

Farmer Perception Survey on Traditional Food Crops Across Asia-Pacific





কেন্দ্রীয় কৃষক মৈত্রী
KKM
কৃষকের অধিকার আদায়ের মার্চা



AFA partners

Countries	Name of organization
Southeast Asia	
1. Indonesia	Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API)
2. Philippines	Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA), Inc
3. Vietnam	Vietnam Farmers' Union (VNFU)
South Asia	
4. Bangladesh	Kendrio Krishok Moitree and ActionAid
5. India	Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA)
6. Nepal	Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF) Ltd. and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF)
7. Sri Lanka	Monlar/ Lankan Farmers Forum
8. Pakistan	Crofter Foundation
9. Bhutan	Tarayana Foundation
East Asia	
10. Taiwan	TWADA
Central Asia	
12. Tajikistan	NADF
13. Mongolia	National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC)
14. Kyrgyzstan	National Union of Waters Users' Association of Kyrgyz Republic (NUWUA)
The Pacific	
15. Fiji and 16. Samoa	Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network

India Constituencies – Custodian Farmers, Participating Organisations

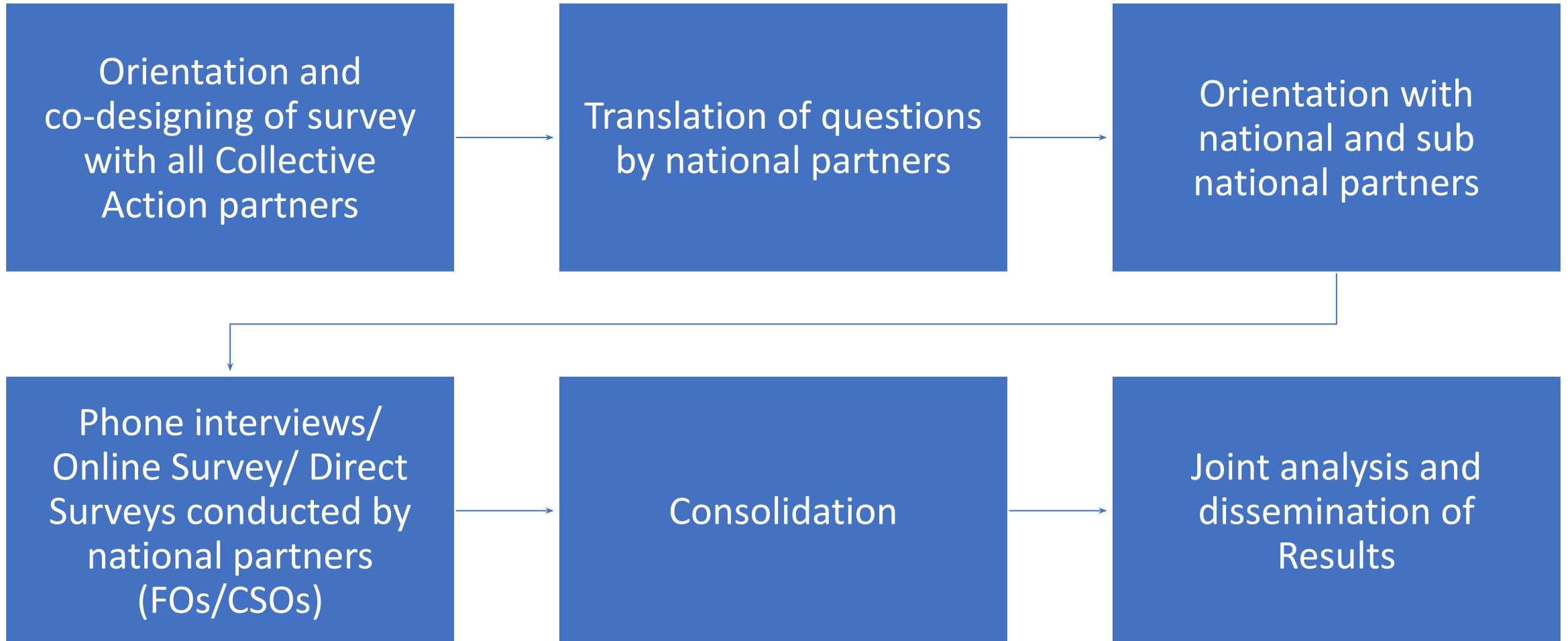
Partners	Province
MSSRF	Kerala, Odisha and Tamil Nadu
Sahaja Samrudha	Karnataka
NESFAS	Meghalaya
Martin Luther Christian University	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura
CIKS	Tamil Nadu
HESCO	Uttrakhant
BIRDS	Andra Pradesh
Seva Mandir	Rajasthan
TNAU	Tamil Nadu
Wassan	Odisha
ICAR- KVK	Telengana, Jammu and Kashmir
Sanlak Agro Industries	Tamil Nadu



Purpose of the undertaking

- The survey was undertaken to recognize
 - *Farmers' awareness of forgotten food*
 - *Farmers' innovations around traditional, indigenous food crops*
 - *Support needed to continue innovating and cultivating these crops*
- Initiate discussion on Forgotten Food among FOs, CSO partners and other stakeholders of its value and contribution in food systems transformation and healthy diets.
- The survey result will guide the development of the Regional Manifesto and a plan of action.

Process



Duration: March – June 2021

Scope: 19 countries

Google form

Eighteen questions

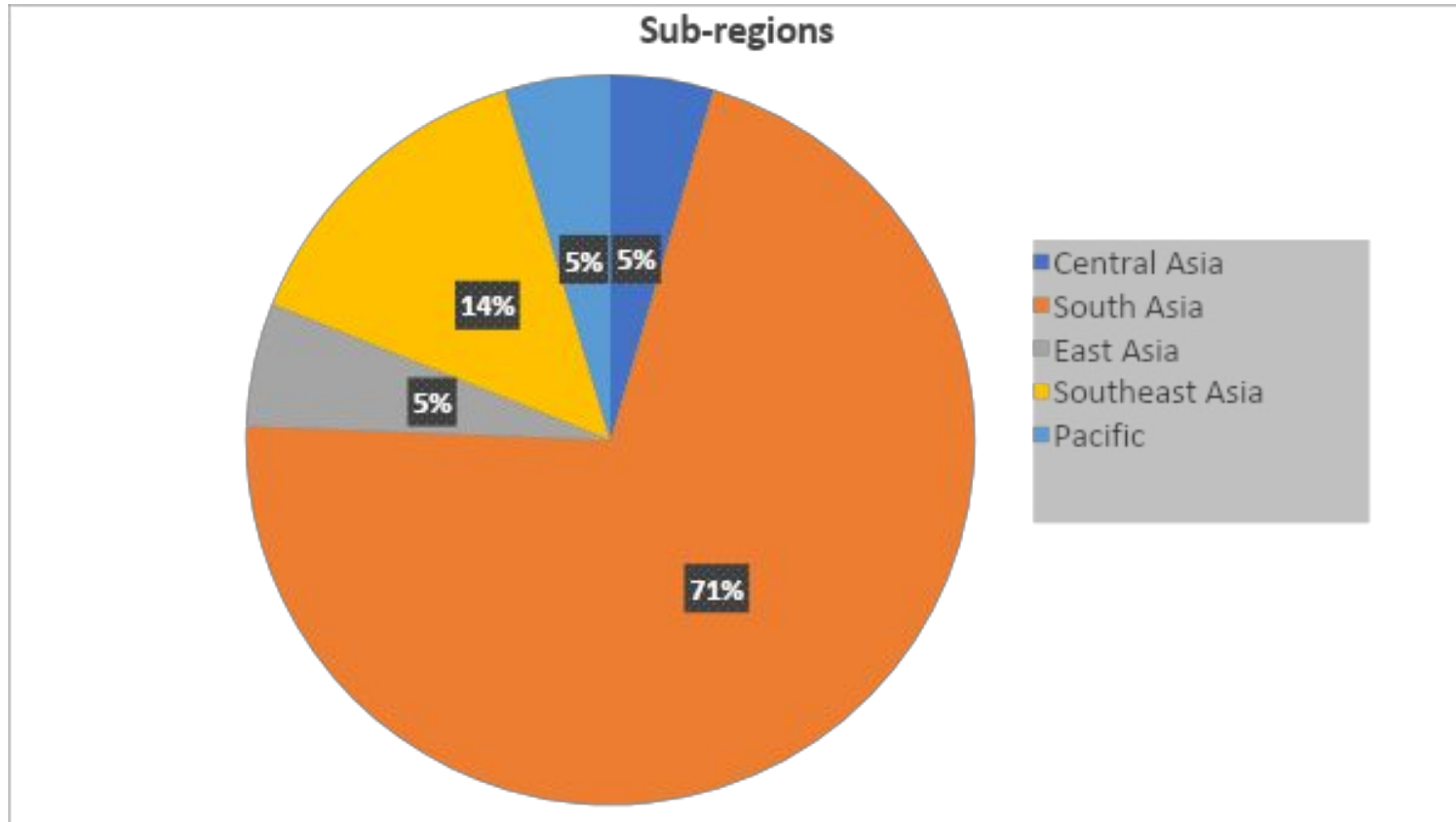
- General information (9)
- Awareness (4)
- Innovation (2)
- Support (3)

Result of discussions and survey was also translated into **Farmers' Declaration**

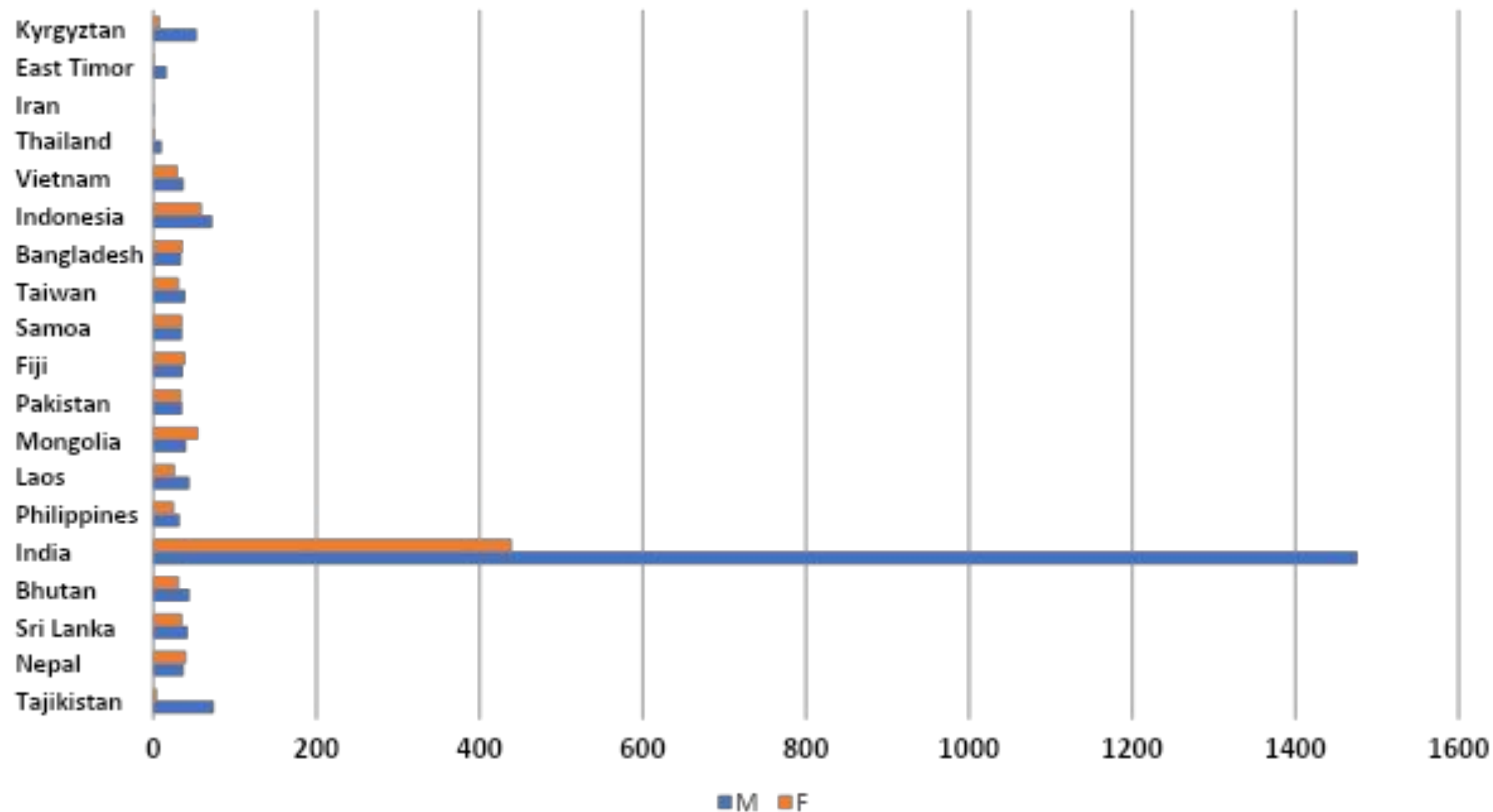


A. General Information

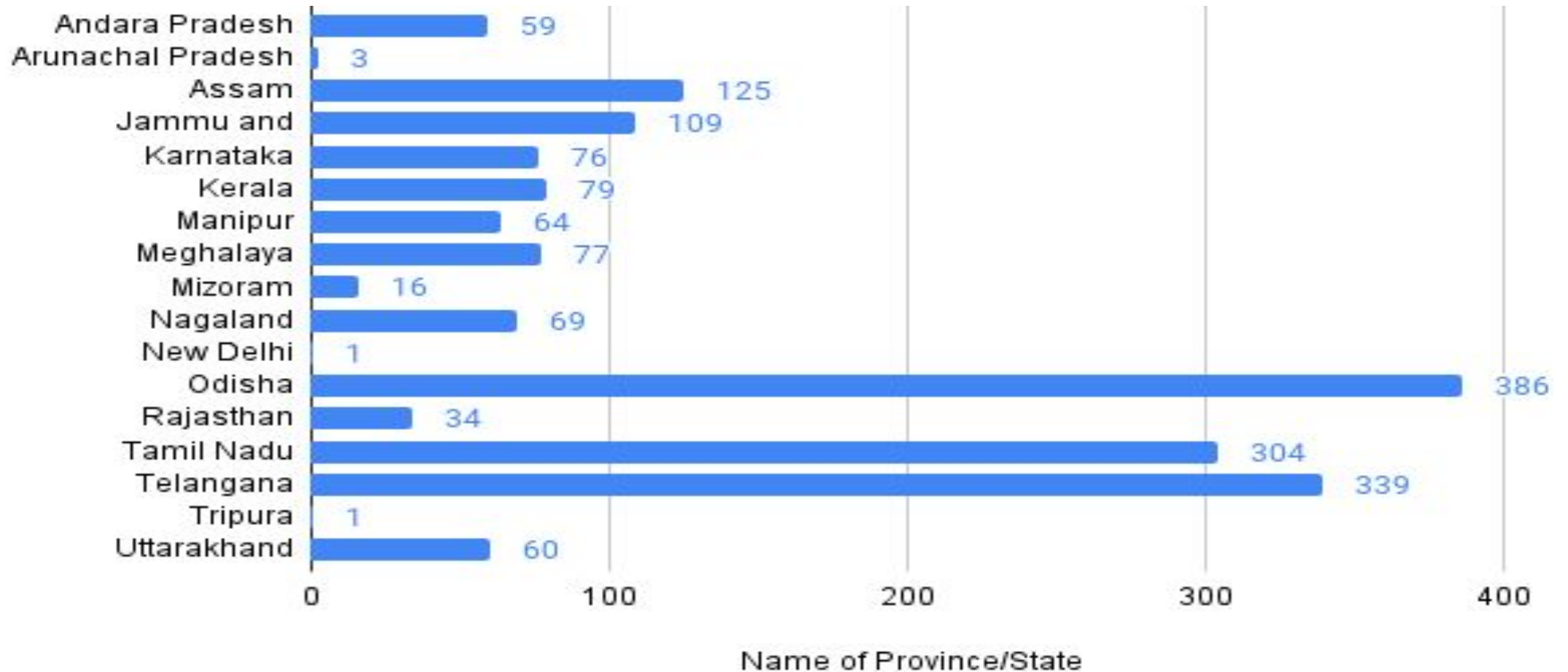
3087 farmers



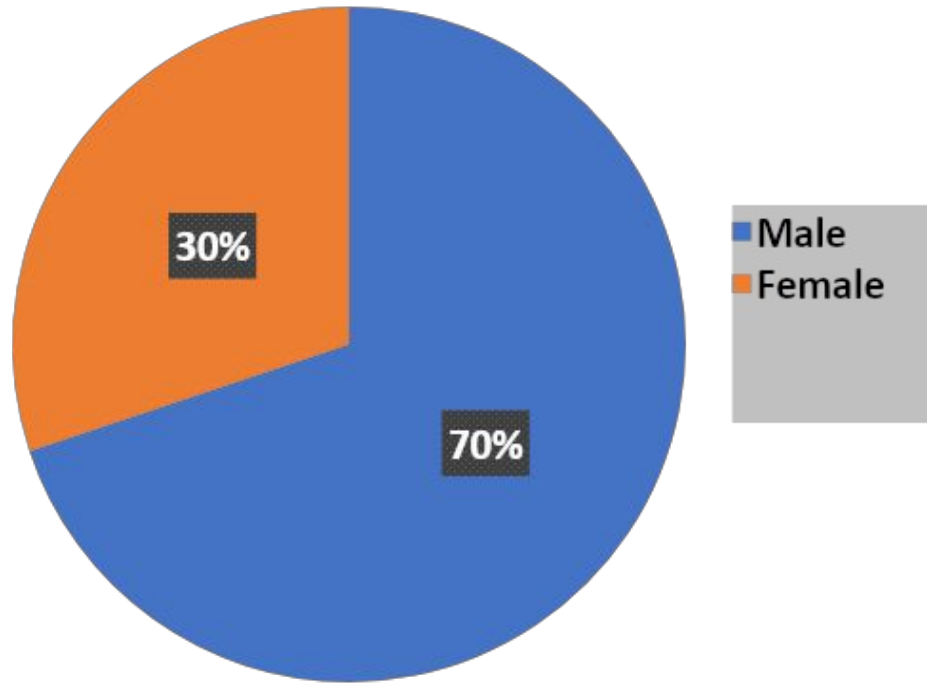
Nineteen countries



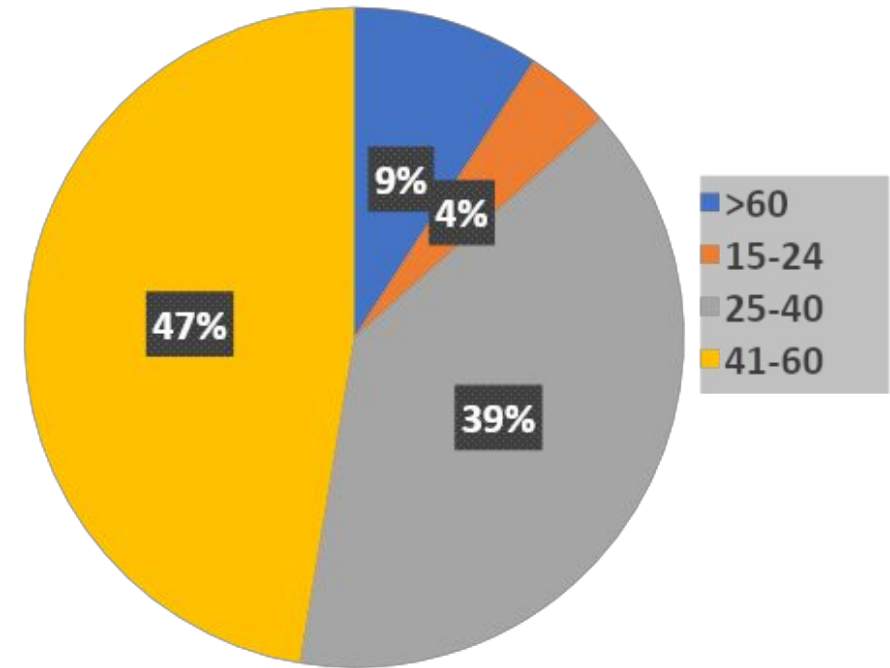
State wise response (MSSRF)



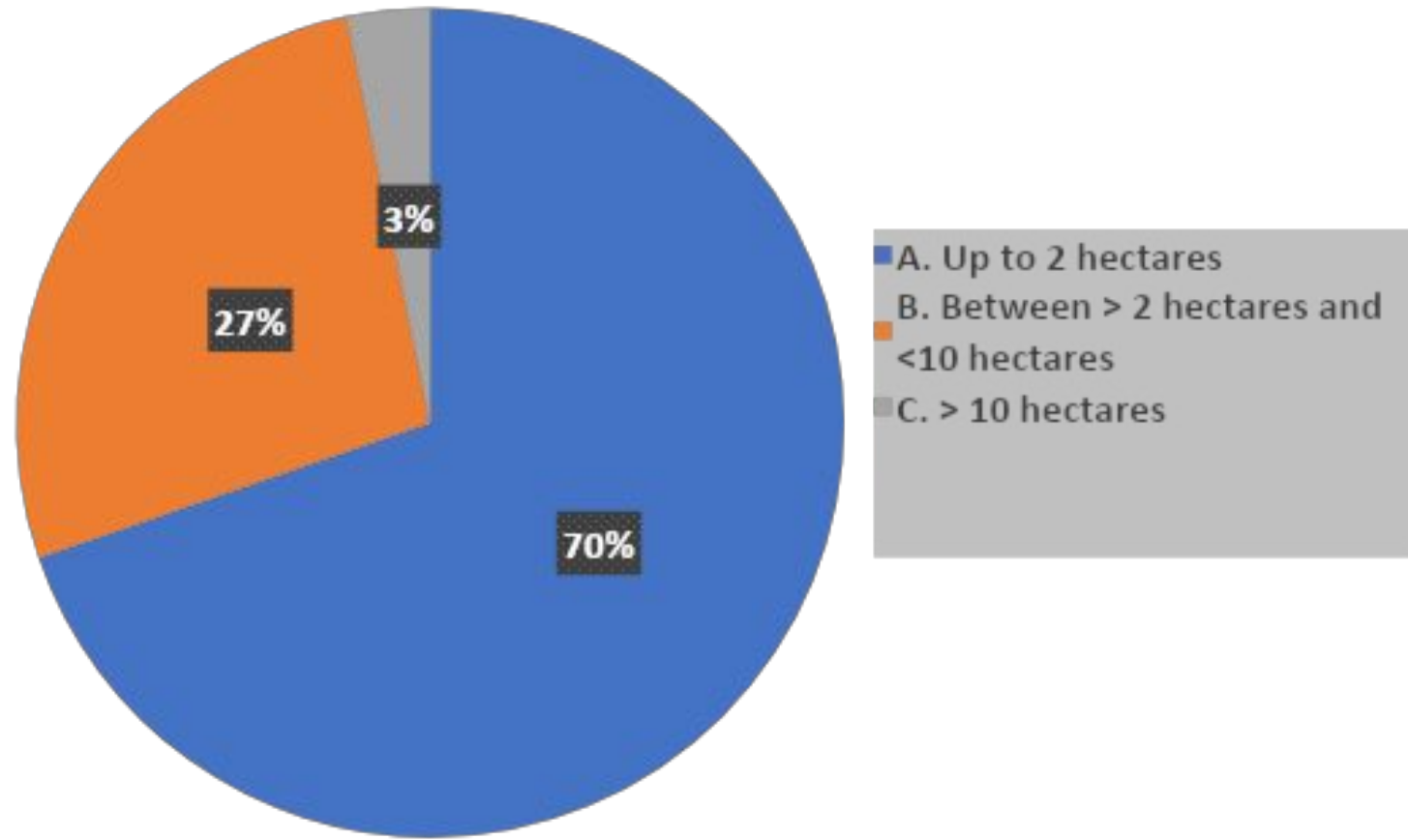
Gender



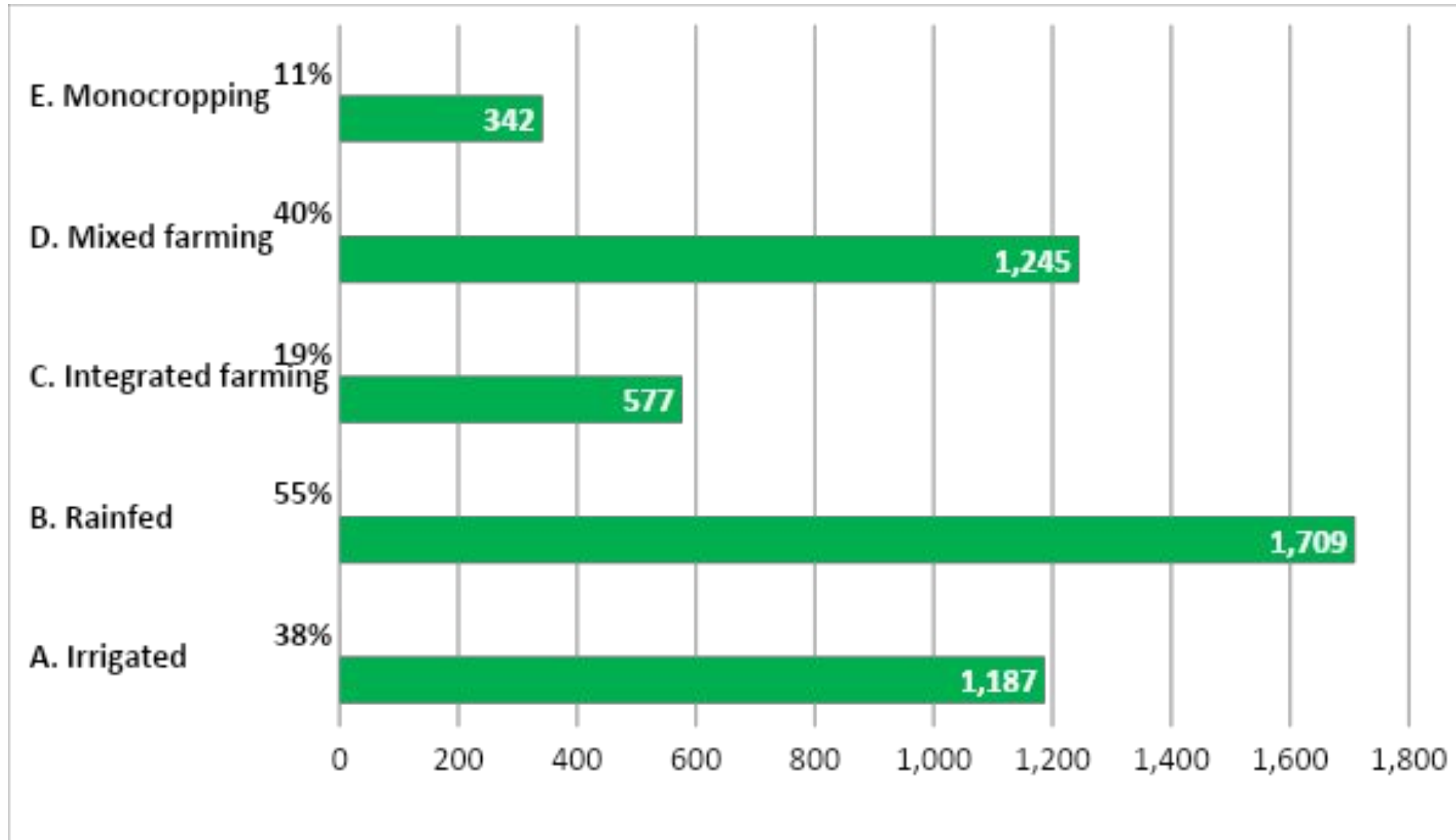
Age group in years



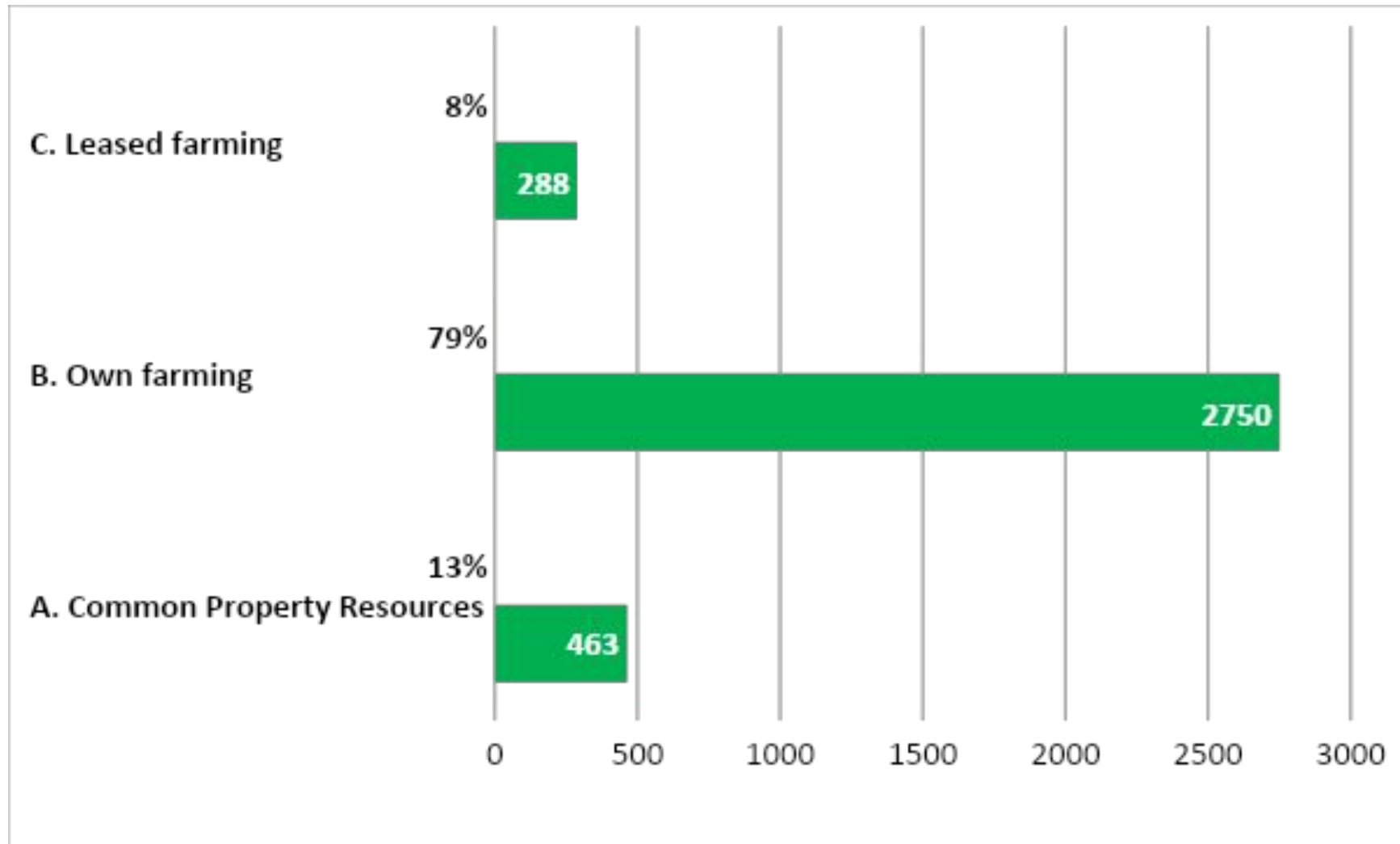
Size of farm



Farming practices



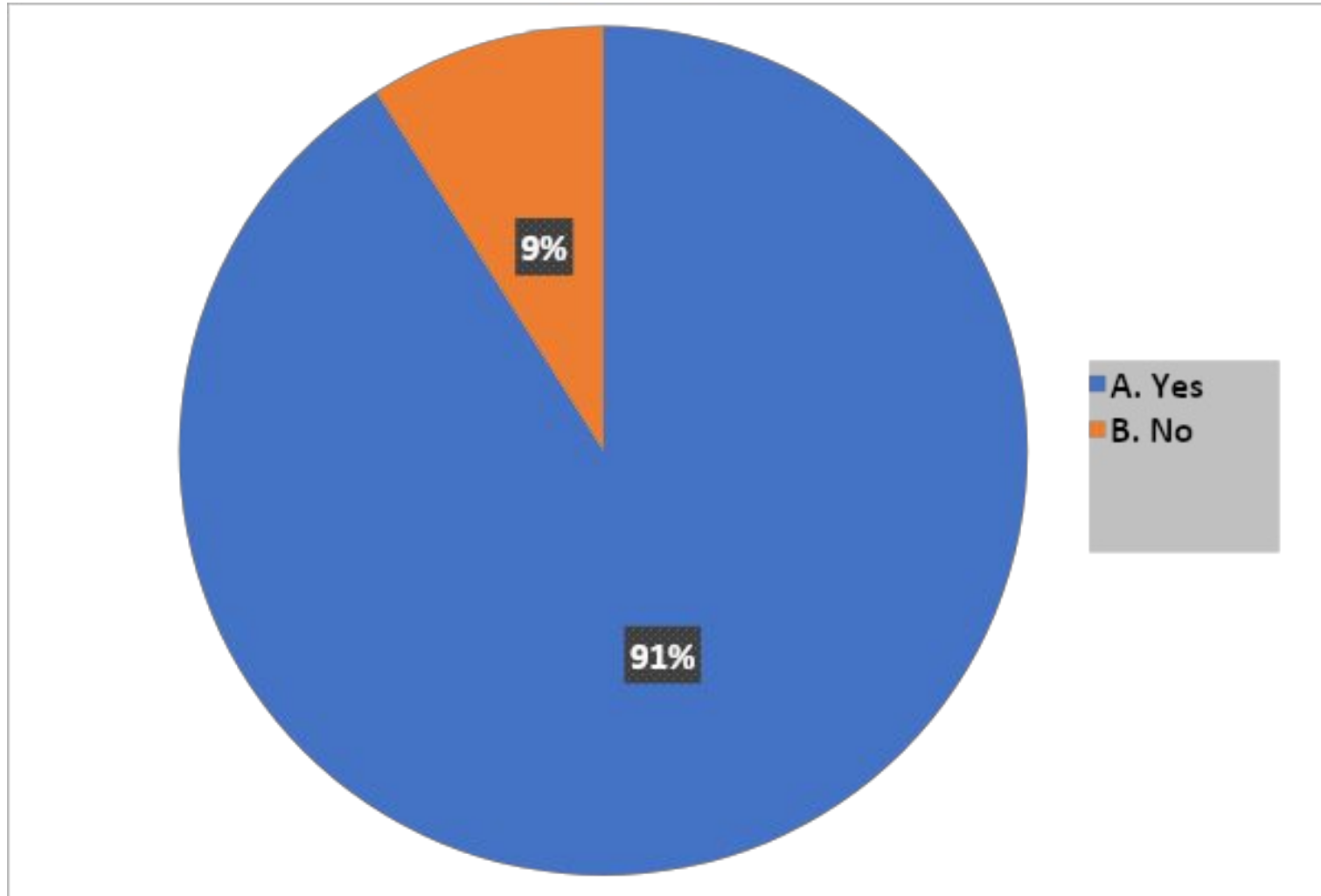
Sources of Traditional Food Crops





B. Awareness

Percentage of farmers cultivating Traditional Food Crops



Types of traditional, indigenous crops grown

A diverse range of crops were listed including fruits, vegetables (legumes, leafy, root crops, fruit-bearing), plantation crops, grains, and cereals.



Reasons for discontinued cultivation of these crops

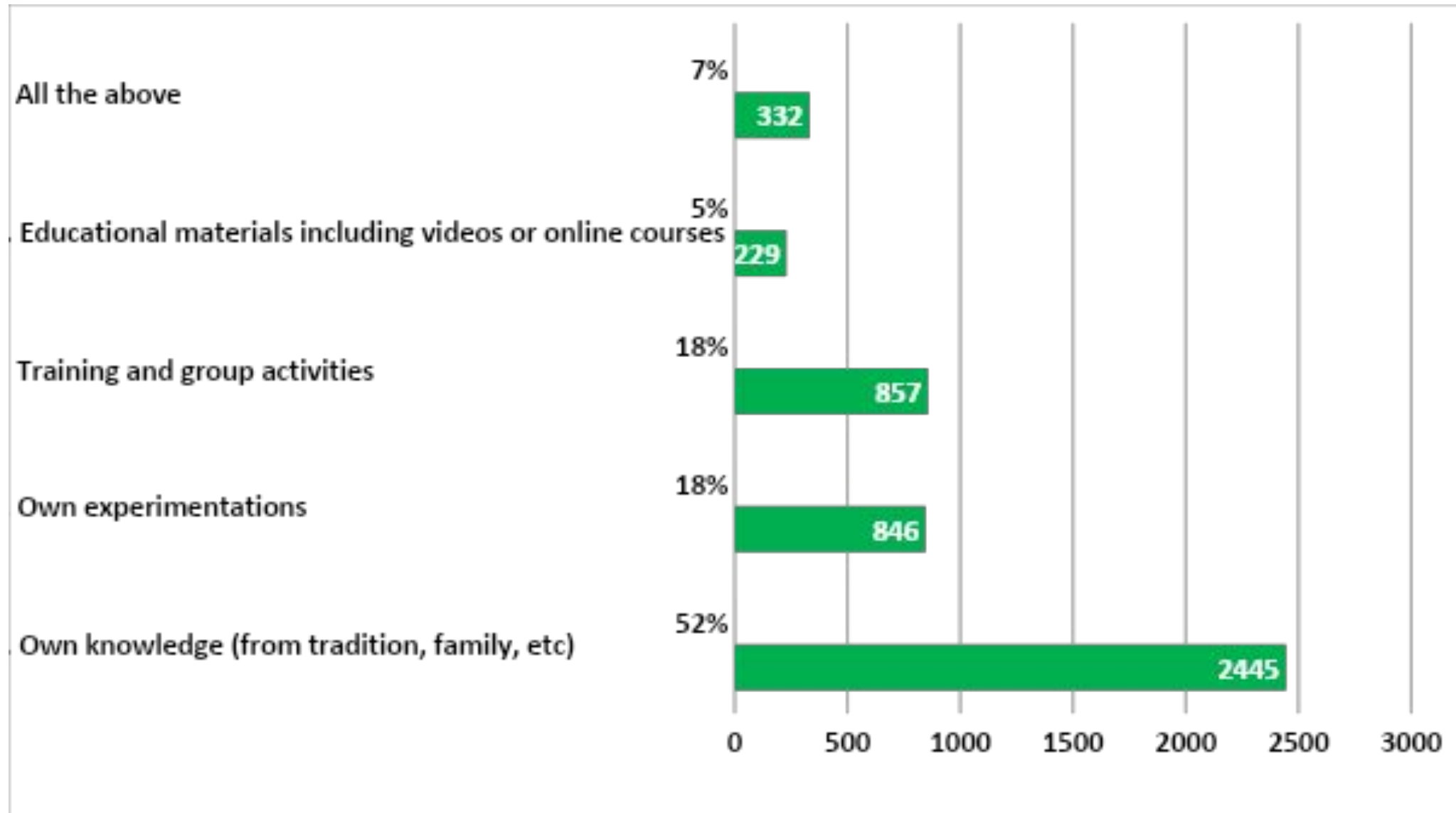
Majority of the farmers identified the following:

- Not profitable, low economic value, low profit
- Low market demand, no market demand
- Low productivity compared to hybrid varieties
- High-value crops were promoted because it can be easily sold

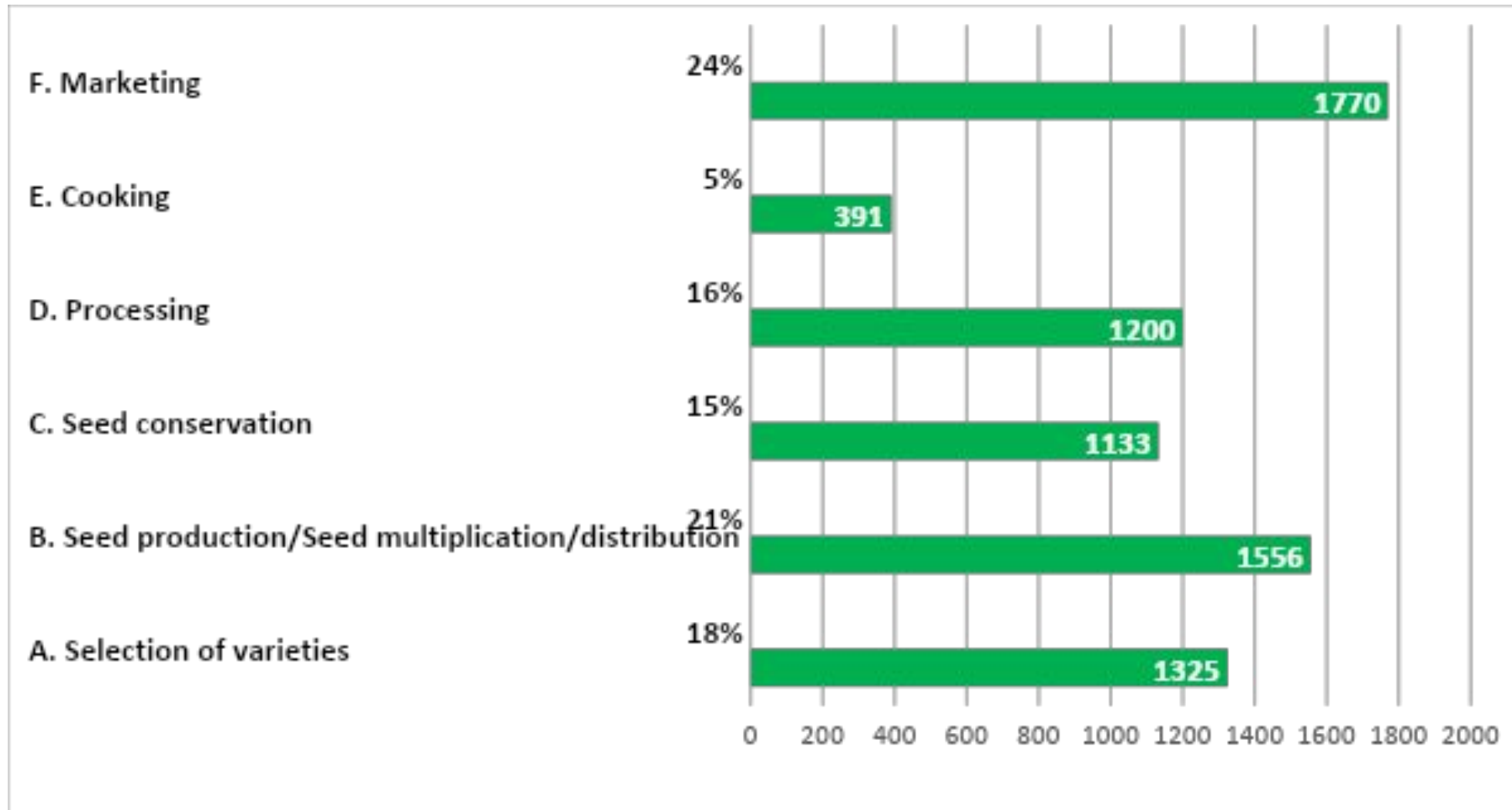
A small percentage have identified the following:

- We grow cotton and cereals
- Only cereals and other commercial crops
- Focused is on coconut and taro
- Associations didn't promote these crops
- No knowledge how to grow it profitably
- Unavailability of training and seeds are not accessible
- We collect mostly from communal lands

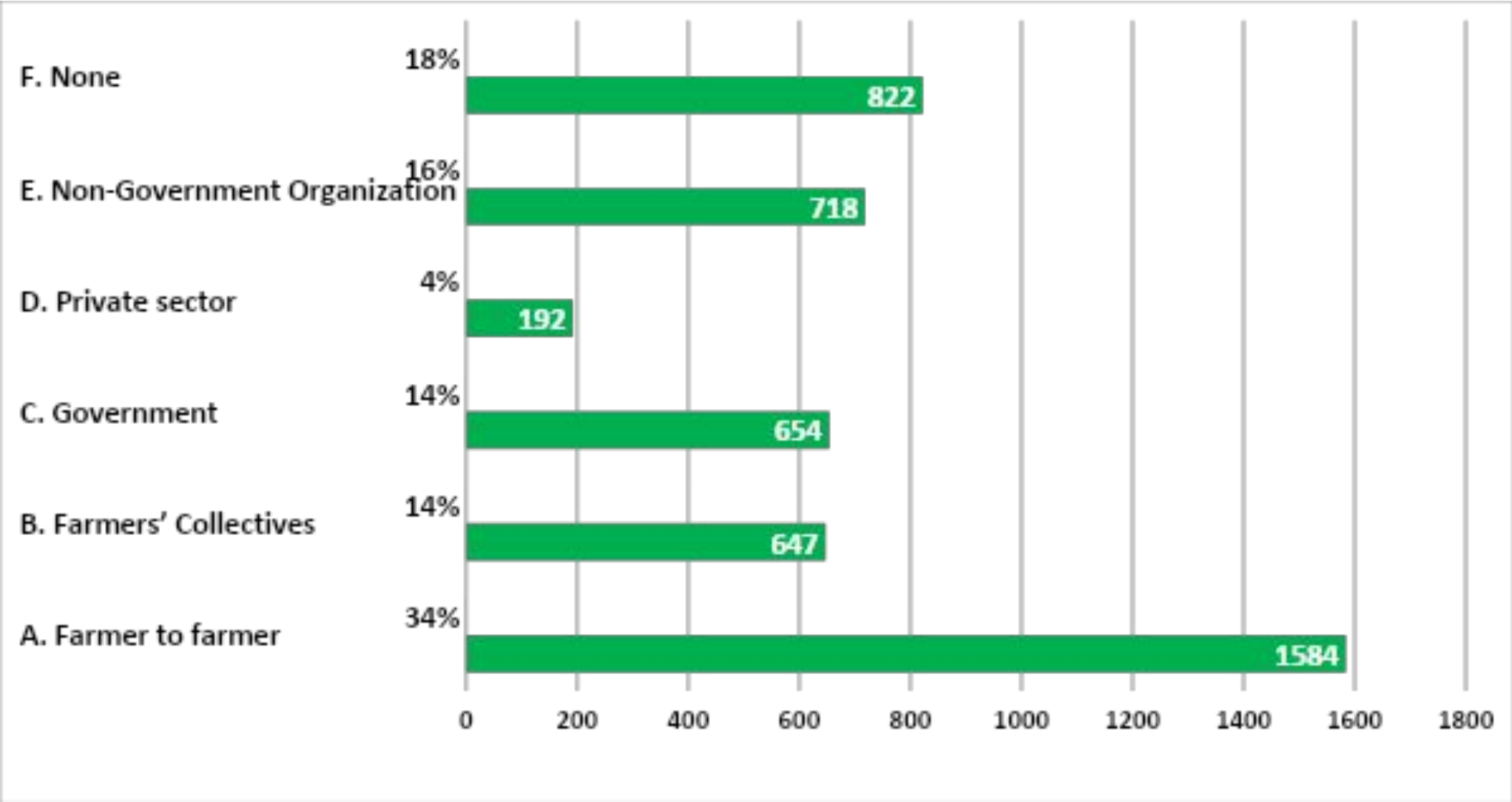
Source of knowledge for Traditional Food Crops



Limitations and challenges in cultivating the Traditional Food Crops



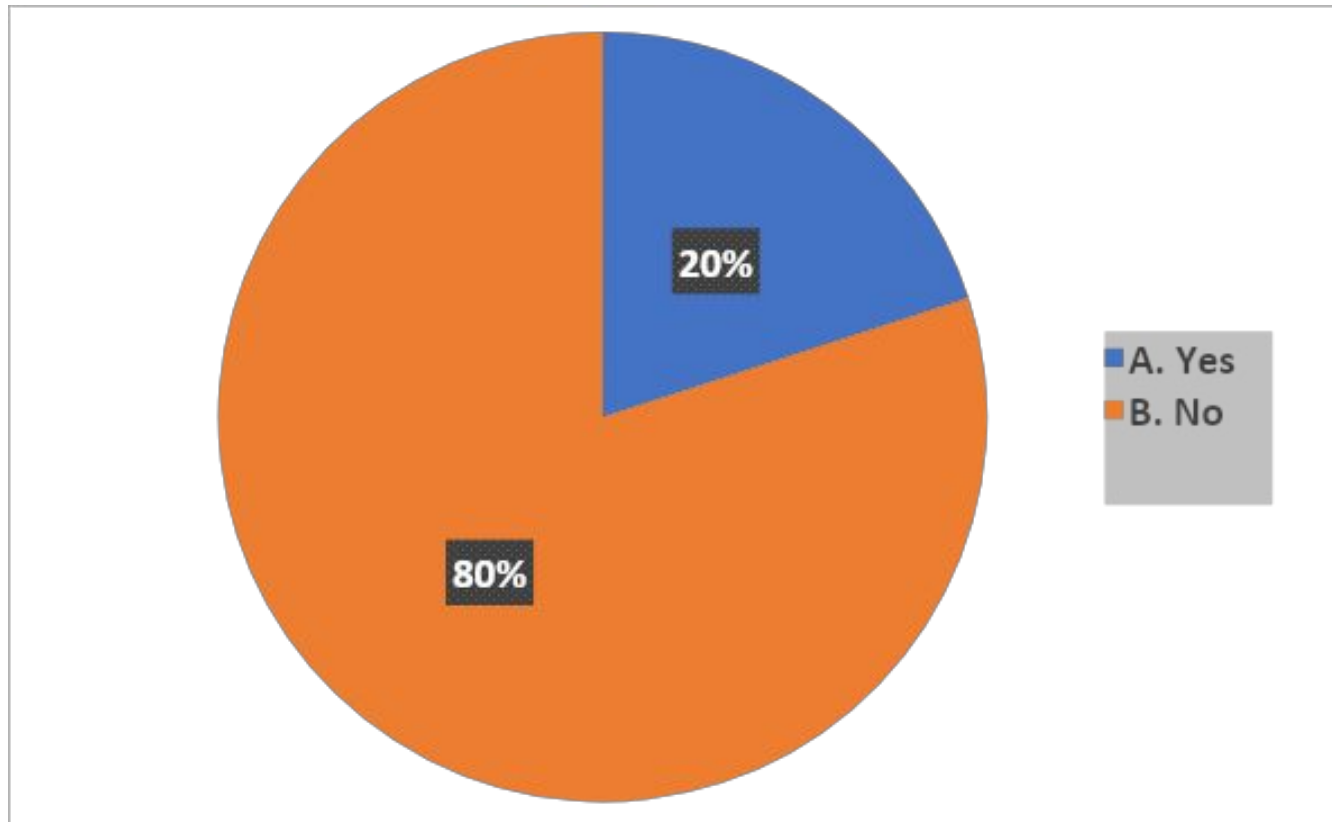
Source of support for cultivation, use and conservation of Traditional Food Crops





C. Innovation

Innovation related to cultivating , processing and /or marketing of Traditional Foods or Crops



Types of innovations introduced

Crop cultivation/ production

- Integrated farming
- Multiple cropping - Millet-based multi-cropping system
- Growing millets and pulses along with plantation crops
- Intercropping tubers in plantation crops, intercropping pulses with cereals and millets
- Transplanting finger millet
- Furrow method of cultivation of finger millet
- Zero tillage

- Organic liquid fertilizer
- Improving soil fertility
- Water conservation
- Grafting
- Plant breeding
- Pest and disease management (natural pesticides)

Types of innovations introduce *continued*

Processing

- Processing of wild food into power and juices for the local market
- Pickle, jams for sale in the local market
- Seeds into jewelries
- Packaging of seeds for sale in the community

Marketing

- Cooperative sale system
- Direct marketing of organic millet
- Setting up of restaurant serving traditional food
- Direct marketing (home delivery of vegetables)
- Virtual markets

Seed production and storage

- Community seed bank, seed exchange
- Seed storage using traditional structure – kudhir

RUDI-KAMLA - A Strategy to bring Forgotten food into mainstream

Challenges: Farmers do not eat what they grow- Nutrition Values negated with cash crop as main crop and from meager income farmers buy food

Game Changer: SEWA Established RUDI Kamla initiative for food and nutrition security on 100 mile concept on decentralized supply chain.

- **RUDI** is a rural distribution network that procures grains, pulses, spices and other commodities from small and marginal farmers and markets it to local consumers.
- **Kamla** SEWA's organic and traditional food-processing center, known as "Kamala," has trained about five hundred women. These women have started making healthy dry snacks, and they are providing it in their villages.

- **Kamala food entrepreneurs**

- It also promotes green and sustainable lifestyle– a place where people come, sit, have nutritious food, learnt cooking such recipes and healthy and environment friendly lifestyle practice.
- An effort is made here to offer food made from marginalized crops of Bajri, Jower, and Jav that have sustained our civilization for centuries.
- Innovative children and youth friendly recipes are prepared and products are made available made from the traditional grains which are not in regular plates

- **Impact**

- Ensure Access to safe and nutrition food for all
- Shift to sustainable consumption pattern
- Boost nature positive produces
- Advance equitable livelihoods
- Build food supply chain which is resilient
- Ownership and control in hands of community
- Increase in transparency and traceability across the supply value chain
- Increase in awareness about millets at local and also in urban areas
- Increase in consumption of forgotten food



FILM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1E1dGAdmXY>

PACIFIC BREADFRUIT & SEEDS PROGRAM

Key area of focus in PIFON's Strategic Plan

- Climate Change/Food Security
- Health & Nutrition
- Value Added Products



“

Agroforestry is in line with the sustaining our environment.

In these systems, breadfruit trees can act as a canopy for other crops and this is a way forward in helping promote a healthy environment as well as aid with decreasing the carbon bank.

Breadfruit is the crop of the future!

— Fr. Petero Matairatu



Agroforestry Webinar

Webinar Recordings can be found at www.breadfruitpeople.com

Facebook Page: Breadfruit People



“

I want to acknowledge that the real masters of agroforestry are those very quiet and humble people of the Pacific who have been doing agroforestry for 1000s of years, this is knowledge that is passed on generationally, it's passed on through experience



Agroecology, traditional seeds & food sovereignty



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இலங்கை விவசாய ஒன்றியம்
Sri Lanka Farmers Forum

Ecological Agricultural Producers' and Entrepreneurs'
Cooperative Society & Lanka Farmers' Forum - Sri Lanka





- LFF/EcoAPECoop works in 9 districts of Sri Lanka with small holder food producer organizations (345) and there members (21,969).



- Ecological agriculture practices.
- Reinvention, growing and conservation of traditional crops & seeds.
- Value addition.
- Marketing.
- Lobbying for policy changes.



Types of additional support needed as expressed by farmers (innovation)

Pro-farmer policies and programs

- Subsidy
- Sustainable price policy for farmers' products
- Redesigning of farming system that is appropriate for us

Public support and awareness

- Promote marketing of traditional food crops
- Acceptance by the community of traditional food crops

Farmer-driven approaches and research partnership

- Use farmers' knowledge and experiences
- Collaboration with agriculture specialists and researchers
- Collaborative studies
- Participatory research
- Community research
- Participatory varietal trials of traditional crops
- Support from the academic institutions
- Cooperation with NGOs
- Joint research on pest management

Types of additional support needed as expressed by farmers (innovation) *continuation*

Financial

- Access to grants and credits

Technological

- Access to good quality seeds, planting materials
- Technologies that enrich the soil
- Mechanization and irrigation support, equipment
- Access to modern technology, advanced technologies
- Support to processing and marketing
- Seed conservation technique
- Extension services

Farmer education and training

- Extension support
- Expansion of knowledge and technologies
- Training
- Learning exchanges, sharing of ideas on traditional food, workshop on growing traditional crops, exposure visits, capacity building

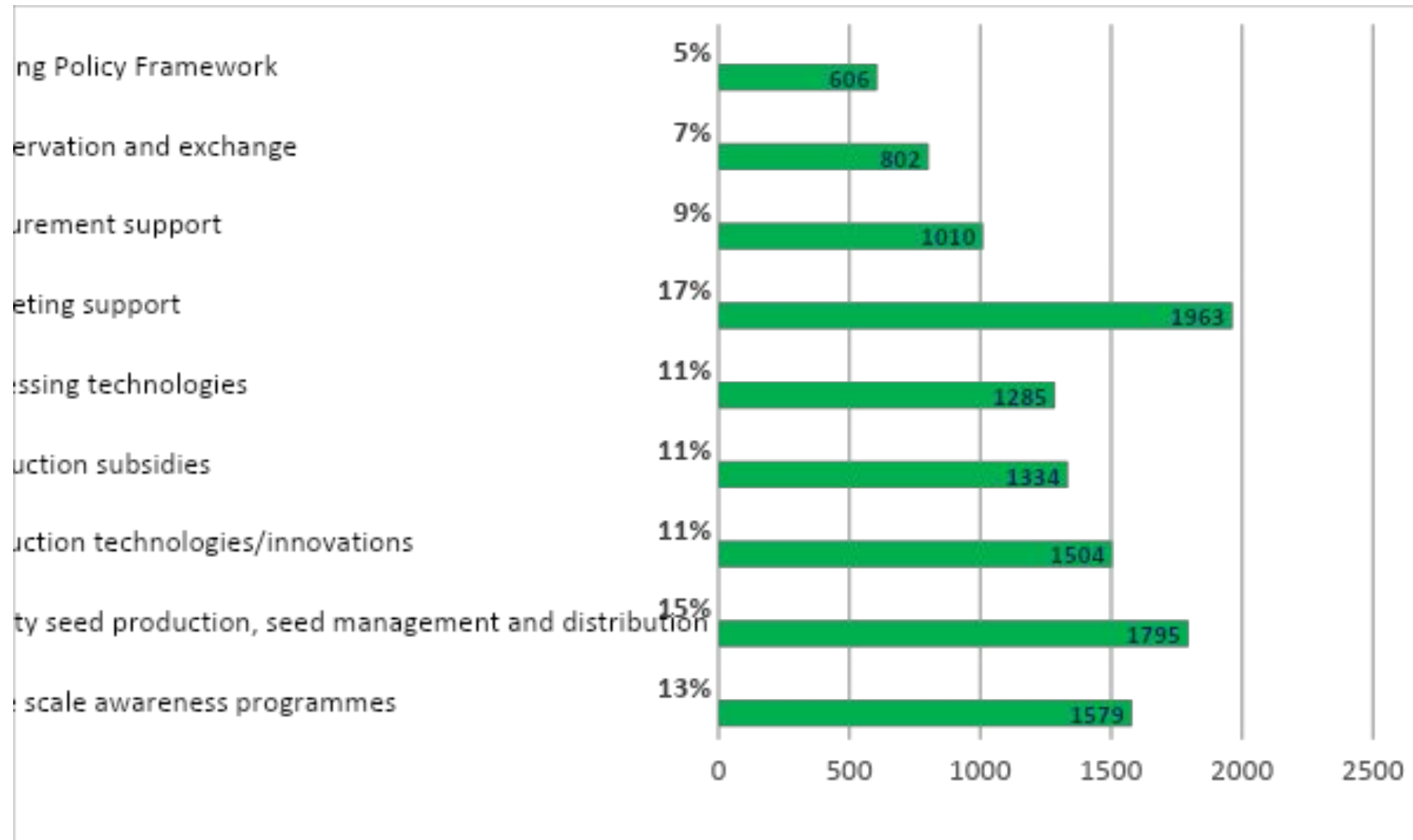
Support providers as identified by farmers

- Government
- Public organizations
- Farmers' Association
- Cooperatives
- Agri-business
- Agriculture Research Institutions
- Agriculture agencies

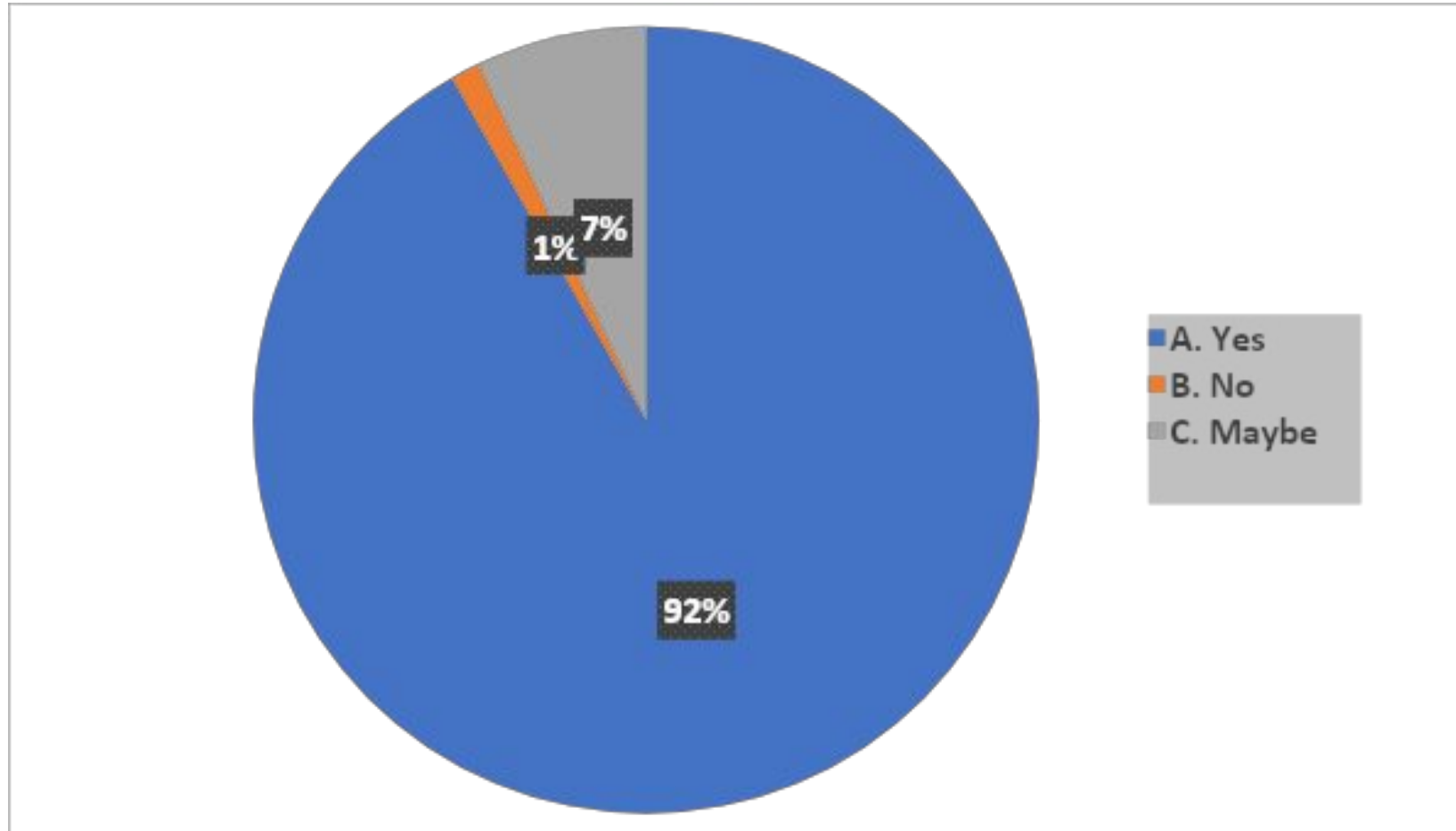


D. Support

Support needed to better grow the Traditional Food Crops



Will you start or continue cultivating Traditional Food Crops, If the above supports are provided ?



Other suggestions to facilitate and promote the cultivation of Traditional Food Crops

Learning exchange

- Sub-regional exchange
- Technical exchange
- Consultation with farmers

Technological intervention

- Enhance traditional knowledge
- Improvement of existing technologies for traditional food crops
- Post-harvest processing and packaging that will extend the shelf life of traditional fruit and vegetables

Ways stimulate production of traditional food crops

- Input support for traditional food crops
- Distribution of planting materials
- Seed centers in rural areas
- Improvement of market networks

Other suggestions to facilitate and promote the cultivation of Traditional Food Crops *continuation*

Consumer education and awareness raising

- Awareness raising to increase interest and appreciation
- Fairs and exhibition to increase awareness and demand
- Traditional food fairs and festivals
- Women's groups can be an avenue to raise awareness
- Entice young generation of farmers to grow traditional food crops
- Integration of indigenous practices into the school curricula
- Promote biodiversity farms

Policy-level intervention

- Promotion of traditional food by the government
- Incentives, subsidies and capacity building
- Procurement price

- Family farmers continue to nurture and benefit from traditional, indigenous food crops relying on their own knowledge, family's tacit knowledge and their fellow farmers knowledge. They bank on traditional and existing practices to grow, consume and sell traditional, indigenous food crops.
- This fact underscores the importance of building on farmers' own innovation and indigenous knowledge.
- We know there's also the knowledge produced by institutions and researchers, so how can the farmers practical do-how and researchers' knowledge (know-how) reinforce each other?

- Recognizing the value of Forgotten Foods/Crops and popularizing them in the context of food systems transformation and changing climate mean that stakeholders need to take into account the challenges associated with the cultivation of Forgotten Food such as **marketing and seed system as identified by most farmers**. Challenges and support are present and needed across the food systems activities especially for these crops.
- The challenges/ support needed are opportunities for family farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs and support agencies to come together to identify actions.

- Facilitating innovation and experimentation at the farm-level and ensuring continuous cultivation of traditional, indigenous food crops **means:**
 - creating supportive **programs or policies**
 - creating **economic opportunities** for these food
 - generating **consumer demand** of these food
 - **recognizing farmers' experiences**
 - employing **collaborative studies and joint or participatory research** from production, processing, and marketing.
 - addressing **barriers and challenges** related to farmers' access to infrastructure, technology, education and training, financial services, and extension services

- **Foster the recognition of family farmers' organizations, cooperatives** and their capacities to produce knowledge, represent farmers in policy processes and provide services to both rural and urban communities.
- **Support farmers advocacy for public policies that facilitate farmers' access** to productive assets and in turn result to increased capacity to innovate across the agri-food chain.
- Promote the **development and implementation of policies and program incentivizing economic opportunities and markets** for forgotten, traditional, and underutilized but nutritious food.
- **Promote the development of incentives** for farmers to fulfil their roles as custodians of agrobiodiversity and as drivers of rural development.

"We found that it is a very interesting topic for our farmers because they said, *it is very exciting to hear someone asking us about forgotten food crops/ traditional crops.*"

Lao Farmer Network

Thank you