

1. RICINODENDRON HEUDELOTII

Farmers' preferences

Franzel et al (2008) carried out a priority setting exercise in the humid lowlands of Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana, and found that *R. heudelotii* is the fourth most preferred indigenous tree species in Cameroon. Sixty-seven percent of respondents mentioned the species. With an average preference scores of 4.1, it was the sixth most preferred tree species in Ghana. Forty-two percent of respondents mentioned the species, with an average preference scores of 1.9 (10 is highest score, 9 is second highest score, etc).

Economics of production

Ayuk et al (1999) reported on uses, management and economic potential of *R. heudelotii* in the humid lowlands of Cameroon. They carried out the survey in three divisions. The study indicates that Ricinodendron production is highest in Lekie (48 kg) per grower followed by Haut Nyong (33 kg) and Mvila divisions (17kg). The potential annual revenue, based on mid-season prices generated by the species is USD 23 per grower in Lekie, USD 17 in Haut Nyong and USD 6 in Mvila (Table 1).

Table 1: Mean annual production estimates (kg/grower) and yearly value of production (USD/grower) of *R. heudelotii* nuts in the humid lowlands of Cameroon.

Variable	Division		
	Lekie	Haut Nyong	Mvila
Production	48	33	17
Sales	20	21	5
Consumption	22	12	12
Others	6	0	1
Value of Production (USD)			
Using beginning of season prices	40.32	21.12	10.88
Using middle of season prices	22.56	17.16	5.44
Using end of season prices	35.04	29.04	5.31

Deflated farm gate price used are USD 0.844 per kg, USD 0.47 per kg and USD 0.73 per kg for beginning, middle and end of season in Lekie, USD 0.64 per kg, USD 0.52 per kg and USD 0.88 per kg for beginning, middle and end of season in Haut Nyong and USD 0.64 per kg, USD 0.32 per kg and USD 0.31 per kg for beginning, middle and end of season in Mvila.

Source: Ayuk et al 1999.

Marketing

Mapongmetsem and Tchiegang (1996) found that *R. heudelotii* subsp. *africanum* seeds are important in both local and regional markets, with 1 kg (averaging 250 nuts) selling for USD 1.30–1.50 (1996 prices).

Ricinodendron subsp. *africanum* seeds, and to a lesser extent the bark and roots, are widely traded within West and Central Africa, both within countries and across borders. It is estimated that exports from markets studied in Cameroon to neighboring countries in 1996 amounted to at least USD 980,000 (Pérez et al.1999). Ndoye 1995, reported that in Cameroon in the year 1995,

the price for ricinodendron was USD 2.70 per kg. The world traded volumes were 172 tonnes, valued at USD 460,200.

Further reading

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