

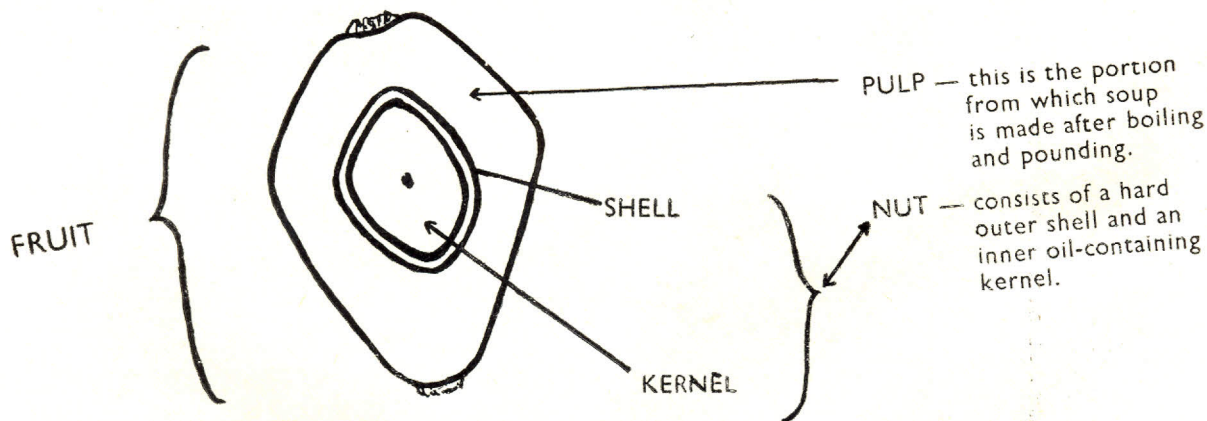
PALM NUT SOUP— A Common Error

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FOR many generation now, Ghanaians have so much used the terminology 'palm nuts' when they mean palm fruit and in some cases 'palm nut soup' instead of just 'palm Soup' that this terminology has been accepted into the vocabulary of normal parlance, without realising that it is an error. If the situation is reviewed botanically, it would be realised that not only does it not make sense but it is impossible to obtain a soup from palm nuts.

The palm tree—Abedua (Twi) Deti (Ewe), yields a fruit bunch from which we get palm fruits—Abe (Twi) and De (Ewe).

If a cross section of the fruit is cut, we obtain what is shown by the diagram below.



The kernel is the portion from which another oil (palm kernel oil) is obtained. The kernel cannot be obtained until the nut has been cracked on a stone or in a machine, yielding the hard outer shell which can be used as fuel in some places and the oil containing kernel.

It is, therefore, wrong to say for example, "I went to the market to buy palm nuts." It should actually be: "I went to the market to buy palm fruits" if the material was meant for soup.

Labelling Error

A typical example of this error is in the label of an industrial product called "Cream of Palm Nuts" manufactured in Ghana. From the anatomical dissection of the fruit, it is impossible to obtain a cream from palm nuts. As far as oil seed processing technology has advanced, the only product obtainable from palm nuts is palm kernel oil.

Though this looks a very minor error, it could have serious misleading results in industry and I humbly, therefore, would like to draw your attention to it and seek your co-operation in its removal from the vocabulary.