Harvesting Ximenia

1. Producer groups/conservancy committees confirm with buyers the marketing arrangements for the season:
   - how many kg of nuts/kernels to produce
   - where they will buy (and delivery transport arrangements)
   - when they will buy
   - what species and varieties
   - what quality
   - prices
   - clean nuts or kernels?
   - any other requirements

As early as possible before the harvesting season

2. Inform and train the harvesters on marketing requirements. Register the harvesters

October to March

3. Harvest fruit
   - only pick mature fruit
   - keep different species separate

4. Clean the nuts
   - remove flesh, sand and insects
   - throw away:
     - immature fruits
     - damaged nuts
     - nuts with insect holes

Ximenia: ambyu, omheke, sipeke, omuninga, mungomba, mpeke, kakkuru, omumbeki

Ximenia oil is extracted from the kernels and used as an ingredient in cosmetics

5. Dry the nuts
   - on a clean surface (like cloth, not sand or metal)
   - out of the rain
   - away from animals
   - in thin layers, not in a pile (to prevent mould)

6. Store the nuts
   - only when dry
   - in clean woven bags or open containers
   - indoors (to avoid humidity and contamination)

7. Producer groups/conservancy committees confirm buying date and inform harvesters to start cracking nuts

8. Crack the nuts
   - wash hands first
   - away from sand
   - away from animals
   - use a clean surface
   - use a clean tool
   - throw away broken kernels and kernels with worms

9. Store the kernels
   - in clean bags
   - in a clean, dry, shaded place away from animals
   - label each bag with the harvester’s code

One month before intake

10. Intake
    - bring nuts/kernels and harvester’s card to collecting point
    - check quality and reject sub-quality material
    - weigh nuts/kernels, record kg and harvester’s code in register book
    - repack into clean bags, label bags as per register book, close bags

One month before intake

11. Payment
    Producer groups/conservancy committees organise payments to harvesters as per records in the register book

July to September

- label each
- in a clean,
- in clean bags
- code
- harvester’s
- bag with the
- from animals
- away from sand
- away from animals
- wash hands first
- throw away broken kernels and kernels with worms

Future intakes may include uncracked nuts

Photos: Peggy Poncelet; Andy Botelle for PhytoTrade Africa

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