

Overseas department / Henry Doubleday Research Association.

Contributors

Henry Doubleday Research Association. Overseas department.

Publication/Creation

Ryton-on-Dunsmore : Henry Doubleday Research Association, 1991.

Persistent URL

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Field Trials

Species which show promise in early trials are distributed as widely as possible for field testing. Seeds have been sent to research and development groups in many countries including Swaziland, Zaire, India, Australia, Oman, and Spain.



Acacia tortilis

Distribution

In collaboration with Comic Relief and the Overseas Development Administration, the HDRA is providing aid agencies, non Governmental organisations and local extension officers with assistance in the selection of appropriate species of multipurpose trees and shrubs. Seeds and information have been distributed to numerous groups across 37 African countries. Seeds and information supplied to projects in India, South Eastern Asia, Southern Europe and the Middle East are funded initially by private donations.

The Henry Doubleday Research Association is a registered charity, carrying out scientific research into improved methods of organic growing, for amateur gardeners and commercial growers in the UK and sustainable agriculture and forestry in overseas countries.



Although the Association is entirely self funded it depends heavily on charitable donations to further its work.

If you would like to know more about the Overseas Department, please write to the Department Head, Dr Phil Harris at the address below.

Donations and requests for further information about all aspects of the HDRA's work should be sent to the Executive Director, Jackie Gear at:-

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Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales, KG., KT., GCB.

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*Overseas
Department*



**The Henry Doubleday
Research Association**

*Sustainable organic horticulture,
agriculture & forestry*

The World in crisis

The scale and severity of the problems of deforestation and desertification, affecting the drier parts of the world, have become only too obvious over the past decades.

So too have the consequences, both in terms of the human suffering inflicted by regular cycles of drought and flood, and in the real threat to the environmental stability of our planet.

Overseas Programme

The Henry Doubleday Research Association Overseas Programme brings together scientist and aid agencies from developed countries, with scientists, foresters and local groups from developing countries. Together, these groups are working towards long term solutions to desertification and soil loss through the development of sustainable agriculture and forestry systems in arid and semi-arid areas.

The programme aims to:

- ❖ collect underexploited plant species from arid and semi-arid areas
- ❖ investigate their characteristics, uses and propagation
- ❖ assess the performance of these species in the field in arid areas
- ❖ distribute selected material through a world-wide network of local groups.



African Judas Tree

survive in extreme desert conditions, for example in the Wahiba Sands of Oman. It provides firewood, fodder, timber, shelter, edible fruits, medicine, bee forage, tannins and edible gums, erosion control and soil fertility.

Collection

The HDRA receives potentially useful plants from collaborators in arid areas around the world. Material has been collected in the deserts of the Middle East, in Africa, Australia, the Indian sub-continent and in both North and South America.

An example of this work has been a detailed study of, and collection of seeds from the leguminous tree *Prosopis cineraria*. This tree has remarkable drought tolerance and can

Scientific investigation

Work is in progress to unravel the complicated physiology, biochemistry, anatomy and genetics which underlie drought and salt tolerance. A better understanding of these mechanisms will allow us to select, improve and exploit the wealth of diversity that occurs in the plant kingdom.

