1. VITEX DONIANA

Farmers' preferences

Franzel et al (2008) reported on a farmer preference survey in the miombo woodlands of Southern Africa which found out that *V.doniana* was among the top 20 most important species in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. It was mentioned by 26%, 8% , 1% farmers respectively in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.

Further reading

Franzel, S., Akinnifesi, F., and Ham, C. (2008). Setting priorities among indigenous fruit species: Setting priorities among indigenous fruit tree species in Africa: Examples from southern, eastern and western Africa In Akinnifesi, F.K., Leakey, R.R.B., Ajayi, O.C., Sileshi, G., Tchoundjeu, Z., Matakala, P., and Kwesiga, F.R. (eds) Indigenous Fruit Trees in Southern Africa: Domestication, Use, and Commercialisation (Wallingford, UK: CAB International), pp. 1-27.

2. SCELOCARYA BIRREA

Extent of adoption

A study by Emanuel et al (2005) on modeling the sustainable harvest of *Scelocarya birrea* (marula) indicates that, agroforestry, where marula trees are left in ploughed fields for fruit and shade, is practiced in Bushbuckridge, South Africa. The planting of trees from seed or truncheons in home plots for shade and fruit and the use of marula truncheons in fences, which then form live fences, is also common.

Shackleton (2002) found out that just less than one-third of respondents planted *S. birrea* in their yards, whereas approximately half the respondents nurtured new seedlings that they found growing in suitable positions in the home yard. When planting, most people used a seed that was harvested from trees in the wild or from neighbours' trees. Many also used either a truncheon harvested from a tree with desirable traits, or transplanted a seedling they had observed growing in the wild or elsewhere in the village (Table 1).

Table 1:Proportion of households propagating *S. birrea* trees

% nurturing self seeded recruits	51
% planting new trees	30.1
Of those planting, proportion using:	
seeds	44.1
truncheons	25.1
transplants	30.9

Source: Shackleton 2002

Economics of production

A project report by Shackleton (2002) on inventory of marula stocks and fruit yields in communal and protected areas of the Bushbuckridge Lowveld, Limpopo Province, South Africa, compared fruit yields within villages and in the protected areas. They found that the trees within

the villages had significantly more fruits (>17 000 per tree) than those in the protected areas (<3 500 per tree).

In terms of direct-use value to local communities, households within rural villages of the region (approximately 80,000 households) collect an average of 1.2 tonnes of fruit per season. Much of this goes to brewing a low alcohol beverage with a gross, annual, direct-use value to households of USD 60–100 (Shackleton and Shackleton, 2005).

Marketing

Emanuel (2005) indicates that participation in commercialization of marula products has increased rapidly from less than 10% of randomly sampled households in 1994 to over 40% of randomly sampled households in 2005. There has been a growing trade in *S. birrea* products, mainly by women, paralleling the growing commercialization of wild resources throughout southern Africa (Shackelton and Shackelton 2005).

Further reading

Emanuel, P.L. et al (2005) Modelling the sustainable harvest of Sclerocarya birrea subsp. caffra fruits in the South African lowveld. *Forest Ecology & Management*. Vol. 214, Iss. Pp. 91-103

Shackleton, S.E., Shackleton, C.M., (2005) The contribution of marula fruits and fruit products to rural livelihoods in the Bushbuckridge district, South Africa: balancing domestic needs and commercialisation. Forets Trees Livelihoods Vol. 15, pp. 3–24.

Shackleton, C.M., (2002) Growth and fruit production of Sclerocarya birrea in the South African lowveld. Agroforetsry Systems Vol.55, pp. 175–180.