1. VITEX DONIANA

Farmers’ preferences
Franzel et al (2008) reported on a farmer preference survey in the miombo woodlands of Southern Africa which found out that *V. doniana* was among the top 20 most important species in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. It was mentioned by 26%, 8%, 1% farmers respectively in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.

Further reading

2. SCELOCARYA BIRREA

Extent of adoption
A study by Emanuel et al (2005) on modeling the sustainable harvest of *Scelocarya birrea* (marula) indicates that, agroforestry, where marula trees are left in ploughed fields for fruit and shade, is practiced in Bushbuckridge, South Africa. The planting of trees from seed or truncheons in home plots for shade and fruit and the use of marula truncheons in fences, which then form live fences, is also common.

Shackleton (2002) found out that just less than one-third of respondents planted *S. birrea* in their yards, whereas approximately half the respondents nurtured new seedlings that they found growing in suitable positions in the home yard. When planting, most people used a seed that was harvested from trees in the wild or from neighbours' trees. Many also used either a truncheon harvested from a tree with desirable traits, or transplanted a seedling they had observed growing in the wild or elsewhere in the village (Table 1).

Table 1: Proportion of households propagating *S. birrea* trees

| % nurturing self seeded recruits | 51 |
| % planting new trees | 30.1 |

Of those planting, proportion using:

| seeds | 44.1 |
| truncheons | 25.1 |
| transplants | 30.9 |

Source: Shackleton 2002

Economics of production
A project report by Shackleton (2002) on inventory of marula stocks and fruit yields in communal and protected areas of the Bushbuckridge Lowveld, Limpopo Province, South Africa, compared fruit yields within villages and in the protected areas. They found that the trees within
the villages had significantly more fruits (>17 000 per tree) than those in the protected areas (< 3500 per tree).

In terms of direct-use value to local communities, households within rural villages of the region (approximately 80,000 households) collect an average of 1.2 tonnes of fruit per season. Much of this goes to brewing a low alcohol beverage with a gross, annual, direct-use value to households of USD 60–100 (Shackleton and Shackleton, 2005).

Marketing
Emanuel (2005) indicates that participation in commercialization of marula products has increased rapidly from less than 10% of randomly sampled households in 1994 to over 40% of randomly sampled households in 2005. There has been a growing trade in S. birrea products, mainly by women, paralleling the growing commercialization of wild resources throughout southern Africa (Shackelton and Shackleton, 2005).

Further reading
