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

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In partnership with:
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

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeds of Néré</td>
<td>14902</td>
<td>15421</td>
<td>15954</td>
<td>16508</td>
<td>17083</td>
<td>17682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kassolo</td>
<td>W 002°06’59,3&quot; N 11°31’36,0&quot;</td>
<td>Strong presence of former migrants who have obtained access to land (higher integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pien</td>
<td>W 001°58’16,0&quot; N 11°04’23,2&quot;</td>
<td>Strong presence of migrants; without access (low levels of integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebou</td>
<td>W 001°52’07,0 &quot;N 11°19’00,6&quot;</td>
<td>Strong presence of migrants and new forms of access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results: Types of access rights

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

- Holders of management rights (16%)
- Holders of shared access rights to harvest (24%)
- Do not hold access rights (60%)
  - Illegal
  - Harvest providers
## Results: Access to néré tree harvesting sites on different kinds of lands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of space</th>
<th>Authority/Decision</th>
<th>Women’s access conditions</th>
<th>Level of security of access rights</th>
<th>% Migrants among women harvesters</th>
<th>% Indigenous women harvesters</th>
<th>Drivers of unsecured access to néré</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Space/Land</td>
<td>NERE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH’S FIELD</td>
<td>Head of household</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH’S FALLOWS</td>
<td>Head of lineage</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINEAGE’S LANDS</td>
<td>Head of lineage</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORROWED LANDS</td>
<td>Land owner;</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Borrower;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>household head</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDS OF OTHERS</td>
<td>Land owner</td>
<td>Illegal access; Secondary harvest; Provision of harvest service</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early harvest (days)</th>
<th>Kassolo</th>
<th>Neboun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
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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