

Prosopis juliflora

From Africa to Asia and Back Again



Prosopis juliflora

- Prosopis juliflora invades land and even worse encroaches on river beds and canal beds blocking them and causing drainage patterns to uncontrollably shift.
- Yet prosopis juliflora is a blessing as well. It is a source of biomass in some of the most marginal lands and provides fuel wood, charcoal and fodder.



Advantage of *Prosopis juliflora*

- Fuel and timber
- The sweet nutritious pods are eaten by all livestock and can be made into different foods and drinks.
- Honey is made from the flowers and the gum is similar to gum Arabic.
- The bark and roots are rich in tannin and the leaves can be used as mulch or to help in reducing pests and weeds.
- Also as a nitrogen fixing tree it improves the land and can reclaim saline soils.



Experience in Afar, Ethiopia

- Cooperatives set up by Farm Africa were able to clear *prosopis juliflora* from over 396 hectares of land, in one year, and availed pasture as well as cultivable land to local communities depending on the potential of the land
- This is done by promoting utilization of *prosopis juliflora*, such as charcoal production and pod crushing with the principle of providing incentive for local people to be engaged on the control initiatives.
- More support in terms of community mobilization, technology transfer, private sector participation and supply of resources is needed.



Experience in Pakistan

- Selling prosopis juliflora is proving profitable business for the Afghans. They cut the prosopis juliflora at large scale and sell its as fuelwood or as charcoal woods locally or as charcoal to hotels for 1000 Rs(15\$) per bag (50kg).
- Prosopis juliflora is also used in the brick kilns industry. Poor families make money by selling cutted wood of prosopis juliflora for 80 Rs(1.2 \$) per 40 kg to local brick makers.
- Also Prosopis juliflora attracts honey bees and honey farms can be seen around dense plantations. Further farmers use the branches for fencing fields against encroachment by livestock and wild animals.



The New Halfa scheme, Sudan

- More than two-third of a total irrigated area of 138,600 hectares was affected with prosopis juliflora. A company was hired by the government to control the invasion of prosopis juliflora used heavy machines to clear 98% of the area.
- After the program, the land was titled to registered farmers under the condition that they were not allowed to take animals onto the agricultural fields even after the growing seasons. Regulations and by-laws enforced that the area was not re-invaded by prosopis juliflora.

