Assessment of Fuelwood Trade in Ekiti State, Nigeria: Issues on Fuelwood Sustainability

[1]Arowosoge, O.G.E and [2]Oyerinde, O.V.

[1]Department of Forestry, Wildlife and fisheries, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

[2]Department of Forestry and Wood Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.
yemisoge@yahoo.co.uk

Arowosoge, O.G.E and Oyerinde, O.V. Assessment of Fuelwood Trade in Ekiti State, Nigeria: Issues on Fuelwood Sustainability. ***Nigerian Journal of Forestry 42(1)18-25. 2012***

ABSTRACT

Fuelwood has been the main source of generating heat energy for the poor living in rural and urban areas of Nigeria. In view of this, there is continuing increase in its demand which has led to the expansion of its trade in urban cities of the country. This study, therefore aimed at identifying and prioritizing wood species that are suitable for generating heat energy while determining the willingness of fuelwood traders to establish fuelwood plantations. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview schedule with 80 fuelwood traders sampled through Snowball sampling technique. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (percentage) and student t-test. For preference rating, the results revealed that *Acacia* species, with the rate of 93.0%, *Cassia siamea* with 87.5% and *Tectona grandis* with 80.5% were the top three rated species out of the 13 wood species listed by the respondents as preffered species for fuelwood. The sources of the fuelwood were unreserved forests (93.8%); forest plantations (81.3%); wood industry (43.8%); forest reserves (36.3%) and cleared fell land (15.0**%).** Respondents awareness of the fact that gathering of fuelwood could result in deforestation and that the establishment of fuelwood plantations will enhance sustainability of fuelwood production were significant ($p<0.05$.) The willingness of the respondents in establishing fuelwood plantation was also significant ($p<0.05$). It is therefore necessary to put in place strategies that can ensure the supply of fuelwood through plantation and community woodlots establishment using participatory management approach that will involve all the stakeholders.

Key words: Fuelwood trade, fuelwood preference, sustainability