

Amangoase



Amangoase village is located in Sekyere Central District of the Ashanti Region. We visited it on 16 January 2020. At the time, most of the community were away fighting a big bush fire that threatened their farms and there was no Chief or Elder available. We therefore talked to community members including Ama Serwaah and Antoinette Amposah.

Ama, pictured below, used to be chair of the governing Unit Committee. This is very unusual for a woman, and we were told she had been a 'great woman' in her day. Sadly, she's since had a stroke and is unwell. She's also got a skin disease and her face is covered with medicinal mud.

Ama told us that Amangoase had a population some 350 people, divided into 30 households. They were farmers, growing beans, cassava, plantain and vegetables including green peppers. The land was very fertile. They generally keep about a third of their crop to eat themselves and sell the other seventy per cent at Nsuta or Kyebi markets or to market traders at the farm gate.

The village is cultivating a reputation for cassava chips, which are dried in the sun and ground to powder after which they can be stored for up to five years or sold when the price is good. It is eaten like porridge or added to stews or used to make beer.

We noticed the village was full of rabbit hutches, another element of their diet.

Water

Some nine years ago, Ashanti Development drilled a borehole at Amangoase and helped them work out a system of selling the water by the jerrycan and saving the proceeds for repair and maintenance or other community benefits. Recently, Amangoase used this money to mechanise their borehole, which is now electrically operated.



Our experience of working with the village leads us to believe it is a hard-working and well-managed community, and deserves help.

Sanitation

There are no latrines in the village. Most people practise open defecation and there is a very high incidence of diarrhoea.

Health

When they are sick, the villagers go to Nsuta or Kyebi clinic.

Education

Amangoase children go to junior high school at the nearby village of Dida. The children walk to Nsuta for senior secondary school.

Institutions

The village is governed by a Committee of Chief and Elders and by a Unit Committee. For political reasons, the last government cut the number of Unit Committees and extended their coverage from one to two or three villages, meaning that no village had enough people on the committee to carry out the work. Amangoase therefore set up its own Development Committee consisting of the two remaining Unit Committee members plus three other elected members.

There is also an effective Water and Sanitation Committee which arranged the mechanisation of the borehole.

Ama told us the community was proud of the way they took care of the village and the road, filling in potholes.



Miscellaneous

There are four tabletop shops in Amangoase. For transport, including taking people to hospital when necessary, the community has one mechanised tricycle and one bicycle.

Village Wish List

- a. Household latrines
- b. A clinic