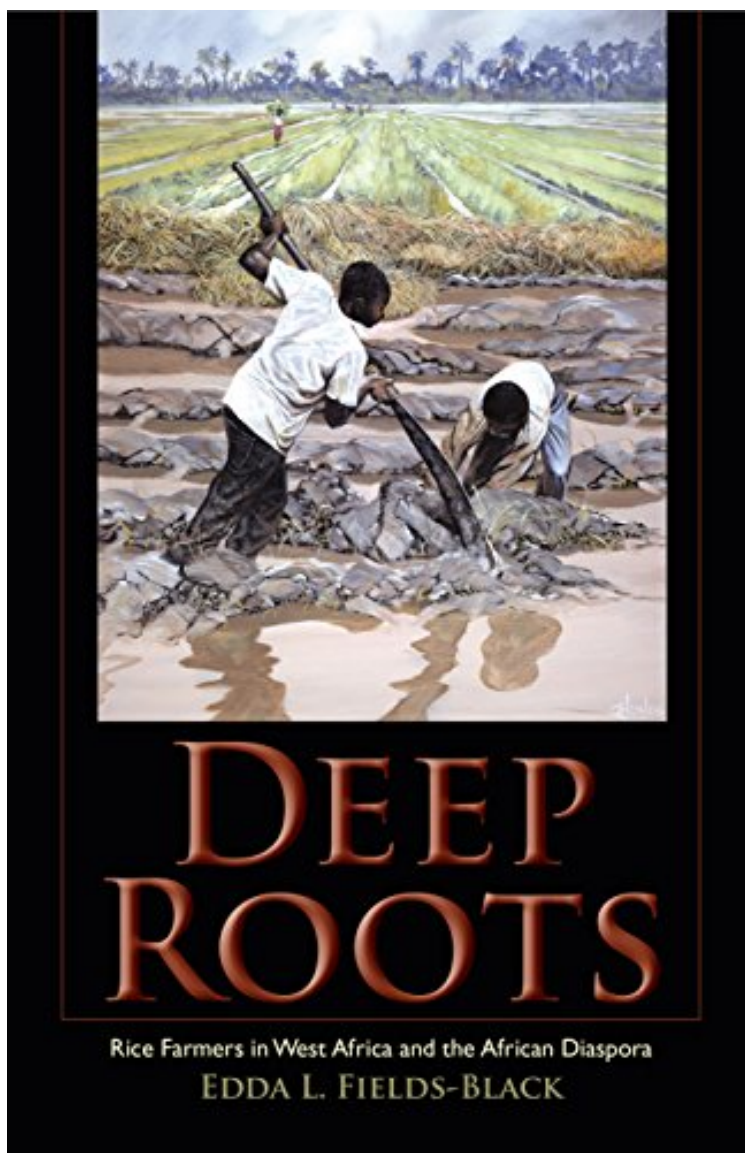


(Mobile book) Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora (Blacks in the Diaspora)

Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora (Blacks in the Diaspora)

Edda L. Fields-Black

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Edda L. Fields-Black : Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora (Blacks in the Diaspora) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deep Roots: Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora (Blacks in the Diaspora):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Like many of the other reviews stated By Thom DeLair Like many of the other reviews stated, this book's narrative begins long before the African Diaspora, with only the last chapter covering that. From my own personal readings of African and African American history, narratives often begin and focus on slavery. Although the impact of slavery is discussed, I appreciated the treatment of a strong interdisciplinary relationship to these African people and their relationship to the environment around them, showing African history in a light that harmonizes it with nature rather than the bleak political and economic forces that often dominate African and African American history. By the author's careful linguistic and agricultural analysis, it provides a much "deeper" understanding these West Africans' value and innovation, creating more impact for the final chapter and what these West Africans brought across the Atlantic.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mohamed S. nice book 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent book! By Gbaku Highly recommended for anyone interested in west African and diaspora history. The author uses a multi-disciplinary approach to go beyond the limits of written history to show the antiquity, nature and varieties of rice-growing techniques in coastal west Africa, focusing on a small area in what is now the Republic of Guinea. She also shows how the knowledge bases of these people (and some of the people themselves) were transplanted in the New World. It is particularly refreshing to see that, in addition to having an excellent command of the literature in a wide range of relevant topics (including such unusual things like Mangrove botany), she has also directly collected ethnographic and linguistic data and has even worked alongside African rice farmers in leech-infested water fending off swarms of mosquitoes.

Mangrove rice farming on West Africa's Rice Coast was the mirror image of tidewater rice plantations worked by enslaved Africans in 18th-century South Carolina and Georgia. This book reconstructs the development of rice-growing technology among the Baga and Nalu of coastal Guinea, beginning more than a millennium before the transatlantic slave trade. It reveals a picture of dynamic pre-colonial coastal societies, quite unlike the static, homogenous pre-modern Africa of previous scholarship. From its examination of inheritance, innovation, and borrowing, *Deep Roots* fashions a theory of cultural change that encompasses the diversity of communities, cultures, and forms of expression in Africa and the African diaspora.

Deep Roots, an important and innovative book, pioneers a multidisciplinary methodology, which substantially compensates for the lack of written documentation . . . and archeology data during the formative period of the transatlantic slave trade in Africa. (American Historical) This study is an excellent contribution to the growing literature on food in precolonial Africa. . . . [I]t is a trailblazing work in its innovative amalgamation of archaeological, linguistic, and written source materials. (International Journal of African Historical Studies) While *Deep Roots* is a scholarly endeavor anyone interested in South Carolina's rice history or African history would find it both fascinating and full of interesting facts, stories, illustrations and graphs that bring the story to life. February 18, 2009 (Walterboro, SC) A stimulating study that deserves attention in graduate seminars . . . in African history . . . and in African diaspora studies. December, 2010 (HISTORIAN) In fine, *Deep Roots* represents an important contribution to the literature on rice culture in West Africa. XL.4 Spring 2010 (Peter A. Coclanis University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) Fields-Black has written an important groundbreaking agricultural and Diasporic cultural history. (Georgia Historical Quarterly) Fields-Black manages to make her research and its implications accessible to a wider audience. . . . Readers will appreciate the book's clarity of expression and revealing discussions of historical analysis and argumentation. . . . Recommended. December 2009 (Choice) Fields-Black has written an important book, thoroughly researched, persuasively argued, and engagingly written. It adds a major new chapter to our understanding of the African diaspora. Vol. 76, No. 3, August 2010 (The Journal of Southern History) The scope of the work makes it an important addition for African and Diaspora studies, as well as those more generally interested in the transference of ideas and ecology. (Journal of West African History) [This] book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of rice cultivation in West Africa . . . Vol. 50 2009 (Erik Gilbert Arkansas State University) Fields-Black . . . offers important new insights into West African agricultural history and the dynamics of diasporic connections. (LaRay Denzer Northwestern University) An imaginative book . . . The writing is good and the ideas important. (Judith Carney author of *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas*) From the Publisher "An imaginative book . . . The writing is good and the ideas important." --Judith Carney, author of *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas* "Fields-Black . . . offers important new insights into West African agricultural history and the dynamics of diasporic connections." --LaRay Denzer, Northwestern University