

3 May 09, tc: reviewed, renamed “LR 6 Rice farming ed tc” –

Transcribed by Hannah Sarvasy with Tommy Ngombu in Tei, 1 May 09

Original video title: LR 6 Rice farming

Video location: Mblama

Present in video: Mohamed Daramy, Tommy Kwemie, Momoh Fofana.

Other onlookers. Tucker Childs, Hannah Sarvasy, Alie Turay.

Videotaped by Bart Childs.

(Introductory words to 0:02)

BB: Hi há mpantima icɛgilɛ.

We did rice farming work. 0:04

Hi há icɛgi logeyɛ. Hi gbenj he.

We made this rice farming. It finished burning. 0:06

Note that “he” is ‘burn/be burned/burnt.’ tɛ is the active ‘set fire to/burn s.t.’

Hi gbenj go he,

It finished burning, 0:07

hi hu ye kuta.

we then plowed it. 0:09

Hi ɔ pɛŋ saŋ pɛlɛɛ.

We first broadcast rice there. 0:11

Hi wɔm kuta hun.

Then we plowed it. 0:13

TN: ɔɔ, hiyɛ bɛɛ-i?

Oh, is that so? 0:14

Mu pɛm kɔ yɛti tolɛ?

Do you first go choose the bush? 0:15

Ikɛ, mu yɛti tolɛ pɛŋ?

But, do you first choose the bush? 0:17

Mu yɛ kɔ yɔgi bogalɛ tɛŋ lai.

You go carry the cutlass (machete) to be pounded. 0:19
(Sharpened at blacksmith's.)

BB: Ikɛ- ikɛ- lani gbí-

But- but- everything- 0:20

AJ: La gbenɛ cǎŋ.

That is past. 0:20

TN: La gbenɛ cǎŋ, la gbenɛ go cǎŋ, mu la gon hɔ ga.

It's past, it's past, you will bring it out now. 0:23
hɔga. Vowel here is clearly ɔ, not o.

BB: ɛɛ.

Yes. 0:23

TN: Kalɔ mu la gon hɔ gi.

It's here that you are now going to say it. 0:24

Wɔ gon tɛ icɛgilɛ.

He now burns the rice farm. 0:26

AJ: ɛɛ. Kɔŋ gon tɛ oo.

Yes. You've finished burning it oh. 0:27

TN: Gbenɛ gon tɛ oo, yɛ mu há?

When you've finished burning oh, what do you do? 0:28

BB: A go kuta.
I plow. 0:28

AJ: Kutale.
Plowing. 0:30

TN: Kutale, kwe?
Plowing, now? 0:30

AJ: εε.
Yes.

TN: Landa ceye nuupugan dogeye?
That's why (you) brought this man? 0:32

BB and AJ: Mm.
Yes. 0:32

TN: Há kuta?
For plowing? 0:33

AJ: Mm.
Yes.

TN: Keti landá?
The portion is where? 0:35
keti = portion of land for farming. TN

AJ: Hi go beti ketilei.
We will cut the portion. 0:37

TN: Ike, nbeti ketilei.
So, cut the portion. 0:39

AJ: Bεε, kεtilε hu wɔ gon kεtiyε, hiyε?
Man, it's the portion that he's now portioning, right?

TN: Mm.
Yes. 0:41

(AJ demonstrates cutting a portion of the burnt land.)

BB: Migεn go.
Stop there. 0:52

TN: Wɔ kuta nan go.
He will plow today. 0:58

BB: Mm!
Yes! 0:59

BB: Nsaanj gon pεlεlε.
Now broadcast the rice. 1:03

(AJ demonstrates broadcasting rice)

TN: Ka ce lɔ (unint.)?

BB: Mm?
What?

TN: Ka ce haya anindε?
Did you hire people? 1:34

Ha mpanti logi?
For this work? 1:36

BB: Mm.
Yes. 1:37

TN: Ha ya jolε gbe?
Do you cook much rice? 1:37

BB: Mm! Ha go ya gbe!
Yes! They cook a lot! 1:39

(All speaking at once)

TN: Ha kpεε go ya gbe?
They cook it all a lot? 1:40

BB: Hi go ya gbe, si ha jo go.
We cook a lot, then they eat. 1:42

AJ (shouting from side): Bεla ha hun gon, ha hun gon kwe ketilε, bεε!
Let the men come now, that they come now to take a portion, man! 1:42

BB: Hi go jo, si hi gba, hi gba go.
We eat, (until) we're tired (i.e., have had enough), we're tired (of eating).
1:45

TN: Hiye?
Is that so? 1:46

AJ: Landa– ya yema a go gon kuta,
Because– I want to plow now, (begins demonstrating plowing) 1:48

TN: Anyalε ha ga ce jo gbe, hiye, bεε?
The people would eat a lot, isn't that so? 1:48

BB: Mm. Anya konuu ni waan, bεε.
Yes. Twenty-and-ten (thirty) people, man. 1:50

TN: Ni waan, bεε? Paan bun?

(Twenty) and ten, man? In one day? 1:51

BB: Mm.

Yes.

TN: La go ce li kelen oo.

That's good oh. 1:52

Bee gon kuta.

The man now plows. 1:53

(Looking at AJ demonstrating vigorously)

Ike, amala?

But, (what about) the women? 1:56

AJ: Amale, hun go.

The women are coming. 1:57

BB: Ke amale, ha lo gwe.

But the women, they're there. 1:58

TN: Oo, pele logi ko hu ho yen kelen.

Oh, that this rice comes up well. 2:06

Ayenalae vuí lo li kelen.

The place is very fine. 2:07

BB: Bee, mu go kuta kuta wei oo.

Man, you are plowing bad-plowing oh. 2:09

TN: Wo kuta- e!- wo- cen kuta wei, bee, nkuta yen kelen!

He's plowing- eh!- don't plow badly, man, plow well! 2:13

AJ: A si la, bee- (protesting)

I know it, man-

TN: εε, mu kuta mu go ke, ε- ε- wɔ hu pɛ kutai?

Eh, you're plowing and you see, eh- is that how they plow? 2:18

BB: Ma ɔ lee kɛɛ.

Don't leave a gap there. 2:19

kɛɛ = small unplowed place

TN: Wɔ hu pɛ kutai?

Is that how they plow? 2:21

BB: Ma ɔ lee kɛɛ.

Don't leave a gap there. 2:23

TN: Wɔ hu pɛ kutai, tamu logi?

Is that how they plow, this youth? 2:25

Ngɛ, mam, hi pɛm kɔn kòò.

But, wait, we'll still go yonder. 2:27

(BB: unintelligible; soft. 2:30)

BB: Hu hwe, hu ce wɛ?

You said, let it be so? 2:32

AJ: A gben go kuta.

I've finished plowing. 2:33

TN: Gben gon?

Now finished? 2:34

AJ: Mm.

Yes. 2:34

TN: La lee muwɛ.

It is left to you. 2:36

I.e., BB has hired the man; the man has finished, so now the work lies to BB.

BB: Bεε, hwe, gben̄ kuta.

Man, he said he's finished plowing. 2:37

TN: Hwe, gben̄ kuta.

He said he's finished plowing. 2:38

BB: Icεgilε.

The rice farm. 2:39

TN: Busε wɔ, mu ga bε gagiya?

How many bushels did (you) put here? 2:46

AJ: Busε li ten̄.

Two bushels. 2:48

TN: Li ten̄?

Two? 2:50

AJ: Li ten̄, hiyε?

Two, isn't that so? 2:50

Men!

Five! 2:51

Mendε huwi?

Is it five? 2:52

BB: εε. Busε li men.

Yes. Five bushels. 2:54

TN: Bun, ten̄, ʒaa, hiyɔn, men.

One, two, three, four, five.

AJ: Li men, li men, busɛ li men.

Five, five, five bushels. 2:55

TN: Busɛ li men.

AJ: Hi gbenj kuta,

We finished plowing, 2:56

TN: Ikɛ mu hwe, busɛ li bun. Busɛ li tenj.

But you said, one bushel. Two bushels. 2:57

AJ: ɛ, amalɛ ha gon, ha gon basi.

The women are now, they will now sweep. 3:00

In the rice-planting process, after churning up field, the women collect the grasses from the surface of the field.

(All speaking at once; can't separate)

AJ: Ya yema gon basi.

I want to sweep now. 3:05

(Begins to demonstrate gathering up grasses.)

TN (In Mende): Kali hou ye ya.

Take the hoe in your hand. 3:06

BB: Mu bɛmpa pɛlɛla toogi.

You arrange (things) on top of the rice. 3:08

AJ: Mm.

Yes.

BB: Ncesi ha oo.

Do it fine oh.

TN said cesi means to 'be doing it well.'

Ma ɔ lee ipintile.

Don't leave any grasses there. 3:17

AJ: Mm̀m̀.

No (I won't). 3:18

TN: Lei logi ɔ li kelen.

This ground is fine. 3:20

BB and AJ: Mm!

Yes!

TN: Le pɛle landɛ kɔ go ho vuí yen kelen.

So this rice will come up truly well. 3:22

BB: Mm!

Yes! 3:23

εε, Mahin Kema, cesi basi yenali logi.

Eh, Mahin Kema, she (used to) sweep this place fine. 3:28

AJ: Numale, wɔ ɔ? Wɔ ɔ gon gai?

The women, is she there? Is she now here? 3:31

Wɔ ɔ gon gai, laamu logi?

Is she now here, your wife? 3:32

BB: εε.

Yes.

TN: A kě wɔn cɛge ga.

I don't see her on this rice farm. 3:34

Wɔ ɔ kɛben go?

Is she at the bush-hut? 3:36

BB: Mm. Kɔnan yɛɛ bweyelai.

Yes. She went to root up cassava. 3:37

TN: ɔɔ, yɛɛ bweyelai?

Oh, for rooting cassava? 3:38

AJ: Waandale wɛ kɔnan yɛɛ bweyelai.

That woman went to root up cassava. 3:39

Waandale, I think, is same age group as tamule: used in same way as “nyapɔi”/”ndakɛi” in Mende.

TN: Ha anya kotale?

For the plowing people? 3:40

BB: Mm.

Yes. 3:41

TN: ɔɔ, la li kelenj. La li kelenj.

Oh, that's good. That's good. 3:42

AJ: Hi kwaa gon. Yan vuí, ndegile mami.

Let's go now. I'm really hungry. 3:45

TN: ɛ- yanbe a. A- a ɔ ɔ gowe.

I myself. I slept so (i.e. without food?). 3:46

TN says that ɔ is from 'sleep,' ɔn.

A bilɛn yen ha sɔm.

I don't have anything to eat. 3:49

AJ: Bɛɛ, a gbenj oo.

Man, I've finished oh. 3:49

Hu gbeη.
It's finished.

TN: Hu gbeη.
It's finished. 3:50

AJ: A gbeη basi, bɛ̀ɛ.
I've finished sweeping, man. 3:52

BB: Hwe, gbeη.
He said, it's finished. 3:53

AJ (stammering): Hwe, a pɛi ha, hu ya gon há?
Say, I again do, what do I do now? 3:55

TN: Hi go tɛɛ numalɛ ha ci yɛgile pɛη.
We'll wait for the woman to bring cassava first. 3:57

BB: Ee?
Oh?

TN: ɛɛ. Nuw wɔ kuta ndegile má wɔ.
Yes. The person who plowed is hungry. 3:59

AJ: Hiye?
Is that so?

TN: Hi go tɛɛ numalɛ ha ci yɛgile si ha hu bɛ mbɔngi toon.
We'll wait for the woman to bring cassava, then to split it and boil it a little. 4:02
mbɔngi = to boil cassava. TN

AJ: Hi gon tɛɛ pɛɛɛ kɔ ho, hiye?
We'll now wait for the rice to germinate, right? 4:06

TN: Kɔ ho.

It germinates. 4:06

AJ: εε.

Yes.

TN: Si kɔ hon gon, hi ye hon go.

When it germinates, then we will weed. 4:08

AJ: Aa.

Ah.

TN: Hi kwaa.

Let's go. 4:10

AJ: Kɛsi hongolɛ, kɔ mui goni.

As if weeding, is now arrived. 4:13

TN: εε.

Eh.

AJ: Pɛlɛlɛ kɔ huni.

The rice has come. 4:13

TN: Mam pɛŋ oo, wei?

Wait first, okay? 4:14

Pɛlɛlɛ kɔ hon mɔ.

The rice is not yet germinated. 4:14

Hongolɛ kɔ goni, (Mende:) ba ya alokoi mbɛi.

The weeding is now come, (Mende:) you'll come here now. 4:19

(Mende between TN and BB to 4:21)

TN: ε- gbεη,
Eh, tomorrow,

AJ and BB: Mm.
Yes.

TN: Hi gbεη bεmpa jali toon.
We'll arrange a small thing tomorrow. 4:25

AJ and BB: M-hm.
M-hm.

TN: Ha amale ha hun honggo, pεε logi ai.
So that the women will come weed, in this rice. 4:28

BB: M-hm. La le ha li lɔ?
M-hm. For what? 4:30
TN didn't parse these particles for me.

TN: Ha jali msɔmdε lai.
For food business. 4:33

AJ: Ha jali msɔmdε, hiye?
For food business, is that so? 4:34

TN: Yεgile, yεgile cε lɔn hin fi, bεε.
Cassava, cassava is not in our possession, man. 4:36

Mu gbεη go kɔn kòò pentimule,
Tomorrow you will go to your brother,

ka mu go yεge toon.
he gives you a little cassava. 4:40

Si ciye hu.

Then bring it. 4:41

AJ: Hi ciye yegile gagi.

We bring cassava here. 4:42

TN: ɔɔ. Si hi ciye hu.

Yes. Then we bring it. 4:43

Ciye hu go, hi ye ween amale,
Having brought it, we then call the women,

si ha hun hu ha yen kelen,
then they come and make it fine,

si ha gbiye.
then they eat it. 4:47

Isɔ bom, isɔle.

In the early morning, in the morning. 4:49

isɔ bom = early morning. TN

TN: Pɛ kɔ cɛti sagilai oo.

They cook it in sakii oh. 4:51

sakii = cassava leaf sauce. Mende.

AJ: Sagile.

Sakii. 4:52

TN: Sagi santile.

Shrimp sakii. 4:53

santile = shrimp. Mende pepe.

AJ: Mm, saantile. Saantile kɔ mu kɔ tunui.

Yes, shrimp. The shrimp is what you look for. 4:56

N te la, hiye?

You understand it, right? 4:57

TN: εε.

Yes.

AJ: Aha.

Aha.

TN: Mu cɔ menenin.

You put (them) in water. 4:59

AJ: Yɛgile hu hu cɔŋ go santile len.

It's cassava that likes shrimp. 5:01

TN: ε, santile. Mm, sagile.

Yes, shrimp. Yes, sakii. 5:03

Kɔ gon– kɔ gon ha mpantile.

Go do– go do work. 5:05

AJ: Pɛle logi kɔ hi gon tɛle.

It's this rice that we're waiting for now. 5:06

Kɔ hi gon tɛle.

It's what we're waiting for now. 5:08

Hi hoŋ go,

When we've weeded, 5:09

hi gbeŋ gon hoŋ go,

when we've finished weeding, 5:10

pɛlele kɔ woti gon kon,

the rice is now bearing buds, 5:12

woti kondε = to bud, according to TN. Same word woti as 'to carry on back'

kɔ soti gon,
it flowers now,

si kɔ dum,
then it ripens, 5:14

hi wɔgi pɛlɛlɛ,
we harvest the rice, 5:15

TN: Hi wɔgi pɛlɛlɛ,
We harvest the rice,

AJ: Hi kɔn gon tii go.
We go now to town. 5:16

Hi kɔn gon tii go.
we now go to town. 5:18

TN: Hi pɛŋ ha jali ihɛn toon.
We first do the libation ceremony business a little. 5:20

AJ: ɛɛ. Kɛ pɛlɛlɛ kɔ ho oo.
Yes. But the rice is germinating oh. 5:21

TN: Kɔ dum oo.
It's ripe oh. 5:22

AJ: Pɛlɛlɛ kɔ ho oo.
The rice is germinating oh. 5:23

TN: ɛɛ.

Oh.

AJ (bending over): Pɛlɛlɛ kɔ gben ho oo.
The rice has finished germinating oh. 5:24

(Beginning to demonstrate weeding): Hi hon go!
Let's weed! 5:26

TN: Hon go pɛlɛlai.
Weed in the rice.

AJ (Pretending to pick weeds with one hand and pack them in the other hand): Hi hon go pɛlɛ logi ai.
Let's weed in this rice. 5:29

BB: Ha bɛman amalɛ.
You help the women. 5:33

AJ: Mm!
Yes! 5:34

(Camera moves back to show all three men miming weeding)

AJ: Pɛlɛ logi, kɔ gben ho.
This rice, it's finished germinating. 5:36

BB (in Mende): A oo, ngewɔ.
Oh, God. 5:36

AJ: Kɔ gben ho go.
It's finished germinating. 5:38

TN (standing up and pointing at AJ): Ike hum,
But you, 5:41

mam,
wait,

(TN takes cutlass and cuts at burnt palm stem.)

AJ: Hi kɔ, hi kɔ gon, hi ce gon hoŋ go.
Let's go, let's go now, let's now be weeding. 5:43

(Looking up at TN): Aha. Ce bɛti bitilɛ wɛ.
Aha. (He) cut that stump. 5:45

Hi gbeŋ gon hoŋ go.
We've now finished weeding. 5:48

BB: Hi migɛn.
We've finished. 5:48

TN: Hi migɛn naga,
Let's finish here,

AJ: Hi migɛn ga, hiyɛ?
We finish here, is that so? 5:49

Hi migɛn ga, hiyɛ?
We finish here, is that so?

Pɛlɛlɛ kɔ gbeŋ go ho, hiyɛ?
The rice has finished germinating, is that so? 5:52

M-hm. Ye na hu hi gon ha?
M-hm. Now what do we do? 5:54

Hi há hagalɛ.
We make a fence.
hagalɛ = palm branch fence so animals don't eat the rice. TN.

Hi há hagale.

We'll make a fence. 5:57

Cen tanten go,

If not so,

wusile.

the animals. 5:58

Wusile, ha go-

The animals, they will-

TN: ε- kòò. Kolɔ ha hogai.

Eh- yonder. Where they come out from.

Kolɔ wusile ha hogai.

Where the animals come out from. 6:03

BB (pointing): Fandε.

Cottontail.

In Mende, vande = cotton. Krio name for this animal is "cottongrass."

Ka ɔ fandε ha hogai, hiyε?

Here is where the cottontails come out, isn't that so? 6:08

TN: εε. ɔ pandε ɔ hogandε wεε,

Yes. Where the sun comes up, 6:10

ce ɔn ke tolε?

don't (you) see the bush? 6:12

Tolε wε ai ɔ ha hogai.

It's from that bush where they come out. 6:13

AJ: Ya pəm go pəŋ kɔ lɛliyə ntɔgi, hiyə?
I will first look for sticks, right? 6:15

TN: εε, n kɔ lɛli ntɔgi.
Yes, go look for sticks. 6:17

BB: Kɔ lɛli ntɔgi, bɛ̀ɛ.
Go look for sticks, man. 6:17

AJ: ε? Tɔŋ?
Eh? Tom?

(TN waves at AJ to stop.)

END of VIDEO SEGMENT