Ethnographic Study Of Oil Palm Produce In Akamkpa Local Government Area Of Cross River State

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Abstract

Oil palm tree is a major oil producing plant of the world, surpassing any other plant in yielding of oil. It is a blessing to the people of Akamkpa, and Nigeria as a whole. Every part of the plant is very useful. The sustainability of oil palm is very important because it will go far in elevating our economy, thereby elevating our nation. This research is focused on the traditional way of processing palm oil (Elaeis guineensis) in Akamkpa, Cross River State. It examines the significance of palm oil production in the socio-cultural and economic life of the inhabitants of the area, archaeological implications and usefulness in the sustainable development of the third world countries.

Introduction

Palm oil is a vital commodity produced in many countries such as Nigeria, Malaysia, Ghana, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Oil Palm tree *Elaeis guineensis* is the most productive oil producing plant in the world, with one hectare of oil plantation /field producing between 10 and 35 tonnes per annum. An oil palm tree has life span of over 200year, but the economic life is 20-25years, (nursery is 11-15 months, first harvest is 28-32 months from planting and the peak yield is between 5-10years from planting)(RMRDC, 2004). However, before the advent of the Europeans in Nigeria, palm oil production was only for subsistence purposes and on a small scale. Palm products were processed using local method. But the influence of the Europeans has introduced the modern method to help quicken the method of processing the palm oil in Nigeria. The Federal government in recent times aimed at improving the production of palm oil. The oil palm tree is one of the economic foundation in

Akamkpa, thus it is a revenue yielding crop. Being the pivot of their economy, the people especially, the young ones have taken to the habit of raising and protecting the trees, until they start fruiting .The people do this by making sure that whenever the bush is being cleared for farming the young plants are not slashed and during the burning of the debris from the farm, the palm tree is shaded from the heat from the fire.

Oil palm (*Elaeis Guineensis*) is indigenous to all West African Countries (RMRDC, 2004). As Hartley (1967) has observed also that oil palm in West Africa is indigenous. It is a major oil producing plant of the world surpassing any crop in the yield of oil. The oil is being derived from the outer mesocarp of the fruit. Within the mesocarp lies the hard shelled mist containing the palm kernel which produces palm kernel oil and also found to be rich in vitamin A and is widely used for cooking. The oil palm has been used in manufacturing so many things like pomade. It is an irreplaceable product in the Nigerian economy and trade. It is internationally desired, easily processed and cheap. Palm products can be sustained if the government and non-governmental organization will recognize the importance of financing such projects so as to bring sustainable development in Nigeria.

An ethnographic approach has been adopted for the study. This involves oral interviews and participant observation. The study examines the methods of palm oil processing in Akamkpa and the various uses of the palm products. To assess its role in the socio- cultural and economic life of the people. What are the problems facing oil palm growth and processing in Akamkpa and the recommendations? The research will constitute a reference point and data base for all researchers in the field.

Concept Of Ethnography

Ethnography (Greek *ἔθνος ethnos* = folk/people and *γραφία graphia* = writing) is a scientific research strategy often used in the field of social sciences,

particularly in anthropology and in some branches of sociology, also known as part of historical science that studies people, ethnic groups and other ethnic formations, their ethnogenesis, composition, resettlement, social welfare characteristics, as well as their material and spiritual culture. It is often employed for gathering empirical data on human societies and cultures. Data collection is often done through participant observation, interviews, questionnaires, etc. Ethnography aims to describe the nature of those who are studied (i.e. to describe a people, an *ethnos*) through writing. In the biological sciences, this type of study might be called a "field study" or a "case report," both of which are used as common synonyms for "ethnography".Ethnographic studies are usually holistic as it is founded on the idea that humans are best understood in the fullest possible context, including: the place where they live, the improvements they have made to that place, how they are making a living and providing food, housing, energy and water for themselves, what their marriage customs are, what language(s) they speak and so on (Wikipedia,2010). Ethnography is a genre of writing that uses fieldwork to provide a descriptive study of human societies. Ethnography can provide insights of value to archaeologists into how people in the past may have lived, especially with regard to their social structures, religious beliefs and other aspects of their culture. The ethnographic study of palm produce will give us an insight of how this can help to overcome challenges of sustainable development of the third world.

History of Oil Palm

The history of oil palm as a commercial crop is rather short, dating back to 1807 on the West African Coast where its cultivation commenced. It came to the East via the Island of Mauritius in 1848, to Indonesia (the Botanical Garden at Bogor) where four seedlings of four West African palms were planted. At about 1870, the seedlings were transferred to the Singapore botanical gardens and then to Malaysia in 1875. The African oil palm has also been taken to Central and South America where it was first cultivated in Brazil, and later to Colombia and other

neighboring countries (Raw Materials Research and Development Council) (RMRDC, 2004). Extensive breeding and agronomic research has been done by institutes such as the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) and the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), and also by private plantation companies.

However, of all the plants in the area the palm tree "*Elaeis guineensis*" stands out to be the most prominent because of its multifarious uses. For there is no tree which in itself has as many uses since every part of the palm tree is of value. The people have been utilizing the various parts of the palm tree. The trunk yields timber, the leaves are used for tacthing, the stem yields copious supply of palm wine, and the fruit yields oil. Palm tree and its products are profitable source of income. Isichei (1976) noted that processing of palm products involves a vast multiplication of laborious, tedious and time consuming process. The natural habitats of the plant are the sources and banks of water courses, moist valleys, especially in the forest/savannah zones as well as banks of lakes and swamps, and low lying Islands in humid tropical environments. The oil palm tree *Elaeis guineensis* grow wild and the palm forest regenerate itself by natural dispersal of seeds. The palm competes with surrounding vegetation and grow tall and usually straight. The palm fruit grows in bunches among the fronds at the top of the palm, and the harvester usually climbs the palm tree and cuts the bunch down with a matchet.

Three types of oil palm in man-made habitats have been identified in the country. These are:

a. Secondary Rain Forest with oil palms.
b. Palm bush
c. Dense palm groove or farmland with palms.

There are three main varieties of oil palm distinguished by their fruit characteristics. These are:

Dura: This has a thick shell separating the pulp from the kernel.

Tenera: This has a thin shell between the pulp and the kernel, together with a fibrous layer round the nut.

Pisifera: This has no shell and is very frequently female sterile (RMRDC, 2004).

Brief Information of the Study Area

Akamkpa is one of the Local Governments in Cross River State. Cross River State is made up of 18 Local Government Areas (CRSG, 2007).These local governments are : Abi, Akamkpa, Biase, Bakassi, Abekwarra, Boki, Calabar South, Calabar Municipality, Etung, Ikom, Obubra, Obanliku, Obudu, Odukpani, Ogoja, Yakurr and Tala. Cross River State lies within latitude 4.25^0 and 7.0^0 N and Longitude 7^0 50' and 9.30^0 E. It shares its boundary to the east with the Republic of Cameroon, to the North with Benue State to the West with Enugu, Imo, Abia and Rivers states and is fringed by the Atlantic Ocean at its southern end (Ezaga, 1985). Akamkpa is where Oban sector of Cross River National Park is situated. According to Daniel Henry (Personal Communication), Akamkpa Local Government is made up of Akamkpa Urban namely: Akamkpa Sector,Oban Sector, Ekuri Sector. There are ten wards in the local government area, viz.: Akamkpa Urban, Uyanga, Ikpi, Awi, Mbarakom, Ojuk South, Ojuk North, Oban, Eku, Iko. Akamkpa Local Government Area is in the Central Senatorial District and was created in 1976. It has a land mass of 4,300 square kilometres, and is bounded by Odukpani and Akpabuyo Local Government Areas to the west and south, Biase and Yakurr Local government Areas to the North West. Ikom and Etung Local Government Areas to the North, and the Republic of Cameroon to the West. There are two main ethnic groups in the Local Government Area, the Ejagham and Dusauga Iyong Iyong people, who speak Ejagham and Iyong Iyong languages. English and Efik languages are also widely used for commercial and other social interactions, while Christianity is the predominant religion in the area. The Local Government Area comprises 260 villages grouped under 30 clans for political and administrative convenience (Cross

River State, 2010). The topography of Akamkpa is a table land and it falls within the rainforest vegetation.The area consists of unroofed anticline, older sedimentary rocks from deep in the earth, as well as some granite intrusions, which are exposed at the surface. The soils, derived from ancient metamorphic rocks, are sandy, basically infertile and increasingly rocky, shallow and erodible on steeper slopes, with quartz, and gneiss being commonly observed and specks of muscovite mica sparkling from eroded hillsides (CRNP, 2005). With the largest forest area in the state and a very fertile land, watered by many rivers, streams and springs, the people are mostly agrarian. There are a number of agricultural estates in the area. Some of these are: Kwa Fall Oil Palm Estate, Ayip Eku Oil Palm Estate, Crel Rubber Estate, and Calaro Oil Palm Estates.

Apart from this, other industries that can be found in the communities are the raffia palm, the fishing industries, carving, mat making/weaving and cane production. There is also a vast tract of reserved forest and gmelina and other pulp wood plantation, as well as privately owned rubber, cocoa plantations and other forest products that are essential for industrial development of the entire state and country. The raffia palm (Ukot) is grown abundantly in swamps and on private lands. Some individuals grow them within their compounds and guard them jealously; without its wine no marriage can be concluded nor trade transactions, no social function, no festival could be successful nor could the dead be buried or ancestors or gods appeased. The raffia palm leaves and veins are used in making a number of items. Its leaf is used for making roofing mats "*Nkanya*". Its frond "*Okook*" is used for building houses and fences "*Oko,*" its raffia "*Ndam*" is woven into clothes, *Ntinga* body dresses for masquerades, making fans and various crafts. The presence of screw pine along the water banks gave an opportunity for the weaving of mats, from their leaves. Some mats are woven from "*aya"* a plant with a single leaf whose, bark of fleshy stem is used for weaving sleeping mats. Baskets are made with various designs and of different sizes.

Findings and Discussion

Traditional Processing of Palm Produce in Akamkpa

A. Harvest of Ripped palm fruits

Harvesting is always done within two years of planting the tree. In five years it yields more fruits and the harvesting will be at its peak. Harvesting is done regularly and if delayed will affect subsequent yield of palm bunches and in some cases, may even kill the palm tree. The delay results in economic waste since the over-ripened fruits do not yield as much quantity of oil as freshly ripened ones. The quality and quantity of the oil in palm fruits reduces as they over ripen. This will continue until the fruits turn black and will no longer produce oil but kernel.

B. Harvesting Methods

Palm fruits are harvested using two methods. In the first method, one can stand or bend to harvest the ripped fruit bunches using sharp matchets, while in the second method a climbing rope "*Ikpor"* is used to climb the top of the tree. The harvester starts by pruning the unwanted palm fronds that may obstruct the cutting of the palm bunch. The palm bunch is cut where it is attached to the trunk. The palm bunch is carried home for further processing. The climbing rope is made from palm frond into a rope of about ten feet or more in length. The climber encircles himself on the trunk, with the climbing rope and firmly knots the two ends. Assuming an angle of about 45^0, he proceeds, jerking the rope as he moves up the trunk. This jerking continues until he reaches the top of the tree. The climber maintains his position by stiffening his legs and pressing backwards on the rope.

Plate 1: A Palm Tree Climber

The climber sometimes faces a lot of hazards while climbing the palm tree.

1. Occasionally the rope may cut or the climber misses his step or loses his grip and the result is always horrible, painful and could result to death. `
2. The climber is faced with the rough sharp projections of the trunk; this can tear the climber's flesh in an agonizing manner.
3. The climber might be unfortunate to meet dangerous reptiles like snakes at the top of the palm or dangerous insects like scorpions.
4. The climber can spill particles of excrescence into his eyes, while trying to cut the fruit bunch and this could affect his sight.
5. He needs to be careful to avoid inflicting a cut on his hand, while cutting the fruit bunch or on the rope and fall
6. He also faces the problem of cutting the bunch into spikelets, if he is not careful again, the spines might pierce his hands.

C. Picking the fruits

The ripe fruit bunches are cut into spikelets. These fruits, attached to the stock are left overnight covered with sack. Hot water can also be poured on the spikelets for easy removal. Children always help in picking the palm fruits.

Plate 2: Ripe Palm Fruit that has been debunched from the Bunch

Plate 3: The heaps of Palm Fruit.

D. Cooking:

A big aluminum pot or drum will be positioned on the fire and the palm fruits are poured into. Water is poured into the pot so as to cover the palm fruits in the pot. Heat is applied to the pot, using the palm kernel shell to power the fire. The boiling fruits are inspected from time to time. If the fruits are soft, it means that the fruits are ready for pounding. The duration of the cooking depends on the intensity of the heat and can last between two hours to four hours or overnight.

Plate 4: The Boiling of the Palm Fruit

Plate 5: A Container where Boiled

Palm Fruits are poured.

The softened fruits are pound in a big mortar "*Ukung"*. Traditionally the mortar is buried in the ground (see appendix 1), but some people use big mortar that is not buried in the ground. During pounding, water will be poured into the mortar and red earth will be added to mix with the palm, this enables easy friction to take place. It is pounded by strong men until it is ready for extraction. The pounded fruits are washed with water. The mixture will be stirred until the fiber and kernels will sediment and the oil *Adan Eyop*" will come up to the surface. The oily substance is decanted from the top of the water into another half drum. The decanting is done by using the two palms to gather the oily substance inside the drum. The collected oily substance is heated to expel water from it using an aluminium pot. Therefore to get the pure oil, the pot is allowed to cool and after that the oil is decanted, leaving the impurities. The chaff is then washed and spread under the sun to dry.

Various Uses of Oil Palm Products and Bye products

The plant tree is the most important single crop plant that has affected the lives of the people. Nothing that comes from the palm tree is wasteful as already mentioned before. All the parts are utilized in one way or the other, to make new products or serve specific purpose. Products that are got from the palm tree include: Red palm oil, palm kernel oil, palm kernel cake, vegetable oil, traditional soap, oil and pomade, palm wine, broom and basket making. The bye products are: Sponge like fibrous left over of the fruit called 'Nkwet eyop". Nkwet eyop is used for local wick (serves as lamp).It can also be used to power the burning fire. Palm Nuts: It is used for vegetable oil, and palm kernel oil (*mmayang*).The shell is used for cooking. The mixture of little oil and water: This is used in feeding pigs "*Edi"*.

Plate 6 : The Empty Spikelets that could be used in making Traditional Soap

Vegetable oil and The Black Oil (Adan Sep Eyop)

Here palm kernel is cracked manually or by the use of a machine cracker. After cracking, the palm kernel nuts are picked out. The kernel is grounded using a machine. The ground palm kernel nuts are boiled with little water (homogenization of lipid oil). A fine sieve will be used to sieve out the oil. This mixture will be boiled

to allow the water to evaporate, remaining oil. This can now be stored in drums or gallons. The bye products here are palm kernel shell and palm kernel fiber. This is used as feed for livestock. The nuts which are cracked out can be fried to extract black oil called "*ude aki"* in Igbo. This can be used as pomade, especially a medicine against convulsion in children.

Modern methods of Oil Production

In the contemporary society, modern system of production of oil palm has been introduced in Akamkpa. In the modern method the curb or screw process and power operating machines are used. This consists of a screwed steel shaft fixed in a center of a base plate and a cage composed of strips of stout wood set vertically about sixth inch apart. The mashed palm is then poured into the curb or cage .The cage will be turned manually using two long bars. Oil is squeezed out of the cage between the wooden spouts into the throng and runs through the spout into the collecting vessel or basin. Oil for everyday use is normally stored in earthen ware while palm oil for storage is stored in large iron drums.

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Plate 7: The Modern Method that is used in Palm Processing

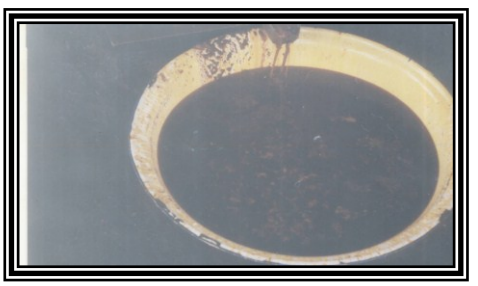


Plate 8: Reddish Oil Produced after Processing

The Role of Palm Tree in the Socio-cultural Life of the People

Palm tree occupies an enviable position in the way of life of the people of Akamkpa and it is one of the important cash crops in the area. Palm tree is a revenue yielding crop and is therefore, precious to the people. It is valued a lot, and passes from one generation to the other, as it can be inherited. Palm tree products are so important that many food stuffs eaten in the area could not have been eaten without any of these palm produce. For example roasted yam goes together with palm oil in Cross River just as seen in Igbo land. Palm tree is the most important tree to the people of Akamkpa and is therefore taken care of by everybody. As a means of their livelihood, the people of Akamkpa try as much as possible to protect these palm trees from going extinct. During the bush burning, trees are protected by ring racking each tree so that fire does not burn them. Palm trees are owned by individuals, families and the community. They are intentionally planted within the vicinity, and they are taken care of by the owners. The ownership of palm trees is like owning a great asset. In this way palm tree is a traditional way of making investment. Communal palm trees are harvested by the people on agreed day. Due to the socio-cultural importance attached to palm tree by the people, the climbing is restricted to the males alone. Women cannot own palm trees, but due to civilization, women can now own palm plantations or obtain palm plantation through lease.

Palm Oil and Sustainable Development

Oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*) is a native plant in West Africa which has been traditionally used as food, medicine, woven material and wine. At present, however, States, multilateral funding institutions, the private sector including the private banks along with bilateral donors and the UN, support and promote the large-scale agro-industrial model, as opposed to a small-scale one. Oil palm plantations have become one of the fastest growing monocropping plantations in the tropics not only of Africa, but also in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the

Caribbean. The main product of these plantations is palm oil (stearin) from the flesh of the oil palm fruits and from palm kernel oil (olein) from the palm seed. In l997 it was estimated that oil palm plantations occupied 6.5 million hectares and produced 17.5 million tonnes of palm oil and 2.1 million tonnes of palm kernel oil (Palm Oil, 2010). By 2005, palm oil production reached 30 million tonnes and the area covered rose to 12 million hectares. Of this, 4 million hectares are in Malaysia and 5.3 million hectares in Indonesia. Indonesia is experiencing the biggest rate of increase in terms of forests converted into oil palm plantations. In a period of 30 years (1967-1997), oil palm plantations have increased 20 times with 12 percent average annual increases in crude palm oil (CPO) production. In 2002 palm oil produced more than US$2.1 billion in export revenue for Indonesia and $3.8 billion for Malaysia (Palm Oil, 2010). This sector also enjoys strong support from the governments because the crop is mainly geared for the export market which generates foreign exchange. In Nigeria if oil palm plantation owners will be given enough loans, it will generate more employment, high living standards and promote environmentally sensitive agricultural production. Palm oil export has contributed to the economic growth of the country due to high demand for biofuels. It is now a favorite alternative energy source because of its high yield per hectare and low production costs.

The palm was one of the economic foundations in Akamkpa. It is the pivot of their economy, the young people has taken to the habit of raising and protecting the tree, until it starts fruiting. The people do this by making sure that whenever the bush is being cleared for farming, the young plants are not slashed. It is without any doubt that the growth of the oil palm has resulted into economic benefits to the people of Akamkpa. The people depend mainly on forests and natural resources for their livelihood. The oil palm industries as mentioned before need the assistance of the government to expand. For instance,which is the Ayip-Eku Oil Palm Company is the major oil producing company in Akamkpa about 93 kilometres from Calabar, was incorporated in December 1979. The oil palm plantation was developed on

12,410.055 hectares of land, which was the largest of its kind in Nigeria. About 735,428.6 metric tons of fresh fruit bunches are harvested yearly from the estate, which has about 429,000 Oil Palm stands. It has an oil mill with three palm oil storage tanks, each of huge capacity. Ayip Eku Oil Palm Company supplies special fats and oils of outstanding quality to customers' specifications and assures reliability of supply of the products all the year round. This is made possible by the integrated nature of the company's production process (Busy Trade, 2010). This Company was officially handed over to its new owner, the Wingsong MHouse. Wingsong M-House acquired the company under a privatisation deal supervised by the Bureau for Public Enterprise (BPE). The Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) acted on behalf of the Ayip Eku host community, the Akamkpa Local Government Area and the State Ministry of Agriculture for the handover. Ofem O. Ofem, the Vice Chairman of the Cross River Privatisation Council said, "For our people to benefit from their success, we must give them peace, we must provide the enabling environment, and we must be patient because in agriculture, you sow today and reap tomorrow". For any development to succeed the host community must be considered in line with the benefit which they will get from such development. The core investors can provide additional facilities and infrastructures in the area. Children can be given scholarships to go to school, etc (Busy Trade, 2010).

This means that we must align our economic goals with the social and environmental consequences of our work. Generally, oil palm is widely used as cooking oil in Nigeria, among other uses. It has unique functional properties other oil does not have. Palm oil plantation management and many research programmes initiated and carried out by the palm oil industry have demonstrated that a well managed oil plantation can be highly sustainable. In order to cope with increased global demand for ingredients and nutritional value, two aspects of sustainable palm oil agriculture need to be addressed: the management of existing plantations and the establishment of new ones. For palm oil to be sustained there should be a balance

between agricultural development and the protection of natural habitats. To address this, government should assess environmental biodiversity and a social impact, as palm oil production grows there is need to expand the plantations. Palm oil and palm kernel oil were jointly the largest contributor, accounting for 48 million tonnes or 38% of the oils and fats produced in the world and were shipped across oceans. Of the 60.3 million tones of oils and fats exported around the world, palm oil and palm kernel oil make up close to 60% (Palm Oil ,2010).

The production of palm fruits, the primary raw material for the production of palm oil, palm kernel oil, palm kernel cake and other palm by-products, is affected by a number of factors. The positive factors that can support and enhance oil palm production are: ban on importation of crude and refined vegetable oil to enhance local raw materials sourcing, thereby stimulating the demand and good prices for oil palm products. Provision of the improved seed varieties at subsidized rates and free extension services to shareholders, development of improved processing techniques, durable and less costly local processing parts, equipment, spares parts with active private sector participation, and provision of enabling political and economic environment for investment in plantations. This includes other traditional roles of government. The negative factors that affect oil palm production are political environment; the unstable political situation in the country which had in the past been a deterrent to foreign entrepreneurs wishing to invest in oil palm production. This instability has also led to the suspension of foreign aid (eg. The counterpart funding of the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) that would have been used to develop oil palm plantation and fruits processing. Also, the decree regulating the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) has significantly reduced the chances of new capitalization by existing or new oil palm operators. Most of the existing oil palm plantations require rehabilitation to increase their yield. This is, however, limited by lack of working capital, as well as current inaccessibility to loans which even when obtainable, attract very high interest rates. Development of

oil plantation is a long term investment. Consequently, most banks hardly extend their loan facilities to such ventures. Growth in the oil palm sub-sector of oil seed sector seems stagnant due largely to the harsh economic climate and lack of new investment. Also, the tax structure which seems to encourage multiple levies adversely affects investment in the sub-sector.

Remains of Oil Palm in Archaeological Context

There is evidence of domesticated oil plants in archaeological context. Shaw ((1974) noted that the pollen grain and the kernel can be seen in the carbonized form. Kernels of wild or cultivated palm have been recovered from some sites in West Africa. In Bosompra in Ghana oil palm has been discovered which was dated to 3,000BC. It is interesting to note that the pollen remains of this crop has been collected by Sowunmi (1981) and have been shown to date as far as fifteen thousand years ago in West Africa. In Ugwuagu sites in Afikpo, there is evidence of palm trees at about 1000AD. Excavation by Professor Chikwendu (1975) yielded some cracked palm – kernel dated to 5,000-2000B.C, at Ugwuagu Afikpo site. This is the direct evidence of oil palm. In indirect evidence, the climbing rope can be recovered usually made of canes, rope and fibers. The implication is that oil palm exploitation has been going on in the particular area. The calabash is used for storing palm wine. The persistent uses of these implements seem to suggest indigenous exploitation and domestication of oil palm in the area.

Suggestions

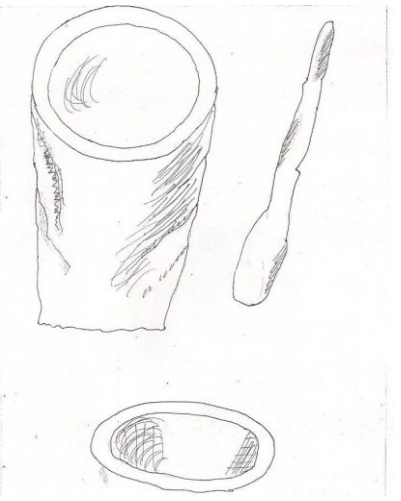
Presently there are no archaeological investigations in Cross-River State as a whole. I suggest that some archaeological and palynogical researches should be carried out by archaeologists to obtain some evidence that will throw more light on the antiquity of oil palm in Cross River State. There is need for investment to be directed towards oil palm production in Cross River State. This can be done by forming Farmers' Co-

operative Societies which should embark not only on the manipulation of "wild" grooves, as part of mixed farming but also develop plantations of one or two hectares to increase yields. One of the problems militating against oil palm production in Cross River is the shortage of manpower in the mini industries they have, this has hindered the growth of this sub-sector in particular, and the oil seeds sector in general. The poor road network in Nigeria makes the evacuation of products both difficult and expensive. Agricultural development bank and commodity exchange will provide the much needed funds for expansion of the oil palm sub-sector. This mini palm production industries in Akamkpa need to be upgraded in order to attain the level of sustainable development.

Conclusion

This research has shown that oil palm *Elaeis Guineensis* has been in existence from time immemorial in West Africa. Oil palm has contributed immensely to the cultural and economic wealth of Akamkpa people. Although the youth abhorr it, looking at it as a demeaning occupation that must be gotten rid of. The rural-urban migration also affects the production of oil palm in Cross River State (drifting by rural dwellers to urban areas in search of white collar jobs). This industry need to be greatly explored and modified to meet the demands and expectations of modern generation. This work will help to appreciate the values of our local industries and the importance of the traditional oil palm industries.

Appendix 1



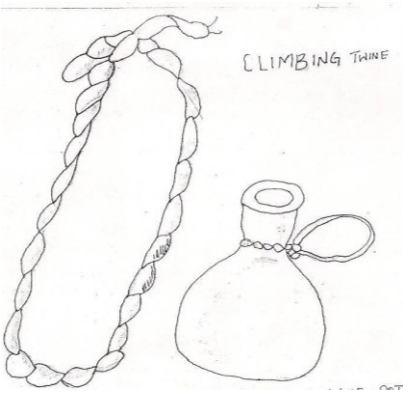
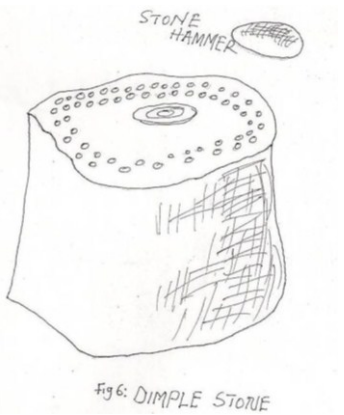


Plate 9 : Climbing Twine and Wine -Pot

Plate 10: Full Mortar and Half Buried Mortar with Pestle.



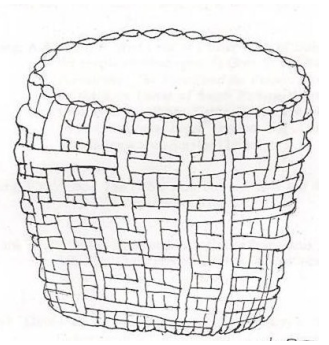


Plate 11 : Stone Hamr Plate 12: Common Basket

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