1. GLIRICIDIA SEPIUM

Farmers' preferences

An on farm survey carried out by Kiwia et al (2009) at the end of 2003 showed that farmers in western Kenya had a strong preference for gliricidia coppicing species because of the good maize yield following a gliricidia fallow. Out of the 40 farmers surveyed, over 80% had planted gliricidia trees in small plots and on their farm boundaries, all of who requested for more planting materials. Farmers also expressed great interest for gliricidia because of its good ground cover and weed control in a short period.

Gliricidia mixed intercropping with maize for improving soil fertility has been successfully tested in on-farm trials in Malawi (Akinnifesi et al., 2009). Farmers plant gliricidia in rows between maize and prune the trees during the maize growing season. Farmers realize significant maize yield increases beginning in the third year after planting.

Chintu et al (2004) carried out a study on propagation and management of gliricidia planted fallows in sub-humid Eastern Zambia. The study indicates that farmers prefer gliricidia coppicing to other species because high maize yields are attained when planted in farms where there is coppicing gliricidia.

Further reading

Akinnifesi, F.K., Sileshi, G., Franzel, S., Ajayi, O.C., Harawa, R., Makumba, W., Chakeredza S. Mngomba, S., De Wolf. J., and Chianu, J.N.. (2009). On-farm assessment of legume fallows and other soil fertility management options used by smallholder farmers in southern Malawi. Agricultural Journal 4 (6): 260-271.

Chintu, R. et al (2004). Propagation and Management of Gliricidia Sepium Planted Fallows in Sub-humid Eastern Zambia. *Exp. Agric*. Vol.40, pp. 341–352

Chintu, R. et al (2004) Subsoil Nitrogen dynamics as affected by planted coppicing tree legume fallows in eastern Zambia. *Exp. Agric.* Vol.40, pp. 327–340.

Kiwia, A. et al (2009). Coppicing improved fallows are profitable for maize production in striga infested soils of western Kenya. Agroforestry System 76 pp. 455-465