

Gender and sweetpotato current marketing practices in Uganda: do women have access to lucrative markets?

Mayanja, S.¹; Mudege, N.² and Naziri, D.^{1,3}

¹ International Potato Center (CIP), Uganda; ² International Potato Center (CIP), Nairobi; ³ Natural Resources Institute (NRI), UK

Introduction

A gender baseline household survey was conducted in central and eastern Uganda to assess sweetpotato (SP) current marketing practices.

The aim was to identify gender-based constraints that could limit commercialization of technology and innovations.

This would enable faster technology adoption and increases utility and benefits for both women and men.

Materials and Methods

Data were collected from 137 respondents (92 F) with a semi-structured questionnaire on:

- Access to production inputs
- Volumes and value of marketed roots
- Type and nature of markets accessed
- Access to marketing and PH technology
- Decision making ability, and
- Constraints faced

Results

- Average total land size was 5.5 & 4.1 acres for men and women, respectively
- Males had larger SP gardens: 0.96 acres vs 0.81 acres for women
- Men produced 583kg/year as compared to 437kg/year by women
- A higher proportion of women grew sweetpotato for income than men (Fig. 1)
- But more men (53%) participated in marketing compared to women (48%).
- The most popular variety grown for the market by men and women was NASPOT 11
- All farmers mostly sold to local markets. Only women accessed big town markets (Fig. 2)
- Men and women had the ability to make decisions on SP income (Fig. 3).
- Pest & diseases and rotting were the main challenges (Fig. 4&5). Only men reported theft.

Conclusion

- Though women were more inclined to produce for the market, they participated and sold less than men.
- Women were able to make decisions on how to utilize sweetpotato income, and accessed more diverse markets than men. Thus confirming the importance of the crop to women as compared to men farmers.
- Nonetheless, there is need to for strategies to improve their production for and participation in markets
- Two types of strategies were developed: gender responsive (targeting both men and women e.g. access to credit) and gender transformative (mainly targeting women e.g. improving business skills)
- Though both women and men farmers need support to access better markets; a uniform approach may not be ideal. Rather, an approach that addresses their gender based constraints.

Fig 1: Purpose of growing sweetpotato

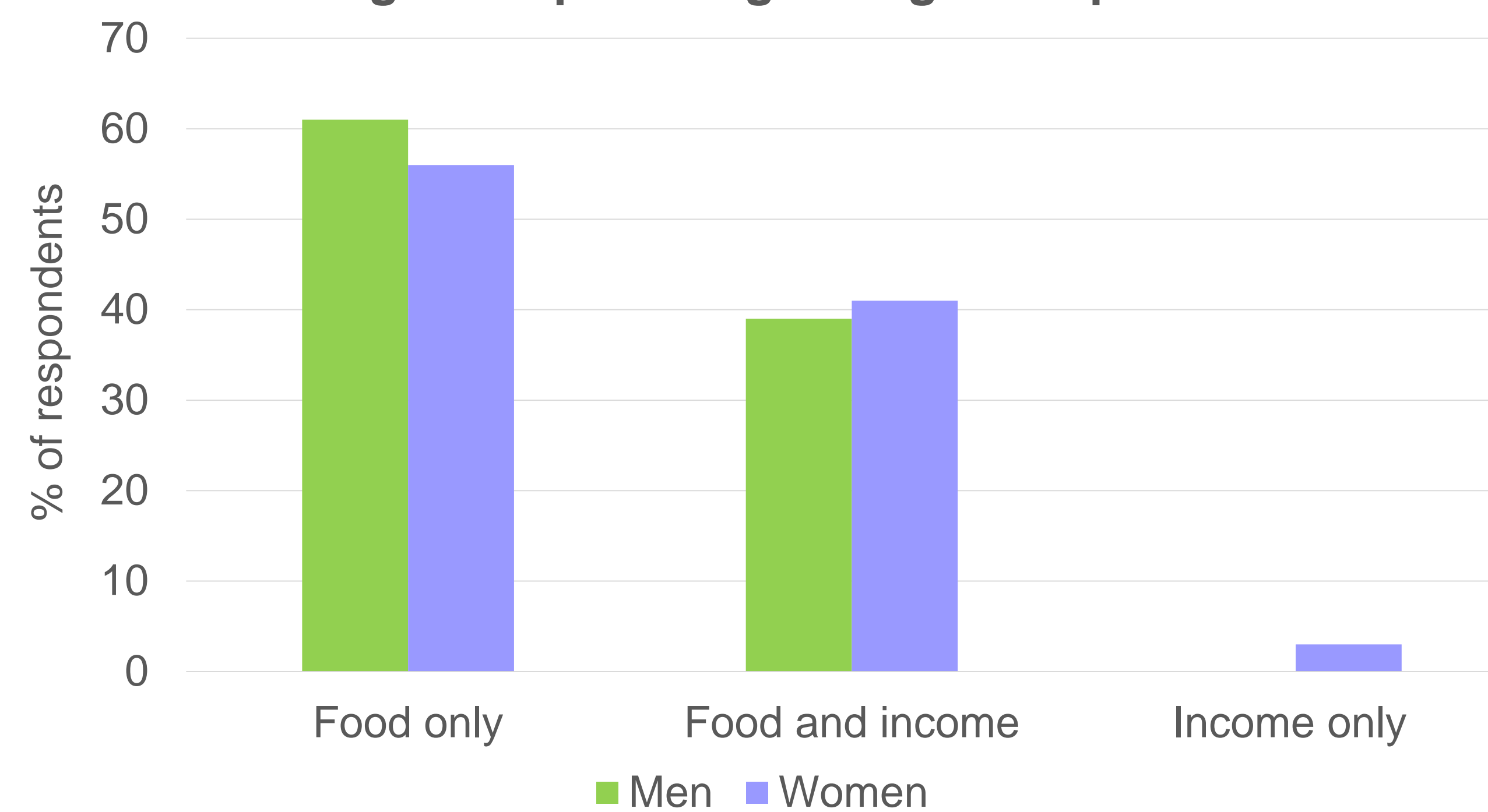


Fig 2: Main point of sale

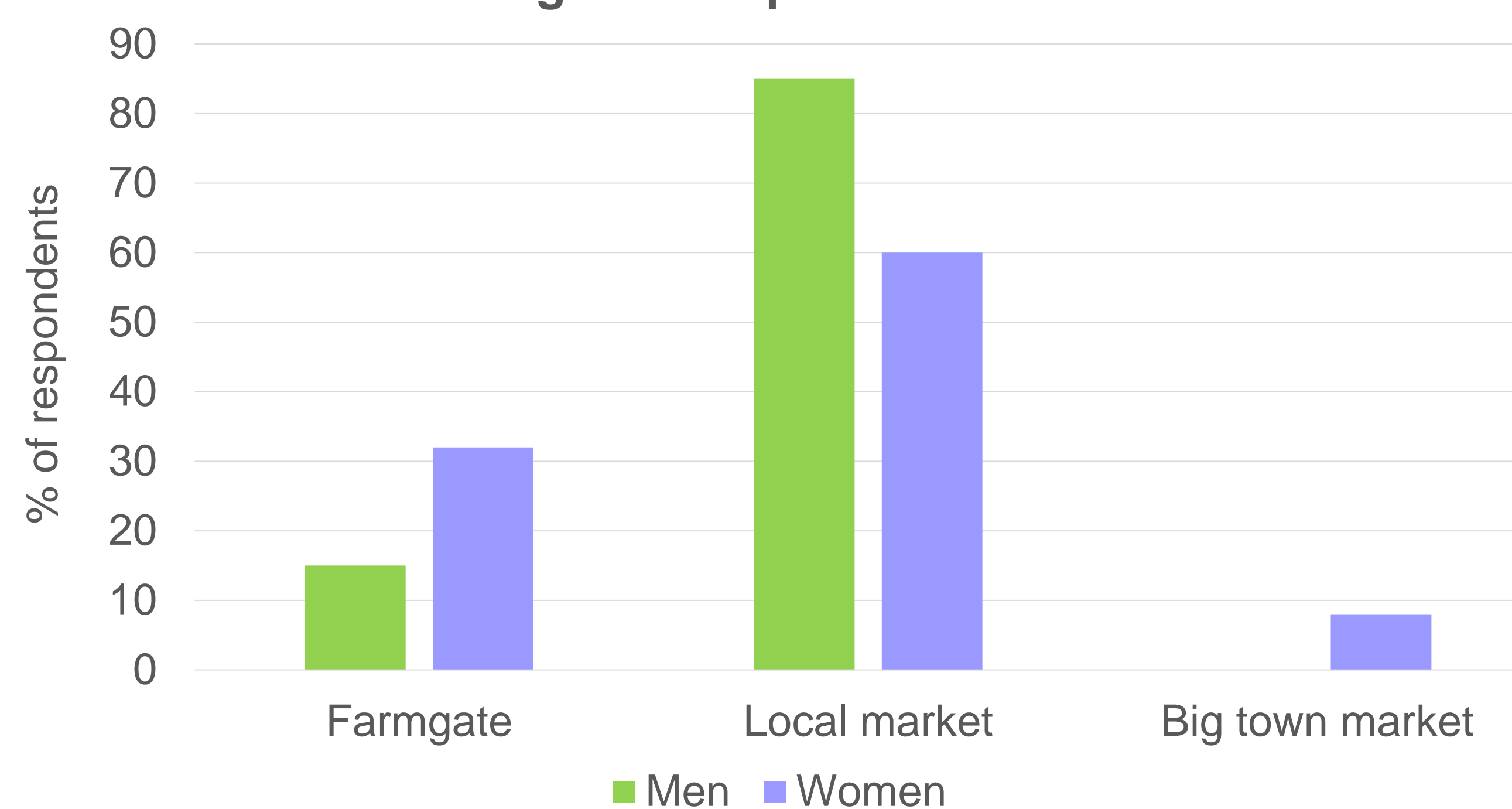


Fig 3. Have say on how income from SP is used

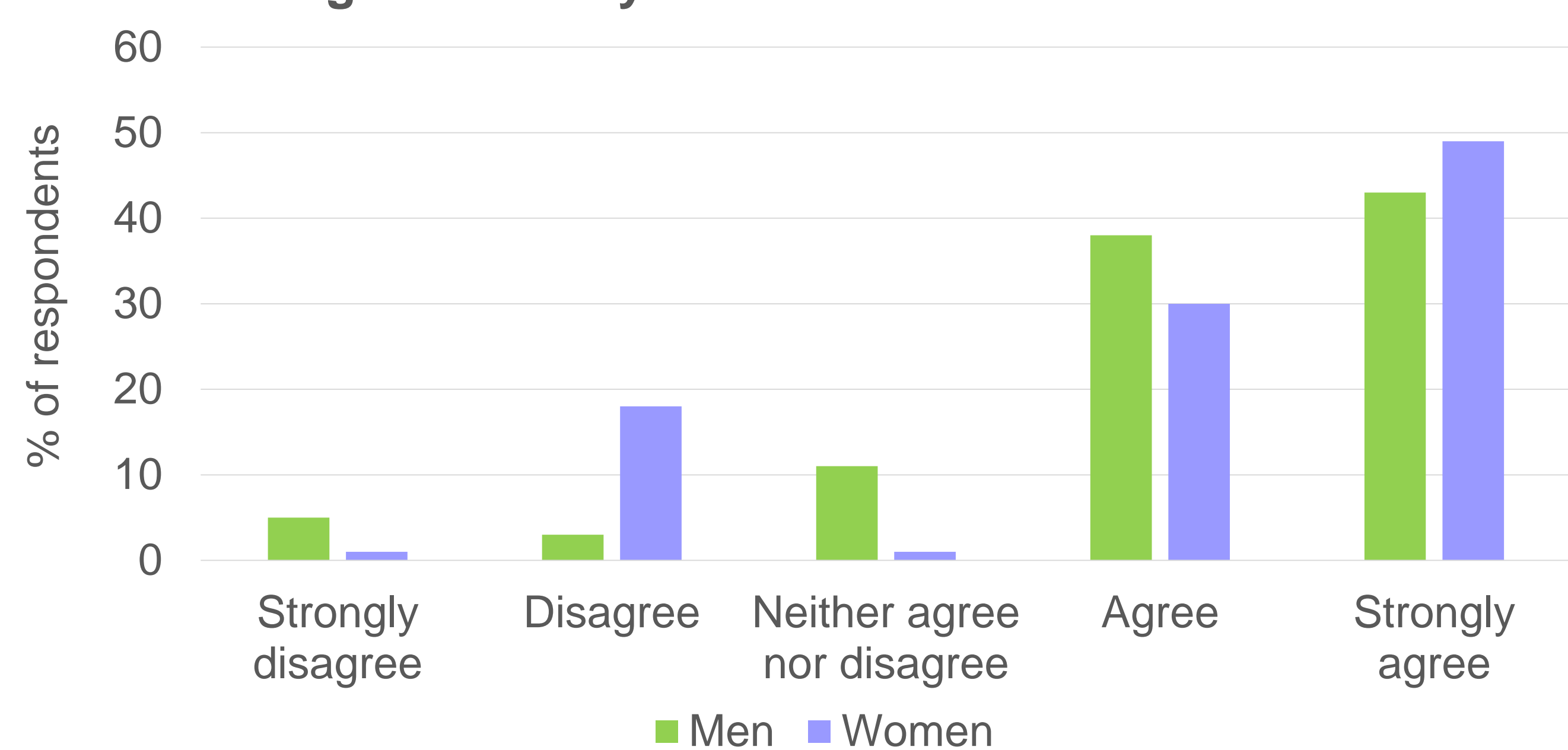
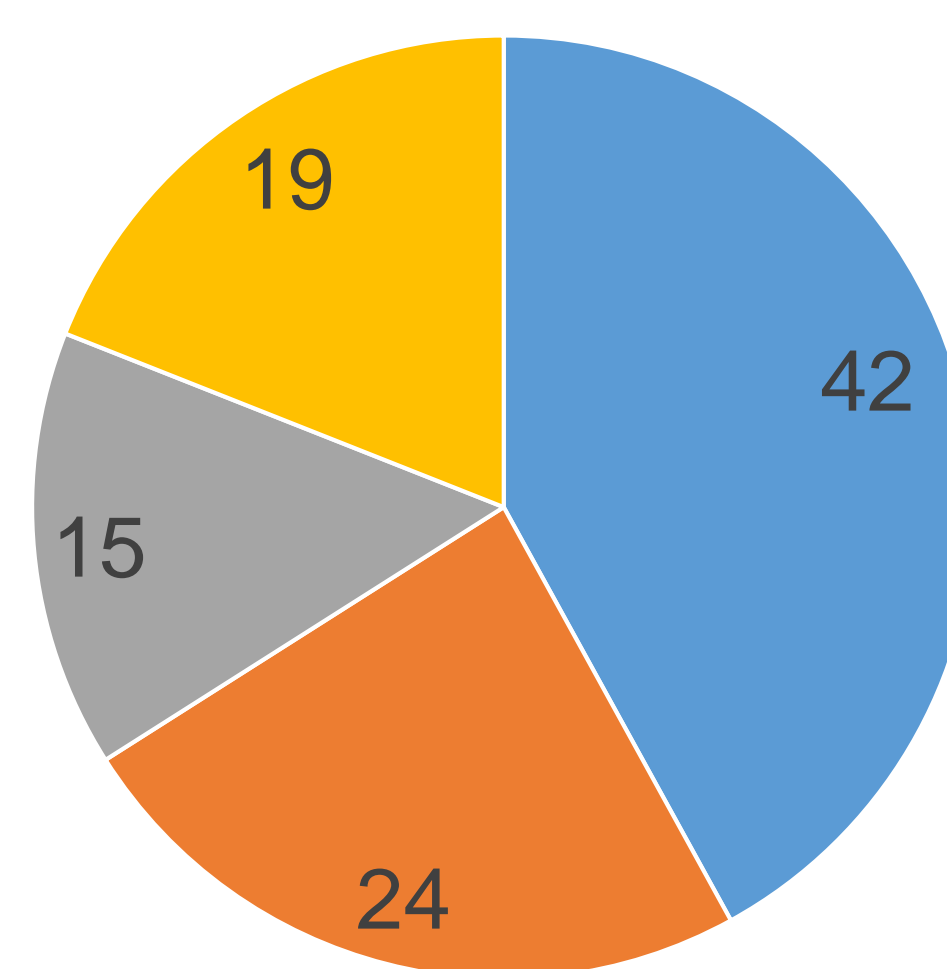
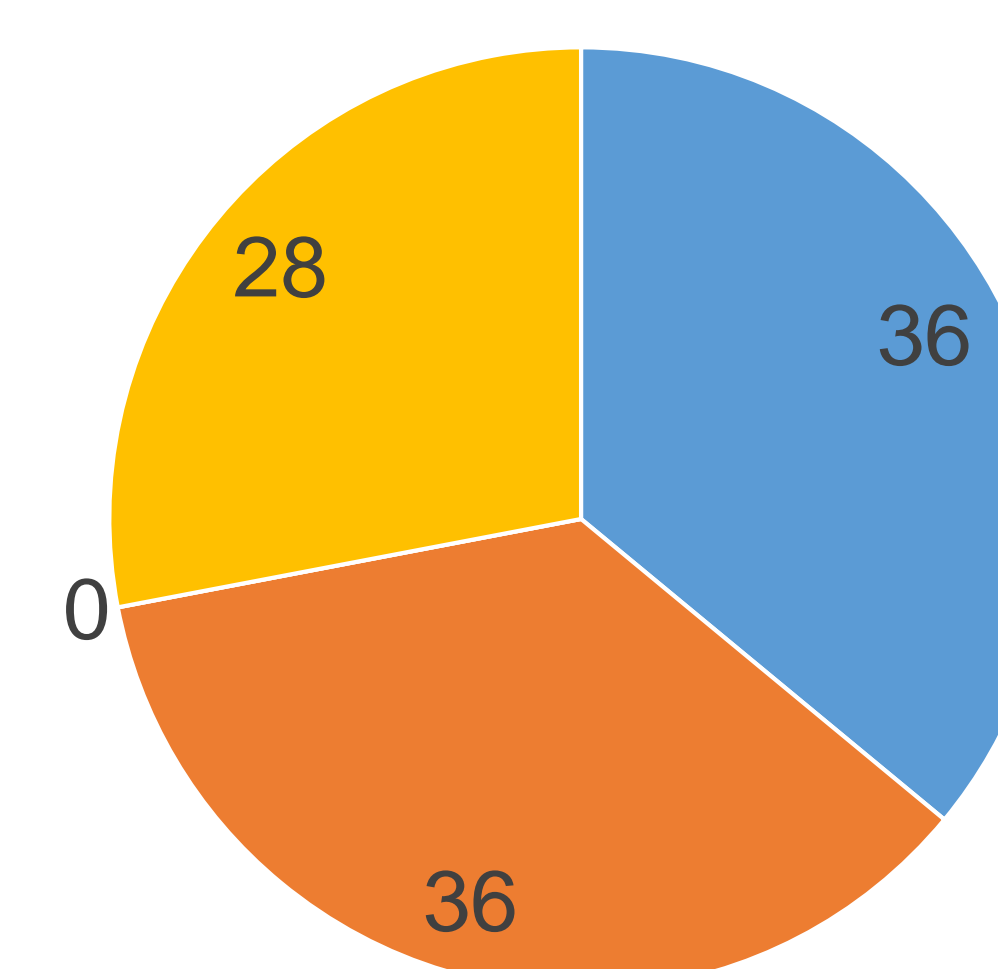


Fig 4. Main challenge - Men



■ Pest & diseases ■ Rotting
■ Theft ■ Other

Fig 5. Main challenge - Women



■ Pest & diseases ■ Rotting
■ Theft ■ Other



The CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) is a broad alliance led by the International Potato Center (CIP) jointly with Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and CIRAD in collaboration with research and development partners. Our shared purpose is to tap the underutilized potential of root, tuber and banana crops for improving nutrition and food security, increasing incomes and fostering greater gender equity, especially among the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. This is an output of *Expanding Utilization of Roots, Tubers and Bananas and Reducing their Postharvest Losses (RTB-ENDURE)* project implemented by RTB with funding from the European Union and technical Support from IFAD.