

Commercializing OFSP in Mozambique: a gendered perspective

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SEEDS OF CHANGE
CONFERENCE
APRIL 2019,
CANBERRA



BACKGROUND

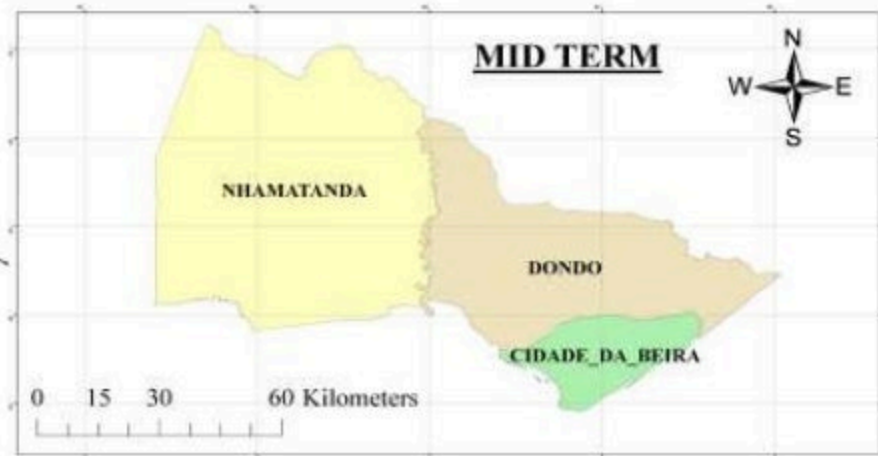
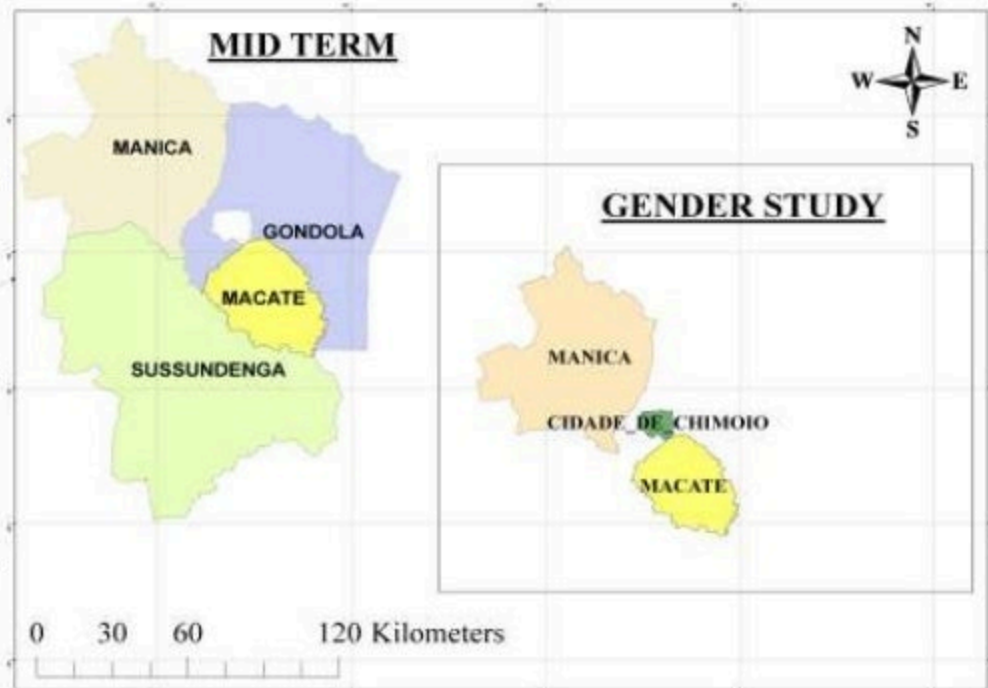
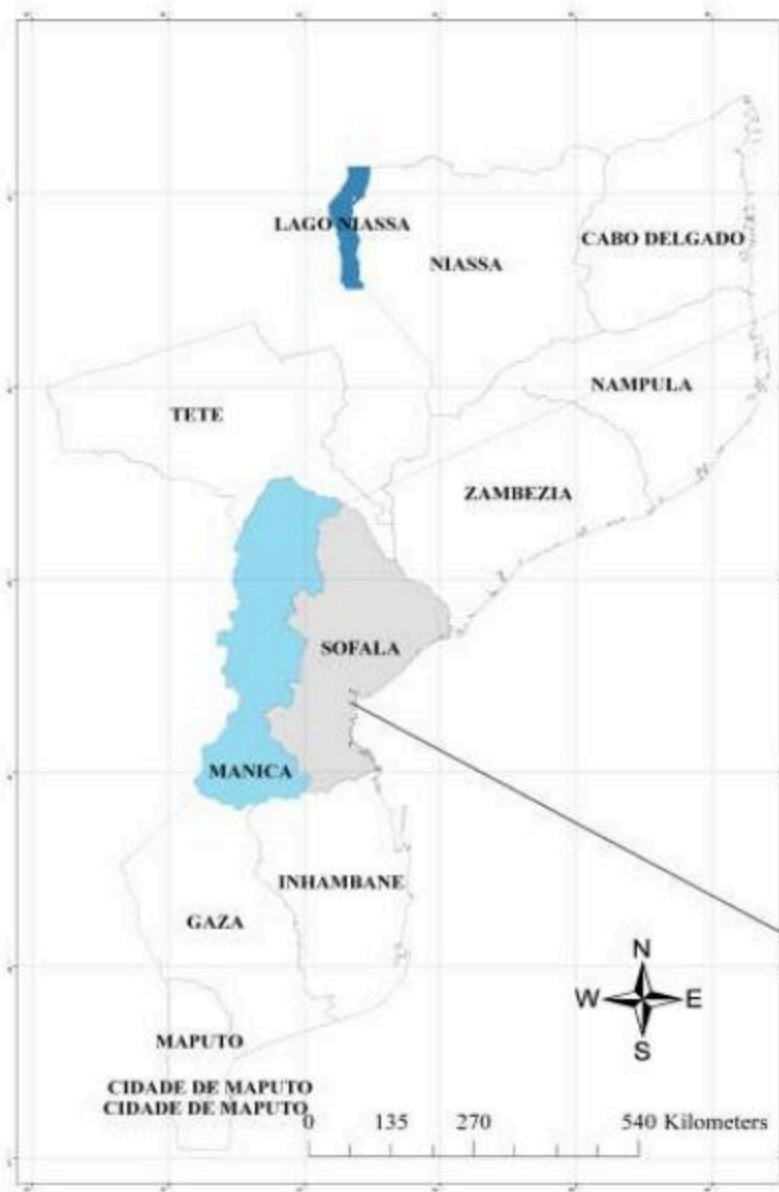
SUSTAIN Project was a scaling project that aimed at reaching end-users with nutritious Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) in Mozambique

The project focused on three thematic areas:

- 1) Development of the seed system
- 2) Nutrition enhancement and
- 3) Value Chain Development (VCD).

We conducted a gender study to assess the effects of OFSP commercialization initiatives on the livelihoods of women and men value chain actors

THE STUDY AREA

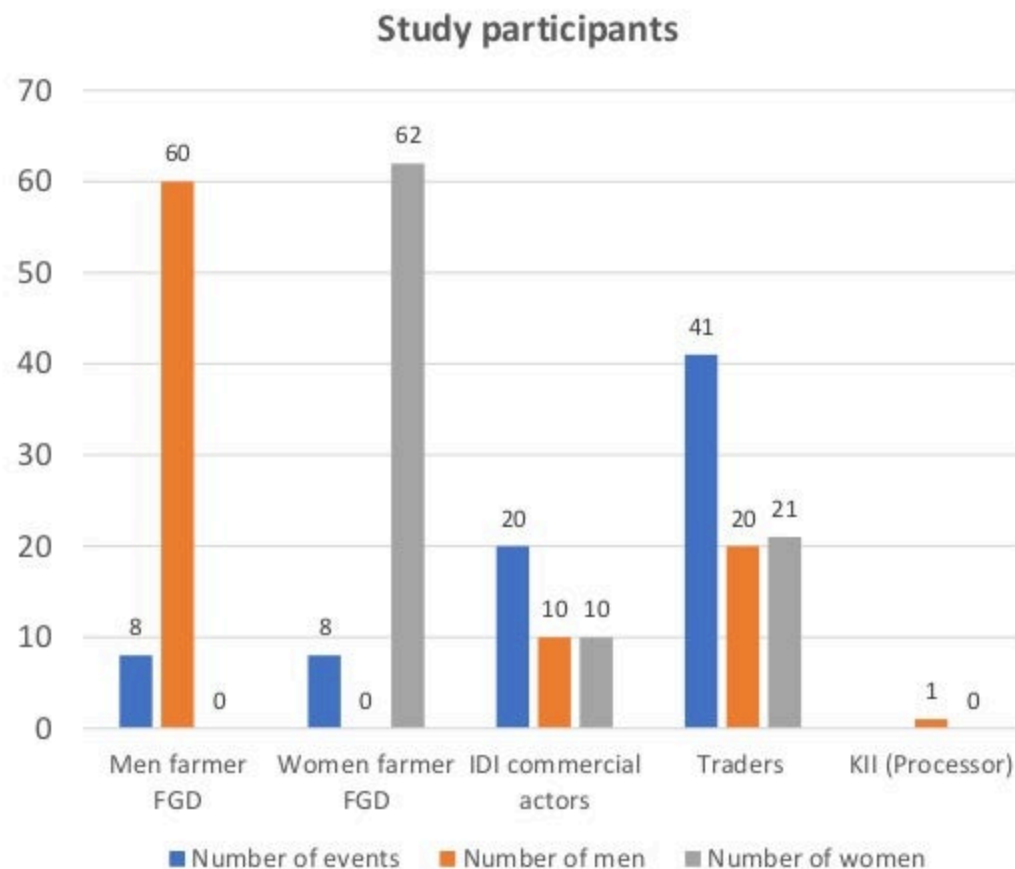


THE GENDER STUDY IN MANHICA AND MACATE DISTRICTS

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How does commercialization of sweetpotato value chains affect (positively or negatively) ;

- The wellbeing of smallholder farmers and their families,
- The well being of women
- Participation of women in as producers, traders, processors, and consumers?



METHODS AND TOOLS

METHODS

Sex disaggregated FGDs

Individual Interviews

Market survey

Midline survey

TOOLS

Gender based constraints analysis tool

Ladder of Life Tool

Comparison Tool

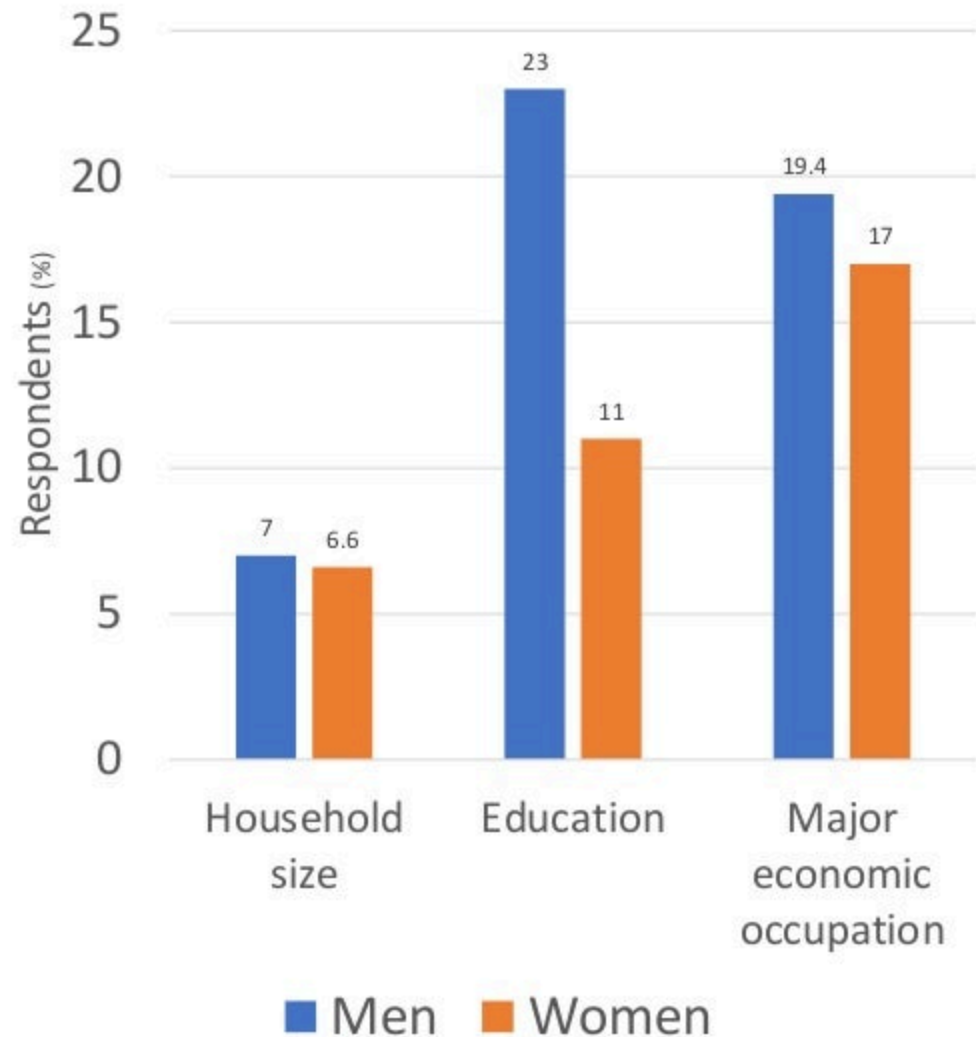
Mock budgets



Socio economic characteristics

Low literacy levels may affect business proficiency

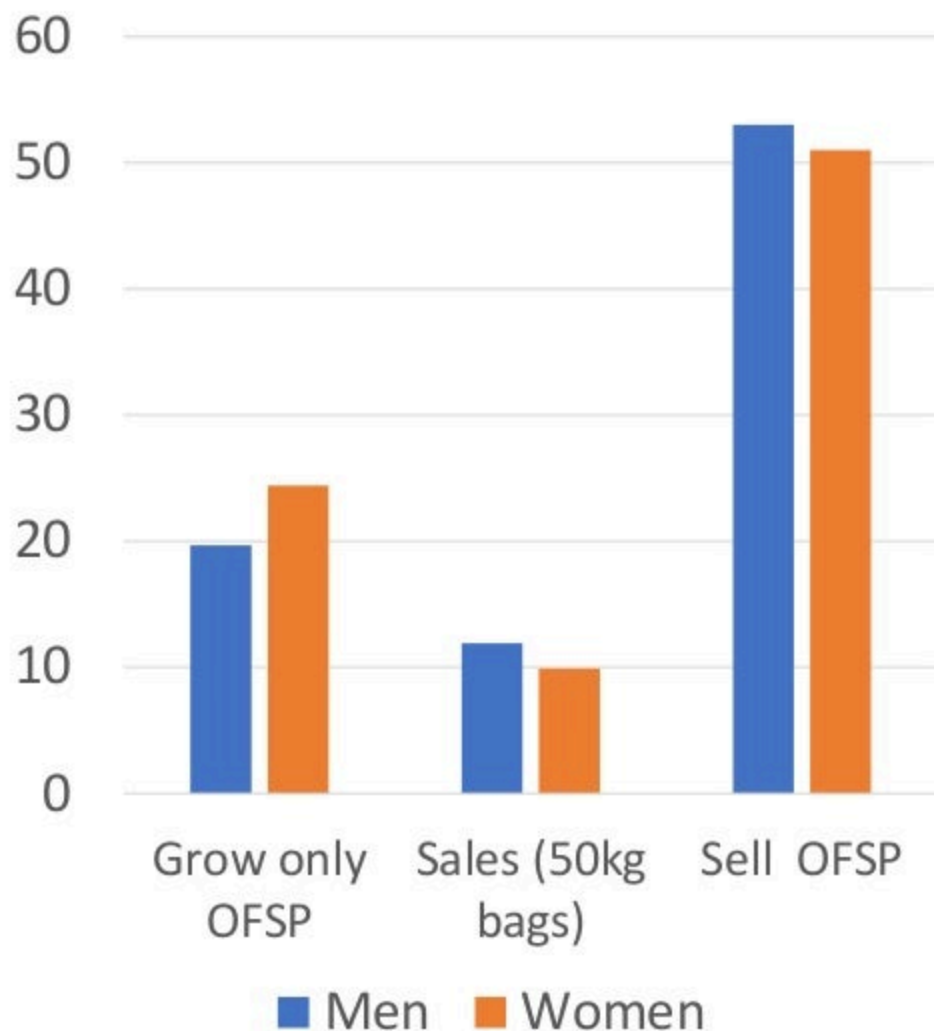
Low commercial orientation for both men and women



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: MEN AND WOMEN'S PERCEPTION IN CHINAMBUDZI, MANHICA DISTRICT

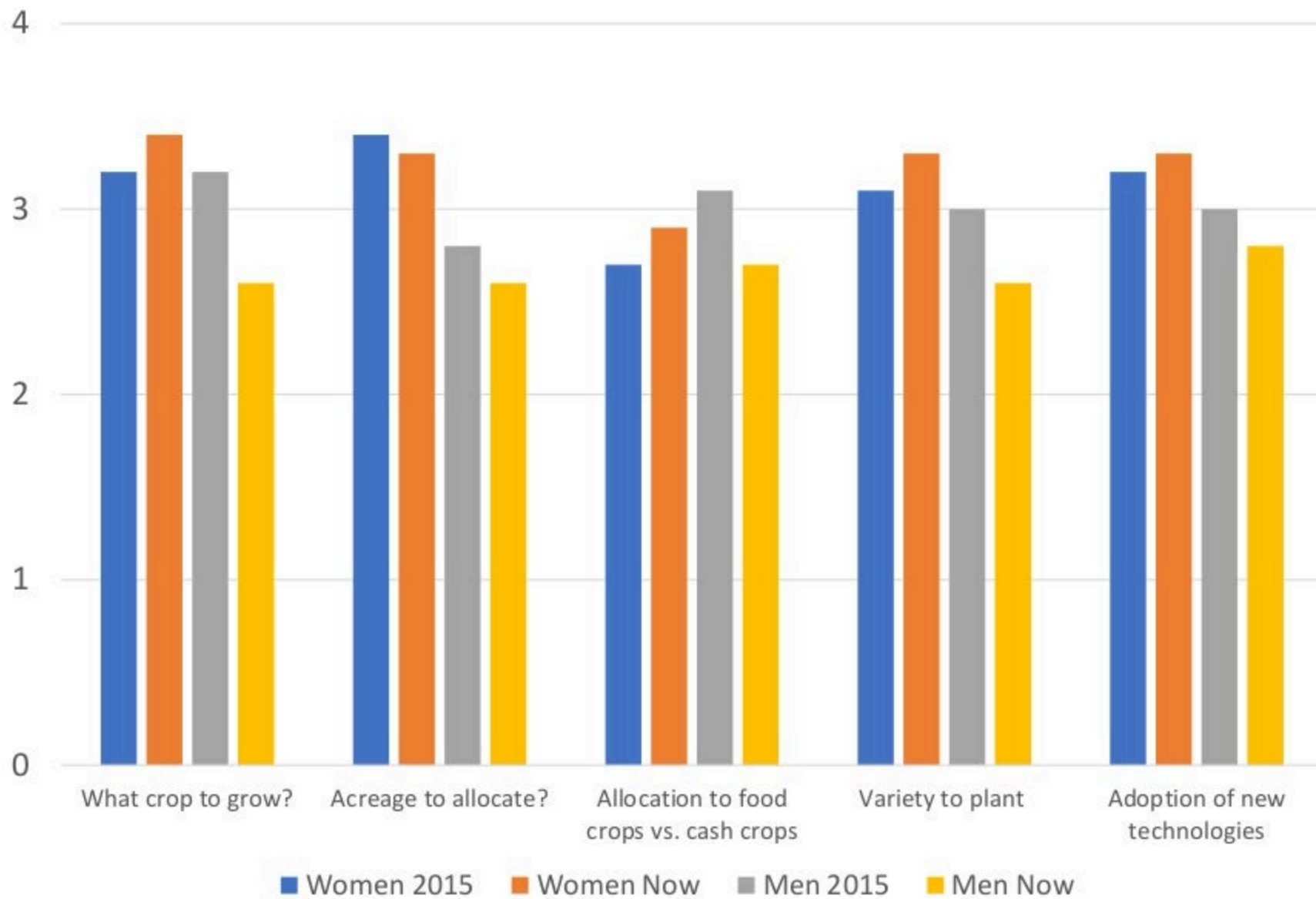
Activities carried out by chain actor	Roles and responsibilities low=x, medium=xx, high=xxx			
	Female's perceptions		Men' perception	
	Male	Female	Female	Male
Land identification	XX	XX	XX	XX
Acquirement of vines		XX	XX	XX
Making ridges	X	XX	XX	XXX
Prepare vines & planting	XX	XX	XX	XX
Weeding	XX	XX	XX	XX
Monitoring – pest & diseases	XX	XX	XX	XXX
Harvesting roots	XX	XX	XX	XX
Marketing		XXX	XXX	XX
Consumption	XX	XX	XX	XX

Trends in OFSP commercialization

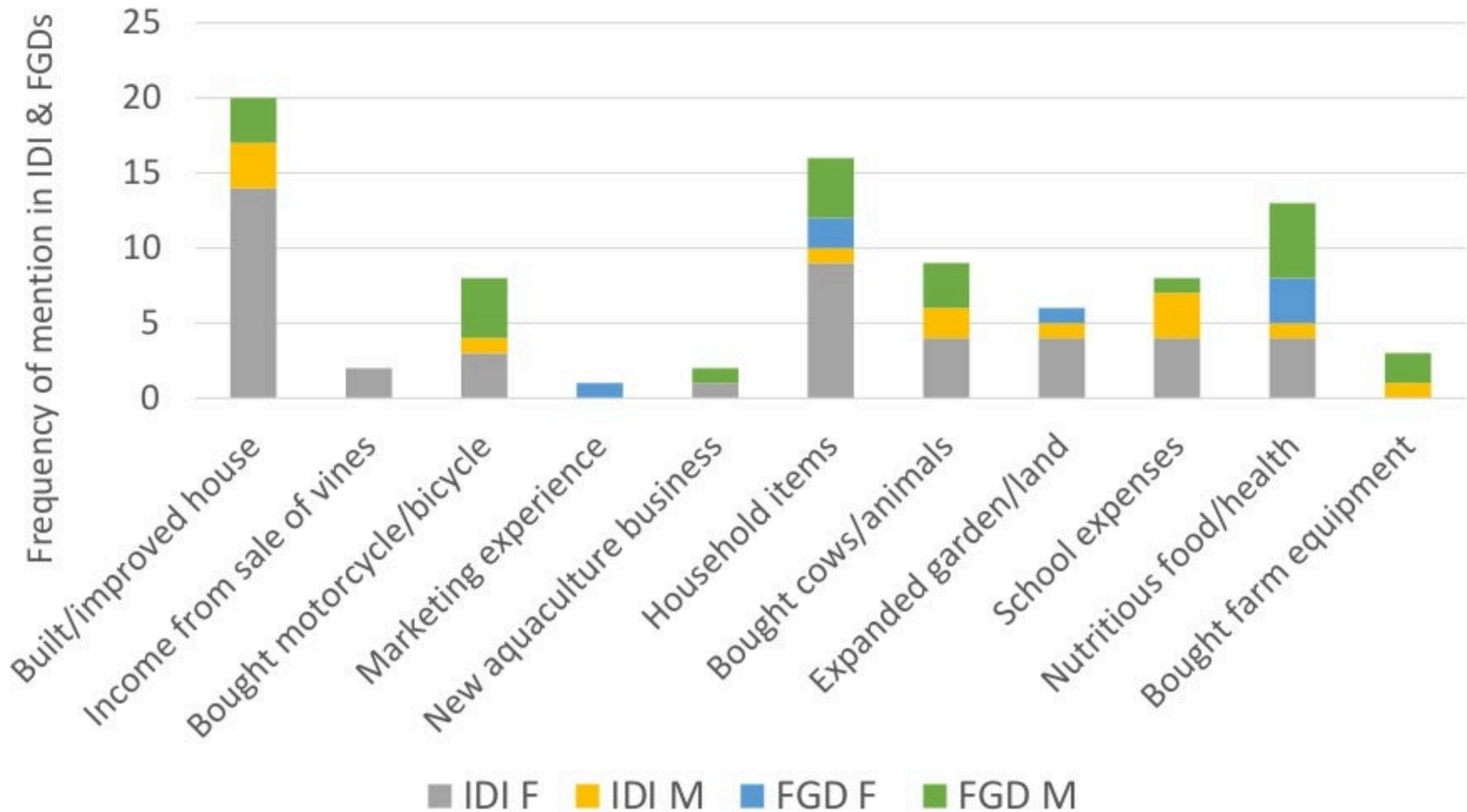


- Men sold at a slightly higher price (462M/bag) compared to women (424 M/bag)
- Value of sales for men was higher by 1350 M than for women
- women's sweetpotato plots were double the size of men's plots

Ability to make production decisions

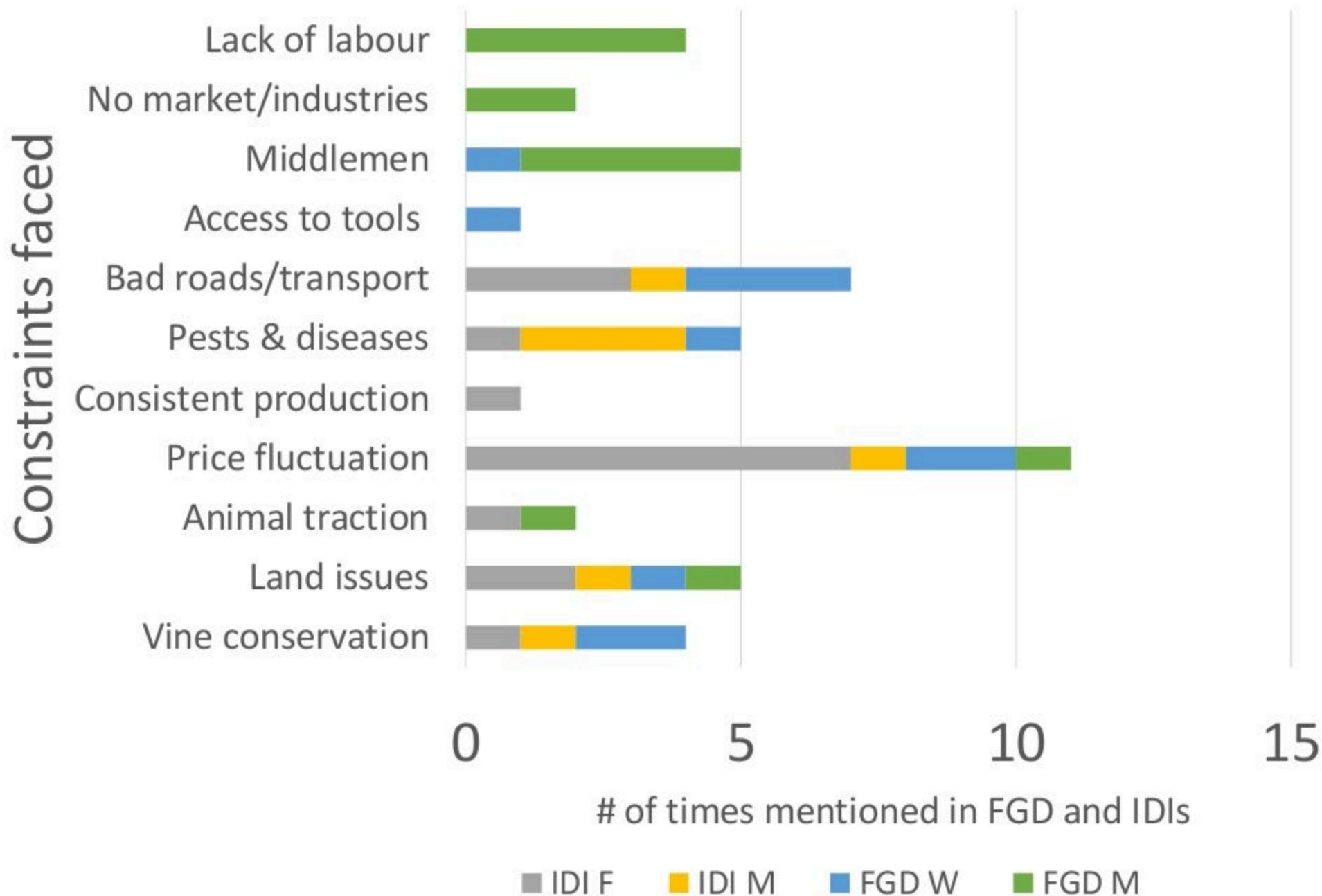


Socio-economic benefits obtained

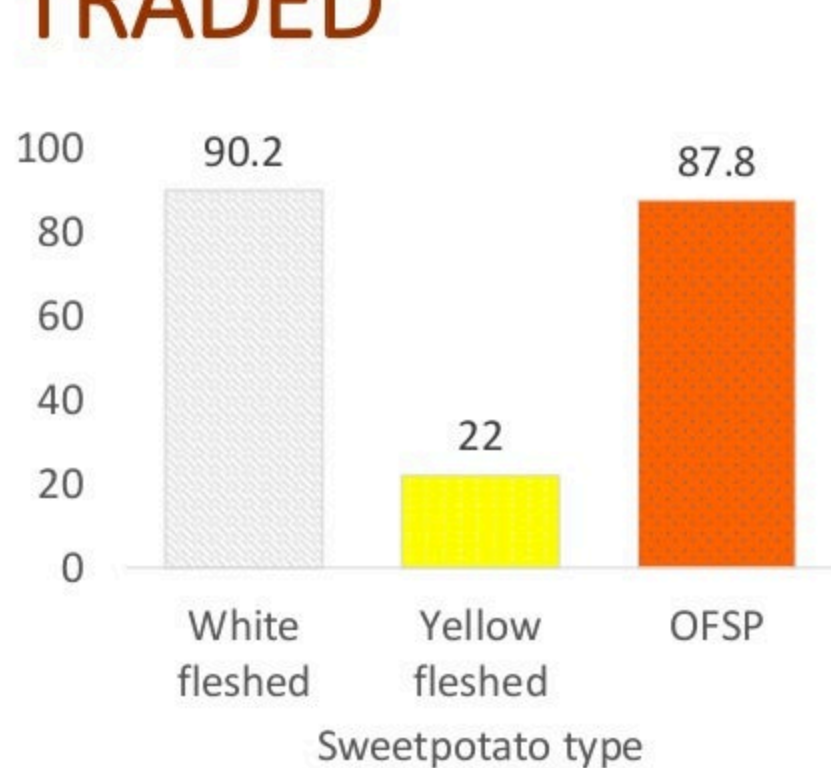


- ❖ DVMs benefitted more (bought motorbikes, built new houses, retail enterprises).
- ❖ Men dominate DVM business. (only 25% were women)
- ❖ Women got market experience; avoided selling to brokers, worked closely with husbands
- ❖ 3 IDIs mentioned to have sold to Zebra farms, but this was not sustained

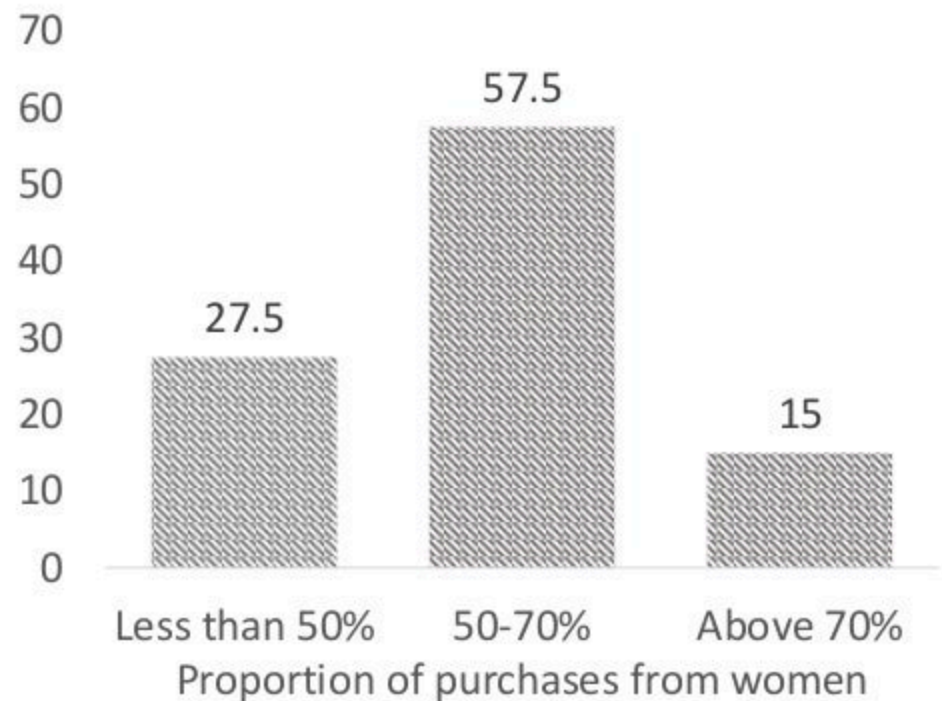
MAJOR CONSTRAINTS FACED



TYPES OF SWEETPOTATO TRADED



SWEETPOTATO PURCHASES



- The traders mostly purchased sweetpotatoes from women (35.7%)
- Only 10.7% mentioned that they mostly bought from men.
- Others (53.6%) bought from both men and women

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) More women than men were engaged in production and trading of roots.
- b) Men commercial producers invested more inputs than women.
- c) OFSP was traded by 88% of the traders: growing significance
- d) Most women producers cum traders recognized the importance of working closely with their spouses.
- e) Vine trading still dominated by men (75%) – but women engagement commendable given the trends in SSA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Improve women's capacity to engage in business (FAL, simple business ledgers)
- 2) Linkages between smallscale producers, traders and processors

We would like to acknowledge all CGIAR Research Programs and Centers for supporting the participation of their gender scientists to the *Seeds of Change* conference.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Policies, Institutions, and Markets



Collaborative Platform for Gender Research



Photo: Neil Palmer/IWMI



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