

Indigenous Storage Structures among the Ungwai of Central Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The techniques of construction of yam storage structures and granaries among the Ungwai of the savanna region of Nigeria are examined in this paper. All the building materials are usually locally sourced by every adult Ungwai regardless of sex. Men are more directly responsible for the actual construction of these structures while women supply food and drinks particularly a popular local liquor called *burukutu* (brewed from guinea-corn or millet). All these storage structures are constructed on a work-group or co-operative basis. This is an age-old mechanism for ensuring the survival and progress of the people of the region. Only one or two yam storage structures are located in a compound or settlement while granaries are often numerous. Indeed, granaries outnumber living houses. This is a reflection of the great intensity of cereal cultivation in the region.