

Kalanguya Agricultural Rituals

KALANGUYA IFUGAO, IFUGAO PROVINCE, NORTHERN LUZON ISLAND, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES. *Although the Kalanguya is one of the sub-groups of the Ifugao, their particular culture is a mixture of the cultures of the other subgroups like the Tawali and Ayangan. The amalgamation resulted in a richer character to their rituals. Their agricultural rite has variations reflecting this.*



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It is taboo to enter rice fields or walk on rice dikes covered by a new layer of mud when a pudong is placed at the entrance of the field.

THE GENERALIZED STAGES in some rituals in their agricultural cycles are as follows:

Sibon – Three weeks after *toned* (transplanting), the owner of the rice field boils rice and beans as porridge then serves this with the cooked rice for lunch so that the field will maintain its water supply ideal for rice growth. Two hens are butchered and sacrificed for this. The wing feathers are plucked and placed in two reeds, which are planted at the entrance to the rice field to remind his *aamod* (ancestral spirits) that sacrifice has been offered. This is done to prevent worms, rats and other infestations.

In-owang – This is performed during harvest time. The owner prepares rice from the previous harvest, one or two jars of rice wine (*tapey*) and *ginolla* (salted pork). The ginolla may be roasted. The *mumbunong* (ritual specialist) recites prayers then sprays sand and rice wine on the surrounding fields. Then the harvesters eat. The mumbunong sits quietly. A piece of red cloth is attached to a pole and is placed conspicuously near. A fire is built and is tended well to keep smoking during the course of the harvest. Afterwards, a *pudong* (reed with knotted leaves, a taboo sign) is placed on the two main entrances to the field.

When the harvest is taken home, two chickens are butchered before the grains are taken to the granary. This is to ensure that there will be an abundance of rice for the family's consumption.

Kaingin – The swiddeners perform the *timmongaw* in their cultivation plots. Two chickens are sacrificed and *tapey* is offered. At the edge of the swidden, a blanket is spread and attached to two stands in the manner of a wall hanging. This rite is done to appease the *timmongaw* (mountain spirits) in case some property of the spirits have been disturbed. Sibon may also be performed after planting the swidden.

JTP