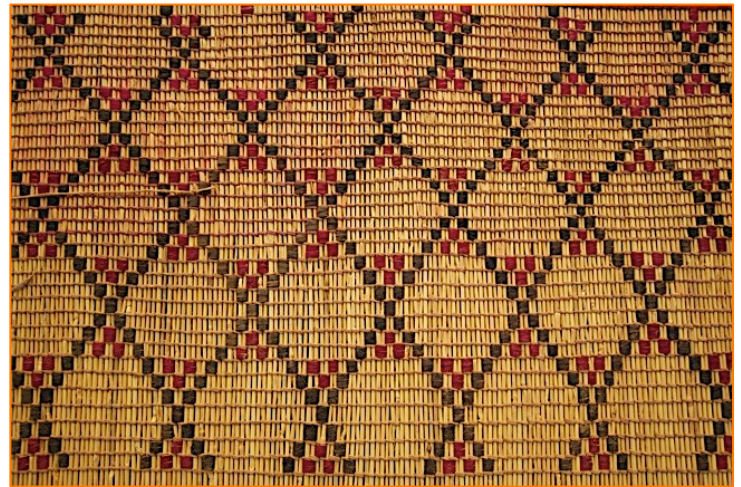


## Seiga Artisan Co-operative Survey

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*A survey of craft production, using the mentors as a sample group, to demonstrate the prevalence of crafts in Seiga. Individual specializations listed below will be useful for identifying artists for adaptation of local products and for new products using local materials. Many of the women in the area can make smaller decorative items. Incorporating non-mentors would extend the economic benefits to a wider group of women in the community while diversifying activities in Seiga.*



Few women in our sample can decorate the most elaborate item, the *teydeyint* decorated tent wall mat. There is a great variety of designs for the *teydeyint* and the decorated *efartay* that could be adapted for a variety of different products. Straw crafts are prevalent among the Bellah (a class of former slave families) with specialized metal, wood and leather work by three Inaden families. There is one Inaden family (Tuareg crafts class) in each of the three hamlets surrounding Lake Seiga: Seiga, Tooru Tondi, and Belkou.

### Surveyed Mentors with Crafts by Village

#### **Tooru Tondi**

*Aminatou Salanou*- Efartay; Teydeyint;  
Tekarut/Essarer  
*Besha Hamakila*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Zikara Salamou*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Anamet Ellitni*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Rakhey Almaknin*- Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Berey Aliou*- Leyfaytan; Etewel; Tawana  
*Fodi Anaysoum*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel

#### **Seiga**

*Jidata Isiwakan*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel; Tawana  
*Toufeni Benya*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Aminatou Izoubi*- Leyfaytan;  
Leyfey tilliwan (small, yarn-wrapped);  
Etewel

#### **Belkou**

*Mamanan Salamou*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel  
*Fadimata Asaler*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel; Teydeyint; Tawana  
*Wurtinaghat Maghas*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel; Teydeyint  
*Hounay Tawjima*- Tekarut/Essarer; Efartay;  
Leyfaytan; Etewel



Mentor **Fodi Anessoum** of Tooru Tondi with **Efartay** decorated reed grass mat



**Leyfey tilliwan**  
small, yarn-wrapped woven grass decoration





### Inaden – blacksmiths and leather workers

In addition to the Bellah mentors, *Abdoulaye Ifanfan*, an Inaden blacksmith family in Belkou, including a sister, two wives and two sons, all produce regularly: Sister - *Rakhmou Ifanfan*; wives - *Aishama Amidi* and *Tibilan Anasser*; and nephews - *AbdoulKarim Akamdum* and *Abdoulhamid Akamdum*. Abdoulaye works with metal and wood and the women work with leather. This family is the most skilled of those around lake Seiga.

Other Inaden families include Rhissa with one wife in Seiga, and Abdoud Hamid with one wife in Tooru Tondi.

Most sales are commissioned, but they may also put items into the Bankilare or the Tegue market. Wood workers are required to pay 10,000cfa/month for a permit.

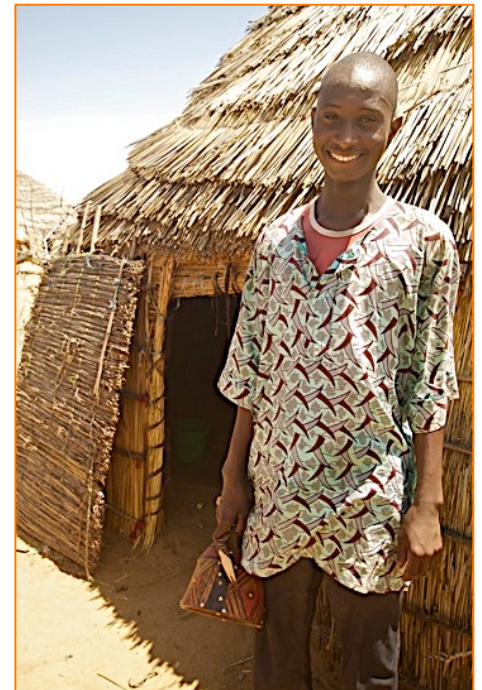
Inaden's heritage as artisans, the Belkou Inaden knowledge of most traditional craft items, and the fact that they remain dedicated to local level production demonstrate the importance of including them in any artisan cooperative. They will diversify and expand production by adding Inaden-produced items or by fabricating new items based on the Inaden skill base. None of these families include women that are current RAIN mentors, so if an official cooperative is established, recruiting these women in this capacity should be a priority.



**Abdoulay Ifanfan** of Belkou,  
with sister **Rakhmou Ifanfan**



**Tibilan Anasser**  
sewing an *adefur*:  
a dyed leather pillow.



**Abdoulhamid Akamdum**  
with small decorated mortar.





Wood spoons with decorated spice mortar

### Crafts produced and material costs/local sale price

**Efartay** (or Tezawen): small decorative mat

**Sale price:** 8-9,000cfa

- 1,500cfa/ea reed-grass *tezawen* (purchase in markets)
- 1,500-3,000cfa leather pieces (2-4 pieces/750cfa each)
- 500-1,000cfa dye

**Efartay wan tikan** - very small *efartay*

**Eytewel**- winnowing pan with sides

**Sale price:** 1,000cfa/1,500 with leather backing

- Akof- palm frond strips- 600-750cfa/ea smaller version with yarn
- Yarn ball- 500cfa each color



Tooru Tondi school girls working on *leyfay* with a completed *ettewel* winnowing pan. They are seated on a *tekurut* reed-stick mat.



Mentor **Alzadied Eyiheya** of Belkou with her children and her latest *efartay*, or small decorative mat.



**Leyfey wan asahar**- winnowing pan

*Sale price: 500cfa (simple)/ 1,000cfa with leather*

**Leyfay wan eghaf**- cone winnowing pan cover

**Leyfey tilliwan** (small, yarn-wrapped)

**Igaraygaraya/Isanam**- decorated hanging leather panels with fringe and mirrors

*Sale price: 20-25,000cfa*

- Leather- 2,000 x 6 = 12,000
- Small mirror- 25cfa each x 9 = 225cfa
- *Alaami* turquoise leather panels - 1,500-3,500cfa each

**Tekurut/Essarer** - leather tied stick mat

*Sale price: ~12-20,000cfa*

**Tasotit**- simple long straw tent wall mat

**Tawana**- hanging bowl holder with long leather fringe

*Sale price: ~5-10,000cfa*

**Teydeyint**- decorated reed-grass tent wall mat

*Sale price: 100,000-150,000cfa*

Inaden examples

**Adefur**- leather pillow

- Leather - 2,000cfa each x 4 = 8,000cfa
- Dye - 250cfa each x 2 or 3 = 500-750cfa

**Agadut/Agalagut** - water/butter leather bag

**Enafat** (plural inafdan) - small leather purse necklace

**Isamut** (*haw gara Songhai*) - large leather bag for grain

**Izayan** - large leather bag

**Tagbat** - simple leather bag

**Tanuwart** - large horizontal leather bag

**Tebawunt** - large leather decorative travel sac for camels

- Leather- 2,000cfa each x 10 = 20,000cfa
- Dye- 250cfa each x 2 or 3 = 500-750cfa

**Teshekurat**- 2 pieces with leather, 1,500cfa, 250-500cfa dye

**Tegarut**- medium sized leather bag

- Leather- 2,000cfa each x 5 = 10,000cfa
- Dye- 250cfa each x 3 = 750cfa

**Spoons**

*Sale price: 250-500cfa*

**Decorated small spice mortar**

*Sale price: 2,500-3,000cfa undecorated/5,000cfa decorated*

**Variety of metal ware**

- *Even*: Ighamadan – tweezers
- *Shilkow* - metal q-tip



**Igaraygaraya/Isanam**  
decorated hanging leather panels





RAIN FOR THE SAHEL AND SAHARA

*Materials are often purchased at local markets:*

Kolman- Saturday  
Tegue- Monday  
Bankilare- Tuesday  
Wanzerbe- Saturday  
Dolbel- Thursday  
Yatakala- Wednesday  
Ousse Bangou- Friday

Examples of items  
regularly purchased  
in the market  
for craft production



**Tibilan Anasser** at her work hanger with an  
**Igaraygaraya/Isanam**  
(hanging decorated leather panel)

*Akof* - palm frond: 500-1,000cfa /bundles seasonally priced  
*Alaami* - 3-3,500cfa per sheet  
*Tezawen* - reed grass: from ~1,500cfa/ bundle, sometimes more. Comes from the north and is sold in the market, sometimes rare and seasonally expensive, best to buy bulk when cheap.  
*Leather* - ~2,000cfa sometimes more. Cheapest in rainy season  
*Nescafe can of dye* - 1,500cfa  
*Small packet of dye* - 250cfa  
*Yarn* - 500cfa  
*Mirrors* - 25cfa each





**Tekurut** decorated stick mat



**Efartay** decorated reed grass mat



**Tawana** hanging calabash, wooden bowl, or vegetable basket

The women artisans and Inaden families would benefit from the organization of a RAIN artisan cooperative producing a variety of products, overseeing a boutique for supplies, and training children and teenagers in the community in traditional artisan skills for future livelihoods. As some items needed for production fluctuate seasonally in cost, establishing a store of supplies to build during lower price periods for sale during higher price periods would allow the artisans to work throughout the year unburdened by material inflation. Mentors and students, as well as non-mentor artisans and older youth would work together to produce traditional and marketable products, both independently and in collaboration.