

A new publication by our Cultural Center on Agrarian Rites

November 2018 has enabled us to discover a new publication of the Senufo Cultural Center. It is a book of 116 pages (in French) entitled "les rites agraires en milieu sénoufo, y compris le Ciwara" (the agrarian rites in Senufo land, including Ciwara). Agriculture is a familiar domain but which intrinsically remains little known. This publication is a result of research work carried out in the regions of Sikasso, Ségou and the district of Bamako.

In addition to the revaluation of the emblematic cultural crest known as Ciwara, this book also introduces its reader to the agricultural world of the traditional Senufo society, which is full of ritual practices whose values are yet to be discovered. They are generally "cyclical practices" that rely on common knowledge, conventions, codes or passwords often crystallized in sacred languages. They constitute an information unit that merit to be passed on from generation to generation.

Unfortunately, today, we note with dismay that rampant modernization is leading to profound detrimental changes. We believe that we can find in these ancestral practices wits that would enable us to discover cardinal values for sustainable and more ecological development. More than ever, we all have a duty to control not only what we consume, but also what we produce.

Sikasso, November 17, 2018