

First Report of the NPS Press Club, November 2012: Unguwar Najude

Location and people

Geographically, the community of Unguwar Najude is located in the District of Auchan in Ikara Local Government area which is part of Kaduna State in northern Nigeria. Most of Najude's inhabitants are Christian Hausas. They are peace loving and live in harmony with the visitors in their community. For a long time, the people of Najude were not much educated. But now, in the Najude Pioneer School, their youths are given primary and secondary education and some even benefit from scholarships to study in tertiary institutions in Zaria. The scholarship holders are being sent to different schools: Some to the Ahmadu Bello University, some to the Federal College of Education where they will graduate and hopefully come back to the school to work as teachers themselves.

Farming

The people of Najude are predominantly farmers. They cultivate crops such as rice, millet, guinea corn, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, maize, soya bean, pepper etc. They commonly practice subsistence agriculture for it is through these means that they earn their livelihood. Farming activities in the community are mostly carried out during the rainy season. The only river nearby the community doesn't hold water for long during the dry season, so irrigation farming can't be practiced. Due to the friendly nature of the people of Najude, if the visitors (teachers and other staff members) want to have a small farm, the villagers will readily provide the land for them. They also willingly give out farm produce such as tomatoes, okra, pepper, onions, potatoes etc. to the teachers as a sign of existing cordial relationships.



Najude youth

Najude's young people are hard working. During the dry season, they have nothing to do in the village as most of them are not educated and solely depend on farming. So during that time, most of the young people leave the village and go to cities like Kaduna, Jos, Bauchi etc., where they work as commercial bike riders commonly called „Okada riders“ in Nigeria. During this period, they gather money in order to buy fertilizer and other farming necessities. When the farming period draws near, during rainy season, they all come back to the village for the land clearing popularly known in Hausa language as „shara gona“. After the land clearing, they gather organic manure known as „taki gargajiya“, which comprises of animal dung, ashes, etc. They spread the manure to their farm land in order to increase the nutritive content of the soil and hence obtain a higher yield of agricultural produce. During rainy season proper, they make ridges and then commence with planting of seeds and other farm activities.

The importance of animals



A long time ago, our great fore fathers throughout Nigeria relied solely on the oldest form of transportation, which is no other than transportation by animal. In the distant past, animals were not only used for meat, but people also heavily relied on them as the best, cheapest and fastest means of transportation before the advent of cars and motorcycles. Animals were a traveller's delight. So have these olden means of transportation died a natural death? All hope is not lost as the people of Najude wouldn't let it die. So this former world's means of transportation which seems to have gone actually hasn't. Why? As you have read earlier, the people of Najude and its environment are predominantly farmers. So the animals help them a lot in their farm work during the rainy

season. The cows are used for ploughing, harrowing, ridging and weeding. But during the harvest, they are allowed to rest as you can see in the picture. During the harvest season, the donkeys take over. Donkeys are the best means of conveying the farm produce from the farms to home as can be seen in the pictures.

Swiss friends of NPS

With the efforts put in by the Swiss friends of Najude Pioneer School, we all believe that one day this village and its surrounding hamlets will be the Tokyo of Kaduna State and indeed Nigeria in general! As you donate, may God reward you bountifully and may the sky be your limit.