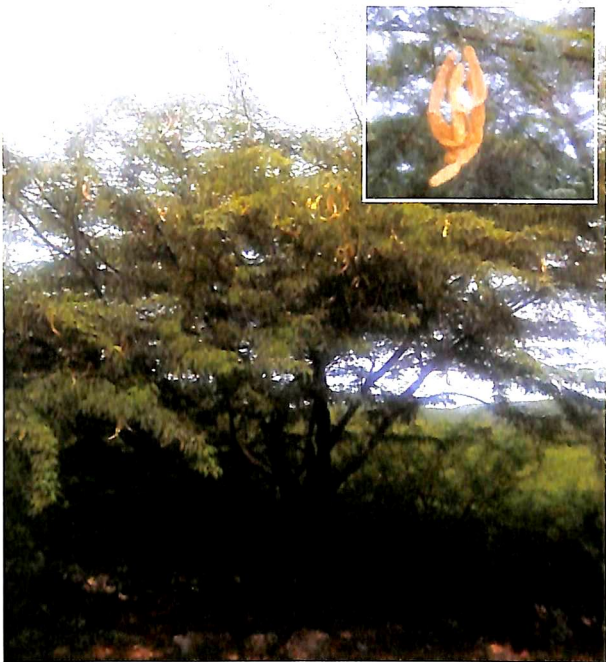




Production of Livestock Feed from *Prosopis juliflora* Pods



CADEP-SFM Good Practice No. 4
January 2021

Introduction

Prosopis juliflora, commonly known as ‘Mathenge’, was introduced in Kenya to rehabilitate degraded drylands. *Prosopis* occurs mainly in northern Kenya, parts of the Rift Valley, and coastal regions.

Prosopis was introduced in Baringo County to combat desertification. However, due to the species fast growth and prolific seeding, it soon became invasive and suppressed all other vegetation within its vicinity.

Though *Prosopis* can offer supplementary feed for livestock, the high sugar content in its pods has been reported to negatively affect livestock health.

To exploit the fodder potential of *Prosopis*, a technology for producing animal feed from *Prosopis* pods was introduced to groups in Baringo County. One such group is from Loboï, Kapliping, Sandai, Cheptanyinyi and Araban locations (LOKASACHA) of Marigat Sub-county.



Mature ripe and unripe green pods on
a *Prosopis* tree

Procedure for making animal feed from Prosopis pods: case of LOKASACHA group

LOKASACHA group uses locally available plant materials to make animal feed. The feed is formulated using; 30% Prosopis pods and 70% of other plant materials. The ratio of the other plant materials generally include; maize cob (10%), maize stovers (10%), millet stalks (10%), *Balanites aegyptica* fruits (10%), *Acacia tortilis* pods (10%), molasses (10%) and grass (10%).

The plant materials are either collected from the wild or cropland. Each material is sun dried and milled separately. Each milled material is weighed to desired ratio. The weighed materials are then all mixed to make the animal feed. The mixture can also be compressed into blocks using a compressing machine.



Demonstration on use of Prosopis pod for production of animal feed



Sun drying Prosopis pods



Dry Prosopis pods ready for milling



Milling dried materials for production of animal feed plant



Milled animal feed



Prosopis feed block

Impact

- Increased availability of animal feed all year round leading to reduced livestock mortality.
- Milling *Prosopis* pods destroys seeds, significantly reducing source of new invasion.



Healthy livestock

This publication was compiled using information collected from LOKASACHA group.

CADEP-SFM documented this information to enhance knowledge sharing in Africa. CADEP-SFM therefore acknowledges all institutions involved in development and promotion of this good practice.

For more Good Practices and Case Studies visit:
www.kefri.org/cadep

For more information contact the Director:

Kenya Forestry Research Institute
P. O. Box 20412 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 722 157 414/734 251 888
E-mail: director@kefri.org
Website: www.kefri.org
