

SUSTAIN Kenya Baseline Survey: Preliminary Findings and Implications for Effective Implementation

Introduction:

Scaling up Sweetpotato through Agriculture and Nutrition (SUSTAIN) project is an integrated Agriculture-Nutrition -Marketing approach whose goal is to promote widespread adoption and use of OFSP. Its specific aims are to:

- Increase access to OFSP varieties.
- Increase access to knowledge and diversified use of OFSP.
- Promote production of commercial OFSP products.

In Kenya, it targets 5 Counties of Western Kenya (Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Homa Bay and Nyamira) (Figure 1).

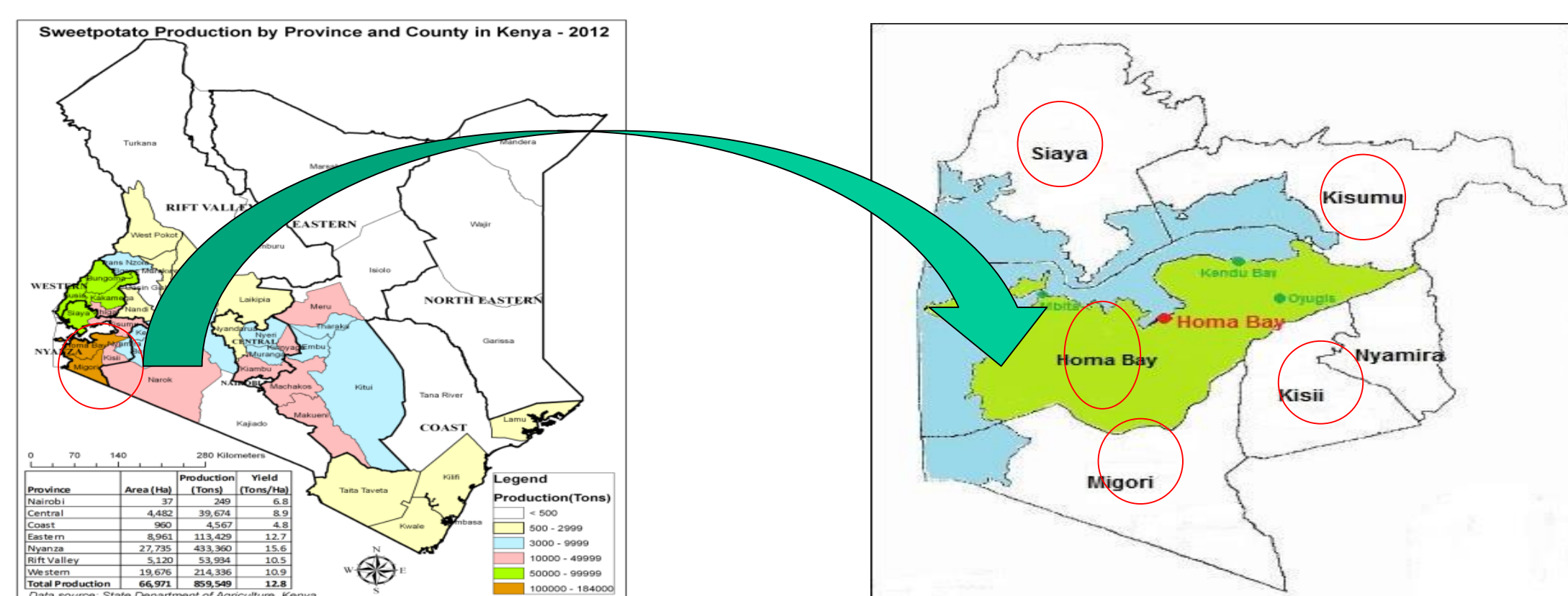


Fig. 1 Maps showing the project areas

To support SUSTAIN's implementation in Kenya and especially to establish the bench-mark for the project and identify targeted areas that need greatest focus, a baseline study was conducted in February to March 2015. This poster summarizes some of the key findings of the agriculture component of the study and their implications for effective implementation of SUSTAIN project in Kenya.

Baseline study design

The baseline survey was conducted in all the counties targeted by the project. In each county, community units and villages were randomly selected proportional to the size of each administrative unit. Lists of all households with children under 5 years old were then drawn in each sampled village and a random sample selected for personal interviews. A total of 600 households were interviewed. 517 of the study households were male-head while 83 were female-head. Data collected included demographic characteristics; sweetpotato production and utilization; and varietal attributes; dietary diversity; Infant and young child feeding; wash practices and food security.

Key findings

- **Finding #1:** The most popular varieties of sweetpotato are yellow-fleshed. Very few respondents knew about OFSP

Table 1 : The main SP varieties known/mentioned by study respondents

Variety	Flesh color	Frequency of mention (N=600)	%
Kabode	Orange	33	5.5
Vitaa	Orange	26	4.3
Kalamb Nyerere	Yellow	151	25.2
Mugande/ Amina	-	56	9.3
Nyawa	Yellow	82	13.7
Kuny Kibuonjo	Yellow	191	31.8
Sura Mbaya	-	30	5.0
Magi	-	39	6.5
Mar Ooko	White	100	16.7
Nyar Kabondo	-	47	7.8
Obwogo	-	35	5.8
Nyar Ndere	-	32	5.3

- **Finding #2:** Sweetpotato is grown by majority of households, but the magnitude differs by county. About 50% is consumed at home.

Table 2: Sweetpotato production and consumption by study households

	Overall (N=600)	Siaya (N=137)	Kisumu (N=86)	Homabay (N=110)	Nyamira (N=32)	Migori (N=85)
Output (kg/acre)	3319	3698 ^a (3097)*	3931 ^a (3406)	3237 ^{ab} (3081)	2828 ^{ab} (2463)	2482 ^b (2293)
Average quantity (kg) produced	569	516 ^a (414)	501 ^a (412)	546 ^a (447)	473 ^a (404)	782 ^b (544)
Average quantity (kg) consumed	315	359 ^a (324)	240.73 ^b (240)	299 ^{ab} (322)	268 ^{ab} (300)	358 ^{ab} (327)
Proportion (%) consumed	58	67 ^a	55 ^{ab}	55 ^b	58 ^{ab}	47 ^b

* Std Errors in parentheses; a, b denotes ANOVA pairwise tests of differences in means

- **Finding #3:** Taste of roots is a major determinant of the variety grown. Contrary to expectations, early maturity and high yields play less role in the choice of variety grown.

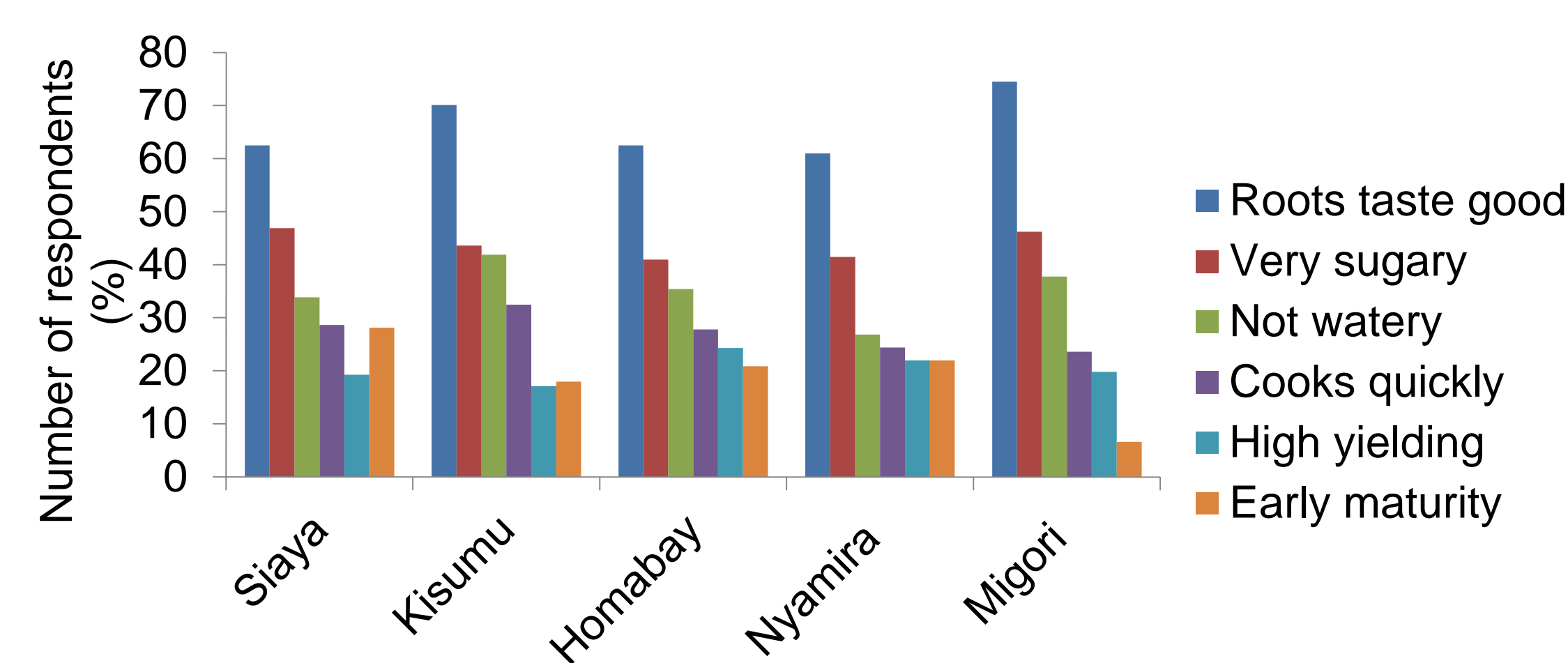


Fig 2.Characteristics of most preferred sweetpotato variety, % by County

- **Finding #4:** There is no diversity in the use of sweetpotato. Most respondent consume sweetpotato in boiled form.

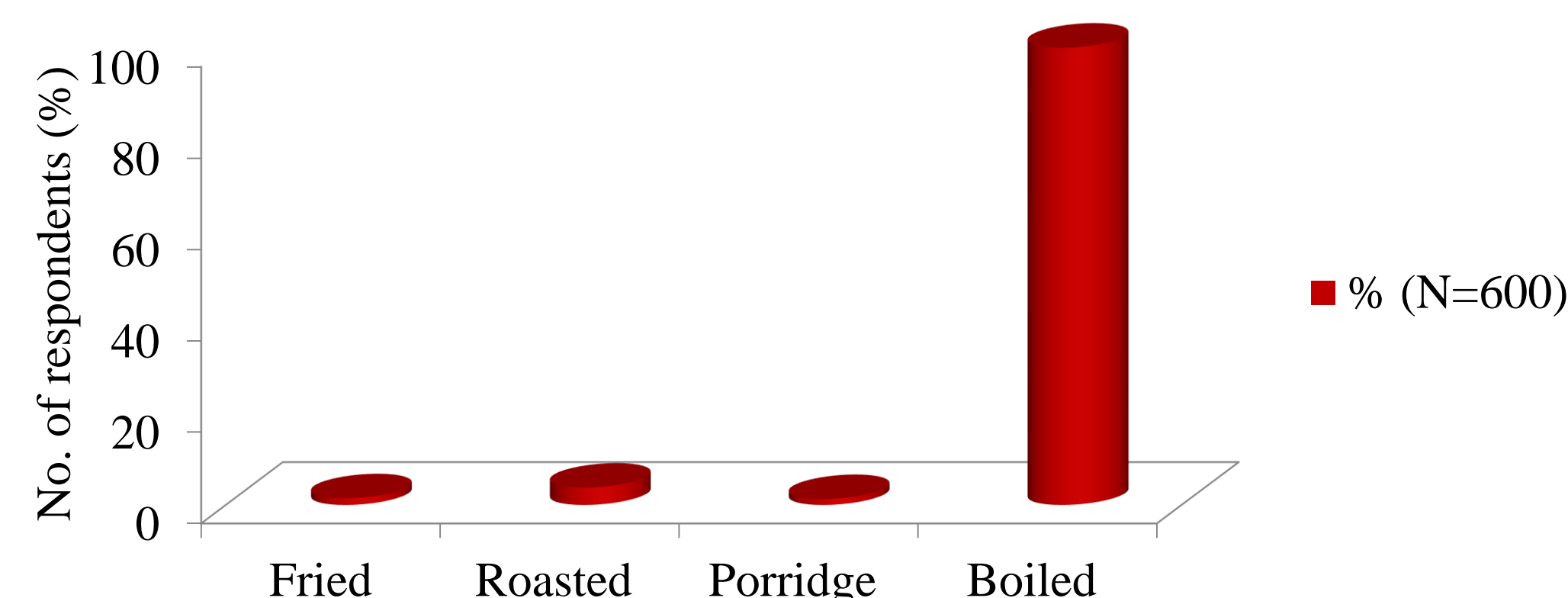


Fig 3: Form in which sweetpotato is mostly eaten

- **Finding #5:** More than 60% of both male and female headed study households do not have access to extension services. Only a few get information through radio and TV.

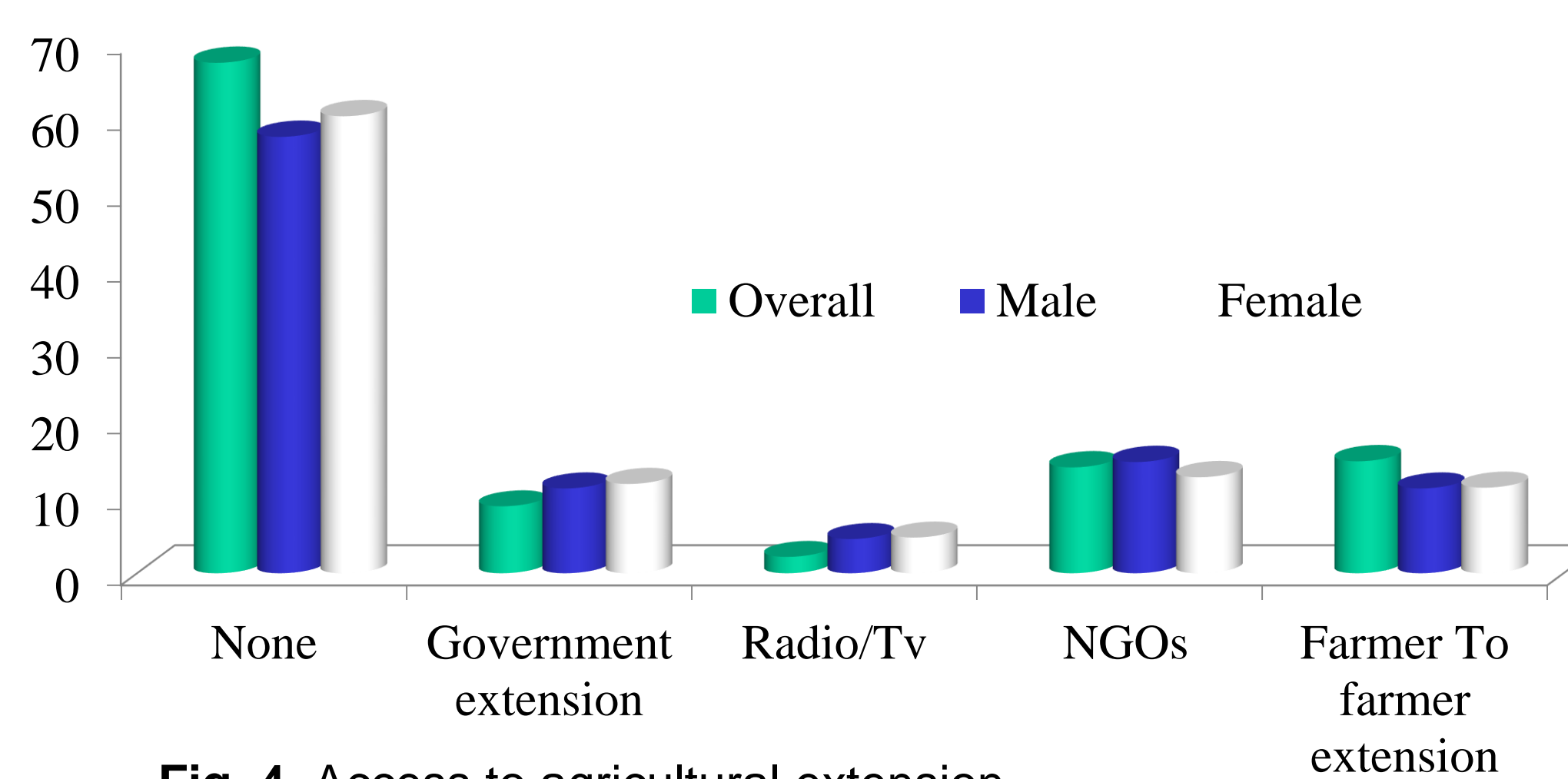


Fig. 4. Access to agricultural extension

- **Finding #6:** Agronomic information was the most frequently source information among respondents who had access to extension services.

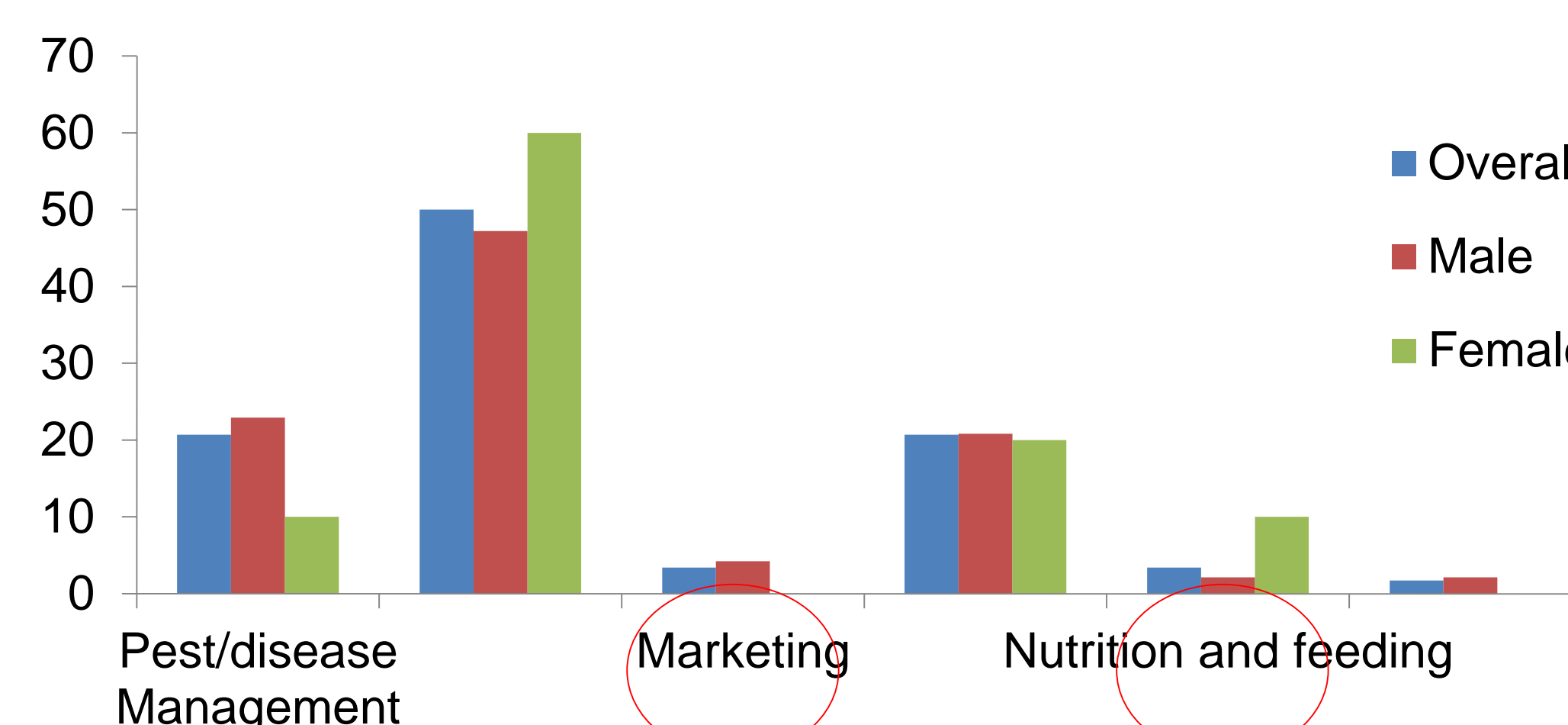


Fig 5: Type of information accessed by farmers

Implications of the findings

- Unfamiliarity with OFSP and its benefits imply the need for strong and extensive promotion of the benefits of OFSP.
- Sweetpotato is grown for home consumption as well as for sale. Hence there is scope to promote commercialization of OFSP production to increase household incomes.
- Strong preference for taste, and sweetness and drymatter content need strong nutrition campaign and continued breeding for these traits.
- Utilization of OFSP can be improved through strong education campaigns that promote varied recipes. It presents opportunity to increase OFSP production by creating demand.
- Greater focus will need to be given to promoting information on OFSP marketing and nutrition.
- Focus on the use of radio and TV as information channels will need to be evaluated based on context

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