

A woman in a blue top and patterned skirt carries a baby on her back in a rural landscape. She is holding a small tree sapling. The background shows dry grass and trees under a clear sky.

Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises

Burkina Faso

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1. Burkina Faso Country Context

- Sahelian country with dryland forest
- Very small wood sector; NWFPs more significant but “invisible”
- Contribution of the forestry sector estimated at 5.2% of GDP in 1990... but large underestimation as several NWFP activities not considered
- Some main NWFP products:
 - Shea
 - Cashew
 - Tamarind
 - Dawadawa
 - Honey
 - Arabic gum



2. Types of SMFEs

- Very poor statistics on SMFEs – high informality and long considered subsistence activities
- Typology
 - Subsistence oriented SMFEs
 - Producer-collectors
 - Traditional processors
 - Semi-industrial processors
 - National traders
 - Exporters



3. Organisation of SMFEs

- 60% of survey sample part of an SMFE association
- Actors express little desire for an umbrella NWFP association...but level of organisation varies greatly across different product chains
- Availability of forest resources increasingly a problem
- Poor knowledge of policy: 50% of survey sample have no knowledge of forest or environment legislation



4. Market Links

- Better market information, esp. prices
 - main mkt info sources track few NWFP prices
- Improve communication across the product chains
 - semi-industrial processors most faced with supply constraints
- Improve product quality
 - processed products tend to face more sales constraints (e.g. shea butter vs shea nuts)
- Increase financial capacity
 - SMFEs often cannot build enough stock of seasonal raw material to enable them to conquer larger markets



5. Access to financial and BDS services

- Increase awareness of SMFE sector amongst financial service providers...
- But also increase awareness of financial services amongst SMFE sector - lack of interest in financial services by certain category of SMFEs
- BDS services mainly provided by donor organisations and projects – often specific to geographical zone or product chain.

6. Communicating with SMFEs

- Note only semi-industrial processors and exporters cite using the internet as source of market info
- High illiteracy amongst some categories of actors
- Use SMFE associations to get information to all categories of actors





7. Monitoring progress

- Baseline survey with repeat annual survey of sample of SMFEs covering all categories of actors and more than 3 regions of the country
 - Access to markets
 - Access to financial services
 - Access to BDS
 - Level of organisation
 - Impact of and influence on policies