
[Song: Plantations are not Forests!](#)

A song by Ajele Sunday, Nigerian artist. His community suffer land grabbing from oil palm companies. _

WRM: Can you please share a bit about what was your motivation to write the song for September 21, the International Day of Struggle against Tree Plantations?

Ajele: I am Ajele, from Ovia South West Local Government, in Edo State. Nigeria. I and my Community are victims of LAND GRABS.

Ordinarily one would have thought that when a Multinational Company such as OKOMU Oil Palm Plantation Plc is sited around your Community, that it is a sign of good things to come, but little did we know that our problems had just began. The Company robbed us of our identity, our pride, our lands and our future, we have totally lost our means of livelihood.

The worst calamity we had was when FOUR VILLAGES were forcefully evicted, their farmlands and houses were destroyed without compensation. They came up with so many tactics to divide the people.

The Company is full of lies and deception. Now there is hunger in these Communities because the rich biodiversity which provides their means of livelihood is gone.

What prompted me into song writing is the power of music. Music has no barrier. It gets to the rich and the poor. And it cuts across nations.

The song itself is self explanatory. A PLANTATION IS NOT A FOREST. IT IS A GENOCIDE ATTACK ON NATURE, therefore, IT MUST BE DISCOURAGED.

Below the lyrics:

PLANTATIONS ARE NOT FOREST - Ajele Sunday - 2018

My brother's
Health of mother Earth
My sister's
Health of mother Earth is getting so critical
What are we gonna do now
This is a Clarion call
It has no exclusion I say
Am calling on everyone
Those who believe in
the sanctity of mother Earth
Come together

And let us say no no no

(Chorus)

Say no no no

Plantations are not forest

They are prodigal Children distroyin mother Earth (*3).

They came as investors

To steal away our land

With their ism's and skisms

They enslave the people

And they put profit above human dignity

They distroy biodiversity

They distroy livelihood

Now erosion is threatening

They keep the people disunited not to speak with one voice

What about the trees

Going extinction

What of the reptiles

Taking refuge in the bush

They came like Dracula to suck the blood of the forest

No no no no no

(Repeat chorus)

Say no no no

Plantations are not forest

They are prodigal Children distroyin mother Earth(*3)

Hu. It's getting so critical

e l ya

Crops are not forest man

O u no no no no no

(Repeat chorus)