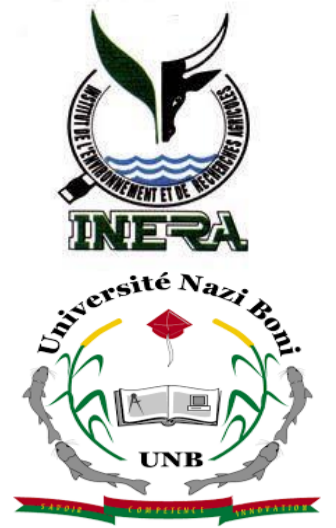




# Farmers' appreciation of fodder trees and their preference by sheep in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso

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## Introduction

Trees provide important functions to the rural population in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso. During the dry season, they constitute an essential resource for feeding ruminant livestock.

→ The objective of our study was to identify the fodder trees that are, according to farmers, the most palatable for small ruminants, and to confirm farmers' perception through a palatability test.

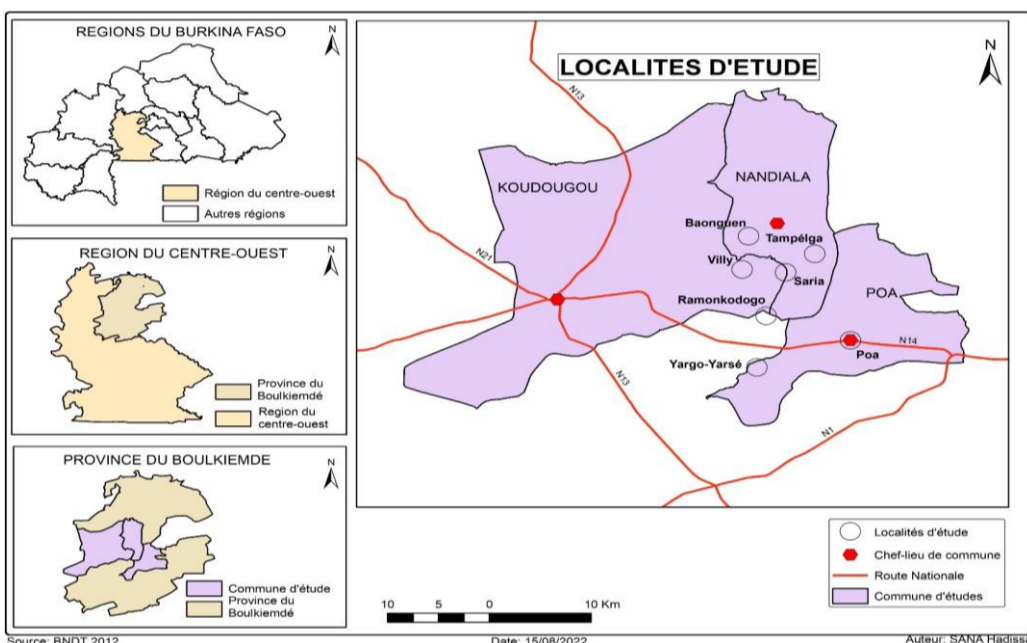


Fig. 1 Map of study area

## Methods

- 185 livestock-keeping households in the central-west region (Fig. 1) were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaires on the different uses of trees and shrubs
- 8 most cited trees were selected and separated into two group for an on-station feeding experiment (Tab.I)
- On-station feeding choice experiment by observing sheep's preferences for fresh and air-dried leaves (30 minutes)

Tab. I Leaves used in experiments

Group 1	Group 2
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i> (Fi)	<i>Ziziphus mauritania</i> (Zi)
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (Pt)	<i>Bombax costatum</i> (Bo)
<i>Lannea microcarpa</i> (La)	<i>Guiera senegalensis</i> (Gu)
<i>Khaya senegalensis</i> (Kh)	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Az)



## Reference:

map of study area conceived by Sanan, H. 2022

## Conclusion

- Farmers have a fairly good knowledge of the woody plants that are palatable to sheep.
- Ficus sycomorus*, *Ziziphus mauritania* and *Bombax costatum* should be promoted for small ruminant feeding.

## Results & Discussion

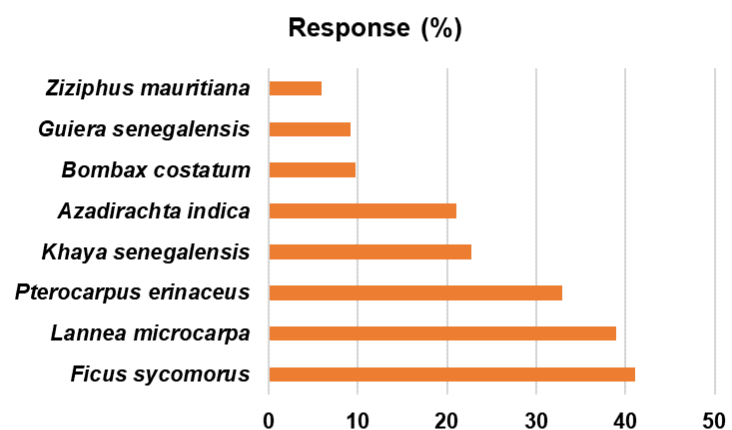


Fig. 2 Fodder trees most palatable according to farmers

- According to farmers, 15 trees and shrubs consumed by sheep
- Most palatable are *Ficus sycomorus*, *Lannea microcarpa*, and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Fig. 2)

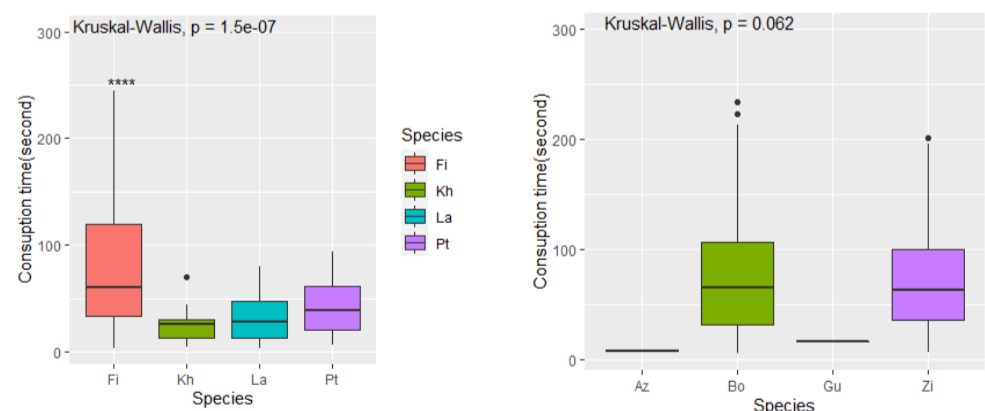


Fig. 3 Consumption time for dry leaves

- Consumption time was highest for *Ficus sycomorus* (Group 1), and for *Bombax costatum* and *Ziziphus mauritania* (Group 2) (Fig.3)
- Low preference for *Guiera senegalensis*, and *Azadirachta indica* regardless of the condition of leaves (Group 2) (Fig. 3) and low consumption for *Khaya senegalensis* and *Lannea macrocarpa* (Group 1) (Fig.3)



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