Selwyn Takana talks about building houses in Kwara. Text collected by Daryl Macdonald 17.09.09 at the University of Waikato, New Zealand.

House building in the villages, in the villages they build sago palm leaf houses.

Okay, to build your house, first you look around for a place to build your house on.

When you see a place to build the house on, then you go and cut up your posts.

After cutting up your posts, you set your posts in the ground, when that’s done, you build the beams.
OE  KA  SUI  KO  ATO-A  SUI  KO
POSS.2SG.AL  IMP  finish  2SG  put rafters on  -OBJ.3  then  2SG
PRO  MARKER  VI  PRO  VT  -SUFF  CONJ  PRO

TOQSI-A  NAQ.
put up, make roof  -OBJ.3  COMP
VT  -SUFF  MARKER
You put up the beams, then you frame your house, finishing that, you put
on the rafters and then put on the roof.

KWHouse.006
SOUNGEIGN  HAH-AN  LUOM  OE  EIN  SAO.
built  top  -POSS.3SG.INAL  house  POSS.2SG.AL  with sago palm leaf
VT  PREP  -SUFF  N  PRO  PREP  N
The roof of your house is built with sago palm leaves.

KWHouse.007
Eiya, NA  TATAEH-E  AE  SOUNGEIGN  EIN  NA  NINIU.
okay  DEF  floor  -  VH  2SG  build  with  DEF  palm
DISC  ART  N  -  SUFF  PRO  VT  PREP  ART  N
Okay, you build the floor with palm bark.

KWHouse.008
Eiya  OD-1-AN  LUMA  QAOK  SEIYAN
okay  erect walls  -NOM-  POSS.3SG.INAL  house  2SG  know
DISC  VI  -SUFF  -SUFF  N  PRO  VT

AE  ODO-A  EIN  SAUSA  NAM  AE
2SG  erect walls  -OBJ.3  with woven sago palm leaves or  2SG
PRO  VI  -SUFF  PREP  N  CONJ  PRO

BUSAOW-A  LUOM.
thatch  -OBJ.3  house
VT  -SUFF  N
Okay, to erect the walls of the house, you can do this with woven sago
palm leaves or you thatch the house (with folded palm leaves).

KWHouse.009
ODOA-1-AN  LUMA  KIA  YAT  SOUNGEIGN
erect walls  -NOM-  POSS.3SG.INAL  house  3PL  first  make
VI  -SUFF  -SUFF  N  PRO  NUM  VT

SISIQANG  KIAK  OAL  KIAK  HOTQI-A  SISIQANG-A
crushed bamboo  IMP.3PL  put  IMP.3PL  nail  -OBJ.3  crushed bamboo  -VH
N  PRO  VI  PRO  VT  -SUFF  N  -SUFF

KA  TIO  AN  ODOA  KA  SUI  MAL  KIAK  HIQ
IMP  stay to  house wall  IMP  finish  SEQ  IMP.3PL  SEQ
MARKER  VI  PREP  VT  MARKER  VI  MARKER  PRO  MARKER

BUSAOW-A  LUOM.
thatch  -OBJ.3  house
VT  -SUFF  N
To put up the walls of the house, they first prepare the crushed bamboo
then they nail on the bamboo so it stays up on the walls, after that,
they just thatch the house.
Okay, it's the top of the house which they weave with sago palm leaves. They make the roof with sago palm leaves.

When you have finished making the roof of your house, you lash it to your house so that the wind doesn't pull the sago palm leaves out.

Okay, to erect the house walls, you thatch them (by sliding folded leaves up onto the bamboo frame) or you erect the walls with woven sago palm leaves, then you batten down the walls.

Okay, a sago palm house can last up to five years.
then 2SG 2SG yes sago palm leaf IMP keep IMP arrive

Yes, the sago palm leaves last about five years.