



Access to forest resources: Women's rights to *Parkia biglobosa* in three villages in Central-West Burkina Faso

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Background: the importance of Néré

- Activity mainly carried out by women (exploitation, household consumption, sale, etc.)
- Important source of proteins (seeds) and calories (pulpe) in the diet
- Nitrogen fixation
- Symbol of land ownership
- Traditional medicine

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Seeds of Néré	14902	15421	15954	16508	17083	17682

Table : Evolution of commercialization of seeds of néré from 1985 to 1990 in Burkina Faso (tonnes)

Sources: INSD (1993); Comptes économiques de la nation cité par Kaboré E. J.

Background and key questions

CHANGES

- Migration and population growth
- Agricultural technologies (cultures spéculatives, usage de charrues et herbicides, etc.)

RESULTS

- Increase of land demand
- Expansion of crop cultivation
- Fragmentation of tree cover, trees removed from crops/fields

IMPACTS

- Pressure on traditional system of land use
- Pressure on trees on crop areas/reduction of availability

- In such a context, how are access rights to trees structured? Are they evolving?
- With regards to a key food tree species, *néré* (*Parkia biglobosa*), how are access rights characterized from a gender perspective?

Sources: Ouedraogo, 1995; Maïga, 1997; Paré, 2001; Compaoré, 2002; Henry & al, 2004; Atlas BKF, 2010; Brottem, 2011

Objectives and methods

OBJECTIVES

1. Analysis of the dynamics and evolution of access to and control rights on Néré (migration, socio-economic changes, etc)
2. Identification and analysis of threats to Néré

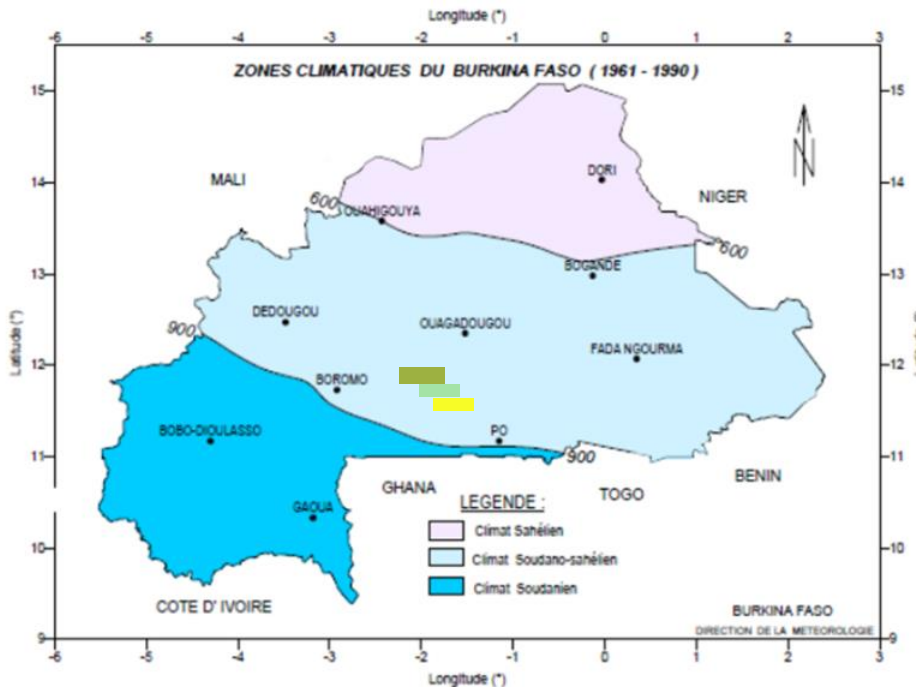
METHODS

- ✚ Survey with 180 women and direct observations of harvesting practices on the ground during the harvest period
- ✚ 400 trees selected, marked and monitored in three villages
- ✚ Specific questions on access rights were posed to individual women regarding individual trees, in order to obtain very detailed responses

Methods: Study Area

The main ethnic groups:

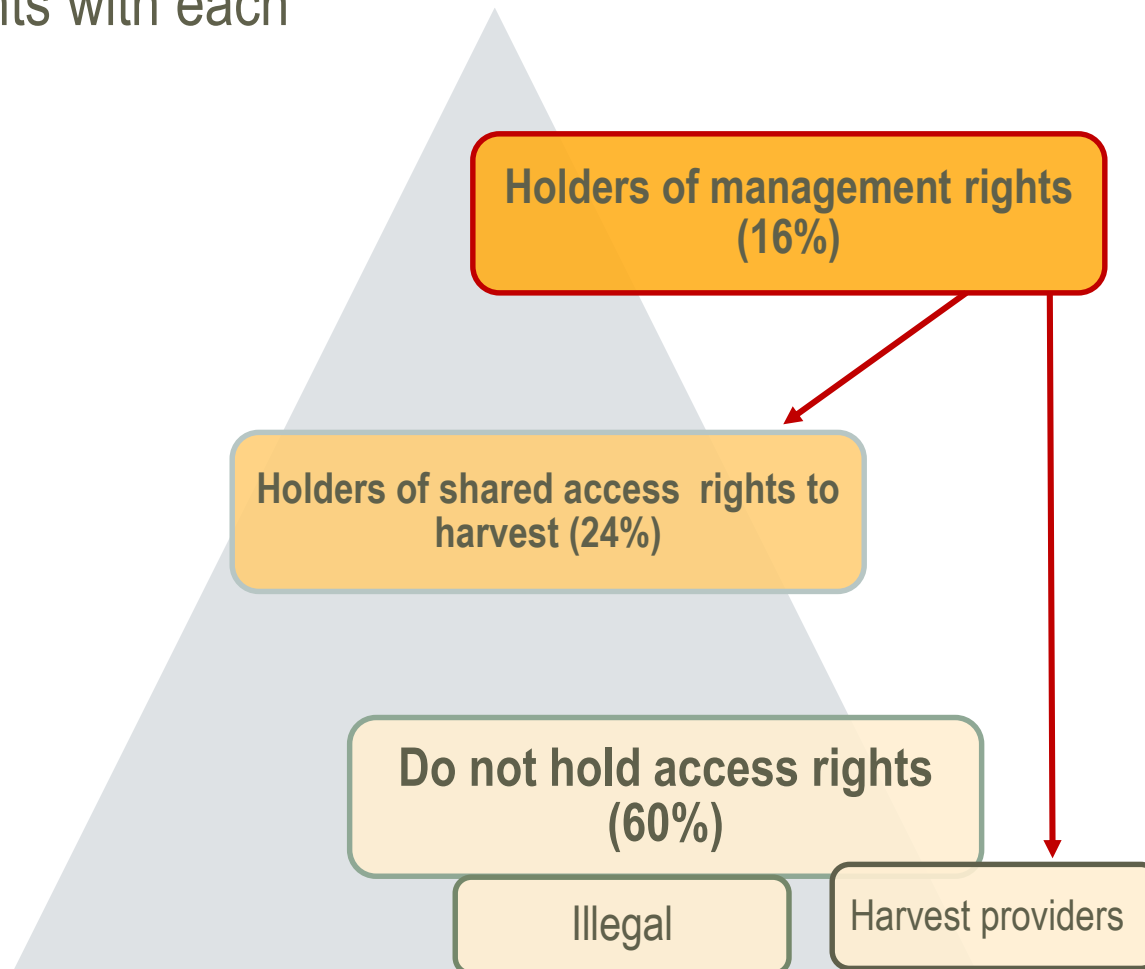
- Gurunsi/Nuni (indigenous, less than 50% of population)
- Mossi and Fulani (migrants, 50-90% of population)



Kassolo	W 002°06'59,3" N 11°31'36,0" Strong presence of former migrants who have obtained access to land (higher integration)
Pien	W 001°58'16,0" N 11°04'23,2" Strong presence of migrants; without access (low levels of integration)
Nebou	W 001°52'07,0 "N 11°19'00,6" Strong presence of migrants and new forms of access

Results: Types of access rights

Three types of access rights to nééré and proportion of respondents with each



Results: Access to néré tree harvesting sites on different kinds of lands

Type of space	Authority/ Decision	Women's access conditions	Level of security of access rights		% Migrants among women harvesters	% Indigenous women harvesters	Drivers of unsecured access to néré
			Space/Land	NERE			
HH'S FIELD	Head of household	Marriage	++	++	2	21	Following
HH'S FALLOWS			+	-	8	13	Cession to another (loan, lease, sale)
LINEAGE'S LANDS	Head of lineage	Marriage	+	+	6	57	Cession to another (loan, lease, sale)
BORROWED LANDS	Land owner; Borrower ; household head	Marriage	+	+	11	0	Following; Transfer of space to owner
LANDS OF OTHERS	Land owner	Illegal access; Secondary harvest; Provision of harvest service	-	- +	65	9	
Forest	None	-	-	-	8	0	

Insecurity of access conditions to néré trees

Holders of management rights

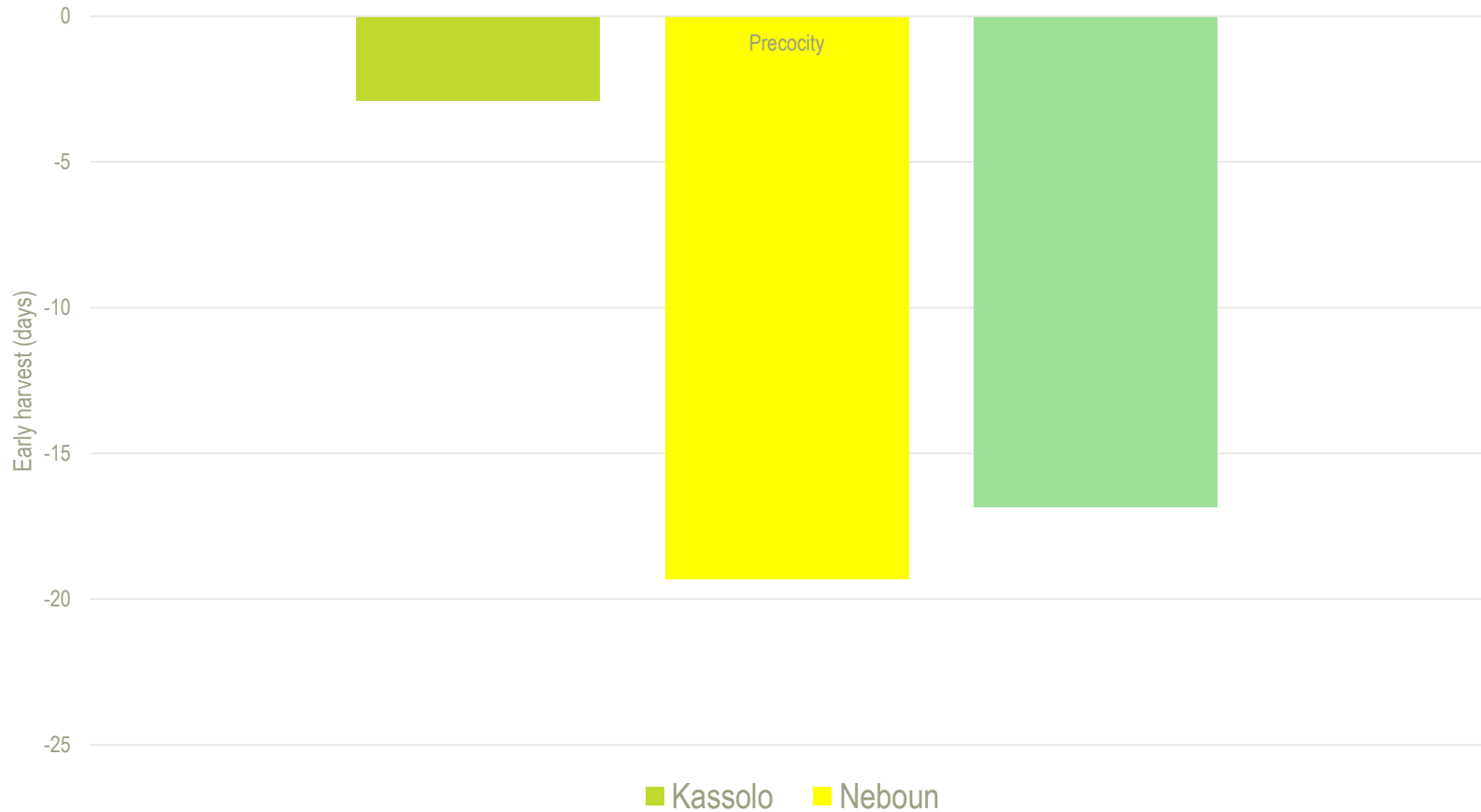
- *Rights to manage Néré trees are lost*
 - By widowhood
 - For divorced women
 - For single women
- *Rights to manage Néré trees are mixed*
 - By selling, lending or leasing néré harvesting sites
- *Rights to manage Néré trees are shared*
 - In polygamous households
 - Within a family lineage

Those who do not hold management rights

- Holders of shared access rights are
 - Dependent on holders of management rights in their household or lineage
 - Coping with the same risks as holders of management rights
- Those who do not hold rights of access for harvesting, or with uncertain and occasional rights
 - Clandestine access (illegal access to the tree and its land)
 - Irregular access (The principle of “owner first” harvesting *and harvesting provider*)

Results: changes in timing of harvest

Anticipation of the start of the harvesting period



Conclusions

- Women face unsecured access to *néré* which results in:

- ✚ Reduced harvests
- ✚ Falling women's incomes
- ✚ Increasing appeal of substitute products and species (Cube Maggi, Soy)

- → *Health implications*
- → *Loss of an aspect of their culture*

• RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Promote land policies that incorporate land security and secure access to priority food trees such as *néré**
- *Propose technological packages for conservation taking account of access rights to *néré* of vulnerable groups*



Thank you

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