

## 1. BALANITES AEGYPTIACA

### Farmers preferences

A study on by Leenders (2006) on farmers' perceptions of the role of scattered vegetation in wind erosion control on arable land in Bukina Faso indicates that farmers prefer *Faidherbia albida*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Hyphaene thebaica*, *Scleracarya birrea* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* on their fields.

### Extent of adoption

In the same study by Leenders (2006) indicates that *B. aegyptiaca* is one of the three most common tree and shrub species in the farmers' fields as mentioned by farmers (Table 1)

Table 1: The five most common woody species present in the fields of the 60 farmers interviewed

Species	Percentage
Balanites aegyptiaca	13.1
Acacia raddiana	14.0
Ziziphus mauritiana	10.3
Faidherbia albida	9.6
Scerocarya birrea	8.0
Others	45.0

Source: Leenders 2006

### Economics of production

The desert date palm (balanites) produces an estimated 100-150 kg of fruit per mature tree each year (Leenders 2006).

### Further reading

Leenders, J.K. (2006) Farmers' perceptions of the role of scattered vegetation in wind erosion control on arable land in Burkina Faso in Leenders, J.K. Wind Erosion Control with Scattered Vegetation in the Sahelian Zone of Burkina Faso. PhD Thesis Wageningen University and Research Centre