SUSTAINABLE DRY LAND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN SOMALIA

Louis Njie Ndumbe

Identification of potential non-timber forest product (NTFPs) producing species for agroforestry uses and conservation

Summary

An ethnobotanical survey was conducted in 2022 using qualitative methods, including: group discussion, key-informant interview and field observations in three states of the Federal republic of Somalia (Galmudug, Jubaland, and Puntland) to identify locally preferred woody species with socio-economically potential for agroforestry uses. The study revealed that there are at least 16 NTFP tree producing species in the three states in Somalia with food, firewood and construction uses, many of which also provide ecosystem services and can be incorporated suitably for agroforestry uses. The following recommendations were made based on this study.

Recommendations

The federal and state governments, donor agencies, NGOs and community leaders should put in place the following recommendations:

Practice

Development of demonstration plots; Training agricultural extension agents in land restoration; Support local experiments, develop demonstration models and plots and farmer-to-farmer visits for agroforestry systems; Encourage the planting of improved varieties of indigenous and exotic multipurpose trees that have multiple uses

Support further value chain approach using market-driven, locally led tree cultivation systems; Support sustainable agroforestry practices to enhance food security, rational use of resources, economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

Policies

Policies that develop and implement a national agroforestry strategy; encourage a wider adoption of agroforestry policy that promote the use of trees outside forests; support community dialogues between governments, NGOs and communities in other to strengthen community-based producer and marketing groups for priority tree-based value chains; and facilitate 'xeer' revitalization for resource management especially of common areas e.g pasture and rangelands, forest areas.

Capacity Building

Build human and institutional capacity in agroforestry research and development; Learn from the experience of past and recent agroforestry projects taking plot, field and landscape level approaches; Facilitate high-quality tree planting material available for communities.

NTFP species for agroforestry use and conservation in Somalia NTFP species

The study indicates the following 16 NTFP species are collected, with *Acacia sengal*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Ziziphus spina-christi*, *Acacia nilotica* and *Balanites aegyptiaca* the main species collected in all three regions.

Scientific names NTFP species	Local name	Galmudug	Puntland	Jubaland
Adansonia digitata		High	High	High
Ziziphus spina-christi		High	High	High
Acacia nilotica		High	High	High
Balanites aegyptiaca.		High	High	High
Cordeauxia edulis	Yicib/Yi'ib	High	Medium	Limited
Dobera glabra Forssk.	Garas	Medium	Medium	Limited
Berchemla discolor (Klotzsch) Hemsl.	Dheen	Limited	Limited	High
Ziziphus mauritiana Lam	Gob	Limited	High	Limited
Grewia penicillata Chiov	Hoohob	High	High	High
Givotia gosai A.R. Smith	Goosay	Medium	Medium	High
Acacia edgeworthii T.Anderson	Jeerin/Quule	Medium	Medium	Medium
Melia volkensii	Xar	Limited	Limited	High
Boswellia frereana Birdw	Maidi	None	High	Non
Boswellia sacra Flueck.	Moxor/Mohor	Limited	Limited	High
Commiphora malmal (Nees) Engl.	Dhidin/Malmal	Medium	Medium	High
Acacia senegal (L.) Willd.	Caddaad	High	High	Medium

Literature

- Hassan, B. A. (2020). Trees for sustainable livelihoods in the Horn of Africa: Studies on aromatic resins and other non-wood forest products in Somalia and Kenya. E-thesis.
- ICRAF (2022) Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa) https://www.worldagroforestry.org/project/reversing-land-degradation-africa-scaling-evergreen-agriculture-regreening-africa
- Leslie, Andrew (1991) Agroforestry practices in Somalia. Forest Ecology and Management, 45 (1-4). pp. 293-308.

About the Author

Dr. Louis Njie Ndumbe is an independent consultant and senior lecturer of Environmental Management at the University of Buea, Cameroon and the United Nations University for Peace in Somalia.

This policy brief is an output produced with the financial support of the UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) from the UK government as part of the 'Sustainable Dryland Resources Management for Enhanced Livelihoods, Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation in Somalia' project.