

Products of the forest, income and nutrition - Burkina Faso -

PROJECT TITLE

Project for the improved management and sustainable use of NWFPs in Burkina Faso
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/32949/en/>

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Improve the management and exploitation of NWFPs, to contribute to better family food security and incomes while preserving biodiversity.

CONTEXT

A large part of the diet in rural areas is provided by the non-wood forest products (NWFPs): fruits, seeds, leaves, sap, edible mushrooms, edible insects (e.g. termites and caterpillars), honey, medicinal plants, etc. Eaten raw or cooked, NWFPs replace staple crops during periods of crisis (drought, locust invasion, etc.) or are used as nutritional supplements in the daily diet.

Some deficiencies in vitamins and micronutrients can be prevented or corrected through the regular consumption of these forest products: the vitamin C content of the baobab fruit is 7 times that of an orange, for example, and the fruit of *Saba senegalensis* is a source of provitamin a [β -carotene = 1559 mg/100 g edible] (www.inera.bf). NWFPs also have an economic value: for example, the collection and processing of about 200kg of cashew nuts can provide an additional income of about 250,000 FCFA per woman per year.



TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Small producers / collectors, processors, transporters and traders crafts (the vast majority are women).

THE PROJECT

The project is part of a series of interventions conducted with local authorities since 2005 (www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/32949/en/). It adopts the Market Analysis and Development approach (MA&D) developed by FAO, which allows rural communities to create income-generating enterprises and enhance all sectors by mobilizing all stakeholders, while allowing a sustainable management of forest resources (www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/25492/en/).

The project is based on four pillars.

At the national level (13 regions):

1. « Contribute to improve the institutional management and coordination framework for the exploitation of NWFPs » through research, information and dissemination of regulations and statistics concerning their exploitation, technical and operational capacity development of the national Agency for the Promotion of NWFPs (APFNL) and its partners (trainings, study travels), and the setup of pilot unit for the demonstration and promotion of NWFPs.
2. « Strengthen the organizational and technical capacities of stakeholders », from the census of actors along the value chains, to support their grouping into associations and cooperatives, to the integration of their traditional knowledge and practices with scientific data and new technologies (research, surveys, trainings, study travels, etc.).



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At regional level (7 regions selected: Sahel, Plateau Central, Est, Centre Ouest, Centre Sud, Centre et Centre Est):

3. "Increase the incomes of at least 5,000 households in each of the 7 regions of intervention, through the processing and marketing of NWFPs", through the development of Enterprise Development Plans (EDP), the support to households acquisition of inputs and necessary infrastructure, the development of capacities for the marketing and promotion of products.

4. "Improve the food and nutrition situation of at least 5,000 households in each of the 7 regions of intervention through the use of NWFPs", through research on the nutritional value of NWFPs; surveys on household consumption of NWFPs; the establishment of NWFP vegetable gardens and orchards; the support to the organic production, improved transportation and distribution of NWFPs and to the sensitization of stakeholders on the nutritional value of NWFPs.

The project focuses on **6 edible PFNL** : the *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), the *Balanites aegyptiaca* – or wild date- (tièguèla), the *Tamarindus indica* (tamarind), the *Parkia biglobosa* (néré), the *Saba senegalensis* – or liane goine- (weda) and the *Vitellaria paradoxa* (karité), chosen for their economical and nutritional values, and according to local ecosystems and food habits. The number of NWFPs can be enlarged during the project according to the interest and needs of local populations.

INSTITUTIONAL OWNERSHIP

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and its regional directorates (DREDD), in partnership with FAO, and is coordinated by the Agency for the Promotion of NWFPs (APFNL-www.apfnl.gov.bf). Implementation at the field level is carried out in collaboration with a number of local associations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved capacities of beneficiaries and national actors ;
- Improved nutrition/health (through better consumption of NWFPs) ;
- Increased incomes (through better transformation/commercialization of NWFPs) ;
- Contribution to the protection and sustainable exploitation of relevant species ;
- Improvement of the institutional framework for the management of NWFPs.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPSCALING AND REPLICATION

- **Selection of NWFPs** : the products must be selected on the basis of their adaptation to local agro-biodiversity and to the capacities of beneficiaries, as well as according to their economic and nutritional value.
- **Participatory approach** : direct actors (collectors, traders, processors, and consumers) as well as indirect actors (policy makers, technical researchers, environmental lobby groups, etc..) must be consulted and, to the extent possible, must participate actively in all phases of the project.
- **Ownership and sustainability of activities**: it is important to ensure that all authorities, national and local, as well as partners, are informed of and involved in the project activities and in supporting new NWFPs enterprises before starting the project. It is essential to develop partnerships and synergies of action with MEDD-center structures, NGOs and local organizations, to facilitate close monitoring and contribute to the sustainability of actions.
- **Include a gender approach**: women play an important role in economic community activities and in family nutrition. They must participate in decision-making as well as in the various business operations: administration, production, marketing.
- **Maximize the nutritional impact**: nutrition education and promotion of improved recipes based on projects products should be integrated with interventions, to ensure the proper use of food produced and promoted and maximize the impact of the project on family diets and nutrition.
- **Monitoring and evaluation**: the information collected should be shared with all project stakeholders. Thus, decisions will be taken by consensus with a full knowledge of the facts. It is important to develop a framework for participatory monitoring and evaluation with the people involved in the project from the inception phases. To analyze the impact of the MA&D approach, the performance of each enterprise must be monitored.