

Asubuasu



We visited Asubuasu on 9 December 2016 and spoke to community members including the Chief, Nana Kumah, pictured below right.

We were told that about 300-400 people live in the village, and that they are divided into some sixty households. They are farmers, producing maize, corn, yam, cocoyam, cassava, plantain, groundnuts, tomatoes and garden eggs (aubergines). The land is fertile and hunger is rare.

The diet consists mainly of yams and cassava and a combination of protein foods such as beans, fish and, on rare occasions such as festivals, meat including bush meat – animals which live wild in the bush and are considered great delicacies.

Water and Sanitation

There is no shortage of water. There are two boreholes which produce good water, and water is also collected from the Asubuasu Stream.

There is one traditional latrine in the village, which is privately owned by the Chief. Everyone else practises open defecation which will eventually serve to pollute the stream, if it has not already done so.

Health

There is a clinic in the village, and all the children had been vaccinated. We were told that the main sicknesses are



malaria and stomach or chest pains, and that everyone suffered from diarrhoea every week during the dry season. One baby in every five would die before age two of water-related disease.

Education

There is a primary school with six classrooms, and a junior high school with three classrooms and its own latrines. About twenty people could speak English and about ten had attended senior secondary school.

Institutions

The village has a Committee of Chief and Elders. There is also a statutory Unit Committee covering several villages. These committees are not generally considered to be large enough to run affairs in each village successfully, so Asubuasu has added five members, two appointed and two elected, to their number. On this basis, it seemed a well-managed and successful community.

There is also a Water and Sanitation Committee and a Parents and Teachers Committee for the school.

Miscellaneous

The community include members of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Muslim religions, as well as of two traditional religions.

The community originally came from Beposo, which is near the District capital of Nsuta. They chose to settle in this place because it is good for hunting, and later they realised how fertile the land was and started to farm. Since they were native Ashantis, they were not asked to pay any rent for the land but would pay tribute to the local king after harvest.

There is a good village football team, called the Asubuasu Stars.

Wish List

Above all else, the Chief told us that the village would like to have household latrines.

They would also like a market shed from which to sell produce. They felt this would attract other villagers to come and trade.

