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## Introduction

In Mali, livestock production plays a major socio-economic role, but faces various constraints, including degradation and scarcity of rangelands.

Leaves and pods of many woody species provide quality food for ruminants, especially during the hot dry season.

This study used a participatory approach to determine the role of fodder trees and shrubs in sheep production systems.

## Material and Methods



Figure 1: Focus group discussion with agro-pastoralists

Ethno-botanical surveys were done with 130 agro-pastoralists using a structured questionnaire in ODK software.

Respondents were selected randomly in the urban community of Koulikoro and the rural municipalities of Méguétan and Doumba in Mali.

Data was complemented by a Focus group discussion (FGD) with 20 agro-pastoralists (Figure 1).

The survey data was processed and analysed with Excel and SPSS software.

## Conclusion

The surveys identified five woody species as the most commonly used for sheep feeding.

These species will be investigated for their palatability and digestibility for better exploitation in farmers' feeding strategies.

## Results

Most widely used tree species for feeding sheep are *Pterocarpus lucens* (Pt.L), *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Pt.E), *Ficus sycomorus* (Fi), *Entada africana* (En), *Khaya senegalensis* (Kh), *Ficus itheophylla* (F.it) and *Sclerocarya birrea* (S.bir) (Figure 2).

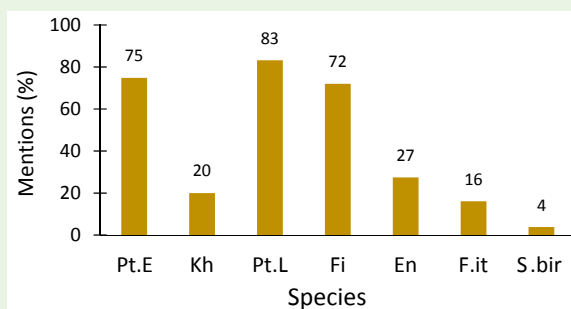


Figure 2: Woody fodder crops, used most commonly for sheep feeding

Tree fodder is mainly exploited from the beginning of the dry season to the beginning of the rainy season (Figure 3).

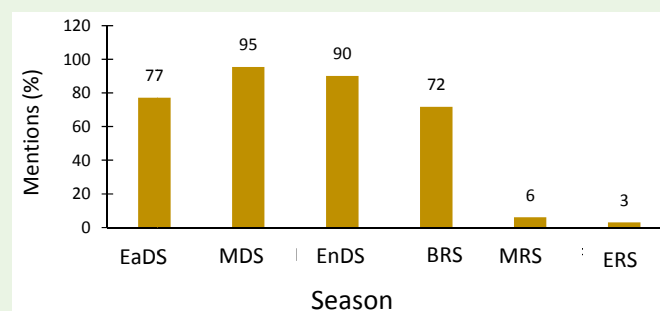


Figure 3: Farmers' use of tree leaves for sheep feeding in different seasons of the year.

EaDS: Early dry season

MDS: Mid dry season

EnDS: End dry season

BRS: Beginning of rainy season

MRS: Mid rainy season

ERS: End of rainy season

