

SILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS ISSUE

Trees planted are mostly exotic species valued for their nutrition and commercial value, while FMNR was used for subsistence products and environmental services.

ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Trees on farms play an important role in supporting the livelihoods in drylands by providing essential ecosystem goods and services like food, fuel, fodder, medicine, building materials, soil erosion and flood control as well as watershed and biodiversity protection. The role of trees in building resilience of rural livelihoods in drylands should not be underestimated, especially during crop failure due to droughts. In such instances, fodder trees are the main sources of browse for animals and charcoal production is the prevailing coping mechanism

HOW TO IMPLEMENT TREES ON FARM MANAGEMENT

Prepare areas where trees are to be planted. Dig holes 50 cm deep and a radius of 30 cm. Fill the bottom of the hole with decomposed compost mixed with top soil. Determine the type of trees you need depending on the ultimate goal-timber, charcoal, feeding animals. Buy seedlings from the Department of Forestry. Plant the seedlings in the centre of the holes dug. Seedlings should be planted closely at about 3 by 3 m. There should be a basin around each seedling to harvest water. Once the trees have become big and showing signs of competition, they should be thinned to 6 by 6 m.

Prune by removal of branches from the lower part of the tree crown through side pruning. While pruning a tree, branches are always cut near the stem.

The objectives of pruning in agroforestry are threefold:

- Reduction of shade for crops near the tree
- Improving the quality of the trunk, mainly for timber and poles
- Early harvest of branchwood for fuel or other use.