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“Bridging the gap between increasing knowledge and decreasing resources”

***Acacia seyal* var. *seyal*: A Multipurpose Tree Species for Rural Development, Hunger and Poverty Alleviation in Sudan**

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Abstract

Acacia seyal var. *seyal* is considered as one of the most widely distributed tree species in Sudan; nevertheless rural populations are not benefiting much from its wood. *Acacia seyal*'s uses concentrate in charcoal, firewood and fuel wood due to the lack of information on its wood properties. Despite the richness of Sudan in most of basic factors required to establish forest based industries it still depend almost entirely on imports to satisfy its needs for pulp and paper, fiberboard, . . .etc . There is an urgent need to evaluate the available locally raw materials as potential sources for forest based industries. This would not only reduce imports, but it would also promote rural development, alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods of local communities.

The present study was carried out to investigate the wood properties of *Acacia seyal* var. *seyal* and assess its suitability for pulp, paper and flooring industries. Wood materials were collected from different zones in Sudan and anatomical, mechanical and physical properties investigated. The results indicated the suitability of the investigated tree species for pulp, paper and flooring industries. As *Acacia seyal* var. *seyal* is widely distributed it can easily be propagated on large areas in Sudan. This could enhance the establishment of wood industry in rural areas and enhance rural development.

Keywords: *Acacia seyal* var. *seyal*, forests based industries, rural development