

Preservation of shea resource through the transfer of shea plant regeneration techniques to the female producers

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In Burkina Faso, the exploitation of shea fruits is an **opportunity to reduce rural poverty** and offers a path for development in the country. But the shea stands are degraded. The potential is exploited without any concern for the safeguarding and renewal of the resource. **One solution is to regenerate shea trees in fields or in short fallows and to apply tree management techniques.**



Old shea parkland without regeneration



Shea fruits and nuts



Shea butter



planting



seedling protection



sowing

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Since 2013, **INERA is implementing projects aimed at sustainably** increasing women's access to shea nuts by providing them with technical means to conserve and restore shea parks.

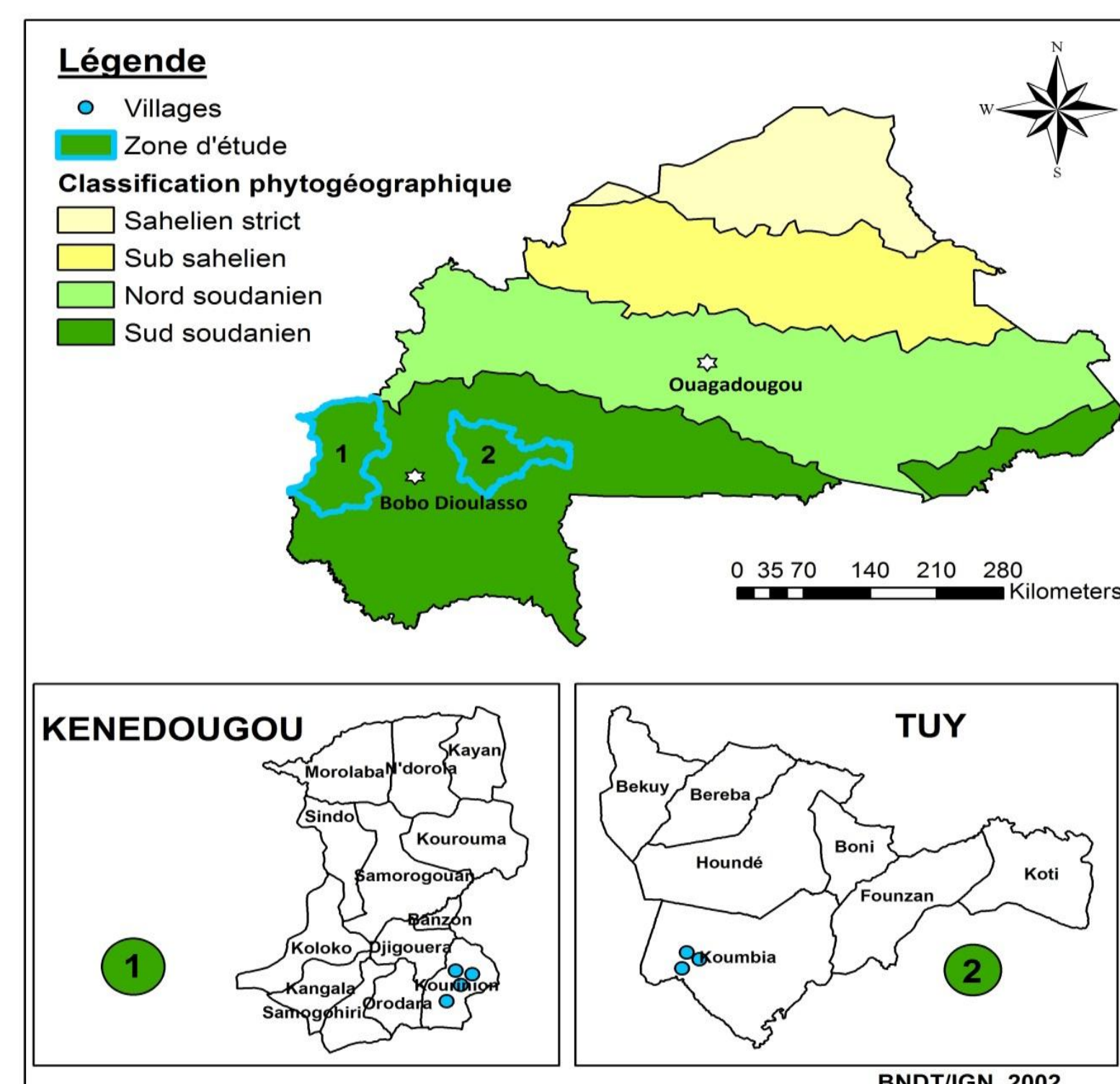
From 2015 to 2018, 1,460 women from 21 villages in southwestern Burkina Faso have been trained in 8 techniques of regeneration and shea management : seedling protection, sanitary cuts, sowing (2 techniques), planting, nursery, grafting (2 techniques). They then trained 1,184 women from their villages.



grafting



nursery



localisation of the 7 "control" villages

These 7 villages are the first villages where women have been trained in techniques of shea regeneration 2015 by the INERA team. In 2015 : 2 women ("femmes relais") of each villages were trained at seedling protection, sowing (2 techniques) and planting. In 2016 and 2017 they teach the technique to at least 20 women of each village.

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Before widespread dissemination, it is important to evaluate the environmental and social effects of this dissemination in control villages.

A survey conducted in 7 "control" villages focused on the expected contribution of regeneration techniques to stand density and the prospects for adoption and application of techniques by populations.

The general objective of this study was to identify, after 2 years of training, the effects of the diffusion of these techniques of regeneration of shea. More specifically, it was:

- know the impact of the application of techniques on the density of regeneration (field study);
- evaluate the prospects of adoption and application of techniques in the study areas (socio economic survey).

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Expected contribution of sowing and planting techniques to the density of regeneration

village	Djuié	Dougoumato 1	Dougoumato 2	Kongolekan	Guena	Kourinion	M'bié	Sidi
Plant formation	Young fallow	Field	Field	Shrub savanna	Shrub savanna	Shrub savanna	Wooded savanna	Wooded savanna
Natural regeneration	Low Under crown	Low Under or near crown	Low Off crown	Abundant Under or near crown	Low Off crown	Low Off crown	Abundant Off crown	Very abundant Off crown
Expected number seedlings/ha	+ 8	+ 39	+ 30	+ 24	+ 17	+6	+31	+11
Impact	+	++	++	++	+	+	-	-

Sowing and planting are positive in the fields, slightly less in shrub savannas, and negative in tree savannas where there are not many opportunities for enrichment (competition).

Protection against fire and livestock applied to the introduced or spontaneous regeneration **is the most efficient technique.**

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Prospects of adoption and application of techniques in the study areas

- **Regeneration appears to be the first option for women's sustainable access to the resource.**
- Difficulties with the application of certain techniques (drudgery)
- **Risks of conflict were noted** : women are rarely owners of their fields ; community parcels allocated to women's groups by chiefs are without ownership document.
- These women could be dispossessed of their plots in the future.

Conclusion : The future application of the techniques for a renewal of stands will depend on the common will and the interest that the populations bring to the restoration of the shea parks.

Thanks to :

Populations of Djuié, Dougoumato, Kongolekan, Guena, Kourinion, M'Bié, Sidi