



Centre for Agroecological Promotion - CAEP

Promoting Farmers' Food Sovereignty | Agroecology |
Biodiversity Conservation | Rural Livelihoods



FROM SUPPORT TREE TO HIDDEN TREASURE

From Support Tree to Hidden Treasure

CAEP Rediscovering an Indigenous Multipurpose Tree in the Bakossi Landscape

LOCATION CAEP Demonstration Farm, Tombel, Southwest Cameroon

THEME Agroecology | Biodiversity Conservation | Indigenous Food Trees | Rural Livelihoods

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A mature indigenous tree on CAEP's demonstration farm in Tombel is revealing hidden value after many years of growth: support for crops, edible fruits, biodiversity protection, and potential livelihood opportunities for farming communities.



A Hidden Treasure on the Demonstration Farm

For more than fifteen years, a group of indigenous trees has grown quietly on CAEP's demonstration farm in Tombel. At first, they were valued mainly for their practical role in agroforestry: supporting eru vines, providing yam stakes, and strengthening the farm's natural structure.

After years of patience and observation, CAEP discovered something exciting: the same trees began producing abundant edible fruits.

What was once seen only as a support tree has now become a hidden treasure - a promising indigenous multipurpose tree with potential for food security, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry restoration, and rural livelihoods.

This discovery reflects CAEP's mission of promoting farmers' food sovereignty through agroecology, biodiversity conservation, sustainable farming practices, and community empowerment.



The indigenous tree growing strongly within CAEP's agroforestry system.

Photo Story



CAEP Executive Director Emmanuel Eku documenting the tree in the field.



Naturally fallen fruits showing the tree's food and livelihood potential.

The Tree in Pictures



Standing beside one of the mature indigenous trees on CAEP's demonstration farm.



Compound leaves captured for botanical identification and further study.

Why This Discovery Matters

Supports climbing crops

Contributes to agroforestry

Produces edible fruits

Protects biodiversity

May support farmer livelihoods

Deserves scientific identification and conservation

For CAEP, this is a reminder that solutions to food insecurity, land degradation, and rural poverty may already be growing in local landscapes.



Call for Partnership

Identify | Conserve | Propagate | Promote



Naturally fallen fruits showing the tree's food and livelihood potential.

Join CAEP in Protecting This Hidden Treasure

CAEP invites botanists, researchers, universities, conservation organizations, agroecology networks, and development partners to support the identification, documentation, propagation, and promotion of this remarkable indigenous tree.

Together, we can transform this hidden treasure into a protected resource for farmers, communities, biodiversity, and future generations.

Botanical ID

Nursery Trials

Conservation

Farmer Livelihoods

Contact

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