



## Highly effective fog-water collection with *Pinus canariensis*

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Fog-collecting nets require constant manpower in terms of maintenance. Also, those nets are made of artificial material, and they do not really fit into the natural environment. They are, by far, not as effective as plants that are specialised for catching humidity from the air.

The probably most effective plant to serve this purpose is *Pinus canariensis*, a tree native to the Canary Islands. It is well-known for its capability of collecting air moisture, and has already been used for many centuries for this purpose. This tree would allow a much more effective and environmentally friendly way of supplying arid regions with drinking water than this could be done with fog-catching nets. Moreover, it would also help to establish or re-establish vegetation in a natural way. Agriculture would profit from it, too, because vegetables could be produced, watered with the help of *P. canariensis*.

In those places, where the net-projects are currently running, it is the right time now to plant *P. canariensis* seedlings underneath the nets, which they will soon replace. The surface of the trees is much larger than the surface of the nets, thus enabling much more water to condensate. Within a few years, a population of *P. canariensis* will be established that collects many times more water than the nets. With regard to ecological aspects, the introduction of *P. canariensis* into the environments concerned do not cause a problem, since in those desert areas, there are no native trees that could be superseded, and the *P. canariensis* trees are easy to control. They are a natural alternative to the unnatural plastic nets, and can even help to enhance any local flora.