



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة
الأمم
المتحدة
للزراعة
والغذاء

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00100 Rome, Italy

Cables:
FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 625852 FAO I
610181 FAO I

Facsimile: +39 0657053152

Telephone: +39 0657051

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

'EGUNDA'

(It means in Kavango language, Namibia, 'where indigenous fruit trees can be found')

A radio story from north-east of Namibia
Produced by FAO

TRACK 01 (5:14)

I. Biodiversity

Namibia's rich cultural heritage brought in by migrating tribesmen and settlers over the centuries reflects the biological diversity of the vegetation and wild animals that make this country one of the most attractive and contrasted in Southern Africa. Especially, the north and north-east parts form a total contrast to the rest of the territory: there lie rich farmland and forests, fed for the most part by the Okavango and other rivers that flow south from Angola, into the Caprivi Strip and beyond. There grow many wild fruit trees that have been essential food to the local community from time immemorial and an integral part of the ecosystem, contributing to maintain natural resources basis. But frequent uncontrolled forest fires destroy this food, a gift of nature.

Sound effects (excerpt from Drama)

This drama tours villages of Kavango Region, NE Namibia, to sensitize the community against forest fires. A methodology approach used by Jonas Mwiikinghi, District Forestry Officer. He explains:

Interview: 1min40sec.

Many species grow naturally in wild forests. In order to extend their areas, train foresters and community members in tree selection, planting and management, the Namibian Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, grows selected seedlings in nurseries. Davis Mushitu is a nursery supervisor in Katima Mulilo, Caprivi region, in a German Development Service funded-horticultural programme. He knows these species by heart:

Interview: 1min25sec.

TRACK 02 (2:20)

II. Domestication

An FAO funded-survey has revealed that, based on abundance, fruit value, transformation and marketing value, at least three indigenous fruit trees can be identified as most preferred species in Namibia: marula, eembe and monkey orange*. They have become the training focus of the community. Charles Muhela supervises a seedlings' nursery in Katima District Forestry Office. Marula is also his favourite.

Interview: 1min06sec.

Another training issue is pest control to protect the fragile fruiting cycle, says Muhela.

Interview: 40sec.

TRACK 03 (4:54)

III. Transformation

FAO and the Directorate of Forestry's strategy to involve local women in the training and making of juice and jam from eembe for example has proven successful. There in Rundu, Kavango Region (NE), Samuel Elago, a Forestry ranger, teaches fruit processing to mothers.

Sound effects (mixer, song)

Interview: 30sec.

Snoboldin, proud of her Certificate of Attendance, can now train others. With only two watermelons*, she makes 8 bottles of jam and sells them to her neighbours at 10 Namibian dollars each, the equivalent of 4 US dollars.

Interview: 1min22sec.

In the border town of Katima Mulilo, the Forestry Office helped to establish the first trainees' group: the Kasheshe Women's group. This time, training was given to the group leader, Dorothee Manyemo-Maluta but...in Malawi!

She recalls when a Forestry Officer approached her:

Interview: 1min44sec.

Sound effects (song)

TRACK 04 (3:42)

IV. Prospects

The potential of indigenous fruit trees in Namibia is huge. Much hope is placed in the formulation by all local stakeholders of a strategy and policy framework for the development of indigenous fruits sector to improve the rural household income. Will it ever equal the national "Date Palm Production Support Program"?

National Coordinator Piet de Wet, based in Windhoek, trades in and out of the country.

Interview: 3min16sec.

V. Round-up interviews

TRACK 05 (9:17)

- John Sitwala, a Forestry Officer at Katima Mulilo, summarizes the FAO-initiated project to promote indigenous fruit trees in the Caprivi Strip, its progress, constraints and future.

Interview: 9min04sec.

TRACK 06 (4:39)

- By promoting IFTS, the Namibian Directorate of Forestry does not work in isolation but with the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry. They also work with a Namibia based NGO, the Centre

for Research Information and Action for Development in Africa (CRIAA-South African Development Community).

This is an interview with Mr. Joseph Hailwa, Director of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia.

Interview: 4min17sec

TRACK 07 (2:50)

- Ms. Esther Lusepani-Kamwi is Deputy-Director of Forestry in Namibia. As the Co-ordinator of the FAO/Namibian project on Indigenous Fruit Trees Species, she is convinced that the participation from small communities to farmers should be intensified as well as the involvement of more non-governmental organizations. This is her interview.

Interview: 2min30sec

TRACK 08 (3:59)

- Peter George Bille is a Lecturer at the Namibia University-Food Science Technology, Windhoek. In this interview, he talks about the progress achieved so far by the University in researching the most preferred Indigenous Fruit Trees by the rural communities and in facilitating their processing with adapted technologies. Here, he appeals to other local partners to investment in small scale technologies' transfer from successful Southern African neighbours.

Interview: 3min35sec

*Botanical terminology:

- watermelon or Nara plant (*Acanthosicyos horridus*)
- marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*)
- eembe or bird plum (*Berchemia discolor*)
- monkey orange or monkey apple (*Strychnos cocculoides*)

Reportage: Liliane Kambirigi (FAO), Eve Black (Namibian Broadcasting Corporation-Windhoek)

Script: L. Kambirigi

Narrator: Edward Ogolla (FAO)

Studio engineering: Eric Deleu (FAO)

FAO: Forestry Resources Division/Information Division

June 2004
