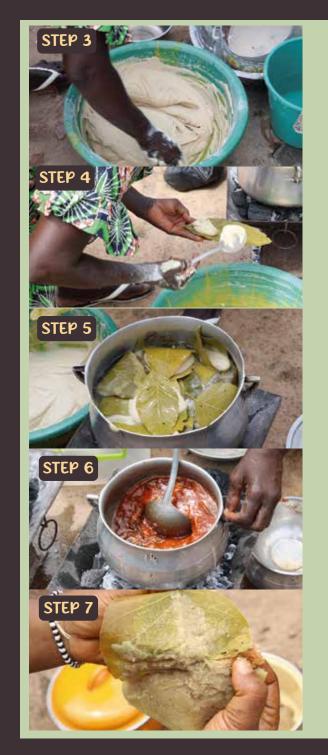
bambaram beans, black beans or white beans flour, cassava flour, sheabutter, tomatoes, onions, pepper, salt, dawadawa, "amani/ketaboys" or Kulkulbi flour.

STEP 1: Grind the cassava and the beans into flour. The beans processing varies depending on the type of beans you are using, check below the process of each type of beans:

- The bambaram beans don't need to be soaked before grinding them.
- The white beans are taken to the mill and winnowed to remove the shells before grinding them.
- For the black beans you have to put them in water overnight and take from the water the next morning and dry. Once it is well dried, you take it to the mill to break and get all the shells out before you can grind it into flour.

STEP 2: Sieve the flour.





STEP 3: Put saltpeter in water to dissolve. Put water on fire and allow it to boil.

STEP 4: Add the solution of saltpeter into the flour and mix it with your hands, adding gradually some water to make it soft.

STEP 5 :Fetch the mixture into the leaves (plantain leaves, cola leaves, akeapple leaves "kichefantan", "ghatefantan" or "woblafantan") and drop it into the boiling water. Cover the pot and allow it to be properly boiled for about 30 minutes.

STEP 6: Prepare your stew by putting shea butter on a fire and add all the necessary ingredients such as tomatoes, onions, pepper, dawadawa and "amani/ketaboys".

STEP 7: If the tubani is well cooked, take the pot from the fire and start removing them from the leaves.

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Tibanaani

Gaana hεri,yaa εη hεrii ba ra daalaa werg.

Choozinnuuhaankpolaa gee wiban diweere.

Banla n na hum humkpegaa ra nyinnaa werge, dikuu bɛɛwia a ra funnaa di kaa ra birgi hia.Faala la panhoori ba ɔɔ faa kpa di fɔɔzaa di ra daali,ka filanken waa silminti piipazi ni wuraabazii ba kpa fɔɔzaa di ra daali.

Kunjigzi: siwee,sigbinne gee sighunna ani duasau, kamantoosi, alibaasa, gee gaabu, geelon,sinnaa, amani ni anla

Lugli naa:

- I dan wer nam siwee la waa di haa sinne.
- Sighunnala ge,i daan kpaa di la manika di ga nyaari,i wa hɛl lizi a hɛga ta. Di i wa ɛɛ gun tun, i dan iaa wer namaa.
- Sigbinne la ge,i dan sinaabuu hamuna ni hoo wa pizi choozi ni, i choora di nyin.Di a wa hillo nanne,i dan kpaa di la manika di ga nyaaraa,di hel a hega ta moo ka namaa a bii.

Naa Νεεhiŋ:

Ba οο nam siga gεε siweere di εε duasau tamaa di koozi a ni di je, di gaa kpa di daali.

Naa horohin:

εε kaaŋu di du ni a ŋmεεri.I jaa chem niŋ di εε nii hɔŋ a ra bɔr,i jaa kpa tassa biini di εε yazi la di du a ni di buun a pɛssi.

Naa Naazuhin:

Ba ၁၁ εε tag gεε kaaŋuu di koozi ninεε di εε nii di buua a pεssi.

Naa Nuehin:

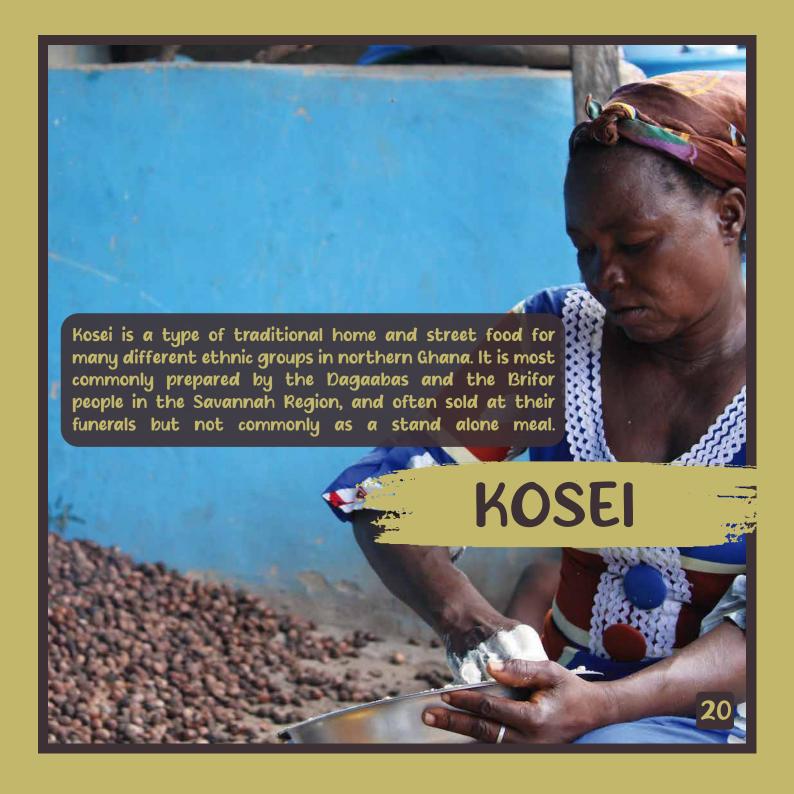
I ja kpa burindia paŋhoori gɛɛ pɛzɛ,hun,hambag gɛɛ bɛl paŋhoori di fɔɔzaa di ra du nibotti biini di jaa kpa kuŋ tɔ.Kajaa gilaa a bor tama alugɔ mintizi tokkoni kpɔrgoɔ.

Naanuebel

I daŋ jaan faari di mɔŋ nu hɔŋ daali a dɔzi di kpa dɔzi kunjigzi lugɔ,kamantoosi, alibaasa,gεε gaabu,gεεlɔŋ, siŋnaa,amani ni anla maa a niŋ jaa.

Naanuedi anee

ka jaa binni a tibaani na i a biiwɔ gεε,di jaa lawaa koo. I daŋ, faari di lau a paŋhori di ra fugzi ka ra du i dɔzi la tau guŋŋ a wa bii, i jaa koo di jaa bɔnni a tibaani, di εε a dɔzi waari a ni di ra bonni.



Beans, shea butter or any other oil, salt, onions and pepper.

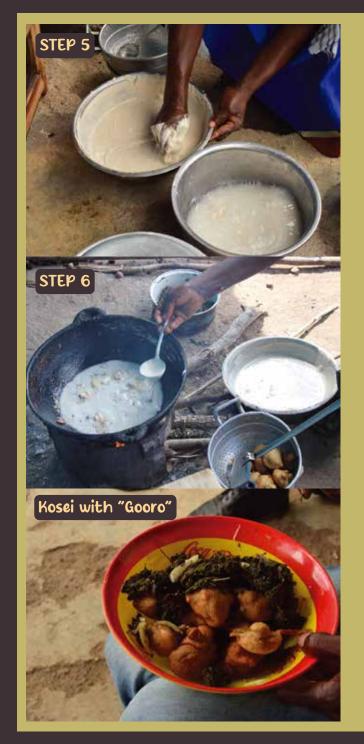
STEP 1: Soak the beans in water for some hours and then take them out to dry.

STEP 2: Take the dried beans to the mill to break them and remove the shells from the beans by winnowing. Afterwards, grind the beans into flour.

STEP 3: Put the oil on fire and then slash some of the onions in water with salt.

STEP 4: Fetch the quantity of flour depending on the size of your calabash and add some water to beat them until it becomes creamy.

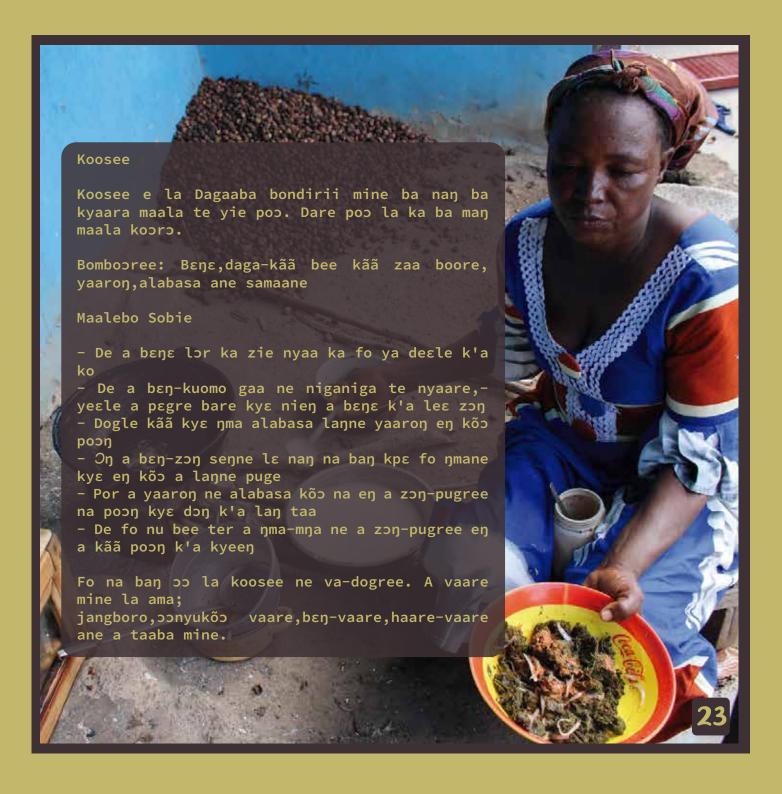




STEP 5: Add the water with salt and onion into the bean paste and stir it to get a uniform mixture.

STEP 6: Fetch the paste with your hand or a spoon into the oil to fry. In five to ten minutes, your Kosei will be ready for consumption.

Additionally, you can take koshei with "gooro" that is made out of the following boiled leaves: "jangboro" leaves, moringa leaves, bean leaves, blackberry leaves, etc...





Maize or millet, sheabutter,

salt, pepper, onions.

STEP 1: Get your maize or millet, roast them in a pot and afterwards, take them to the mill to be roughly grind.

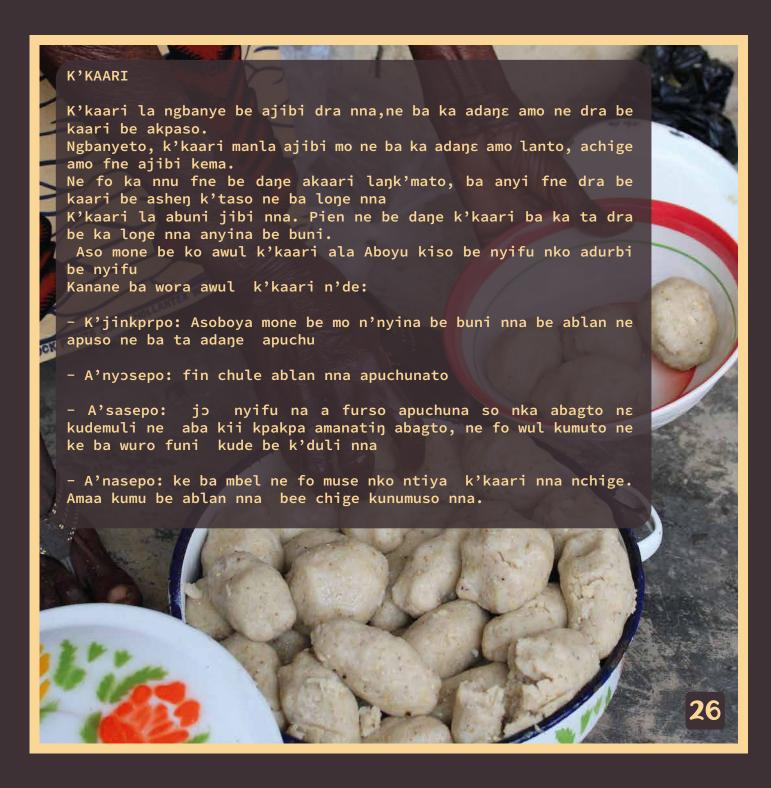
STEP 2: Prepare a delicious soup, by first steaming the meat and, afterwards, adding all the ingredients (salt, pepper, onions and tomatoes).

STEP 3: Remove the meat from the soup when it is cooked.

STEP 4: Gradually add the flour to the soup and stir until it becomes thicker.

STEP 5: When it's properly cooked, you then take it from the fire and serve it with the meat.







Millet flour, shea butter,onions` and Dawadawa.

STEP 1: Put a pot of water on fire and allow it to boil

STEP 2: Sprinkle water onto the millet flour while mixing it to make it a bit solid in such a way that it can be molded with your hands.

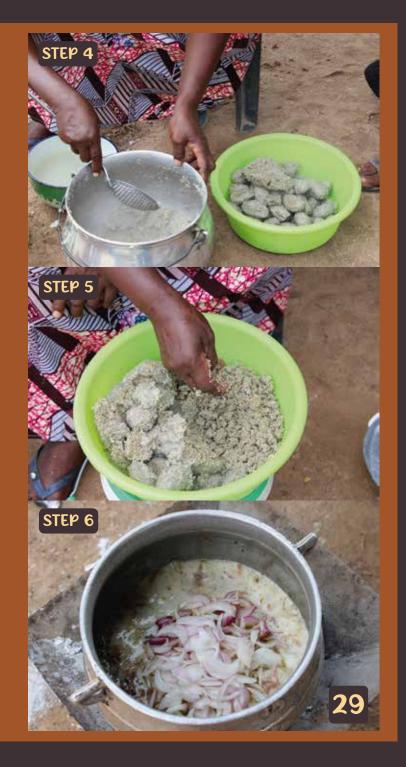
STEP 3: Mold the mixture into sizes of your choice and drop the molded mixture one after the other slowly into the boiling water and cover it to be well cooked.

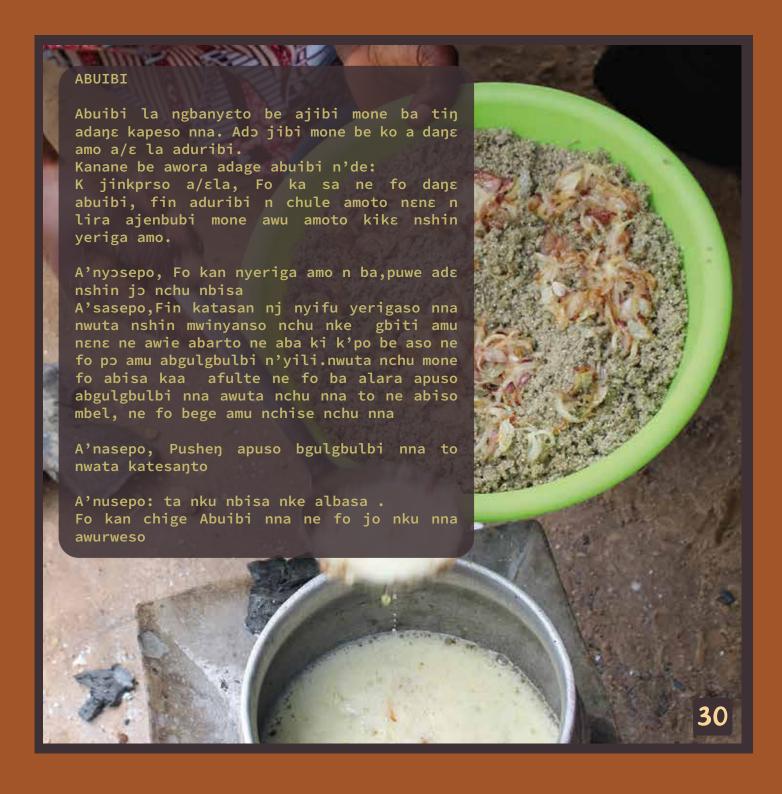


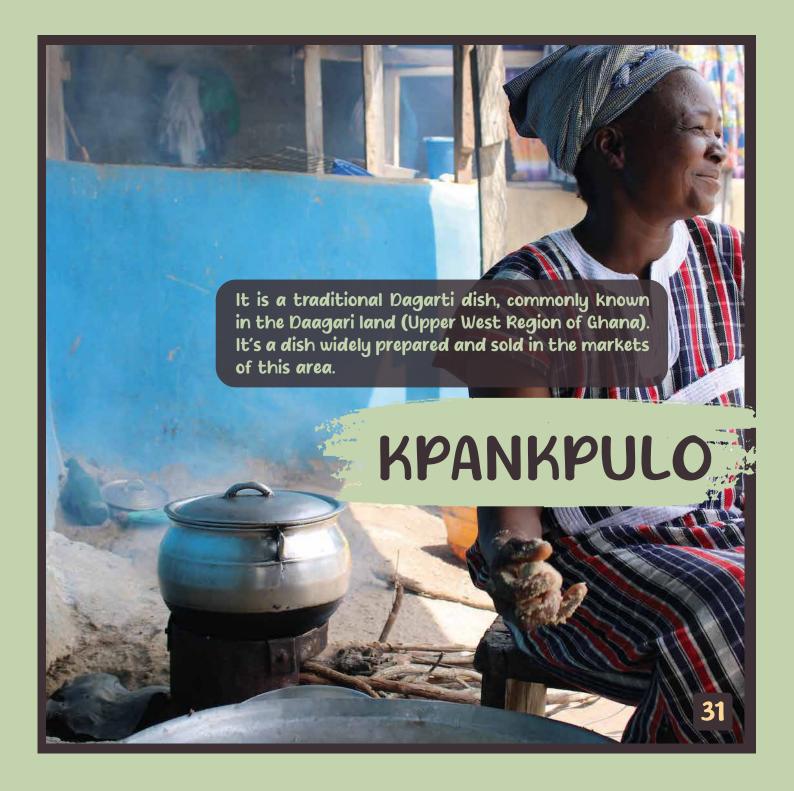
STEP 4: Take the water out of it and allow it to cool down.

STEP 5: Smash the molds with your hand.

STEP 6: Put oil on fire, slash some onions and other spices of your choice (stew). Take it from the fire and serve it with the "abuibi".







Maize, groundnuts, sheabutter, tomatoes, onions, pepper, salt

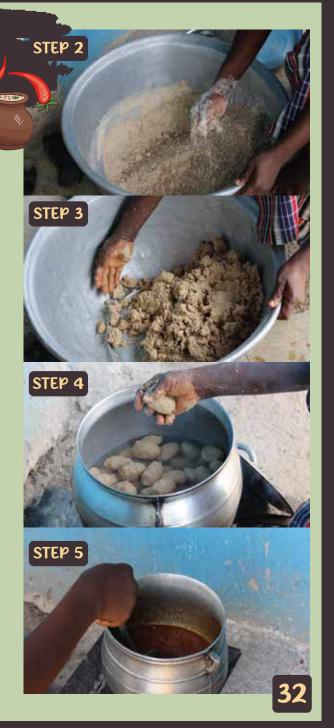
STEP 1: Roast the maize and take it to the mill to grind in a rough form.

STEP 2: Pound the groundnuts into flour and add it to the roasted maize flour.

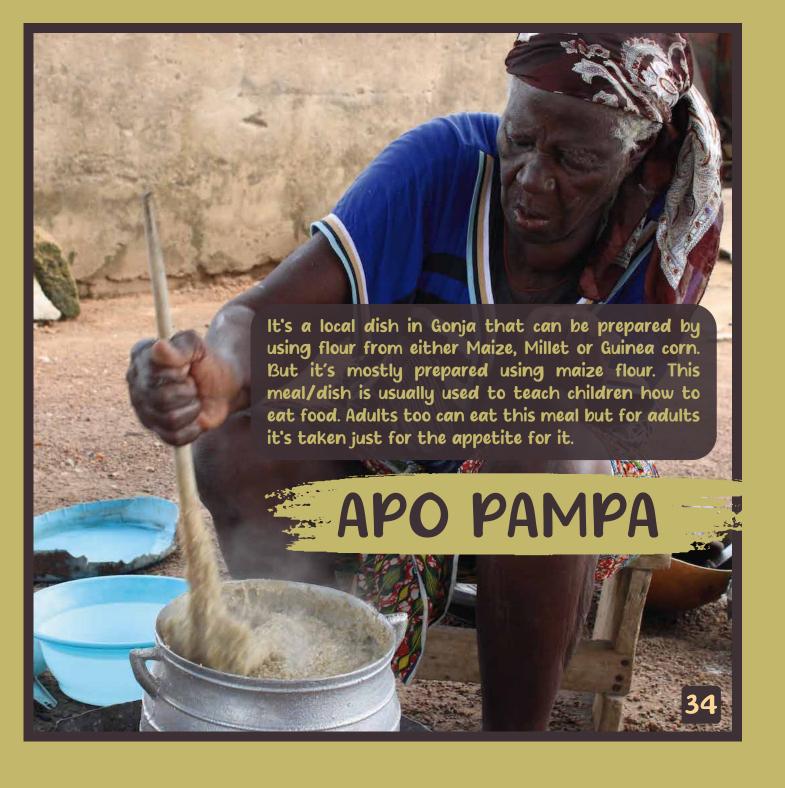
STET 3: Add salt and water to the mixed flour and stir it until it is a little bit solid.

STEP 4: Put some water on fire. Mold them into the sizes you want and drop them gently into the boiling water and cover it until it is well cooked.

STEP 5: Put some oil on fire and add the necessary ingredients (tomatoes, onions, pepper, dawadawa) to make stew to accompany it. Once the stew is ready, serve the "kpankpulo" together with the stew.







Ingredients:

Maize/Guinea corn or Millet flour, fish (preferably smoked)

fish and without many bones), shea butter, dawadawa, salt, onions, pepper and salt.

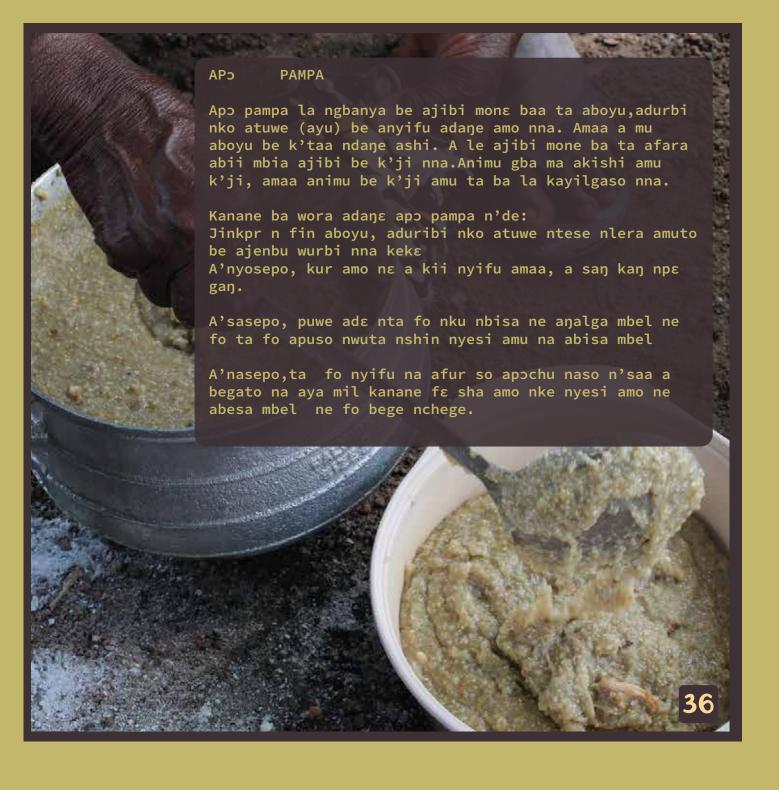
STEP 1: Get all the particles of stones out from the maize, millet or guinea corn

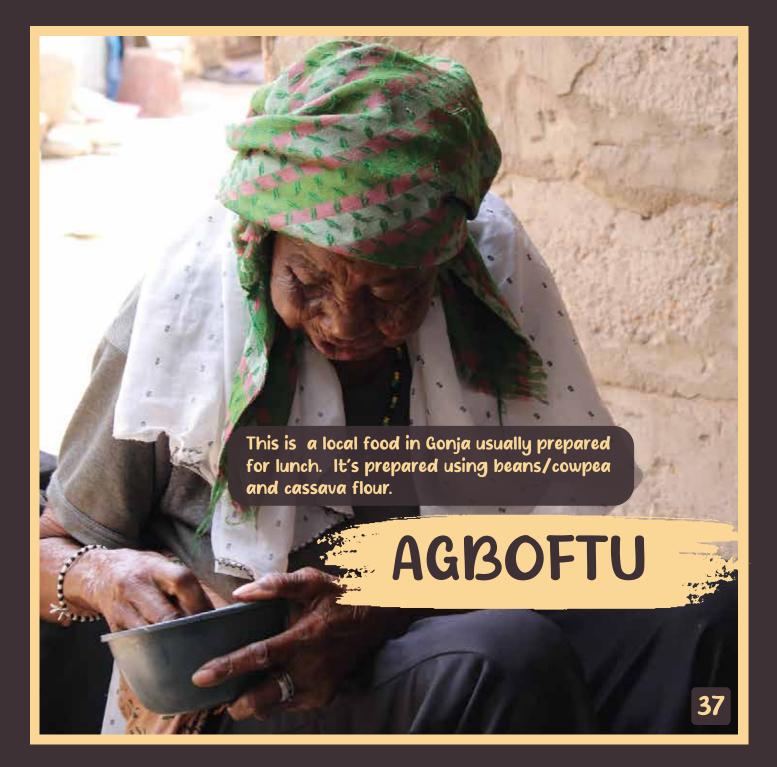
STEP 2: Grind the maize, millet or guinea corn into flour but not too smooth.

STEP 3: Put your pot on fire and add the oil inside it and all your ingredients (dawadawa, salt, onions, pepper, salt and fish) to prepare the soup.

STEP 4: When it boils for some time, then add your flour gradually and stir until it is well mixed. Leave it to boil until it is well cooked to be served.







Ingredients:

Beans/cowpea, cassava flour, Tishea butter, onions, salpeter Frand salt.

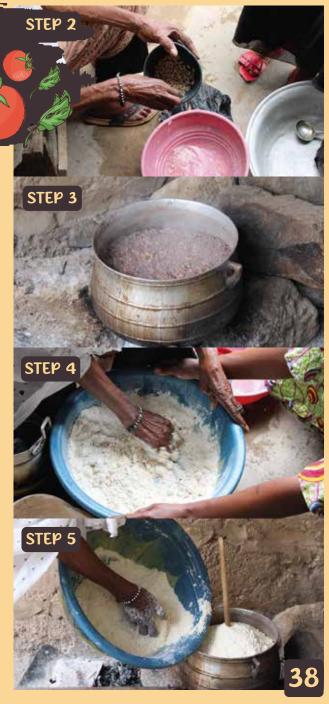
STEP 1: Put water on fire.

STEP 2: Make sure you get all the particles of stones from the beans.

STEP 3: Put the beans in the water on fire and allow it to boil.

STEP 4: When it is cooked, you then get your cassava flour and add a little bit of water to it and stir to make sure it is completely mixed.

STEP 5: Get a stirring stick to place in the middle of the beans in the pot on fire and add the cassava flour that is mixed with water. This is done so that the steam can circulate.

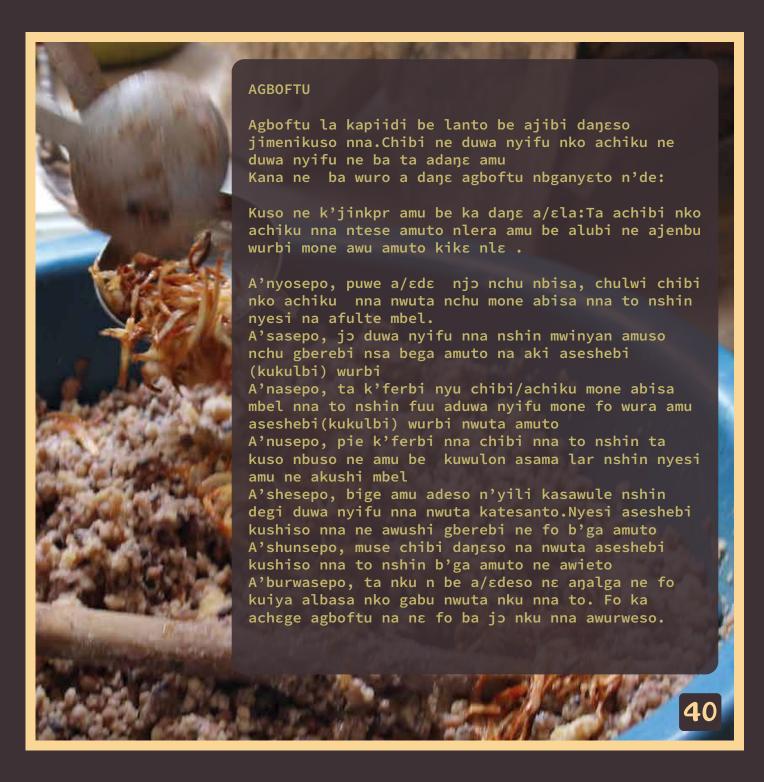


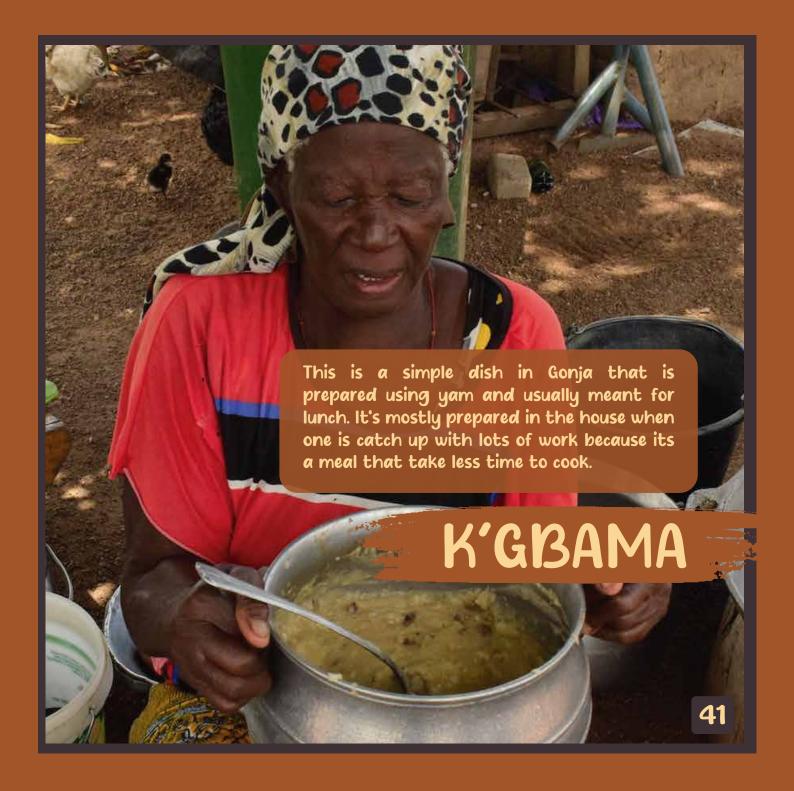
STEP 6: Remove the stick and cover the pot with a clean plastic bag so that the steam does not come out. Keep checking on it from time to time until it is cooked. Remove the pot from the fire and take the cooked cassava flour from the beans.

STEP 7: Add some of the beans to the cassava flour and mix them completely.

STEP 8: Put oil on fire and add onions. When they are fried, then you serve them together with the mixture of beans and cassava flour that will be ready.







Ingredients:

Yams, sheabutter, pepper, salt, fish (preferably herrings), dawadawa and onions.

STEP 1: Peel the yams and chop into smaller pieces.

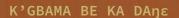
STEP 2: Put a pot of water on fire.

STEP 3: Wash the yam and add it to the water.

STEP 4: Add all the ingredients such as fish, pepper, onions, dawadawa depending on the individual interest. Cover and allow it to boil until it is well cooked and add shea butter to it.

STEP 5:Use a stirring stick to stir it thoroughly to make it a little smooth. Take it from the fire and serve.





K'gbama la ngbanyε be ajibi danε so nna, ne baa ka atin adanε amo ndoto ne ape, a maa amo be ape be ka adanε bre la jimene ko so be kayilga be ka daŋε ati ba ala, amanla ajibi mone baa ka atin adang amo

Jimene ko so ne ache be lanto be kushun ba ashi muso ga, a bi tin adanε k'gbama n'kpal manε so, k'gbama la ajibi mone amachir k'bel nna.

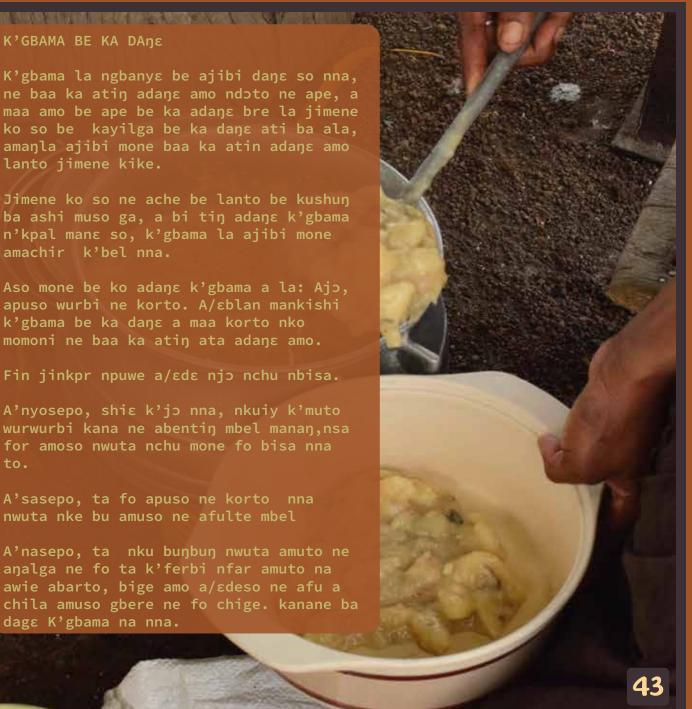
apuso wurbi ne korto. A/εblan mankishi k'gbama be ka danε a maa korto nko momoni ne baa ka atin ata adanε amo.

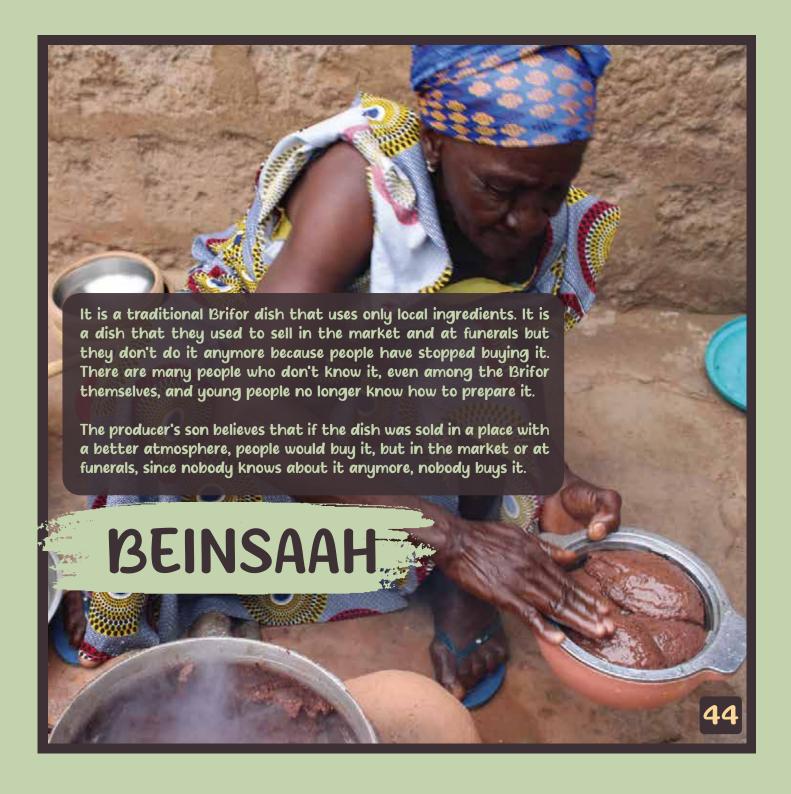
Fin jinkpr npuwe a/εdε njo nchu nbisa.

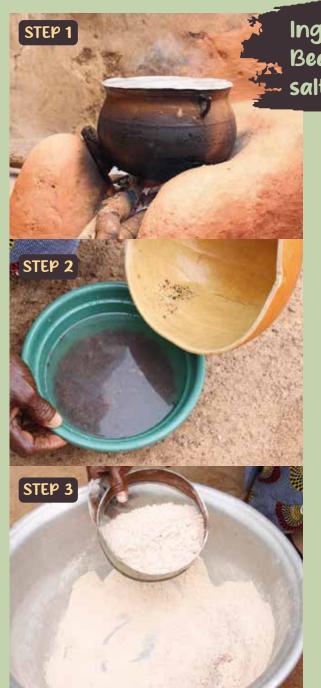
A'nyosepo, shiε k'jɔ nna, nkuiy k'muto wurwurbi kana ne abentin mbel manan,nsa for amoso nwuta nchu mone fo bisa nna

A'sasepo, ta fo apuso ne korto nna nwuta nke bu amuso ne afulte mbel

A'nasepo, ta nku buŋbuŋ nwuta amuto ne analga ne fo ta k'ferbi nfar amuto na awie abarto, bige amo a/ɛdeso ne afu a chila amuso gbere ne fo chige. kanane ba dage K'gbama na nna.







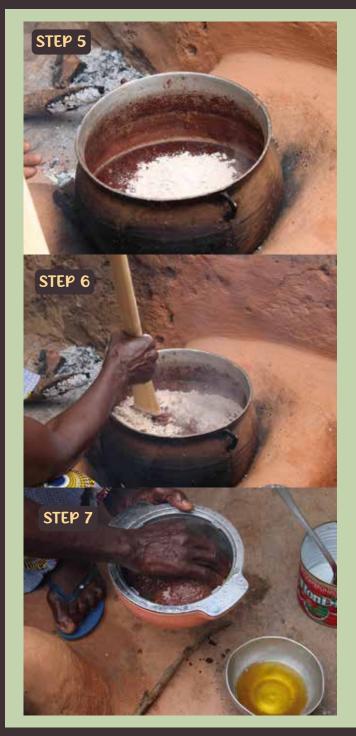
Ingredients: Beans, guinea corn flour, asalt, saltpetre and shea butter.

STEP 1: Put water on fire.

STEP 2: Get beans and remove all the unwanted particles with water.

STEP 3: Pour the beans into the water. When it is boiling you add saltpetre. When it is about getting cooked you add salt.

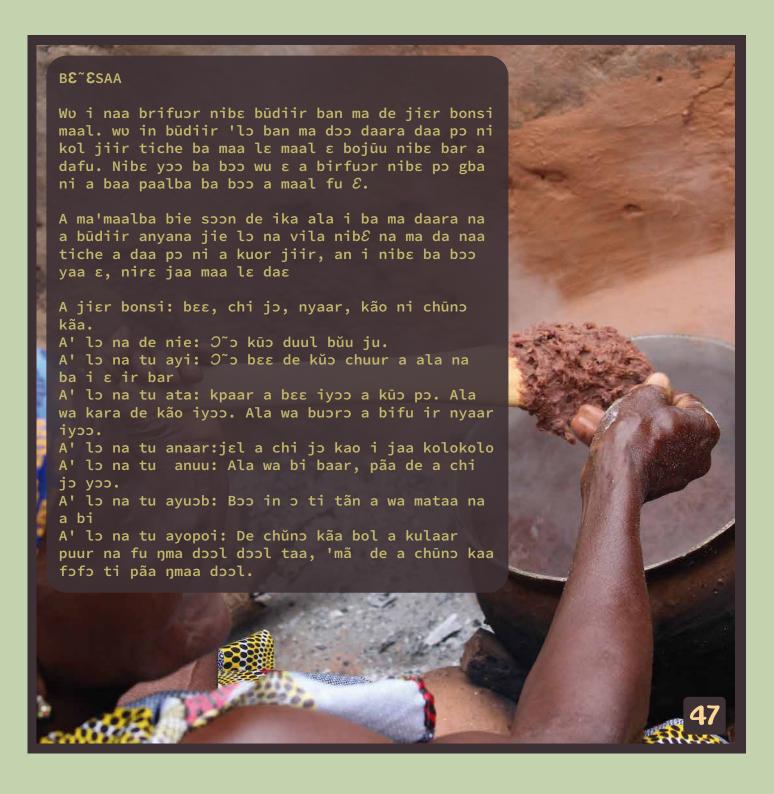
STEP 4: Sieve the guinea corn flour to make it smooth.

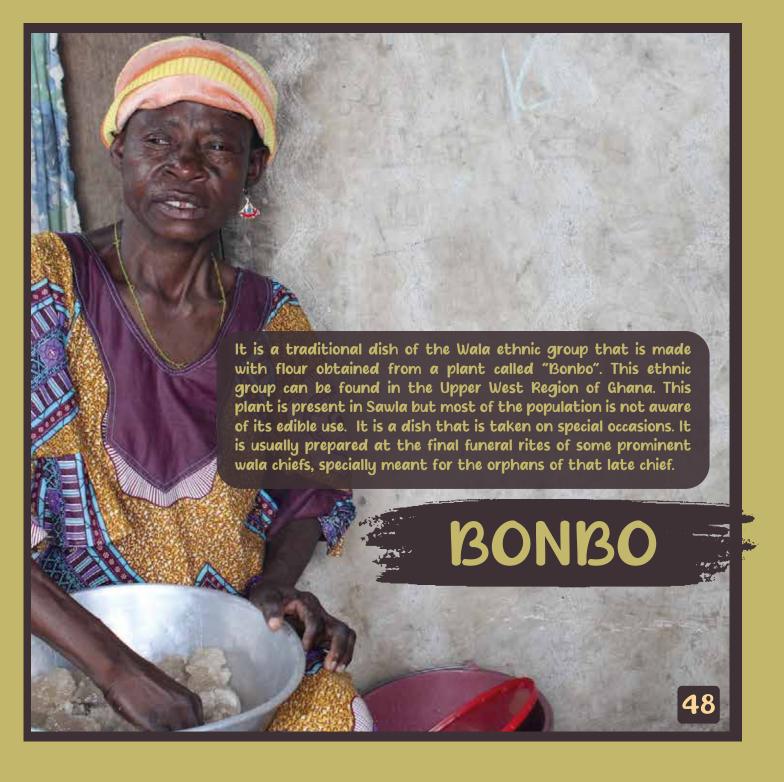


STEP 5: When the beans are completely cooked you then add your guinea corn flour into the pot.

STEP 6: Stir thoroughly until it is mixed up and cooked.

STEP 7: Rub inside the bowls with sheabutter and serve it in layers, rubbing each layer with shea butter.





Ingredients: Bonbo plant, fish or meat, onion, oil, pepper, salt, tomatoes, dawadawa.

STEP 1: Peel the bonbo tubers and grate them

STEP 2: Add water and extract the water from the grated bonbo by squeezing it in the strainer, in order to remove the bitterness from the plant. Keep doing this for a few times until the

STEP 3: Spread the grated bonbo on the floor to dry. Once they are dried, you then take them to the mill to grind into flour.

STEP 4: Mix the bonbo flour with some amount of water. Do this with the hand to ensure that you get a smooth mixture. Make sure the mixture is not too thick.





STEP 5: Fry the mixture in bits until you have finished with the whole of it.

STEP 6: Keep the fried bonbo aside and prepare some light soup by first steaming the meat or fish and, afterwards, adding all the ingredients (salt, pepper, onions, tomatoes and dawadawa).

STEP 7: While the light soup is yet on fire cut the fried bonbo into smaller parts and drop each into the soup.

STEP 8: Wait until the bonbo has absorbed the soup completely and it will be ready for consumption.



A bondirii ηa e la waala teŋkõɔ bondirii ba naŋ maŋ de 'bonbo' zɔŋ maale ne. Waala e la noba mine booree naŋ zeŋ Gaana lambore kaŋa ba naŋ boɔlɔ Wa-paaloŋ (Upper West Region). Bonbo teɛ ŋa e la teɛ naŋ be Sawla põɔ kyɛ noba yaga ba baŋ ka bondiraa la. Waala laŋzeŋbo poɔ,Ka naa wa kpi,o kuore maalebo baarebo daare baŋ maale la bonbo ka o yaaŋ-mine di.

Zeεre Boma: Bonbo teε,zoma bee nεne, alabasa,kãã,yaaron,kombie ane kale

Maaloo Sobie:

- * Pεl a bonbo kyε ŋma'a bilii a de dii k'a kõɔ yi
- * De a bonbo deεle k'a ko
- * K'a naŋ wa ko,de gaa ne niganiga te nẽεŋ k'a leε zɔŋ
- * Oη a bonbo zoŋ eŋ kõo poo kyε doŋ k'a laŋ taa soŋ, ta vɛŋ k'a zoŋ ne a kõo nyoge taa e nyaŋgelaŋ yaga
- * Pãã dogle kãã a kyẽến ne a bonbo
- * De a bonbo maale biŋ kyε de a nεne bee zoma waale kyε pãã de a zeεre boma

(yaaron, sammane, alabasa, kombie ane kale) laŋne maale zε-kõɔ

- * K'a zε-kõɔ wa kpaara,ŋma-ŋma a bonbo k'a bilii a eŋ a zeɛre põɔ
- * Vεη k'a bonbo nyu a zε-kõɔ zaa, K'a zε-kõɔŋ zaa wa nyunne,a bonbo ta la diibu



Ingredients:

Millet or guinea corn, pepper,

Kude (commonly known as TZ).

STEP 1: Remove the stones from the millet by using a calabash and a bowl of water.

STEP 2: Take it to the mill, add small fresh pepper and grind it into flour.

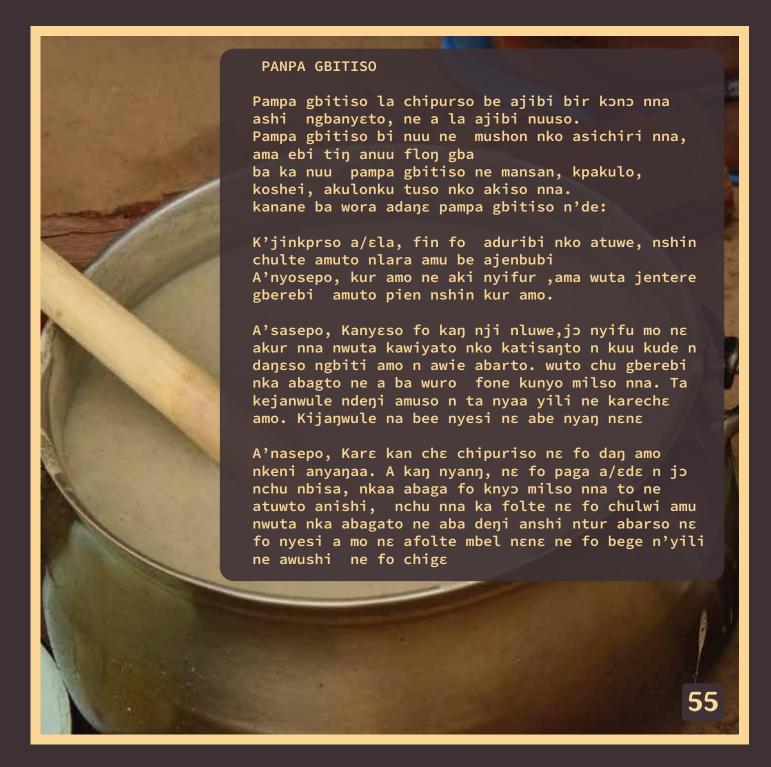
STEP 3: In the evening, fetch the flour into a pot, add a small quantity of Kude(commonly known as TZ) to it and mash it well until it is completely mixed with the flour. You add water gradually while mashing so that it becomes a little bit liquid.



STEP 4: Place a piece of charcoal on it for fermentation and a pepper to keep evil spiritsaway from it. Cover and let it stay till the next day.

STEP 5: The following morning, put water on fire. Add some amount of water to the mixture and stir it to become smooth. When the water on fire is about to boil you pour the mixture into the water and stir until it is well cooked and ready to serve. It can be taken with sugar or honey, although honey is not usually used due to scarcity.





Short biography of the founder of CEHDA

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!

Mr Rashid Abubakar Iddrisu Wari was born on 3rd March, 1974 in Sawla, a small town in the savannah region of Ghana. He attended both primary and junior high school in Sawla, and then proceeded to Bole Senior High School (BOSEC) at Bole which is about 18/20 kms away from Sawla for his secondary education.

After completing Senior High School in 1995, he decided to travel to Europe for greener pastures. He started his journey on March 3, 1998, from Ghana passing through Burkina Faso, Niger, Algeria to Libya. From Libya, he made several attempts taking a boat from Libya to Italy and was not successful. The 1st boat was a fraud because he paid the money and the person disappeared with the money. The 2nd boat set off in the direction to Italy and had a problem on the sea and the boat sank. So he finally changed his route and went through Algeria to morocco. From Morocco, he took the boat and finally arrived in the Canary Islands in Fuerteventura.

He was at the migrant detention center for thirty-eight(38) days, the police took him to Las Palmas and set him free in the street. After two days, he flew to Barcelona, and began living in the streets and helping himself and other African migrants to gain papers and to meet basic needs, and eventually formed the NGO CEHDA (www.cehdaghana.org) to support migrants and in Sawla his hometown to finding resilient opportunities for the youth.

He also formed World Institute of Africa culture and Traditions (WIACT) established to promote indigenous education (www.wiact ghana.org)

