

**PERCEPTION AND WILLINGNESS TO PLANT *Moringa oleifera* (Linn)
(HORSERADISH TREE) BY URBAN FOREST NURSERY OWNERS IN
ABEOKUTA METROPOLIS,
OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

BY

ANEYO, Oladipupo Emmanuel

MATRIC NO: 2007/0769

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

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DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (B. FORESTRY AND
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**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN
STATE, NIGERIA**

SUPERVISOR: DR. M.F. ADEKUNLE

JULY, 2012.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by Aneyo, Oladipupo Emmanuel with Matric No: 2007/0769 in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta under my supervision.

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Supervisor

Assoc. Prof. M.F. Adekunle
OND Forestry (Jos), HND Forestry (Ibadan),
B. Forestry, M.F. Ph. D. (Abeokuta),
Associate Professor (Forestry and Wildlife Management)

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Date

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Head of Department

Dr. A.C. Adetogun
B.Sc., M.Sc, Ph.D. (Ibadan)

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Date

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to Almighty God for granting me the opportunity of this training and for seeing me through.

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I give glory to God Almighty for His guidance and mercies upon me during the course of my studies in Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

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ABSTRACT

The perception and willingness to plant *Moringa oleifera* by urban forest nursery owners in Abeokuta metropolis, was investigated with the view to provide information on their disposition towards the raising of *Moringa oleifera* alongside some of their ornamental and forest tree species in the nurseries. Data were collected through the use of structured and pretested questionnaire administered interpersonally to the urban forest nursery owners in Abeokuta metropolis. The questionnaire were 10 in number based on the total number of urban forest nurseries enumerated in the town, during a preliminary reconnaissance survey of urban nurseries. They were divided into two parts. Part 'A' was made to address the socio-economic characteristics of the nurseries, while Part 'B' bothered on the perception and willingness of the respondents to raise *Moringa oleifera*. Some key informants with botanical knowledge of forest and ornamental plant species were consulted to probe into some issues that were not addressed during the questionnaire interview. The data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Some of the descriptive statistical tools include frequency, mean, median, and mode, Pearson correlation and chi-square, inferential statistical tools were also employed to find out the level of perception about *Moringa oleifera* and some of their selected socio-economic variables. The result showed that 50% of the urban forest nursery owners in Abeokuta metropolis were aged between 31 and 40 years. Married respondents were 70% with about (90%) males involved in urban forest nursery establishment while the highest education attained was tertiary education (50%). Sixty percent (60%) of the respondents had a family size of about 5-7, in which the Yoruba ethnic group were in the majority. Bulk of the urban forest nurseries had a size of about 7,200m² (i.e. 60m x 120m) while 70% of the nurseries were both established as ornamental and forest tree nurseries. The type of planting stocks that were mostly raised in the nurseries survey were stumps (27.6%). Majority of the nurseries were providing employment to the unskilled people in the art of raising plants. Twenty percent (20%) of the nurseries were between 15 and 17 years of age. Furthermore, 60% of the respondents were part-time operators in urban nurseries, while the remaining were full-time operators. The income estimated from most nurseries were between the ranges of ₦ 200,000 - ₦ 550,000 for 33% of the respondents. Another 33% of the

respondents earned ₦200,000 to ₦1,000,000. Ninety percent (90%) of the respondents were very much aware about *Moringa oleifera*, with about 60% having knowledge of their cultural importances and local name. However, 60% of the respondents had less than five years (<5) of awareness. The result also revealed that *Moringa oleifera* were raised for different purposes. These includes sales, commercial purposes and personal uses. Eighty six percent (86%) of the respondents had the knowledge of *Moringa oleifera*. The planting stocks mostly raised in the sampled nurseries were seedlings and stumps representing 67% of the total respondents. The major sources of seed stocks, were personally raised by most respondents (50%). The bulk of respondents surveyed i.e. (85.71%) said they had the knowledge of utilizing *Moringa oleifera* especially the leaves (30%) in form of either dried leaves or eaten as vegetables which contain a higher content of vitamins and minerals. Twenty percent (20%) of the respondents were faced with the problems and constraints. These include damping-off, intensive sunlight and a poor/sharp sand. The analysis of the 5-point likert scale revealed that 10% of the respondents perceived *Moringa oleifera* unfavorably, 10% also perceived favorably while 80% were indifferent. The Pearson Correlation revealed a significant relationship between respondent's perceptual level and their gender class ($R = -0.749^{**}$) at 0.05 probability level. This implied that the male respondents were much involved in urban forest nursery activities, as well as their perception about *Moringa oleifera*. While the Chi-Square analysis revealed that two of the selected variable that is gender class and family size were significantly associated with the respondents' level of perception about *Moringa oleifera*. In conclusion, with enlightenment campaign and promotion, the planting of *Moringa oleifera* could be made popular and its availability should be ensured through the increase in the number of urban nurseries in the study area.