

FOCUS GROUP SURVEY AJARA

August 2014

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INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1: METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Purpose

The Focus Group Survey (FGS) was carried out between 2-17 June, 2014 in the five municipalities of Ajara: Khulo, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khelvachauri and Kobuleti, into which the ALCP is expanding¹ in its second phase running from March 2014 to March 2018 with a further standby phase of one year until the end of February 2019.² The purpose of the FGS is to document the perspectives, trends, attitudes and day-to-day activities of female and male farmers in relation to the supporting functions, core markets and rules of the dairy, beef and honey sub sectors of the market in which the programme operates and to triangulate this data with the broader market analysis.

Sample Description

The FGDs were carried out in 31 communities in the five target municipalities of Khulo, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khelvachauri and Kobuleti. The survey sample size constituted 46% of the 67 communities in these municipalities. Communities were chosen to reflect varying agro ecological zones and other demographic factors such as religion and the number of FG's reflects the size of the municipality. Ethnicity is largely uniform in Ajara region, unlike Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe Javakheti where the Alliances programme also operates.³ Ethnicity did not therefore play a major role in making a significant difference in determining market trends, attitudes and day-to-day activities of farmers

Religion

The composition of the groups included the two major religious groups in Ajara: Christian and Muslim. Information regarding the religion of communities was obtained on the ground by the interviewers indirectly rather than through direct questioning. Table 1 shows the religious distribution of the focus group survey sample:

Table 1: Sample Description by Religion (%)

	Christian	Muslim	Mixed
Men	29	26	45
Women	26	32	42
Both	27	29	44

Gender

To provide gender disaggregated data a male and female focus group was held for each community. Gender disaggregated data allows for the tracing of divergence in answers across gender, it shows the variation in perception according to gender, allowing for a comparison of responses between men and women. In addition to gender specific questions included in the survey, male and female results are available for each question.

¹ In addition to the existing three municipalities and new three municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region: Dmanisi, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka municipalities and Mameuli, Gardabani, Bolnisi municipalities.

² For more detailed references see Alliances ALCP Proposal

³ Unlike two FGS carried in Alliances Kvemo Kartli region in 2011 and 2014, ethnicity was not considered in this survey.

Table 2: Sample Description by Gender

		Male	Female	Total
Khulo	Number of focus groups	8	8	16
	Number of interviewees	99	52	151
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Shuakhevi	Number of focus groups	7	7	14
	Number of interviewees	75	44	119
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Keda	Number of focus groups	5	5	10
	Number of interviewees	29	34	63
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Khelvachauri	Number of focus groups	5	5	10
	Number of interviewees	51	24	75
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Kobuleti	Number of focus groups	6	6	12
	Number of interviewees	53	41	94
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Total	Number of focus groups	31	31	62
	Number of interviewees	307	195	502
	% of Male and female	61%	39%	100%

Note: Although the number of FG's held were almost 50% male and 50% female it is apparent that approximately only half the number of female respondents were interviewed as the number of women attendees were fewer.

Summary of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed to obtain both qualitative and quantitative data and was orientated to capture data pertaining to service availability, market access and farm level information pertaining to the dairy, beef, and honey value chains. The questionnaire as a whole can be found in Annex 1.

The questionnaire consists of the following eleven sections:

1. *Focus Group Background* - represents the ethnic and gender composition, and general description of the sample (the results of which are presented in Table 1 and 2).
2. *Community Profile* - describes the main sources of income in this area.
3. *Agriculture Services and Inputs* - mainly focuses on the access to agriculture services and several types of inputs e.g. labour.
4. *Livestock, Dairy and Honey Marketing* - provides information on availability to major livestock markets, customers and transportation.
5. *Pasture Access and Management* - gives data on major problems of pasturing faced by farmers.
6. *Information* - focuses on access to and the availability of information.
7. *Wealth and Poverty* - description of the wealth and poverty in our sample based on the definition and perceptions of the focus group.
8. *Gender* - information about the division of labour and allocation of roles according to gender in agricultural activities.
9. *Government* - examines government in the context of the agricultural sector and farmers contact with them.
10. *DRR* - examines disasters particularly related to livestock production and beekeeping which have occurred in the region, farmers' perception towards their effect and government responses.

11. *Community Priorities* - sums up the main priorities of communities regarding development in the agricultural sector.

RESULTS

SECTION 2: COMMUNITY PROFILE

The section mainly concentrates on the availability of basic services in the target communities. Agriculture is the main income generation method, although not the only one. The communities have access to basic commercial and public services and therefore some local people are salaried employees related to these services in addition to carrying out agriculture activities. The major agricultural income generating methods in this region is beef production. Potato production and beekeeping are ranked lowed but still important.

2.1: *What are the main income generating activities in this community?*

Please rank in order of importance:

(0= not in this community

1= very low importance

2= low importance (i.e. to a few households)

3= important (to many households)

4= very important (to most/all households)

Beef, potatoes, and honey are the most significant income sources of the agricultural sector in the region. Cows are used more for beef (68%) rather than for dairy (31%).⁴ Despite large differences in altitude and climate across municipalities, beef production is still regarded as the most important while looking at the municipalities separately. However, the outcomes vary for other goods: along with beef, potato production is the most important income generation method in Khulo, potatoes in Shuakhevi, beef in Keda, beekeeping in Khelvachauri and Kobuleti, and citrus in Kobuleti municipality. There is a general tendency that each agricultural product is named to be important by more women than men. A more detailed description of the importance of different sources of income generating is illustrated in Figures 2.1.a, 2.1.b and 2.1.c below:

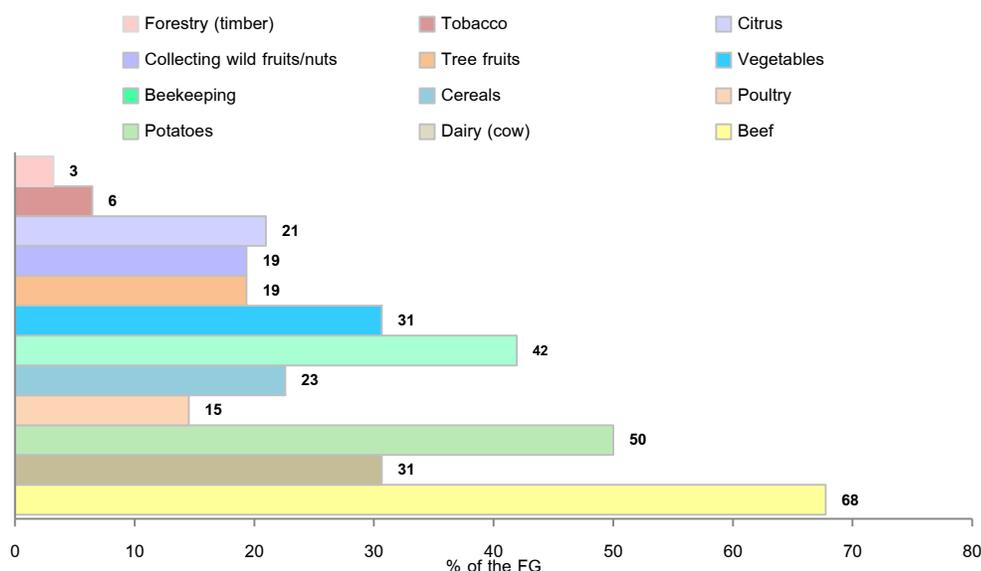


Figure 2.1 a: Main Income Generating Activities in the Community
(%, of those FGs who answered the following to be important and/or very important, general trend)

⁴ This is not to imply that dairy is not important it merely reflects that milk produced is mainly consumed in the HH with relatively little income generated from sale in comparison to the sale of animals for meat or of crops and honey.

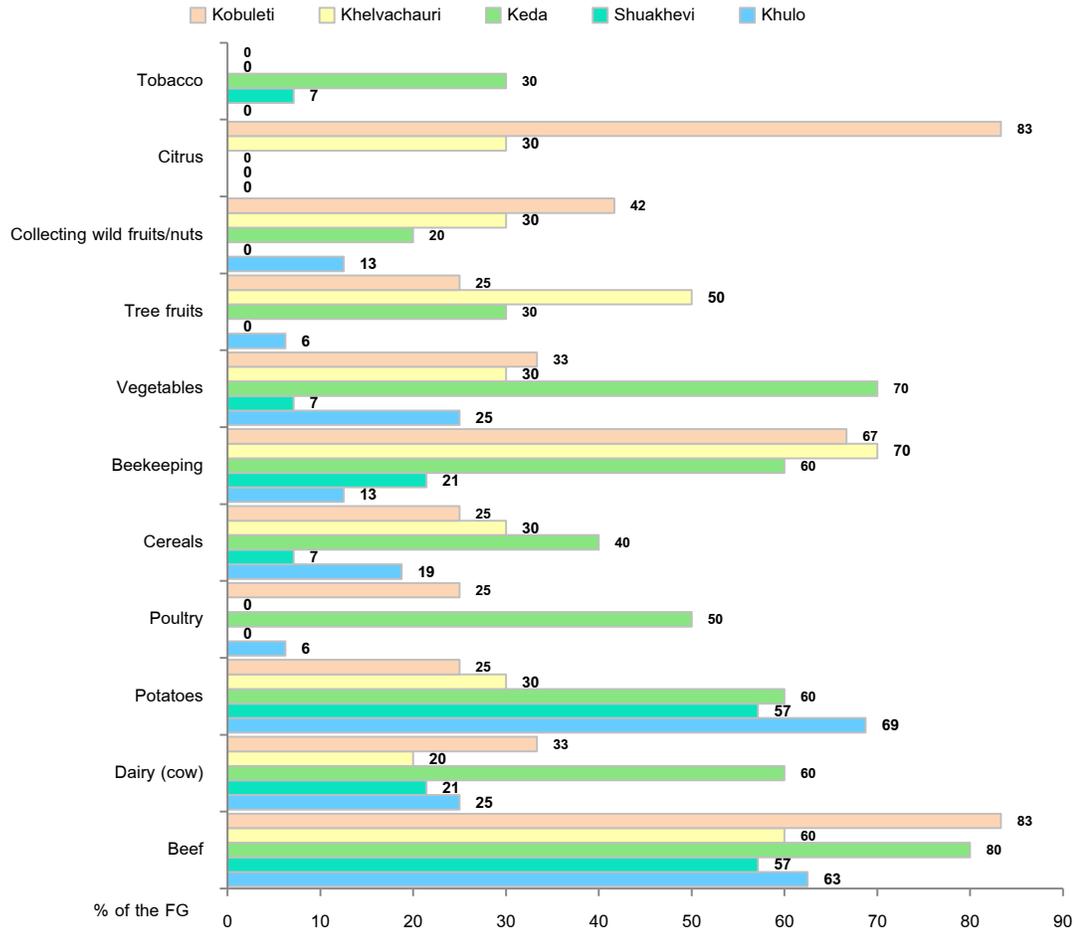


Figure 2.1 b: Main Income Generating Activities in the Community
 (% of those FGs who answered the following to be important and/or very important, comparison across municipalities)

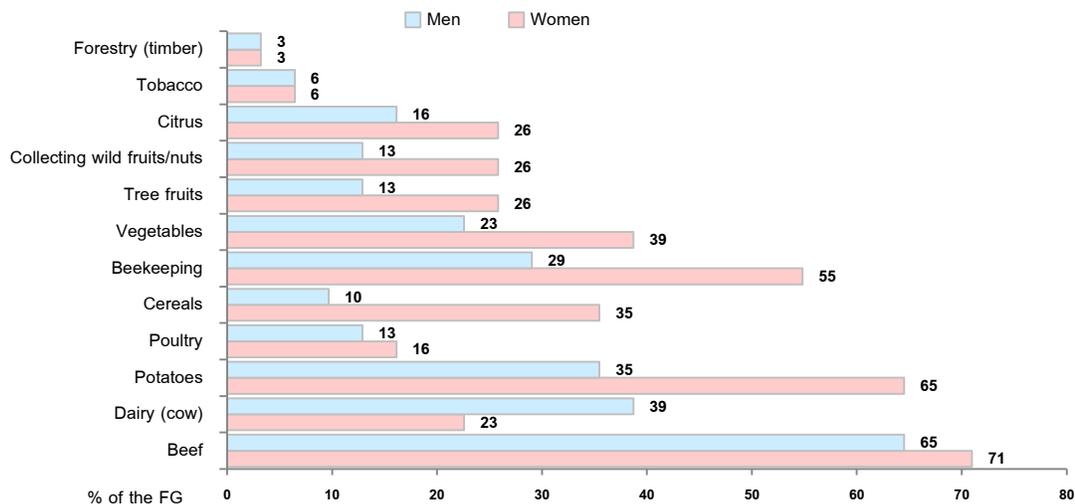


Figure 2.1 c: Main Income Generating Activities in the Community

(%, of those FGs who answered regard following to be important and/or very important, comparison across gender)

2.2: Are the following enterprises present in your community?

In general, basic commercial services, such as shops, saw mills and mechanics are common in the target communities, with Khelvachauri seemingly best served. Table 3 illustrates access to the enterprises in detail, by showing the average number of services per village. Where existing enterprises and services are shared by 3 or 4 communities, their number is less than one per community. (In such cases, zero is displayed as an average number). The low number of micro finance, banking services and pay points is notable.⁵

Table 3: Average Number of Enterprises Present in Communities

	Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
Shops	6	3	4	15	4
Bakeries	0	0	1	1	0
Sawmill	3	4	2	4	1
Tailor	1	2	0	2	1
Bank/Microfinance	0	0	1	1	1
Informal lender	1	0	0	0	0
Pay point	1	0	1	2	1
Mechanic	2	3	1	6	3
Blacksmith (metal worker)	2	1	1	1	1

2.3: Are the following services present in your village?

Medical and educational services are more accessible at least one is present per village (see Table 4 below). Khelvachauri municipality is again best served. However, municipal services are not accessible for Khulo and Keda residents.

Table 4: Average Number of Services Present per Community

	Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
Doctor	2	2	1	7	2

⁵ Which in the FGKK are better presented

Ambulance	1	1	1	2	2
Kindergarten	1	1	1	1	1
Primary school	2	2	1	3	1
Secondary school	2	2	1	7	2
Municipal services	0	1	0	1	1

2.4: What are the main non-agricultural employments or income generating activities in this community?

Although the agriculture is the major source of income in villages, rural people in Ajara are also engaged in salaried work. A smaller number of people are involved in trade and work as hired labourers. Seasonal or permanent work available for SSLP's tends to be: working in construction, in textile factories and abroad. Social welfare and pensions were also mentioned as income sources. Location does not cause any sizable differences. Gender analyses suggests that more men are working for a salary and trade goods rather than women and the opposite is true for working as a hired labourer⁶. Figure 2.2 below illustrates this in more detail:

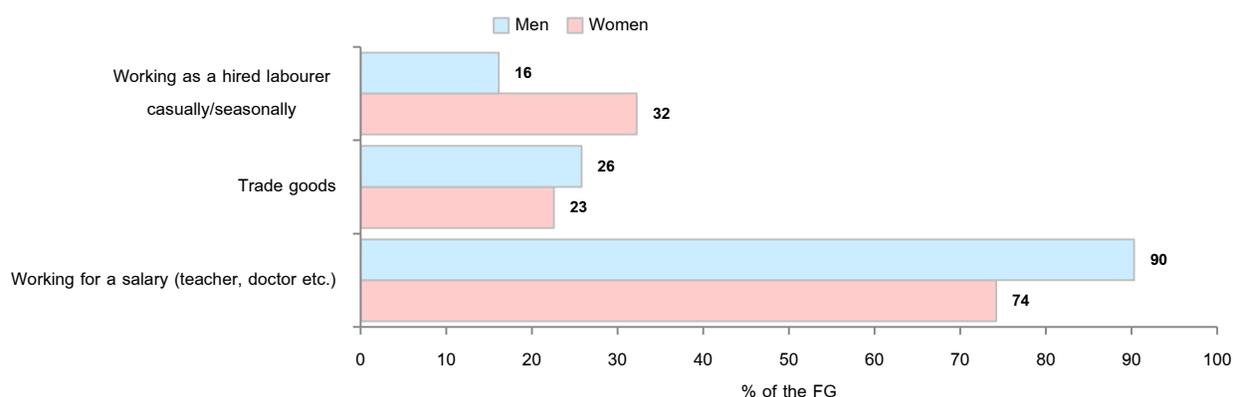


Figure 2.2: Main Income Generating Activities in the Community
(% of those FGs who answered regard following to be important and/or very important)

2.5: Do your family members/close relatives work abroad?

Working abroad was expected to be a significant income generating method as borne out below. The outcomes do not vary across gender:

⁶ Please refer to section 3.8

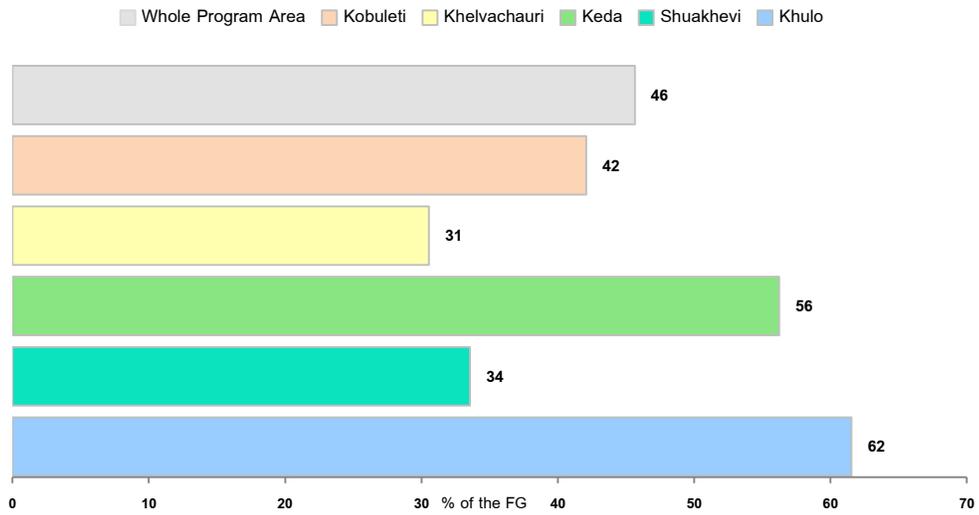


Figure 2.3: Number of People Working Abroad per Municipality & Average in the Region
(Average per municipality)

SECTION 3: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES & INPUTS

This section mainly focuses on access to major agricultural services and inputs, and also shows where farmers can find these services. Lack of access to quality machinery for agricultural usage, quality veterinary services and grain mills are the priority services for farmers in Ajara. Target services are not available within villages, thus farmers have to travel to municipal centres and mainly to Batumi. Main constraints are listed as: lack of access to breeding services, quality machinery, transport and quality nutrition, grass and pastures. Significant factors determining these needs are location and altitude, thus the results vary across municipalities. However, the common trend is that better access to essential agricultural inputs like veterinary services, animal nutrition and improved breeding services are services farmers want and are ready to pay for.

3.1: Where and how often do you access the following products and services? Rank the importance of the service?

The differences across municipalities are determined by characteristics and the needs of each municipality; however access to mills and machinery for cultivation are of the highest priority in each municipality. The majority regard access to machinery for cultivation (74%), a veterinarian (69%) and grain mill (65%) are the main concerns. Vaccination, seeds and fertilizer, additional livestock nutrition and vet drugs also score highly. In all five municipalities more women than men recognise the need for basic agricultural inputs; the exceptions are vaccination, and artificial insemination, in which cases the opposite is true. Figures 3.1 and 3.2 give a more detailed picture.

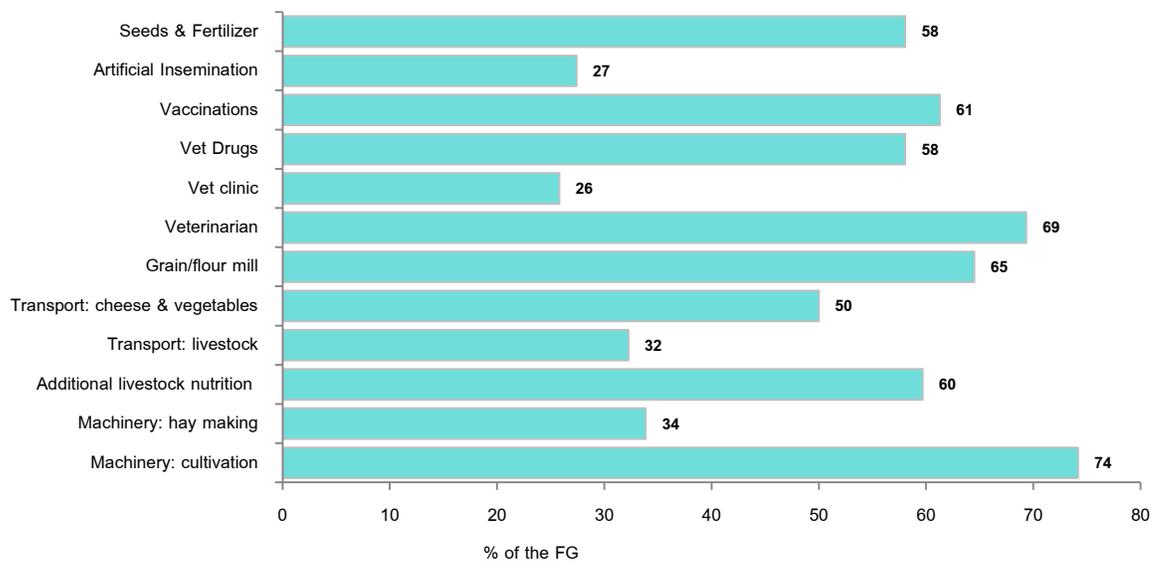


Figure 3.1: % of Farmers Regarding Following Services to be of High Importance
(Importance of services, general trend)

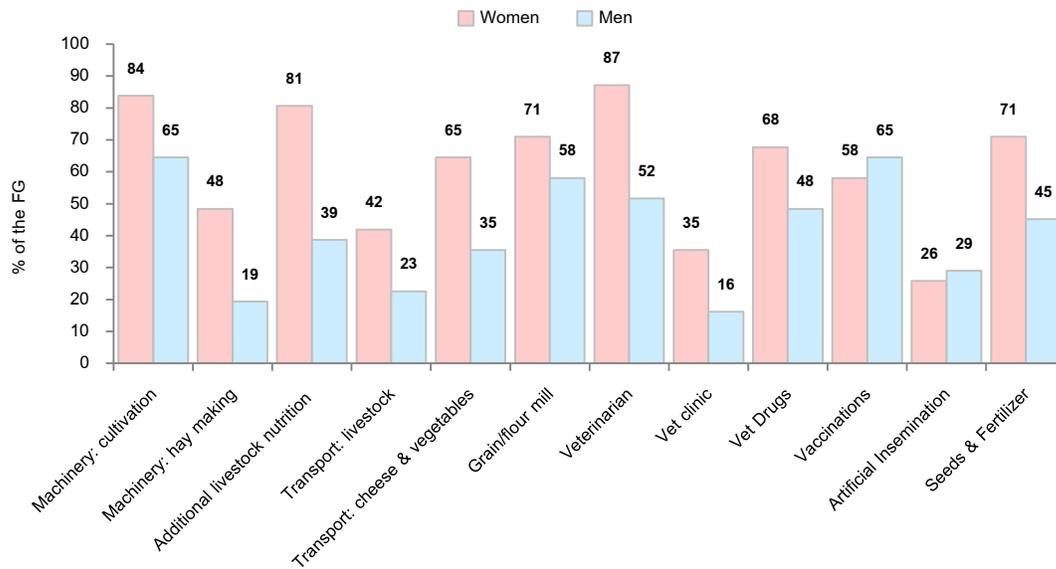


Figure 3.2: % of Farmers Regarding Following Services to be of High Importance
(Importance of services, differences across gender)

Grain mills are the most easily accessible service for the majority of farmers from Khulo, Keda, Shuakhevi and Kobuleti municipalities and cultivation machinery for farmers from Shuakhevi municipality. Figure 3.3 shows that farmers from different municipalities have more or less equal access to basic agricultural input and services and Figure 3.4 shows the overall picture of the availability of services in the region:

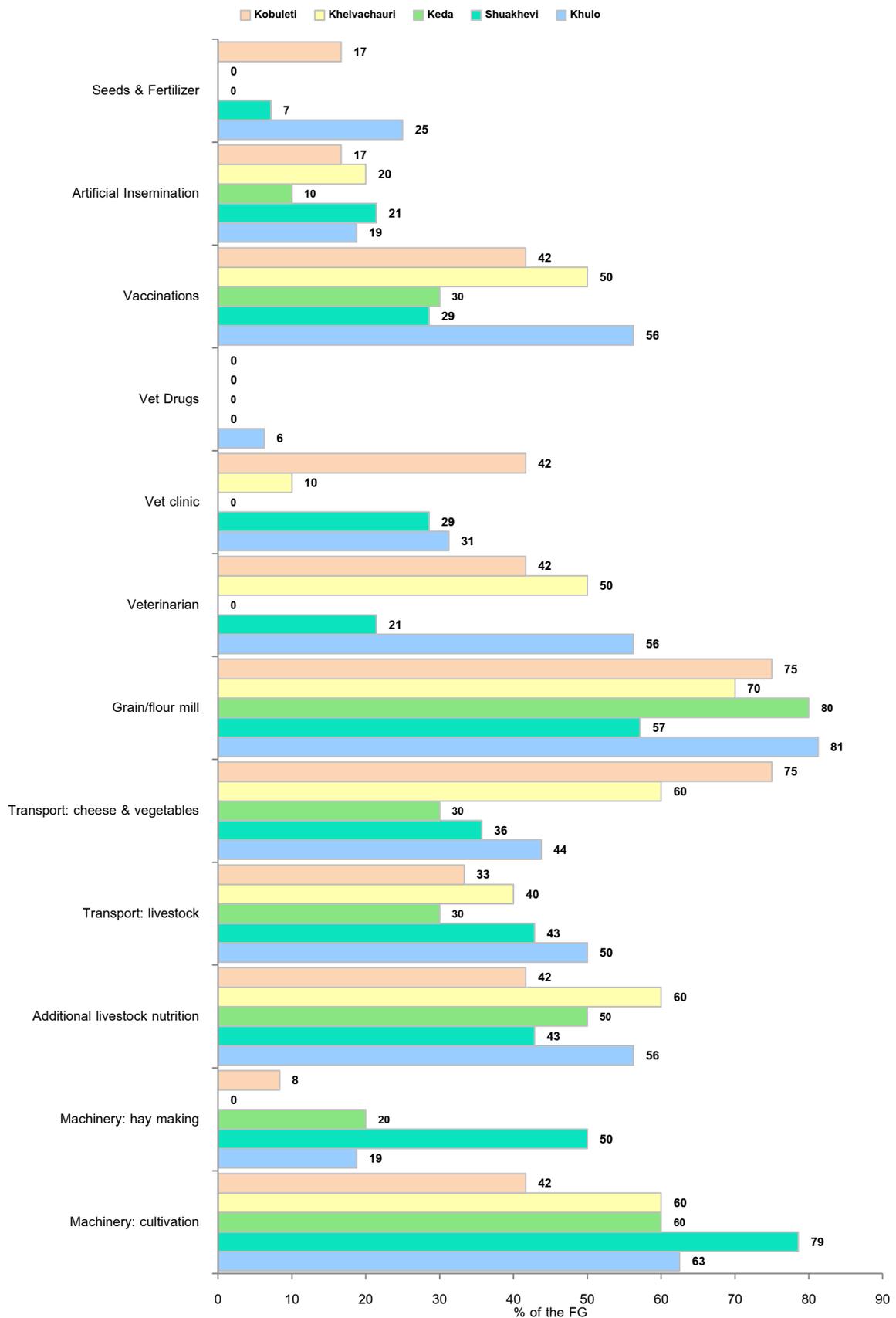


Figure 3.3: Focus Groups Naming Following Services to be Present in Their Villages or in neighboring villages
 (% of the FG, access to services, difference across Municipalities)

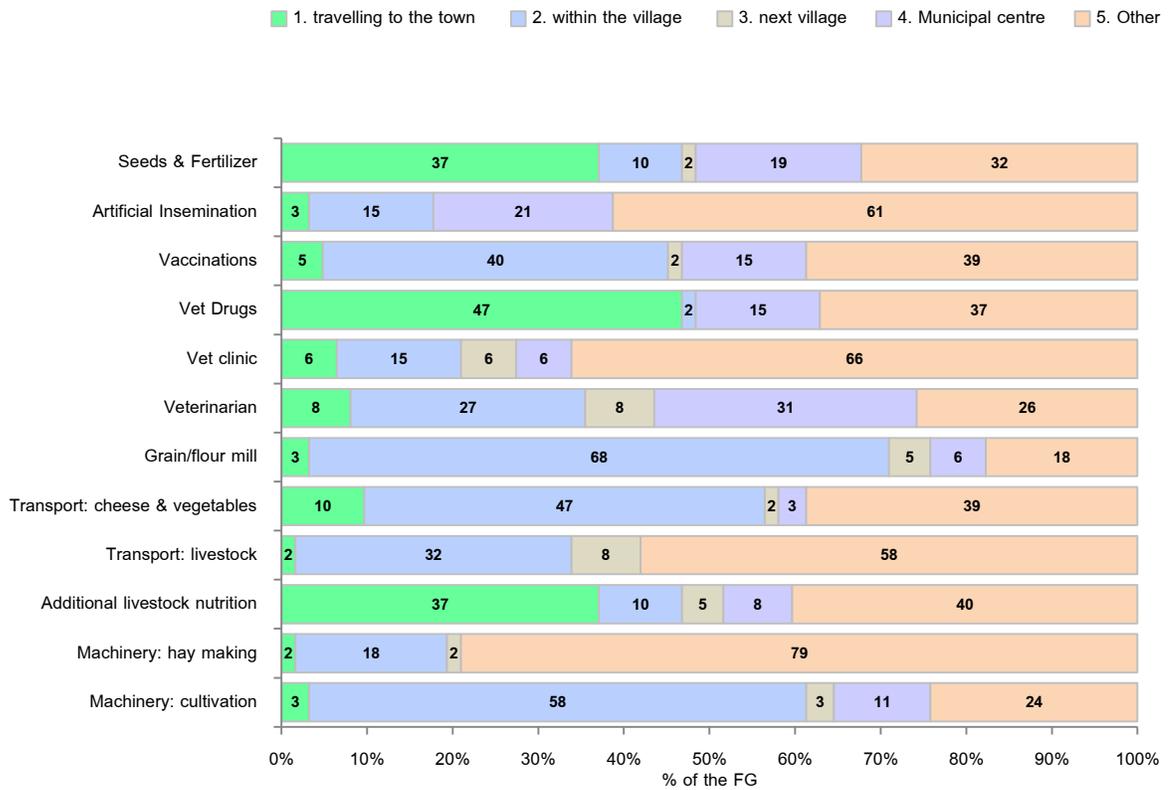


Figure 3.4: Focus Groups Naming Following to be the Nearest Places where They Can Get These Services
 (% , location of services, general trend)⁷

The figure below describes the frequency of access to or use of these services by farmers. The variation of the results across gender is negligible; however across municipalities deviation mostly follows the same pattern in availability of access. The most frequently used services are transport for cheese and vegetables and additional livestock nutrition.

⁷ Category “other” in most of the cases implies Batumi market.

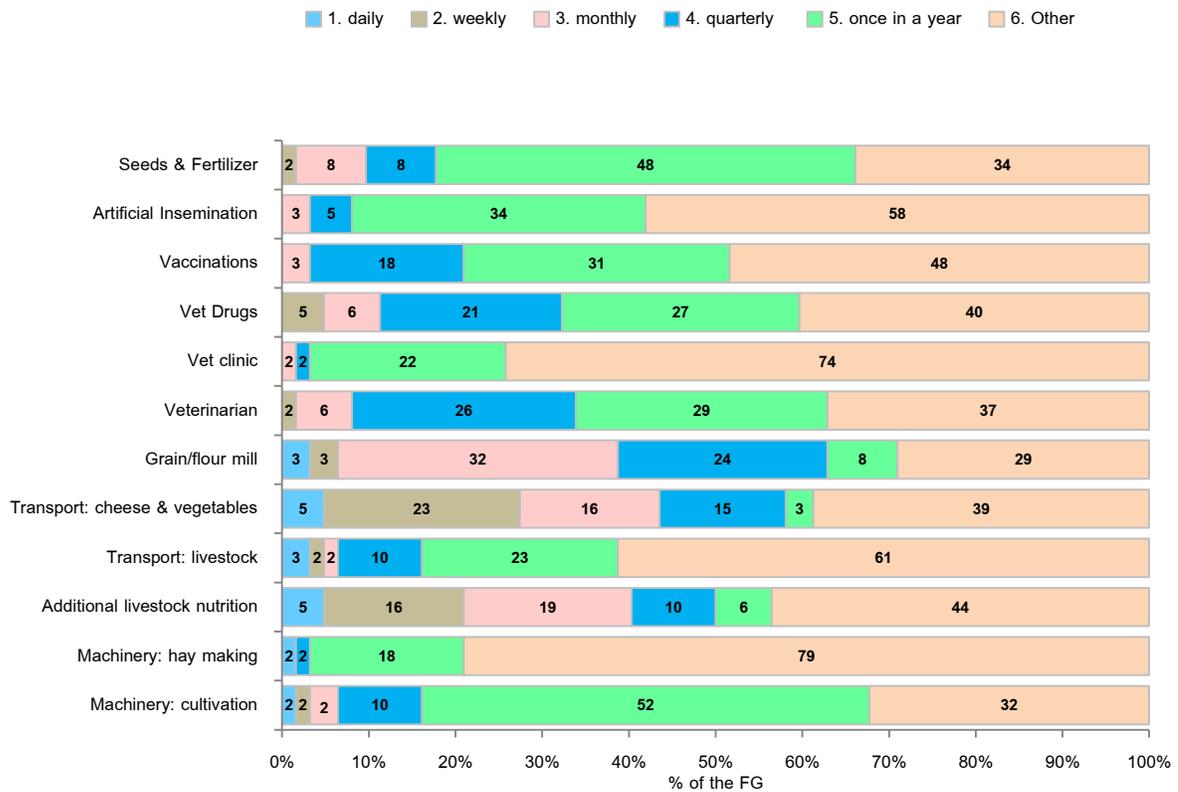


Figure 3.5: The Frequency with which Farmers Access These Services
(%, frequency of access to services, general trend)

3.2: Where and how often do you access the following in this community? Rank the importance of the service.

Daft oxen usage for cultivation is essential in Ajara, usage of horses and donkeys for the same and transportation purposes is less spread, but still existent, the same is true for traditional remedies and ways for healing cattle. Interestingly, it seems that the usage of draft animal and traditional remedies for livestock is more significant for women; the only exception is the usage of draught animal for transportation, which is not regarded to be important by any women interviewed. Differences across municipalities suggest that those from villages in higher altitude locations use these traditional methods more often than those who live in lower altitude zones. Figures 3.6 and 3.7 provide detailed pictures of these differences:

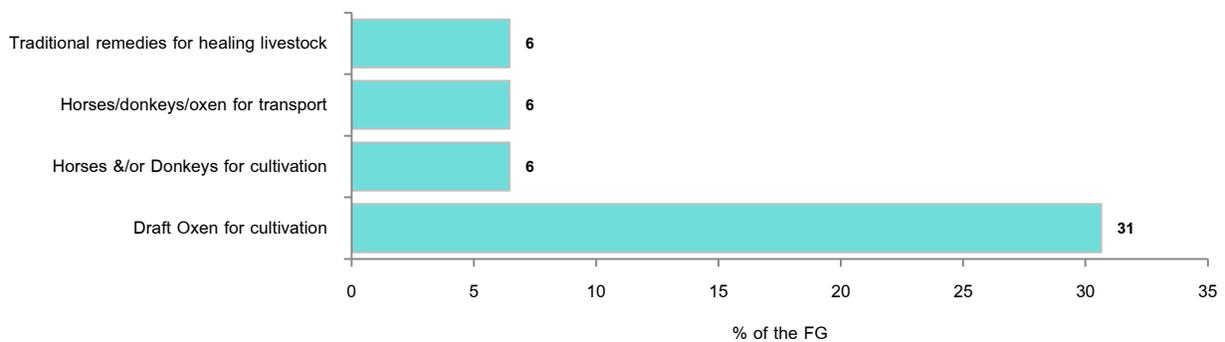


Figure 3.6: % of Farmers Regarding Following to be of High Importance
(Importance, General trend)

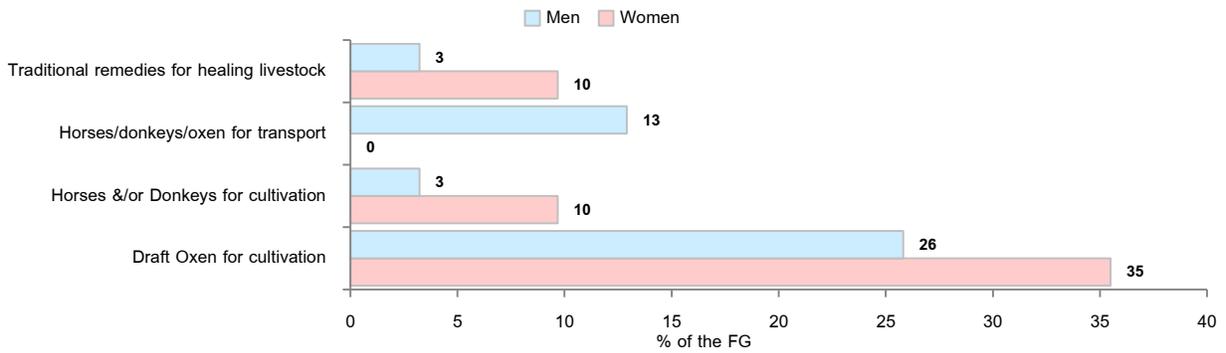


Figure 3.7: % of Farmers Regarding the Following to be of High Importance (Importance, comparison across Gender)

Farmers from higher Khulo, Shuakhevi and Keda municipalities have more access to draft animals within their villages than those from lower zones (Khelvachauri, Kobuleti). See Figure 3.8 below:

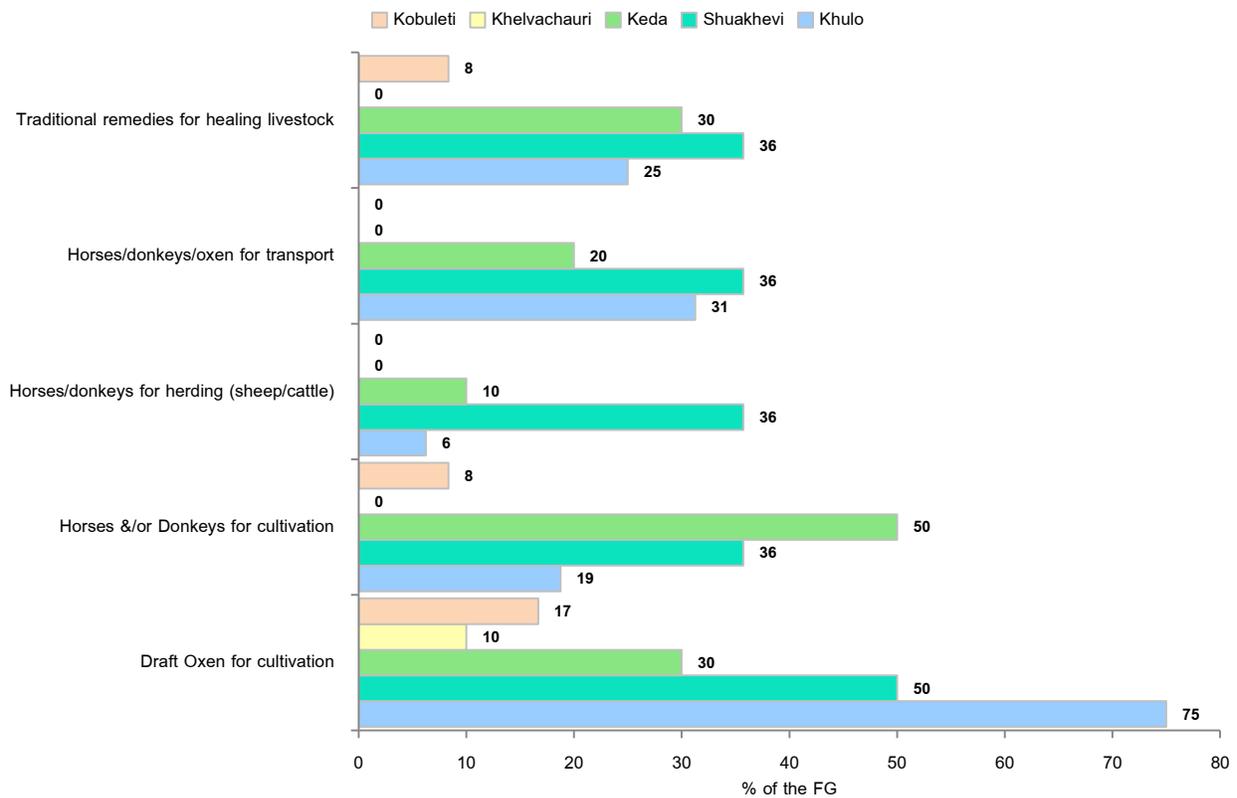


Figure 3.8: Focus Groups Naming the Following to be presented in Their Villages or in Next Villages (% access to services, differences across Municipalities)

Gender was informative when analysing the frequency of using draft animal services. For more details see Figures 3.9 and 3.10 below:

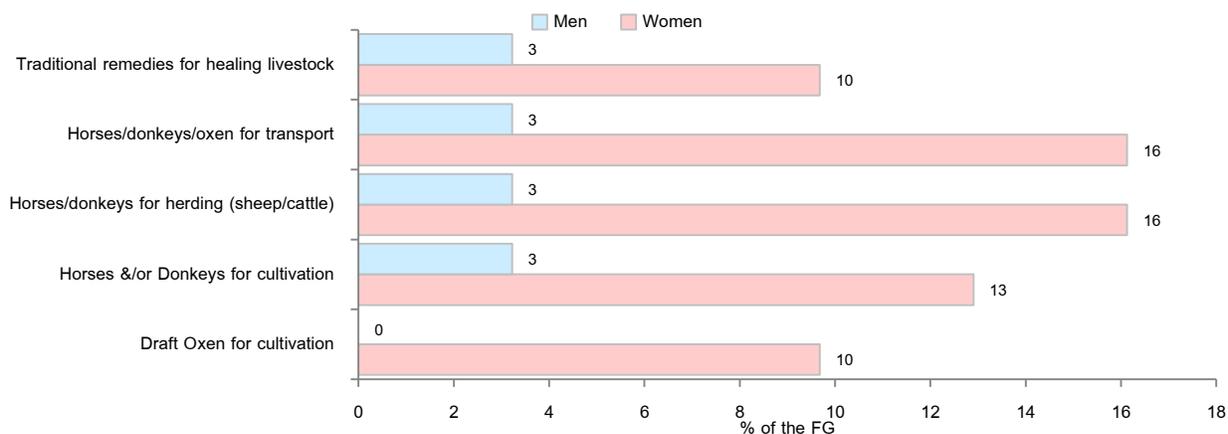


Figure 3.9: Focus Groups Accessing the Following on a Daily or Weekly Basis
(%, frequency of access to the services, differences across gender)

3.3: Do you buy veterinary inputs and services?

Farmers do not have access to vet services in their communities. Normally, they travel to the centre of their Municipality or to Batumi. However, farmers from Shuakhevi cannot find this service even in their municipality centre, thus they have to travel to Batumi. Two female focus groups in Kobuleti mentioned that they travel to Ozurgeti⁹ in order to buy vet inputs. Farmers from each municipality would prefer having access to the service within their community. The difference between male and female focus groups was significant only in Khelvachauri where 80% of female focus groups stated that they buy vet inputs and services in the centre of Municipality, however all male groups noted that they buy vet inputs and services only in Batumi.

3.4: Do you buy livestock nutrition?

The main nutritional inputs for livestock are hay and green grass. Bran and straw were named by few; however the majority of farmers do not tend to use nutritional input in addition to grass and hay due to the expense.

Table 5: Access to and Usage of Livestock Nutrition

	Observations:
Khulo	During summer, they mostly send cattle to the highland pasture. In winter, they feed cattle mostly with hay; they buy hay in Batumi market where the average price for hay is 10 Gel/bale. 37% of male and 75% of female focus groups mentioned bran as an additional feed in winter which they buy also in Batumi market. Only one male and one female focus group mentioned that they buy hay in Tsalka and Akhaltsikhe with lower price on average 6 Gel/bale.
Shuakhevi	During summer, they mostly send cattle to the highland pasture. Additionally, they feed cattle with hay and bran during the whole year. They buy hay and bran in the Municipal center or in Batumi market. The average price for hay is 10 Gel/bale and for bran 14 Gel per sack.
Keda	The main feed for cattle during the winter is hay according to male and female focus groups. Only one female focus group mentioned bran and straw as an additional winter feed. 50% of FGs said that they send cattle to the highland pasture and the rest feed their cattle in the village on small plots. 2 male focus groups stated that cattle feed is expensive that makes difficult to keep more than 2 cows. The contrast between male

⁸ In most of the cases "Other" implies seasonally

⁹ Ozurgeti- municipal centre in neighbouring region, Guria

	and female focus group responses is not significant.
Khelvachauri	Mostly they feed cattle with hay in all seasons. The average price for hay is 10 Gel/bale. 60% of male and female focus groups mentioned bran as additional feed in winter. One male focus group mentioned that they buy hay in Kakheti with lower price on average 6 Gel/bale.
Kobuleti	Mostly they feed cattle with hay and bran in all seasons. They buy hay and bran in the municipal centre or in Batumi market. The average price for hay in winter is 10 Gel/bale and for bran 14 Gel per sack.

3.5: Do you use a breeding service?

Currently farmers use natural breeding for their cattle. They have unsuccessful experience of using AI services for cattle breeding (local cows are small in size and this causes difficulties to give birth). Therefore they would prefer to have access to improved breed bulls' rather than AI.

3.6: Do you hire labourers on your farms?

3.7: What jobs do hired labourers do?

3.8: How much do you pay them (money or in-kind)? Is this for a daily rate or for a completed task?

Hiring labourers is common in Ajara; however this trend mainly includes exchange of labour with each other, which is called *Nadi*. The contrast between male and female focus groups responses is not significant; however the comparison of results across municipalities is informative. Figure 3.10 below displays the comparison across municipalities.

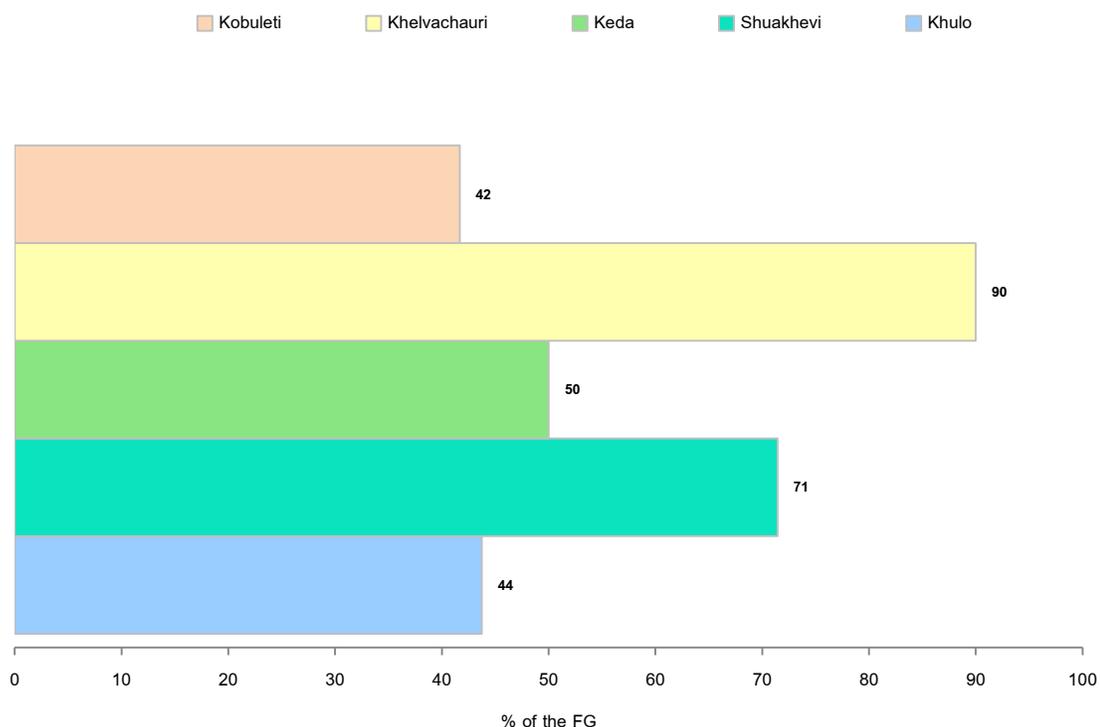


Figure 3.10 % of the Farmers, Who Hire Labor for their Farms, Comparison across Municipalities

As previously mentioned the barter exchange or in kind labour is considerable while looking at hired labour

force, in the region. The majority of farmers hire labourers mostly from within the village and pay in-kind for tasks fulfilled. Farmers from Khelvachauri and Kobuleti also hire non-local labourers, with a cash payment, mainly for citrus and nuts picking (See figure11).

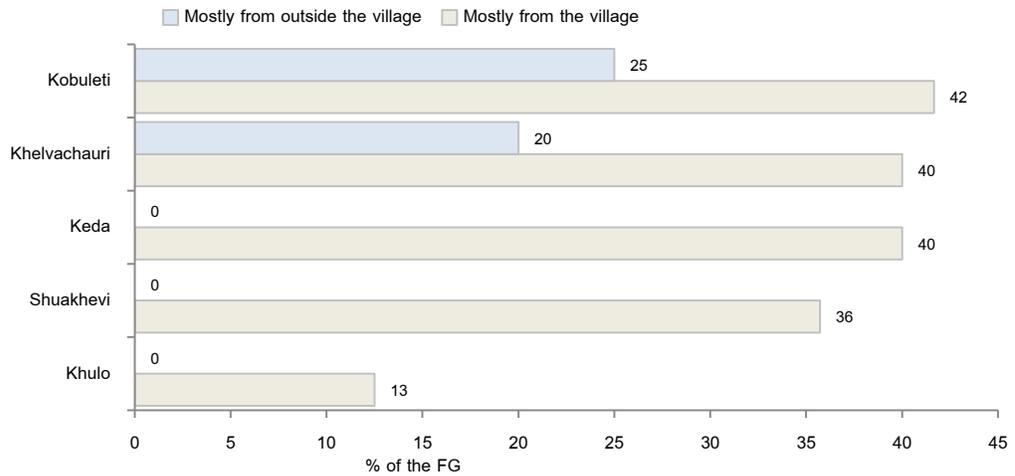


Figure 3.11: % of Farmers who Hire Labor for Their Farms from Their Villages and/or outside Their Villages

Figure 3.12 below shows that, on average men are paid 24 Gel, while the daily payment for women, on average is 20 Gel.

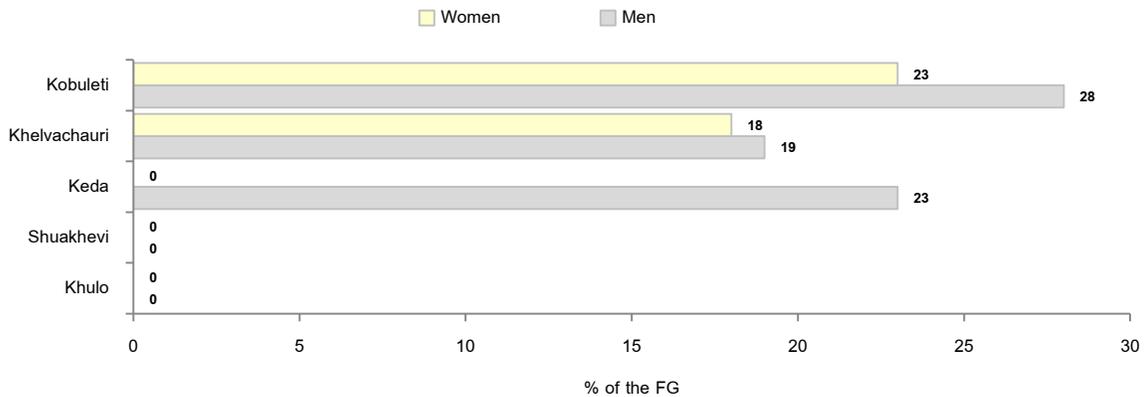


Figure 3.12: Average Daily Salary for Hired Labor on Farms

(Gel, paid for men and women)

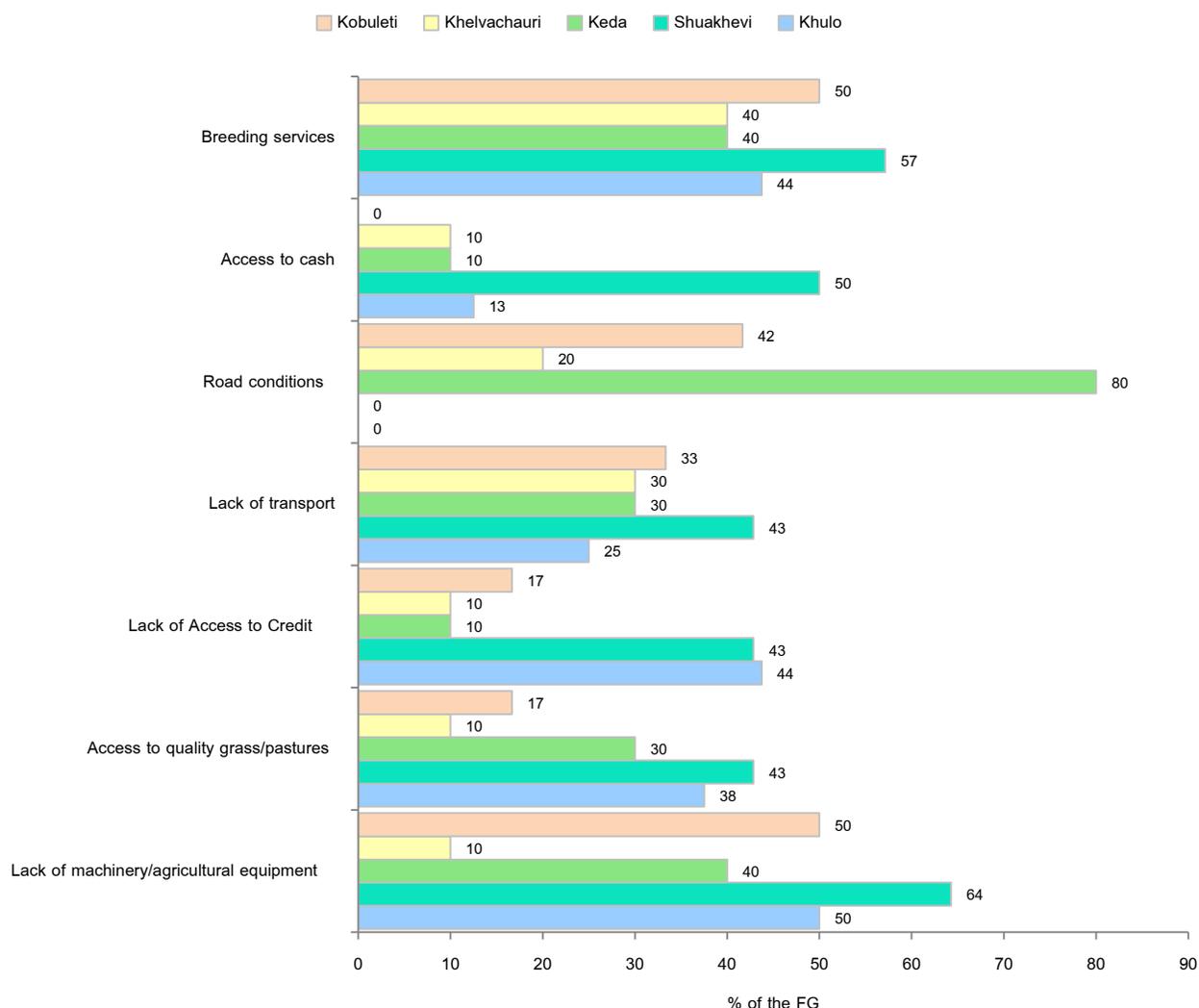
3.9: Are there any formal or informal farmers groups, associations or cooperatives in your community?

Farmers’ groups/associations are less common in mountainous municipalities than in lower altitude locations. The interviewees mentioned only one agricultural cooperative ‘Leghva’ in Kobuleti, created in 2013 by the local populations’ initiative, mainly focusing on citrus and nuts.

3.10: Lack of access to which inputs cause difficulties in your farming enterprise? How does this affect you?

The inputs needed to improve farming practices vary across municipalities, and it is difficult to name the top

priority in Ajara region. The answers were so diverse across municipalities that no input has scored more than 50% in total.¹⁰ However, the lack of access to the breeding services (47%), quality machinery equipment (45%), transport (32%) and quality pastures (29%) still can be named as inputs that are most commonly needed in all five municipalities, i.e. causing the biggest drawbacks to farming in the region. The gender analysis suggests that, men recognize the need of all of these essential inputs more than women, the only exception was breeding service (men 45%, women 48%). Still the major differences, across the municipalities are caused by the location and /or altitude, and there is a clear tendency that farmers from higher altitude regions lack these essential inputs more than farmers from lower region. Therefore, it is worth to list the priorities per each municipality: the lack of machinery, agricultural equipment is the number one input needed in Khulo (50%), Shuakhevi (63%) and Kobuleti (50%), improved road conditions for Keda (80%), and improved access to breeding services for Khelvachauri (40%) and Kobuleti (50%). Figure 3.13



below displays these differences in more detail:

Figure 3.13: Farmers, Who Consider That Following Are Required in Their Communities, In Order to Improve Access to Services and Inputs (%)

¹⁰ While for the same question in focus groups survey in Kvemo Kartli region the most essential priorities has scored 90% and more.

SECTION 4: MARKET ACCESS

The section mainly concentrates on the access to market, trade conditions for and bargaining power of farmers in target communities. Honey, cattle and dairy products are the products of trade in the region, however the larger share of these products are consumed at home. Sale of raw milk is practically non-existent in the region. Livestock i.e. calves and bulls are mainly sold from home. Lack of traders and slaughterhouses and poor bargaining power (price) are common obstacles in all five municipalities for marketing these products. Batumi is the key market for the sale of products along with accessing essential agricultural inputs and services. It should be noted that Turkish traders and intermediaries also are common in Ajara, mostly for honey.

4.1 What do you do with your dairy, meat products and honey?

Raw milk used for the making of cheese in the target communities, is mainly for home consumption, while excess dairy products, cattle and honey are more for sale. The results do not vary much across gender, however the variance across municipalities is substantial, and the main trend is similar to other answers: the difference is mainly due to the altitude and the distance from Batumi. Farmers from Khulo, Keda and Shuakhevi depend more heavily on the sale of cattle and dairy products, while farmers from Kobuleti and Khelvachauri produce more honey (both in terms of consumption and in terms of sales) (See Figure 4.1 below):

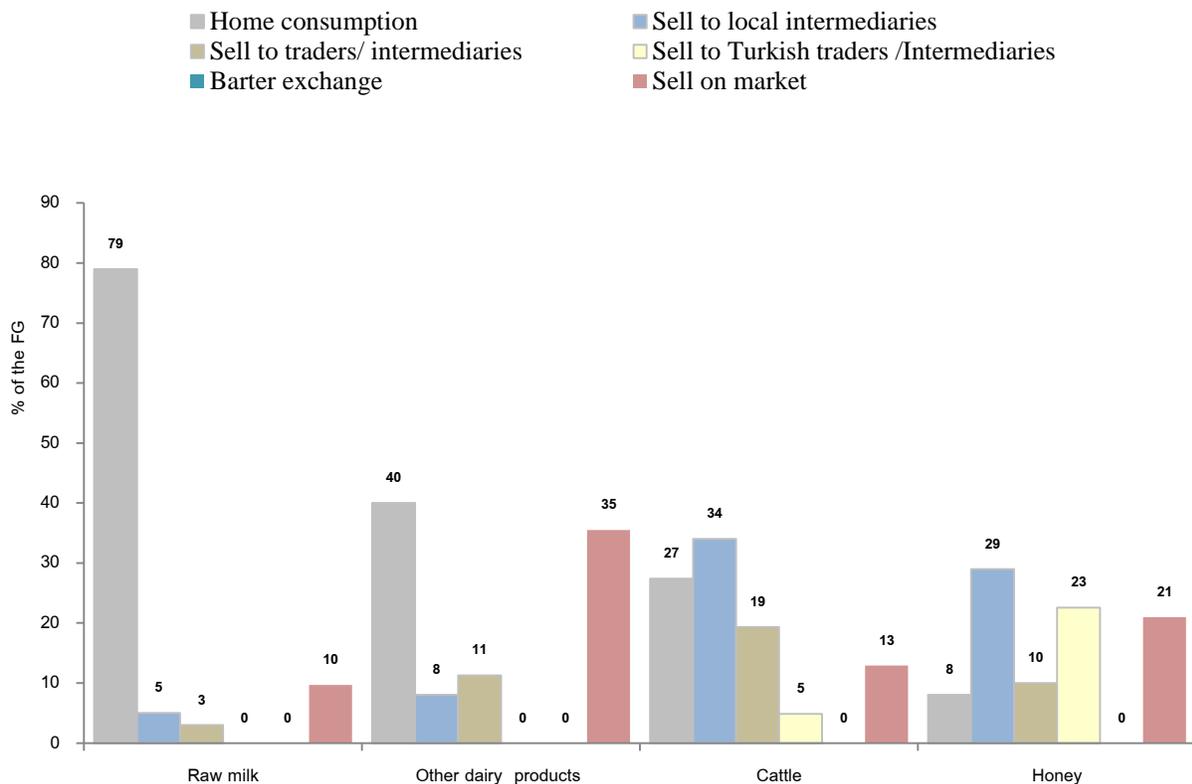


Figure 4.1: Focus Groups Naming the Following Markets and Consumption Methods to Be Important and/or Very Important for Major Products (%)

4.2: Who do you sell to?

Batumi market is major market for the sale of dairy products. As for cattle and honey, local intermediaries¹¹, Turkish traders and other traders¹² are named as the most important buyers of the products. See the percentage of sales per product below (Figure 4.2):

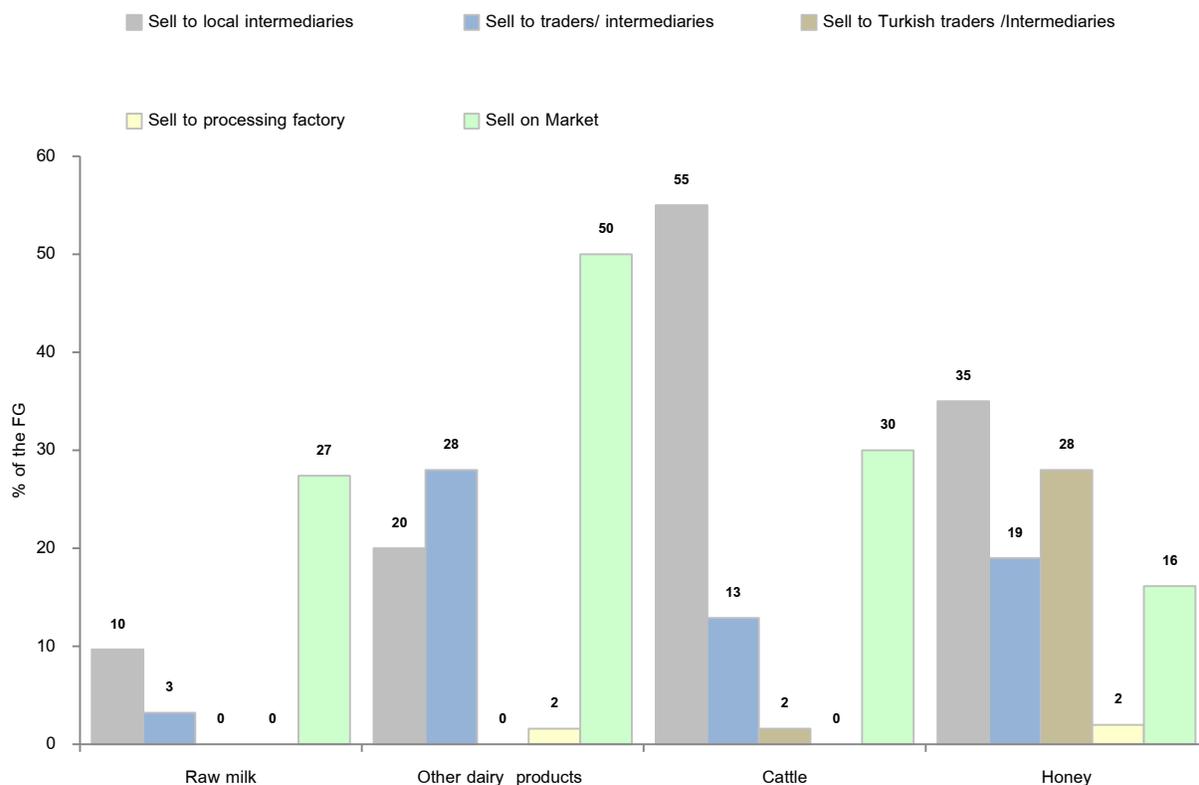


Figure 4.2: Focus Groups which Sell Products to the Following
(%, general trend)

4.3: How often do you sell/exchange your product to the following?

Figure 4.3 shows clear tendency that despite the fact that the frequency of sales varies from product to product, sales are mostly determined by who the product is sold to. None of the focus groups do barter exchange.

As previously mentioned, the sale of raw milk is least common in the region. Dairy products are sold on daily or weekly basis, while cattle and honey are sold less often.

¹¹ Local intermediaries are intermediaries from AJ region who go to villages and buy produce from farmers.

¹² Traders/Intermediaries are traders to whom farmers sell produce and these traders either resell produce at agricultural markets or directly to consumers.

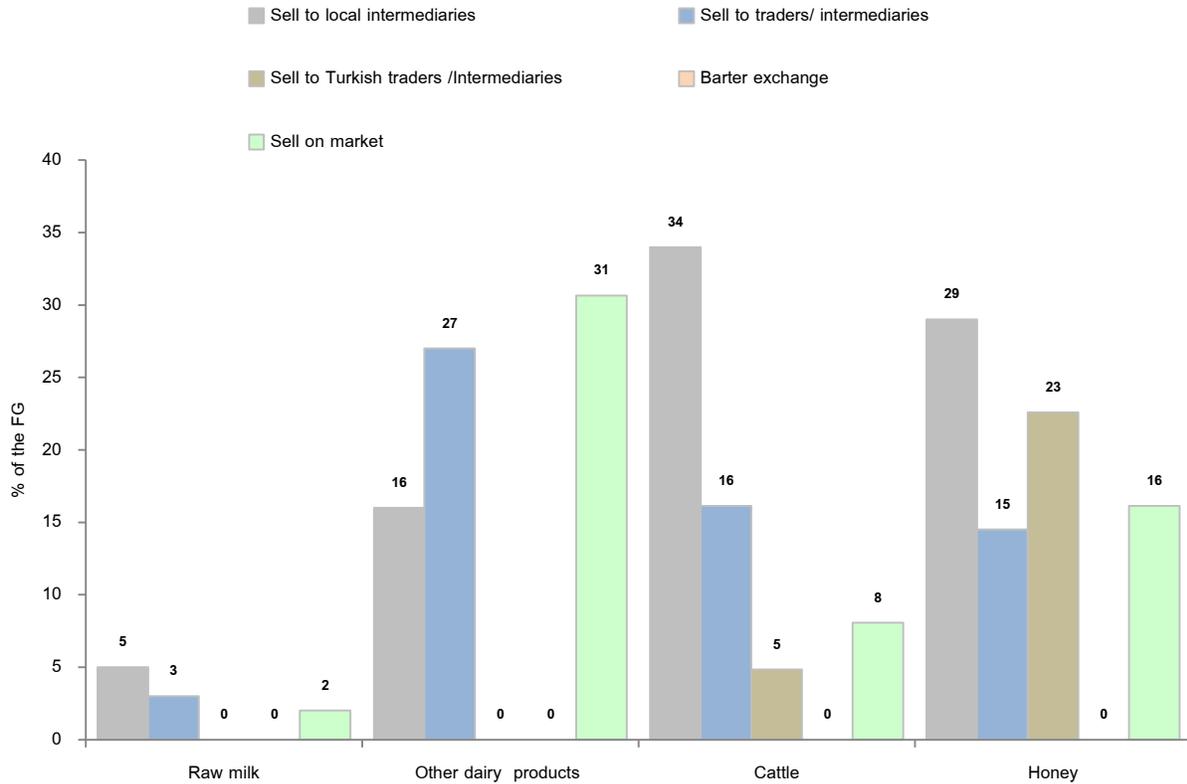


Figure 4.3: Focus Groups, Which Sell Products on Weekly Basis or Less Often (%)

4.4: How do most people transport their products to market?

Dairy products are mainly transported on public transport¹³. Sale of cattle and honey to local intermediaries, which is considerably more common than selling in markets, explains why these goods are rarely transported by farmers themselves. However, when sold to on the market, honey is also transported by public transport or by own truck. See Figure 4.4 and 4.5 below:

¹³ Mainly by Marshutka mini bus the main means of public transport

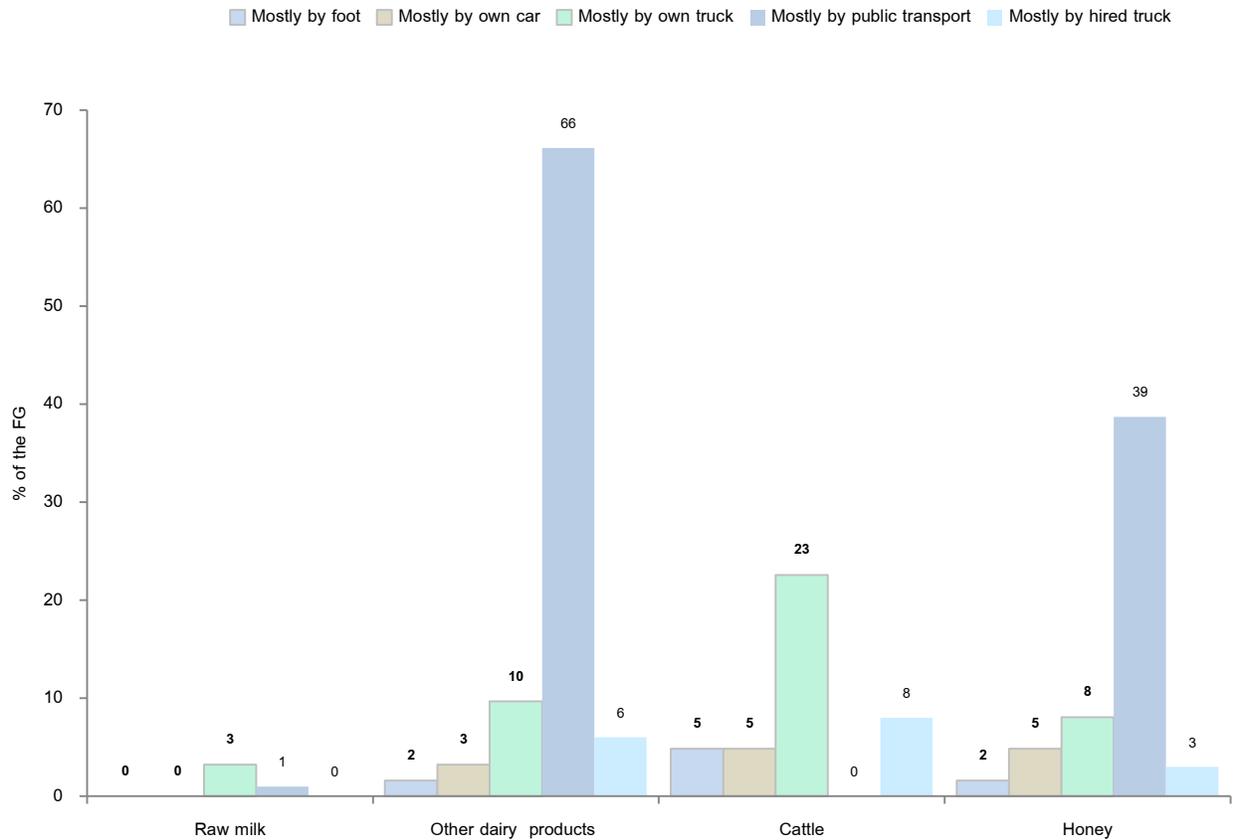


Figure 4.4: Focus Groups Using Following to Transport Products (%)

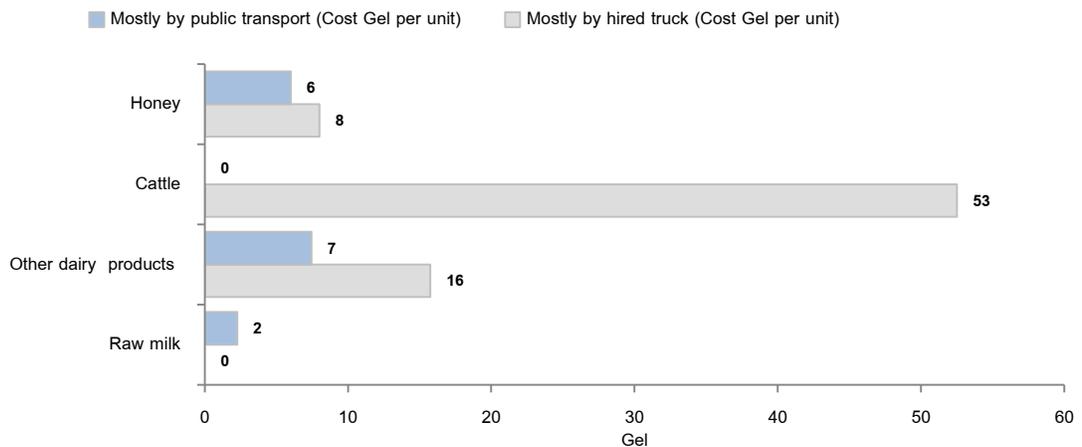


Figure 4.5: Average Amount of Money Spent on Marketing the Following Products (Gel)

4.5: Distance (Km) of following markets from the village

The distance covered by farmers for transportation of produce is around 30 km to markets other than Batumi (mainly Ozurgeti, Kobuleti and Akhaltsikhe markets) and varies from 34 to 84 km on average to Batumi market, across produce and municipalities. The transportation of raw milk covers the least and transportation of cattle - the biggest distances.

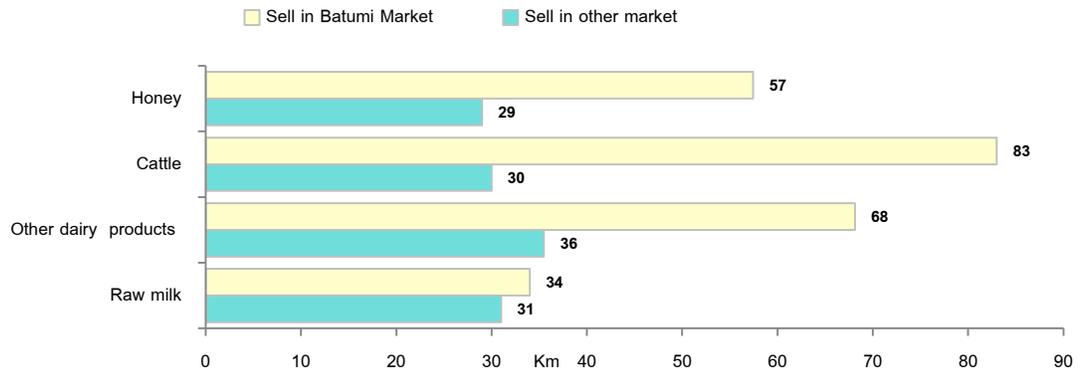


Figure 4.6: Average Distance to the Markets (km)

4.6: Time spent (hours) transporting and selling each type of product

Farmers do not spend time selling products to intermediaries, but spend between 5 to 21 hours when selling in Batumi and other markets (this also includes time spent on transportation).

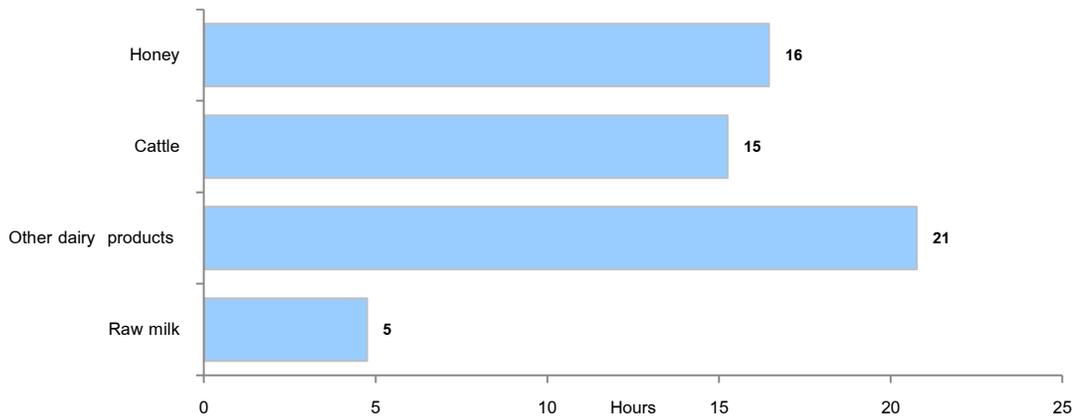


Figure 4.7: Average Amount of Time Spent on Transporting & Selling These Products in Batumi market (Hours)

4.7: Out of ten visits to the market how many times do you bring your product/good back unsold?

Farmers do not bring raw milk and cattle unsold; however in two out of ten cases for dairy products and in three out of ten cases honey is returned back unsold from markets:

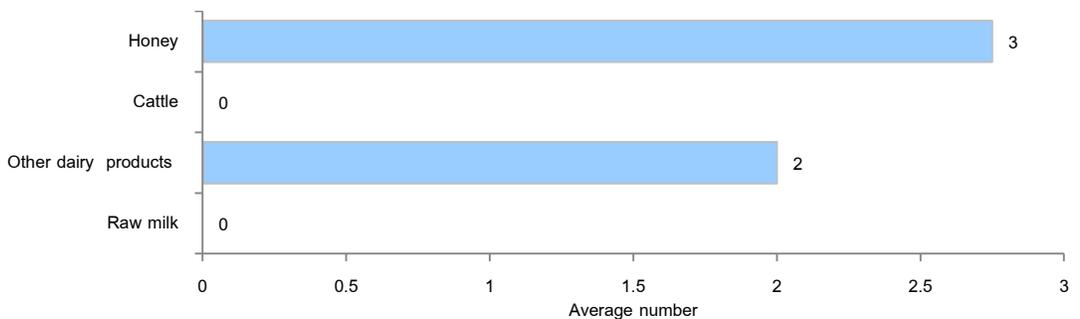


Figure 4.8: An Average Number out of ten visits to Market when Product/Good is returned back unsold (General trend)

Dairy Marketing

4.8 What kind of dairy products are made in this community?

Dairy products are very important for Ajarian farming households. Butter, Matsoni (yoghurt) and Nadugi (cottage cheese) are mostly produced for home consumption and cheese in the form of Imeruli and Sulguni more for sale. The importance of dairy in general is considered to be higher as a source of income generation and importance for women. , Below, Figure 4.9 displays the percentages of the focus groups out of the whole region that regard the following types of dairy products important for both, consumption and sale:

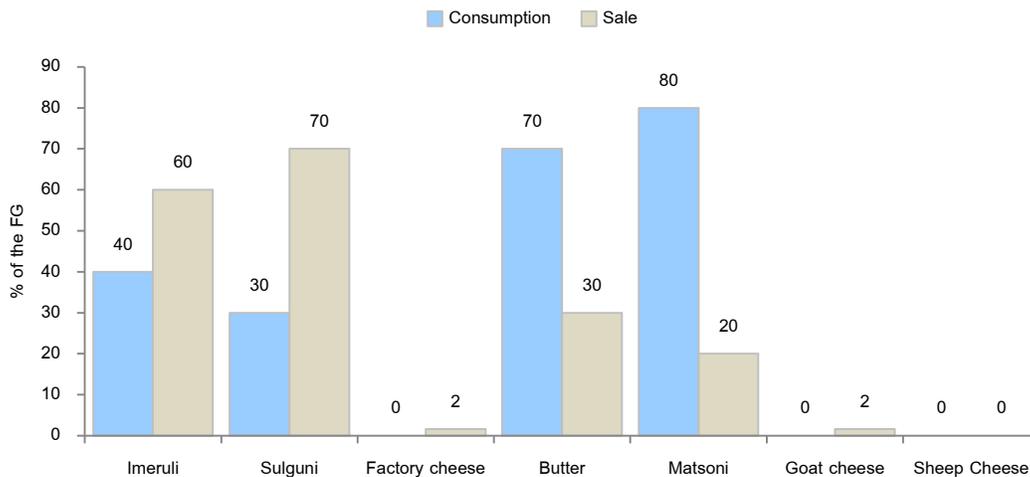


Figure 4.9: focus Groups, Which Consider the Following Dairy products to be, Important for Consumption and Sale (%)

The differences across municipalities are slightly different for sale of the dairy products. The most commonly sold dairy product, in all five municipalities, is Imeruli cheese. Butter and Nadugi are also important products in terms of sale for Khulo and Shuakhevi municipalities. See figure 4.10 below:

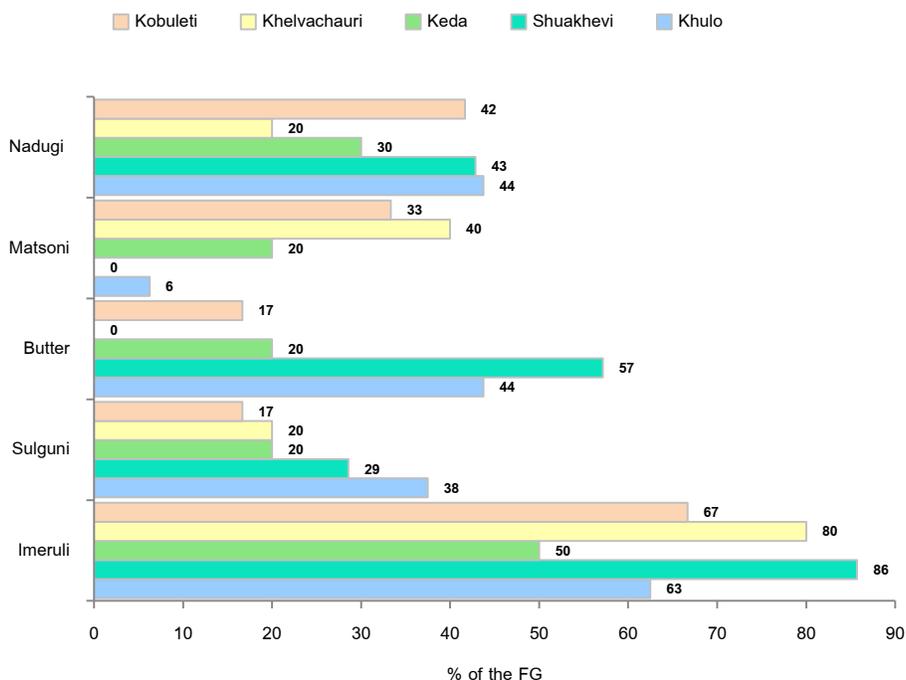


Figure 4.10: % of the focus Groups, Which Consider the Following Dairy products to be, Important for Sale,

Comparison across municipalities (%)

4.9: Do people exchange / combine raw milk with each other for household processing?

As i stated by majority of the focus groups they do not have enough milk to exchange with neighbours for household processing, thus it occurs rarely. Only one male focus group in Shuakhevi mentioned that they exchange milk for processing, but in limited volumes.

4.10: Do people sell raw milk?

4.11: To whom and where is raw milk sold?

4.12: What milk products are processed by local enterprises?

The majority of the focus groups mentioned that they do not sell raw milk due to the distance to the market and absence of MCCs or dairy or cheese processors. In fact, there are no MCCs or cheese processors within the target communities, and the high transportation cost due to the large distance to the nearest markets discourages farmers from the sale of raw milk.

4.13: What makes it difficult for you to sell your dairy products? How does this affect you?

Low prices for dairy products (63%), the absence of MCCs (58%) along with the lack of processors (42%), are considered to be the main drawbacks for selling dairy products in the target communities. Gender analyses was inconclusive in terms of identifying priorities for men and women, however men see all these drawback more severely than women, i.e. more male focus groups consider each of the issues to be more problematic than women and the gap on average comprises 21%. In terms of identifying the primary problems to face, location was much more informative; Figure 4.11 below displays percentages and shows the differences across municipalities.

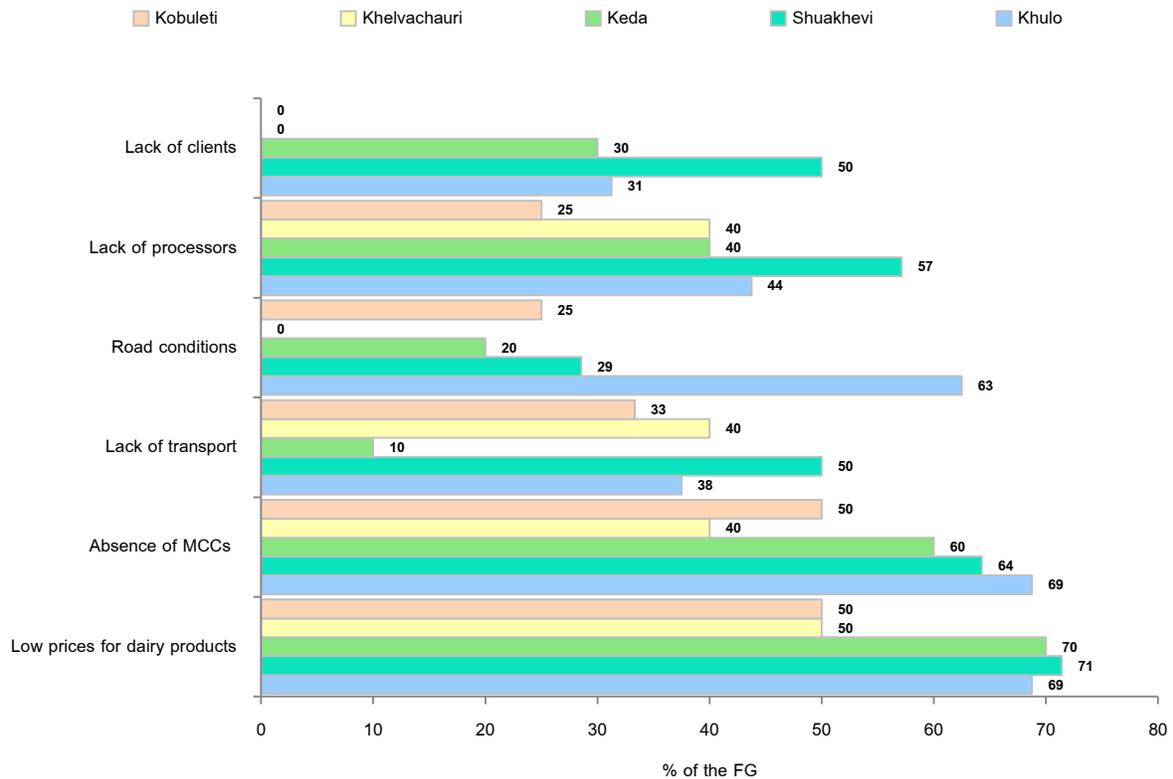


Figure 4.11: Focus Groups Naming Following to be the Drawback for Selling Product (%)

Livestock Marketing

4.14: What are the most important livestock sales from the house?

Yearlings (55%) and calves (47%) are the most important livestock to sell in the region, lesser priorities for sale are bulls (24%), adult females (19%) and castrated males (6%). Farmers also were asked whether they sell sheep, but this animal is not very common in the region. The sale of yearlings is the highest priorities in Khulo, Shuakhevi and the sale of calves for Keda and Khelvachauri and as for Kobuleti both of them are priorities. Figure 4.11 below shows the main trends. Availability of pasture seems to correlate strongly with this data i.e. those with better access to pasture can keep animals for longer.

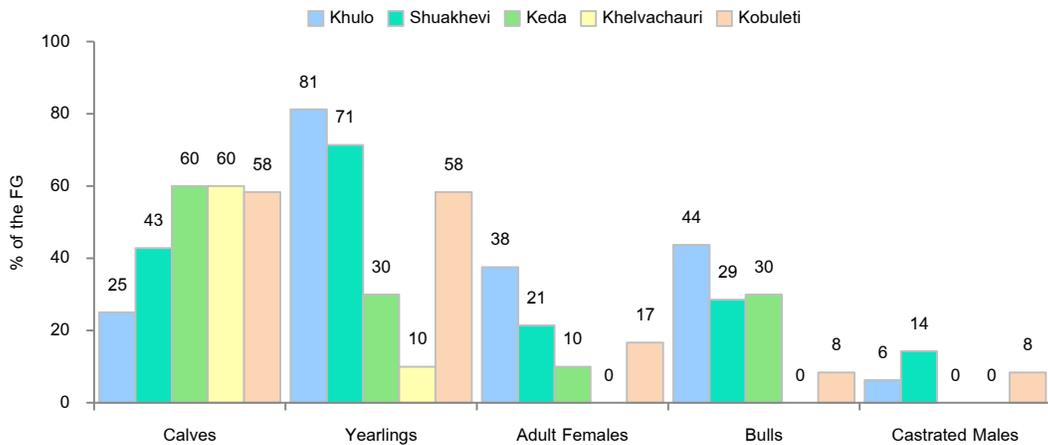


Figure 4.11: focus Groups, who consider the Following to be, Important for Sale
(%, importance of the livestock differences across Municipality)

Farmers tend to sell these animals more to local intermediaries and less often to slaughterhouses, in the livestock market and to Turkish traders. Figure 4.12 below shows the main trends.

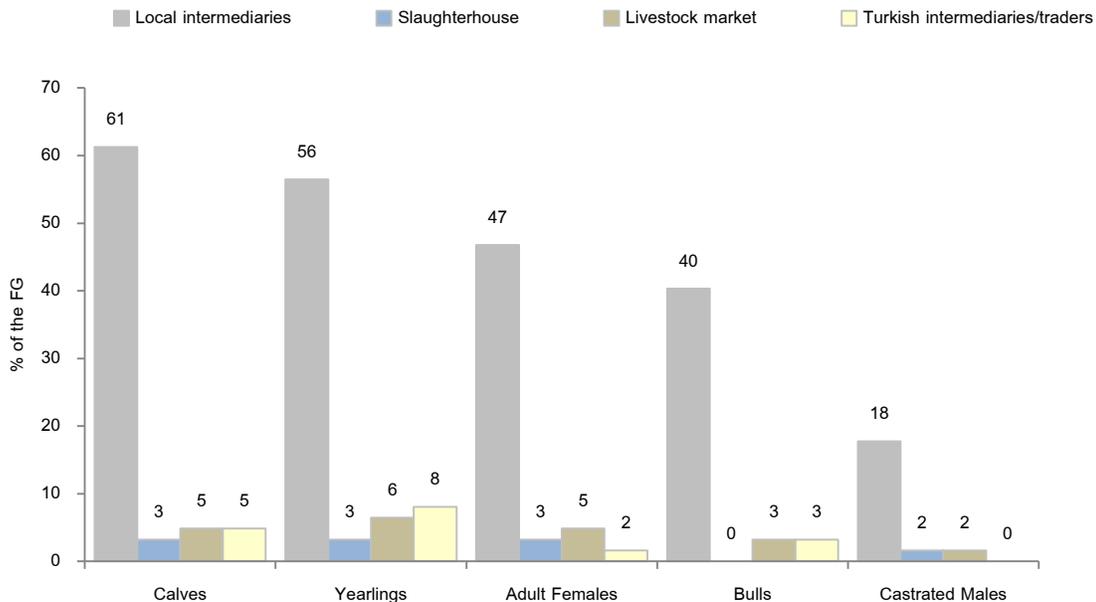


Figure 4.12: Focus Groups Naming Following Markets to be Important for Selling Livestock
(%, importance of markets for selling livestock, general trend)

4.15: What livestock product processing facilities exist in this area?

There are two slaughterhouses mentioned by two female focus' groups: one of the focus groups noted that in the centre of Shuakhevi they have one slaughterhouse and one female group in Khulo noted a medium sized slaughterhouse in Ghorjomi Village. Farmers in the other three municipalities state that there are no slaughterhouses in their area.

4.16: What makes it difficult for you to sell your livestock products? How does this affect you?

As with dairy products low prices are seen as the biggest drawback for Ajarian farmers in the livestock marketing. This remains true while looking at gender disaggregated data and as in the case of dairy men see the problem as a bigger one than women. y Figure 4.13 below shows the main trends across municipalities.

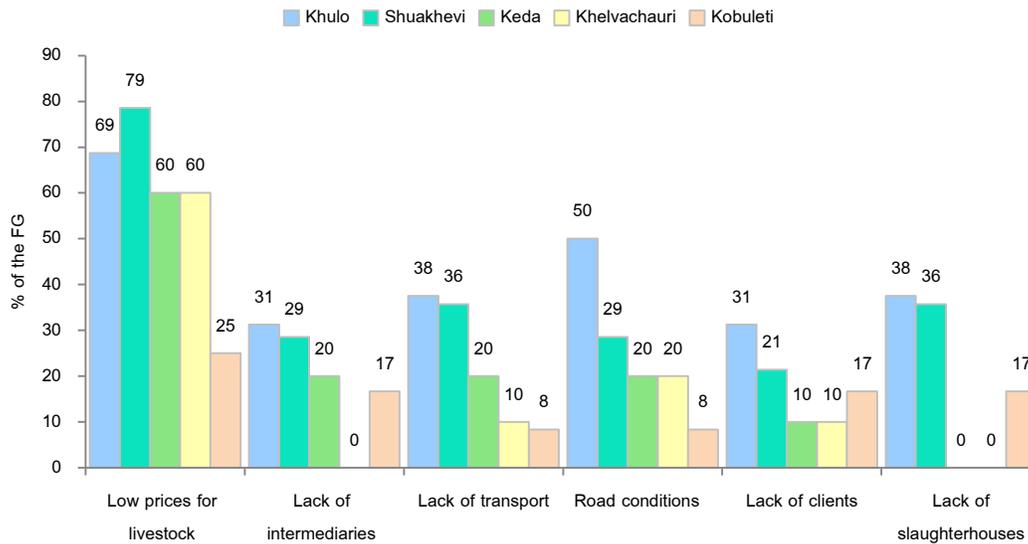


Figure 4.13: Focus Groups Naming Following to be the Drawback for Selling Livestock (%)

Beekeeping

4.17: How many beekeepers are there in your community?

Beekeeping is more common for farmers in Kobuleti, Khelvachauri and Keda municipalities, than in the rest of the target area, and the difference is quite significant. Table 6 below demonstrates this.

Table 6: Average Number of Beekeepers in Municipalities

Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Machakhela ¹⁴	Kobuleti
102	70	170	232	96	603

4.18: Do you move your hives to different pasture?

Only 6-16% of the focus groups say that farmers take bee colonies to pastures. See Table 7 below.

Table 7: % of the Focus Groups who Say They Take Bees to Pastures

	Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
% of Beekeepers who take bees to pastures	16	10	10	16	6

4.19: If you move your hives where do you take them?

The use of low, middle and high zone bee pastures for their bee colonies are similar across municipalities. Coastal areas (especially near Batumi) are used as a low zone pasture, predominantly for those who travel

¹⁴ Additional focus group was held in Machakhela (community in Khelvachauri municipality) targeting beekeeping

from Khulo and Keda municipalities, for those farmers who reside in the lower altitude municipalities, like Khelvachauri, they use local fields as low zone bee pastures.

Keda municipality is most frequently used for bee pasturing in high zones but some farmers also use Guria Mountains for this purpose (e.g. farmers from Khelvachauri).

4.20 Distance (km) from village

The distance covered by farmers who use pastures for bees is not large¹⁵. Figure 4.14 below:

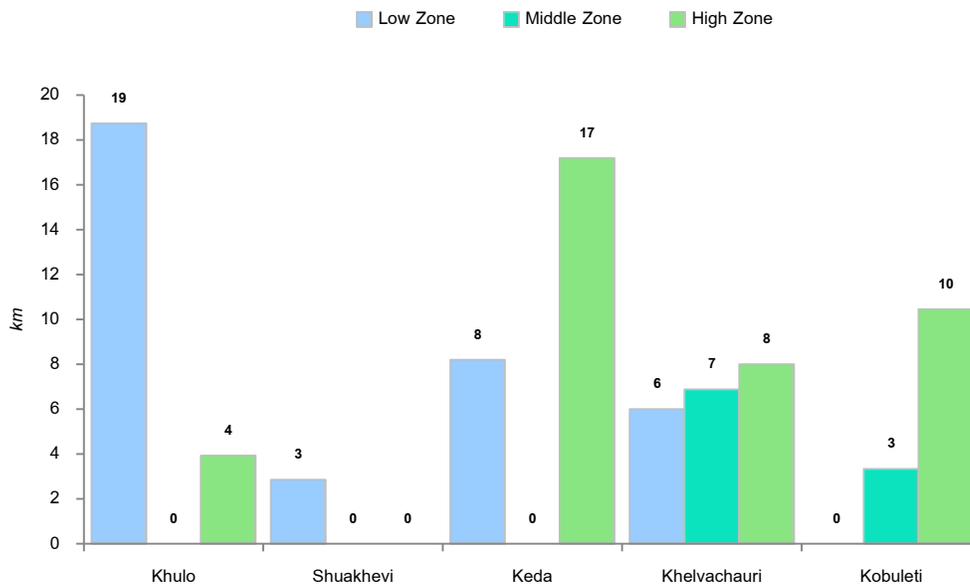


Figure 4.14: Distance of the pasture from village (km)

4.21: What transport is used to access the pasture? (Own truck, hired truck etc.)

Normally, hired trucks are used for the transportation of bee colonies to pastures.

4.22: Do you pay anything to use the pasture and how much?

Only farmers from Shuakhevi municipality, where beekeeping is less developed, do not use paid bee pastures. The rest pay on average 3 Gel per hive per season. This figure remains true in all four municipalities.

4.23: Do you breed the queen bee yourself or do you buy her, and if so, please, note where?

The focus groups stated that they breed queen bees locally by themselves, although they would prefer to have an access to improved breed of queen bee.

4.24: Where do you buy all needed inputs and services for beekeeping?

The local (municipality and community based) services for beekeeping inputs are not developed in the region and farmers travel to Batumi or Kobuleti markets to one of the three input supply shops there.

¹⁵ Distance to the low zones are comparatively large as beekeepers from high altitude municipalities take bees to the lower zone pastures, while distance to the middle zone pastures are low or non-existent as it is located locally or within the village

4.25: Have the bees been affected by any diseases?

Bee diseases are mostly spread in Khelvachauri and Shuakhevi municipalities, the lowest % of focus group mentioning the diseases was in Kobuleti; in addition across all municipalities more men (35%) mention bee diseases than women (29%). The most common diseases are: diarrhea, American foulbrood and the Varroa virus. Figure 4.15 below shows detailed comparison across municipalities:

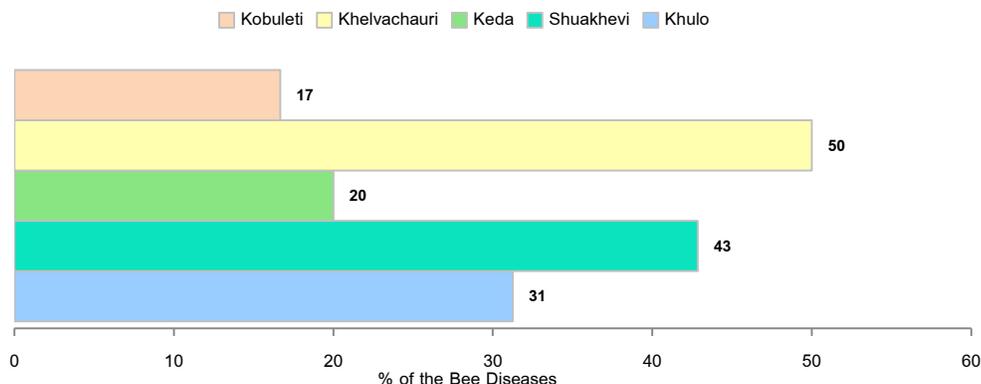


Figure 4.15: % of the Focus Groups Indicating Occurrence of Bee diseases in Municipalities
(Comparison across municipalities)

4.26: Are there any formal or informal beekeepers groups, associations or cooperatives in your community?

None of the focus groups was aware of any type of existing beekeepers' groups, however up to three indicated that such types of beekeeping associations existed in the recent past, in Kobuleti and Khelvachauri municipalities.

4.27: What makes it difficult for you to sell your honey and other products? How does this affect you?

Lack of clients (40%), low prices for honey (39%) and the lack of intermediaries (37%) are the main constraints bears worrying the hives was a problem for 18%. Both female and male answers follow the same trend as for dairy product and livestock marketing, each problem is scored more highly in male focus groups than in female (the average gap comprises 29%). Main constraints varied according to municipality: In Khulo municipality - low prices for honey (44%), in Shuakhevi - lack of intermediaries (50%), in Keda - all of the three mentioned priorities (30% each). In Khelvachauri (50%) and Kobuleti (67%) lack of clients are named as the major constraints.

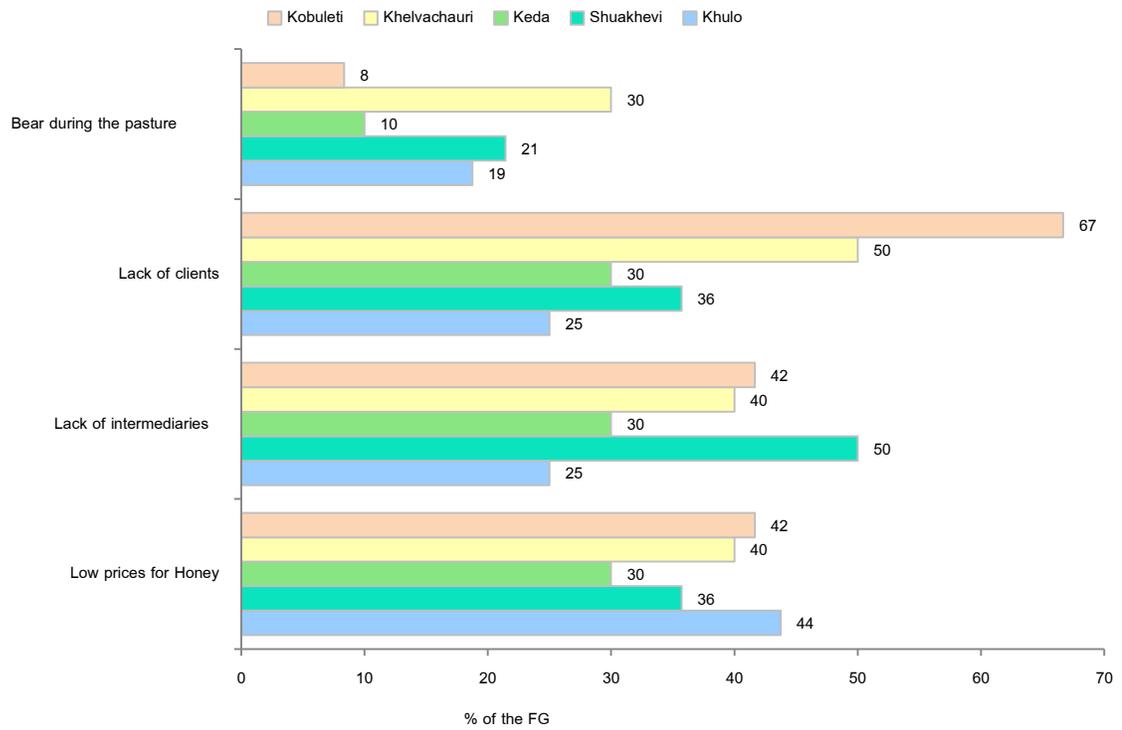


Figure 4.16: Focus Groups Naming Following to be the Drawback for Selling Honey
(%, Comparison across Municipalities)

SECTION 5: PASTURE ACCESS & MANAGEMENT

The following section illustrates condition of and the problems associated with pasture in the five municipalities of the project area. Due to the high altitude locations of Khulo, Shuakhevi, and, relatively, Keda, highland pastures are easily accessible and are ranked as the high importance pastures by farmers. In the other two municipalities, Kobuleti and Khelvachauri, farmers rarely send cattle to highland pastures.

5.1 What kind of pasture is more important to you: highland or small scale village land?

65% of those interviewed regard highland pastures and rest 35% regard the pastures in their villages to be of the most importance. Comparison across municipalities shows that, farmers from high zone municipalities like Khulo, Shuakhevi and Keda have access to highland pastures and regard them as most important. Farmers from lower zone municipalities like Kobuleti and Khelvachauri mainly use small scale village lands during all seasons, as municipalities are located in the lower zone and have less access to the highland pastures. Thus, for them small scale village lands are more important than highland pastures.

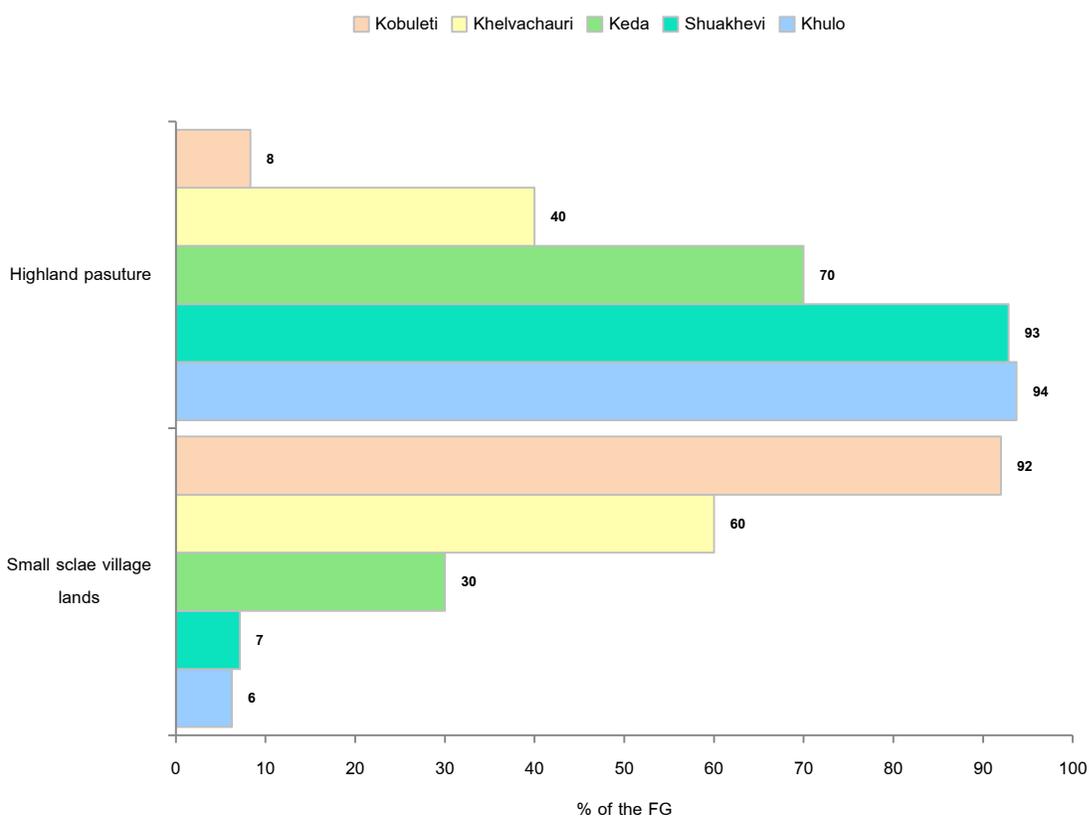


Figure 5.1: The Focus Groups Naming Following Pastures as the Most Important (% , municipality disaggregated data)

5.2: Where is the pasture you use?

Table 8 below displays the pastures, villages and mountains used for pasturing:

Table 8: Location and Names of the Pastures

	Small scale village lands	Mentioned highland pastures
Khulo	Named villages: Qrughele, Vernebi & <i>Small scale village lands</i>	Named villages: Vanebi, Named mountains: Tertrobi, Sarichairi, Macharelati, Zankebi, Sachino, Samziarebi, Zoti Ghelitavi & <i>Goderzi Pass</i>
Shuaxevi	Named villages: Sulaghmauri, Shulaveri & <i>Small scale local village lands</i>	Named mountains: Tetromi, Tainuri, Zordigheli, Tetrobi, Katriani, Fersati, Chirukhi, Dghvani, Jinalis, Sanalia, Gini, Meliaqeli, Grdzelgori, Kikibo & <i>non Local Bakhmaro</i>
Keda	Small scale local village lands	Named mountains: Kharaula, Did-Vake,
Khelvachauri	Named villages: Ada & <i>Small scale local village lands</i>	Named mountains: Jazigoli and Djazikeli
Kobuleti	Small scale local village lands	Bakhmaro and Gomi mountains

5.3: When do you use it?

Highland pastures are located in the mountains and are used from May until the end of September, during rest of the period small scale village lands are used, in addition to bran and hay. Farmers in Kobuleti and Khelvachauri municipalities, mainly use small scale village lands for their cattle throughout the whole year.

5.4: Distance (km) from village.

The only pastures farmers have to travel to are highland pastures; on average they cover 45 km. The variation across municipalities is significant:

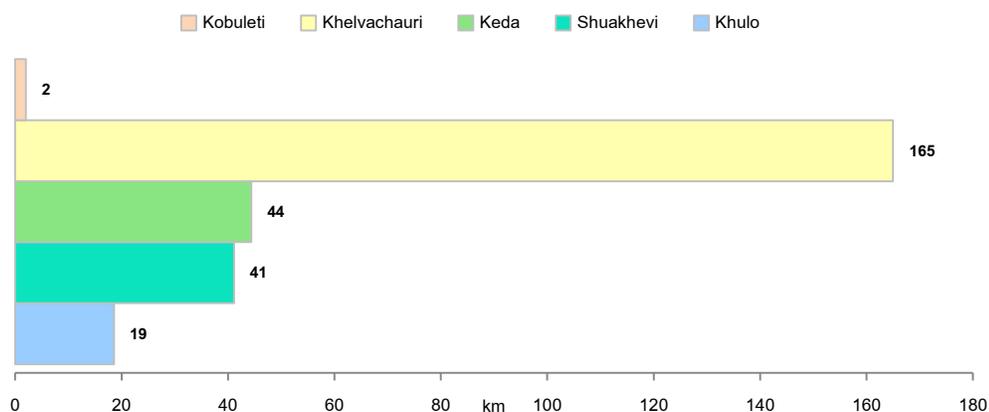


Figure 5.2: Average Distance from House to Highland pastures (Km, municipality disaggregated data)

5.5 Do you send your cattle to highland pasture or small scale village land?

As noted above for those the higher the zone of the municipality the more highland pasture is utilized. Gender analysis suggests that women and men go to the highland pasture together and usage of the highland pasture is very important for women as well:

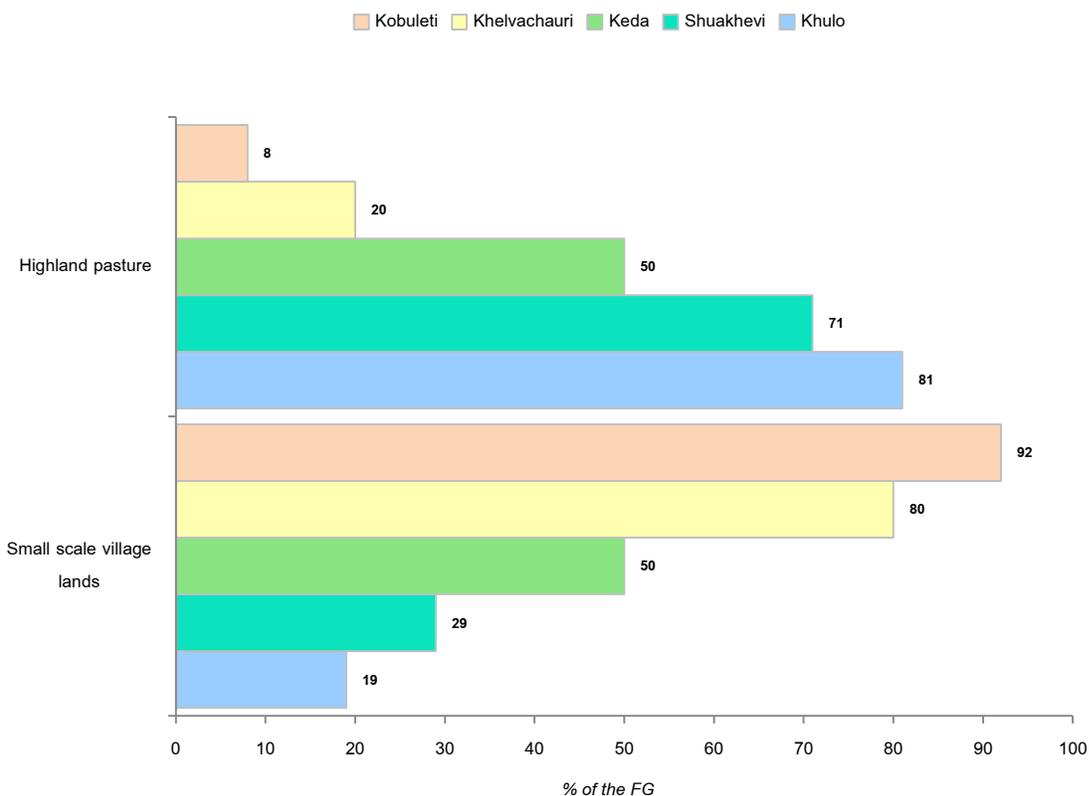


Figure 5.3: % of the Focus Groups which send their Cattle to the Pasture and name following important

5.6: *What transport is used to access highland pasture/small scale village land? (foot, tractor, truck etc.)*

The majority access pastures on foot. Only one male focus group in Khelvachauri and one in Keda mentioned that they use hired trucks for transportation of the cattle to the pasture.

5.7: *What issues do you face in accessing highland pasture?*

Wild animals and road conditions were named as the major concerns in accessing highland pastures.

5.8: *Do you know who owns the pasture you use (e.g. government, private person/company, name of that person company)?*

The common trend is that small scale village lands and highland pastures used by farmers are national government property.

5.9: *Do you pay anything to use the pasture and how much?*

As mentioned in the previous answer, small scale village lands and highland pastures are national government property, thus farmers do not pay any fee for using them.

5.10: How would you rate the condition of each type of pasture? Please describe the reasons

(1= excellent (not degraded high quality, high yield); 2=good (etc); 3= acceptable, 4 poor, 5 catastrophe)

In all five municipalities both, the majority of men and women consider highland pastures and small scale village lands to be in poor or acceptable condition. Figure 5.4 below illustrates evaluation by farmers in more details:

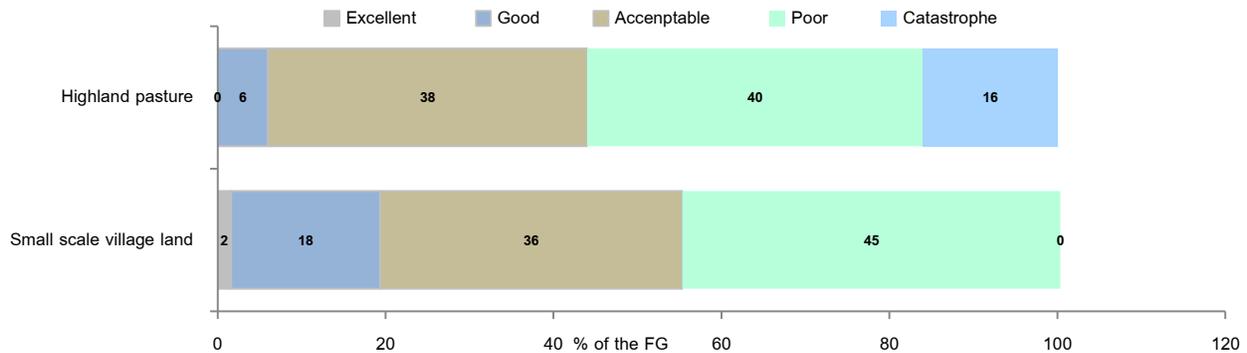


Figure 5.4: % Focus Groups Assessing the Following Pastures

SECTION 6: INFORMATION

This section describes farmers’ attitude to different information sources, their importance and reliability, and shows comparisons across gender. As the analysis demonstrates, farmers in the Ajara region do not consider themselves to have highly reliable information sources. Local TV Channel 25 and local TV Ajara along with national TV are the most easily accessible information channels for Ajarian farmers, but as a source of information for farming techniques, market prices and other agro information they do not name the local and national TVs. The majority of focus groups name the information obtained from other farmers the most important source of information on farming techniques and market prices for cattle, honey, cheese and dairy products.

6.1: Do you have access to the following sources of information?

Local TV Channel 25 (81%) and local TV Ajara (77%) along with national TV (73%) are the most easily accessible information channels for Ajarian farmers, in all five municipalities. Information received from other farmers (56%) is the only non-TV source which is a substantial source of information in the region. The outcomes across municipalities vary, but this trend remains true for each. In addition, this tendency is also accurate for men and women separately, and women have more access to the TV sources than men, while the opposite is true for information received from other farmers. Figure 6.1 illustrates these results which highlight the higher access to women of sources available in the home

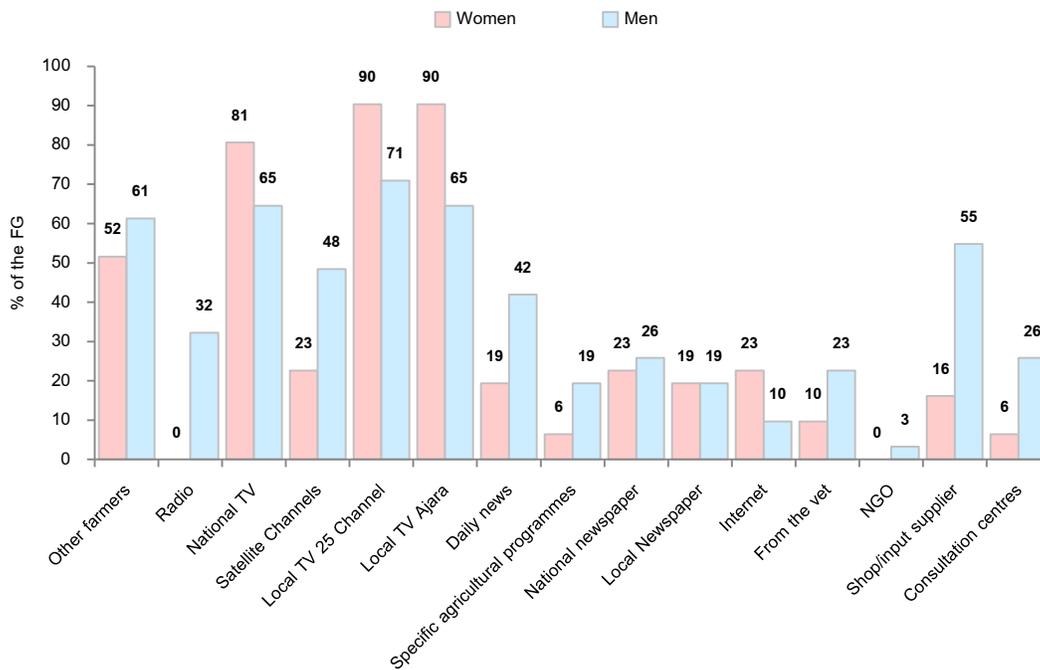


Figure 6.1: Access to the Following Sources of Information
(% of FGs who answered regard following to be accessible)

Two female groups mentioned *other* sources of information: ‘Shuakhevi’ newspaper, also agricultural TV program ‘*I am a Farmer*’ from was named as a specific agricultural programme.

6.2: How do you receive information and advice about farming techniques etc?
(1 unreliable 4= very trustworthy)

In contrast with accessibility of information sources, information obtained from other farmers is considered to be the most important as well as the most reliable information source for farming techniques. It should be mentioned that, the importance of almost all sources is rated higher than their reliability (Gender analyses did not show any significant difference):

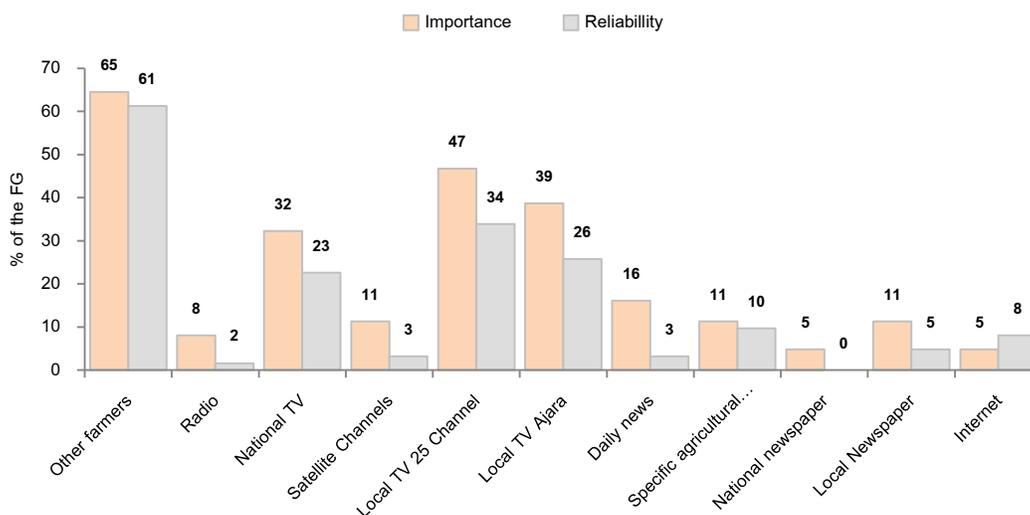


Figure 6.2: % of FGs Regarding the Following to be Important and/or Trustworthy

6.3: Where do you get information on market prices for cattle & honey?

The tendency that farmers rate importance higher than reliability stays true while referring to livestock prices. Largely, farmers from the region receive information on prices for cattle and honey mainly from other farmers. The role of both local TV channels is considerably lower for receiving information for livestock prices compared to their role as information channels in general. The comparison across gender and municipalities did not show any important distinction or trend. Figure 6.3 below displays the reliability and importance of these sources for farmers (those sources which were not named as either important or reliable, by more than 3% of Focus Groups have been omitted):

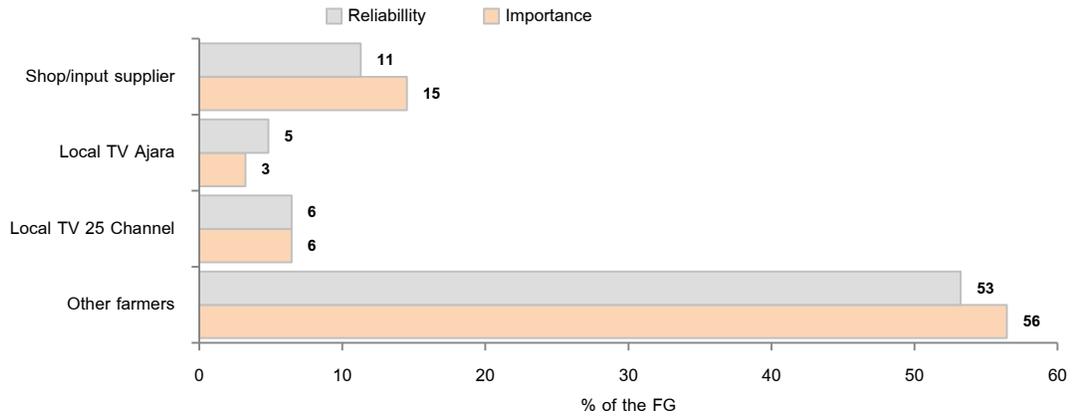


Figure 6.3: Focus Groups, which Consider that Following Sources of Information, are important and Reliable for Cattle and Honey Prices (%)

6.4: Where do you get information on market prices for Cheese & Dairy products?

Answering the same question on the prices of cheese and other dairy products the tendencies were very similar, the only important deviation was the insignificance of all TV channels and information received from vets (those sources which were not named as either important or reliable by more than 3% of Focus Groups have been omitted):

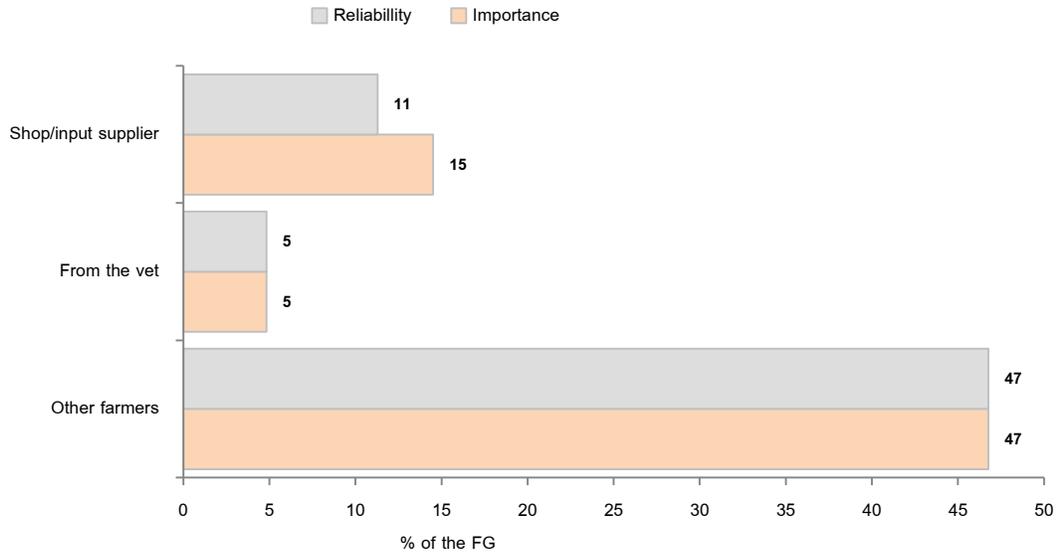


Figure 6.4: Focus Groups, which Consider that the Following Sources of Information, are important and Reliable for Dairy Product Prices (%)

6.5: Where do you get information on potential buyers/the market for your agricultural produce?

This question follows exactly the same trend as those above.

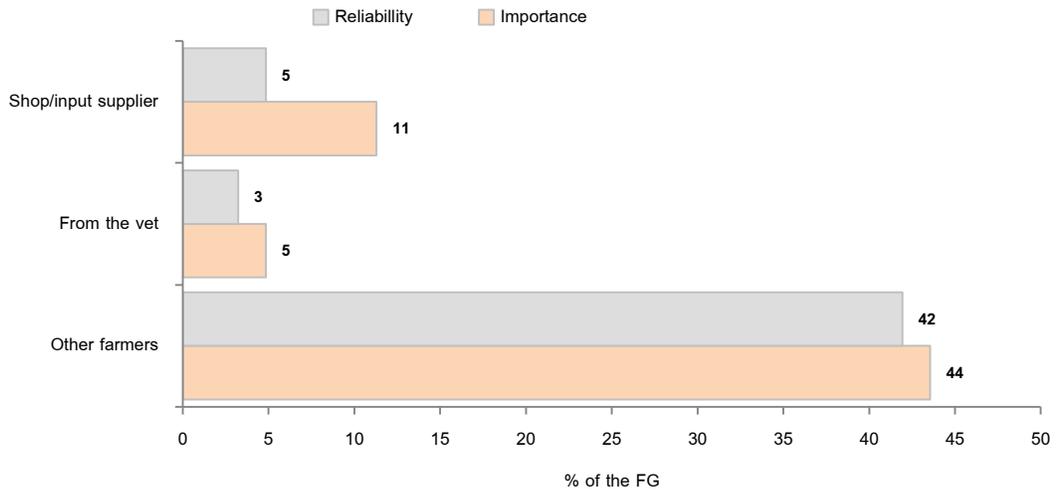


Figure 6.5: Focus Groups, which Consider that the Following Sources of Information, are Important and Reliable for Receiving Information on Potential Buyers/the Market for your Agricultural Produce (%)

.6: What makes it difficult to access the information you need for you to produce, sell and buy goods, products and services for your livestock and dairy farming activities? (Ask WHY? To get to systemic constraints)

Farmers in the region have no language barriers, at least this does not create obstacles for them to access the information, the lack of trust in (31%) and quality of (24%) the existing sources are named as the most significant obstacles. Although in terms of importance and reliability of the information the differences across gender were negligible, while looking at the obstacles to access information it seems that fewer men consider the quality of the existing sources high. The main differences are captured while looking at municipality disaggregated data:

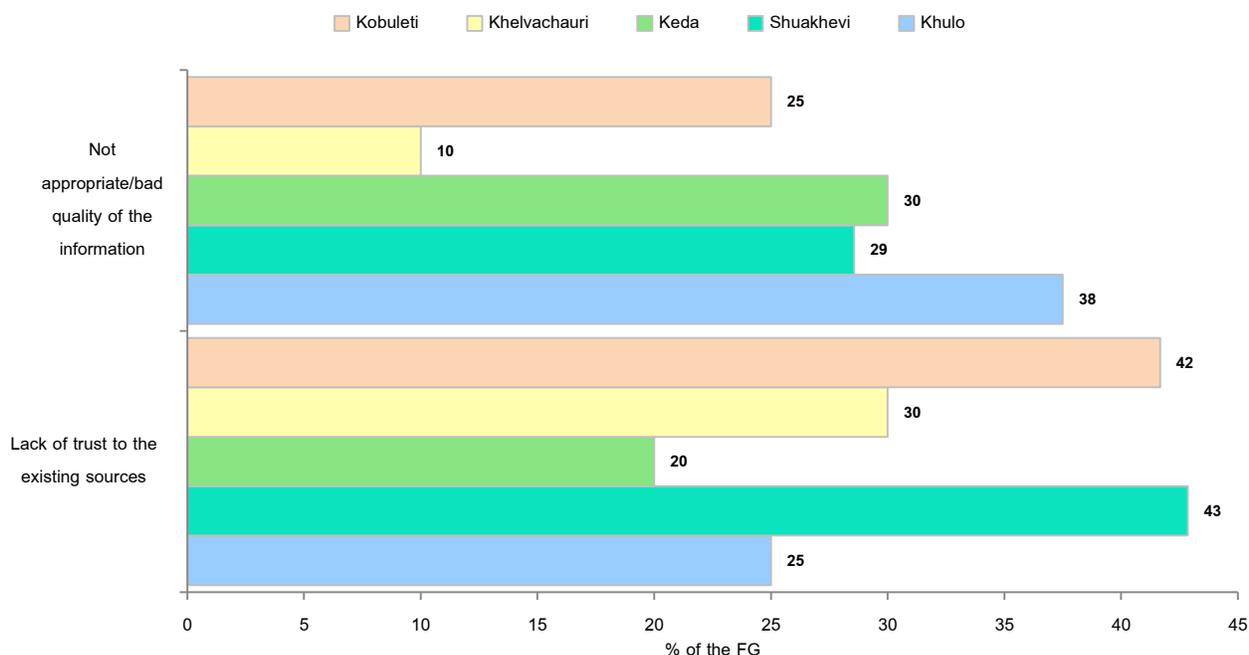


Figure 6.6: Focus Groups which regard the Following to be the Main Obstacles for Accessing Agricultural Information for them

In addition to pre specified constraints (in the questionnaire), farmers stated a wish to get more information on the market prices and have access to the internet.

7. WEALTH AND POVERTY

The following section concentrates on wealth and poverty and describes the focus groups perceptions concerning this. According to these criteria and farmer perception 65%, 26% and 9% of population fall under small, medium and large scale farmers, respectively.

*7.1: How would you describe small, medium and large farmers in this community?
(Ask for numbers more directly then probe and discuss the general characteristics)*

From the summary of the Focus Group data an average farmer possess from 6 milking cows, smaller farmers - 3, and larger ones from 14. The same figures for bee colonies are: 24, 8 and 56 respectively. As for land ownership, normally, from half to two ha of land are owned by farmers. No sizable difference in results is observed across gender. The difference across municipalities suggests that in Khulo and Shuakhevi farmers have more cattle across municipalities, whereas in Khelvachauri, Kobuleti and Keda farmers have more bee colonies. Municipality disaggregated analyses was inconclusive for land ownership. Figures 7.1, 7.2, a 7.3 and 7.4 show focus groups perceptions of small, medium and large farmers according to these criteria.

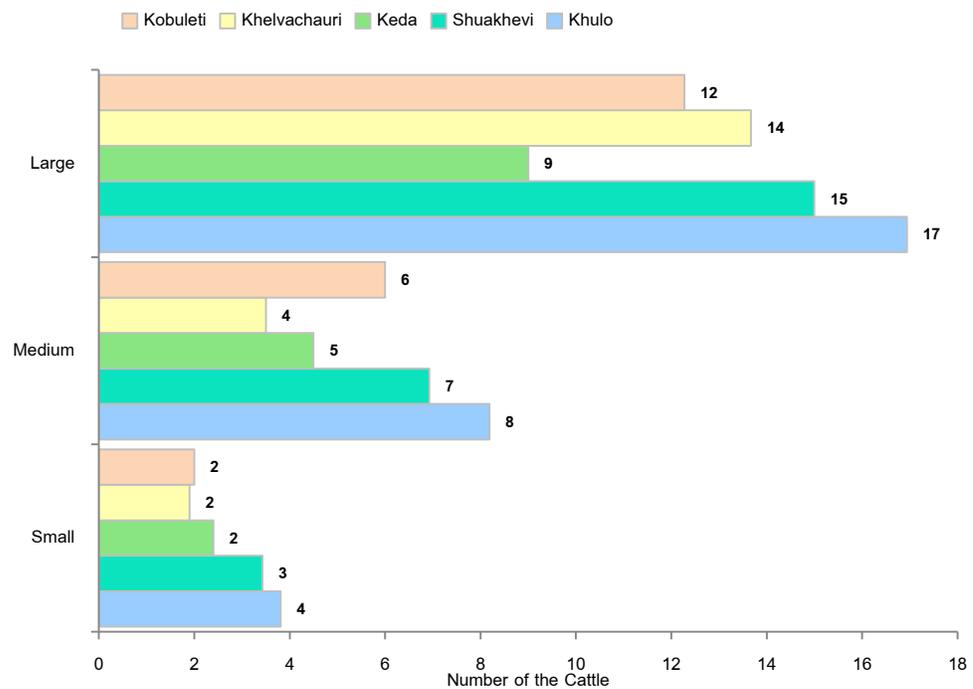


Figure 7.1: Average Number of Cattle per Household, in Each Municipality
(# of cattle differences across Municipalities)

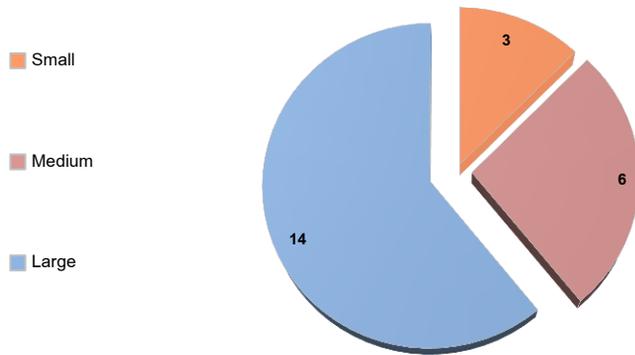


Figure 7.2: Average Number of Cattle per Household
(# of cattle differences, general trend)

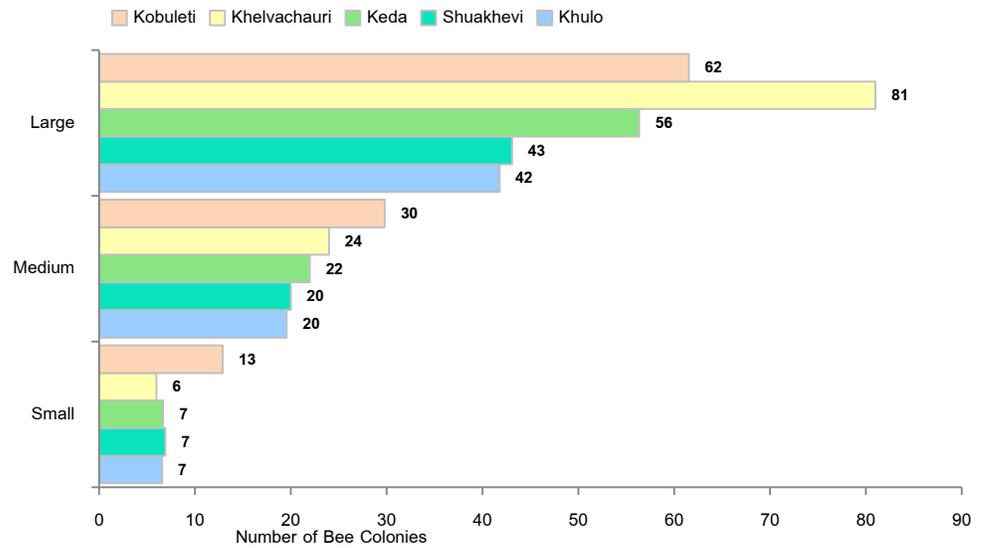


Figure 7.3: Average Number of bee colonies per Household, in Each Municipality
(# of bee colonies, differences across municipalities)

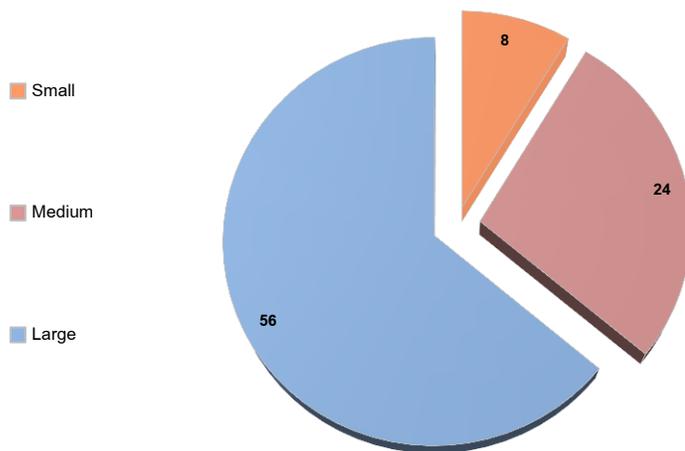


Figure 7.4: Average Number of bee colonies per Household
(# of bee colonies, general trend)

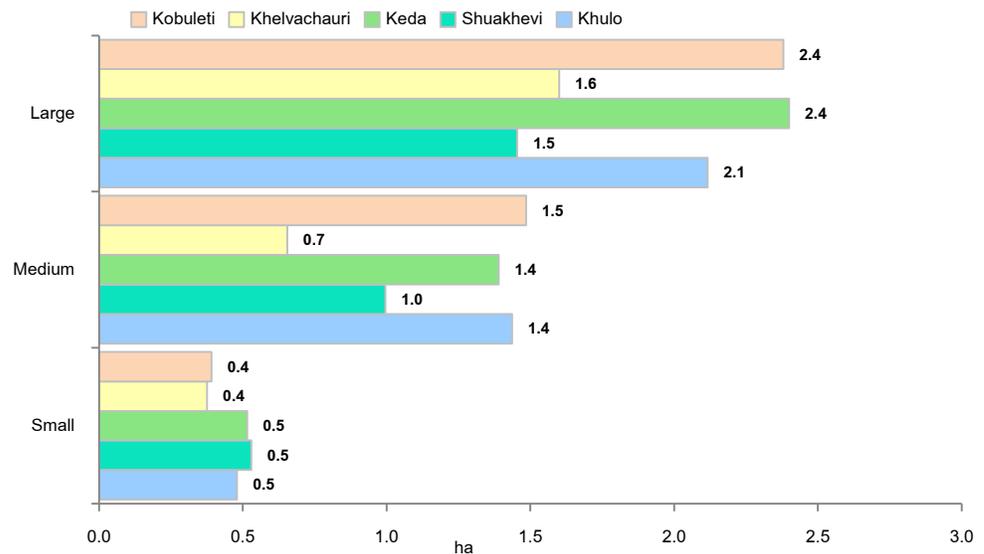


Figure 7.5: Average Number of Ha of Cropping Land per Household, in Each Municipality
(# of ha of land, differences across municipalities)

7.2: *Approximately what % of the households in this community fall into each category?*

According to these criteria and farmer perception 65%, 26% and 9% of population fall under small, medium and large scale farmers, respectively. Figures 7.6 and 7.7 below display municipal differences along with the general average picture:

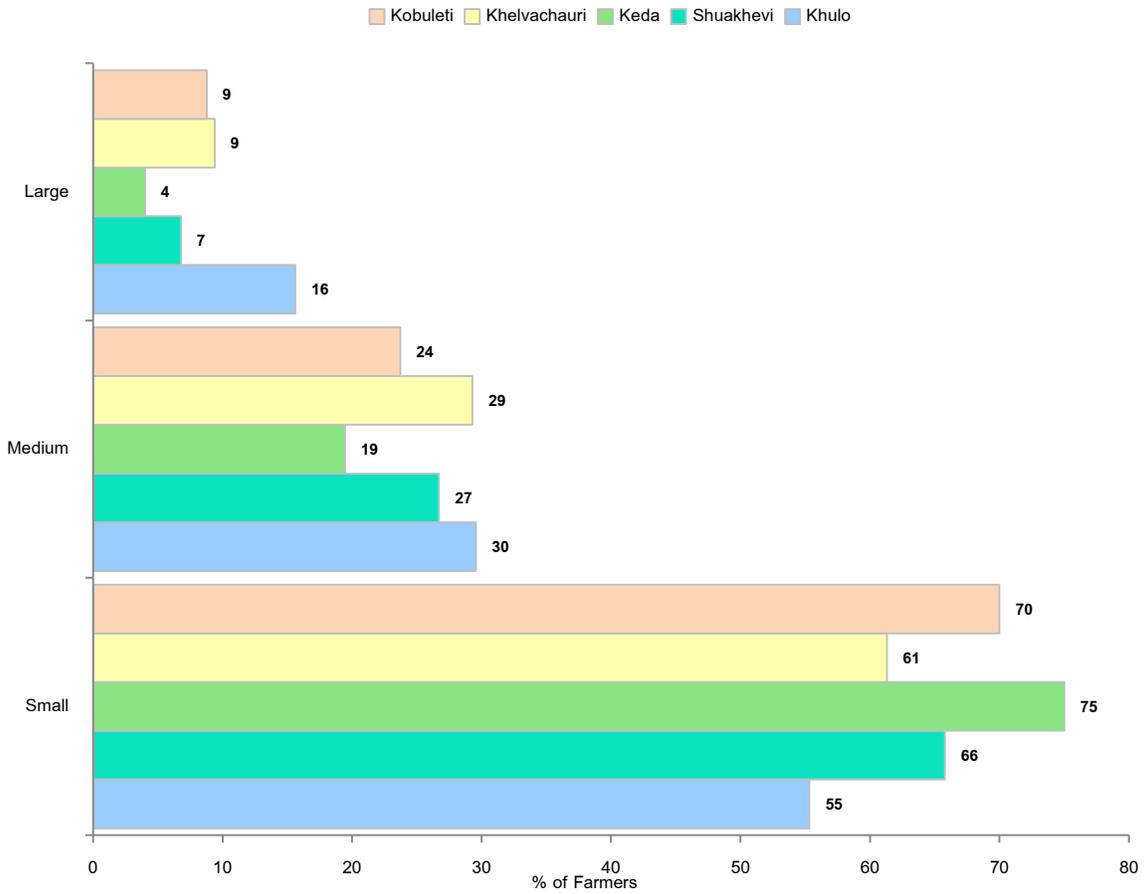


Figure 7.6: Average Percentages of Small, Medium and Large Scale Farmers, in Each Municipality
 (% , differences across Municipalities)

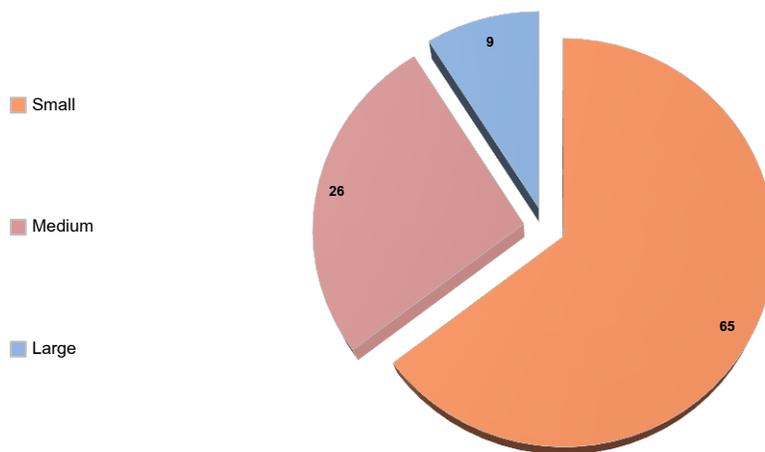


Figure 7.7: Average Percentages of Small, Medium and Large Scale Farmers
 (% , general trend)

8. GENDER

The section looks at the distribution of tasks within the families, access and control over the resources and income. Male and female focus groups have slightly different answers regarding the main income generating method in their families. However the major differences are captured in the results of access to and control over money.

Note: Extra gender assessment will be conducted by the programme as the municipally organized focus group focussing on the livestock market system does not lend itself to the researchers being able to capture more nuanced and sensitive replies related to roles, responsibilities, access and control that require more focus with more time and a less formal environment and question structure to capture:

8.1: What are the main income generating activities in your families; list for men and women.(e.g. livestock husbandry, processing, selling, cultivation)

According to the responses from the focus groups women are mostly involved in the processing and sale of dairy products. Two male focus groups in Khelvachauri mentioned that women are also involved in beekeeping. As for the men, the major activities are beekeeping and cultivation. Livestock husbandry (cleaning and feeding of the cattle), was also mentioned, as activities for both genders. Decisions, over income distribution, are mainly made jointly.

8.2: Whom does this money belong to?

In the 5 municipalities 77% of male groups and 70% of female groups declared that the money they make “belongs” to the household, 20% of men and 25 % of women said the money belongs to men and 3% of men and 5% of women said it belongs to women (see figure 8.1). There were no conclusive differences across municipalities. The highest percentage of focus groups who indicated that money belongs to both was in mixed religion communities. In Christian and Muslim communities the majority of farmers also regard that money belongs to both gender. It is worth highlighting that, in comparison to mixed (7%) and Muslim (16%) communities, more farmers in Christian communities (20%) said that money belongs to women (see figure 8.2. below).

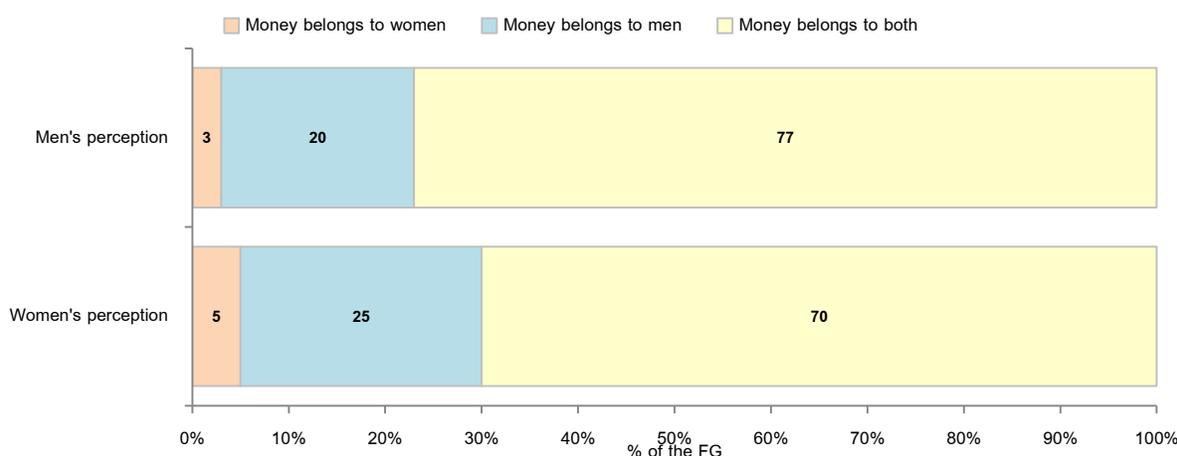


Figure 8.1: Focus Groups Indicating that Money Belongs to: men, women or household
(%, women's & men's perceptions)

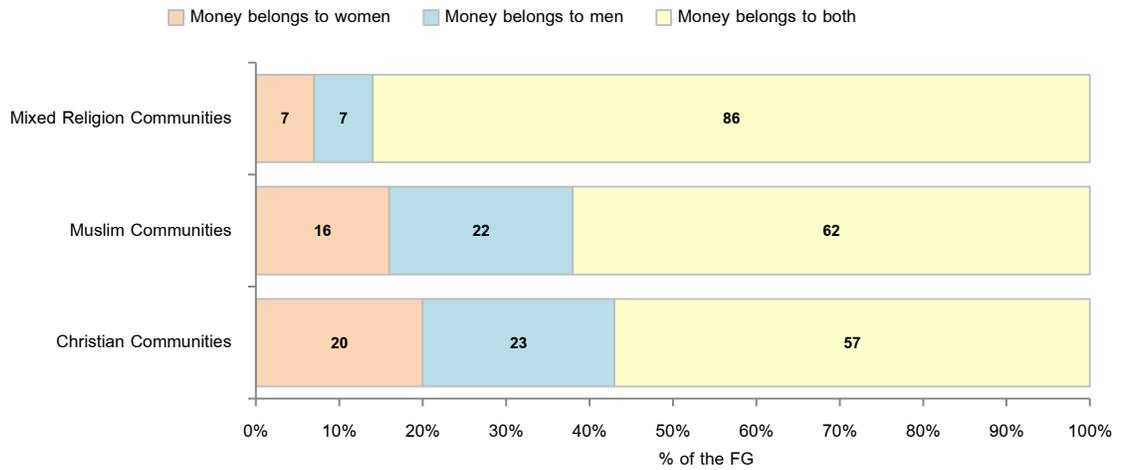


Figure 8.2: Focus Groups Indicating that Money Belongs to: men, women or household (% , perceptions of different religion people)

8.3: Who decides what to spend money on?

In the 5 municipalities 80% of male and 71% of female focus groups declared that the money they make is spent jointly. 7% of men and 20% of women said that men decide how to spend money and only 3 % of men and 9% of women said that women decide how to spend it. There were no informative/conclusive differences across municipalities. Comparison across religion shows that decisions are made jointly, however it is worth to highlight that, in comparison to mixed religion (9%) and Muslim communities (7%), 17% of women in Christian communities said that they make decision on how to spend money (see figure 8.4).

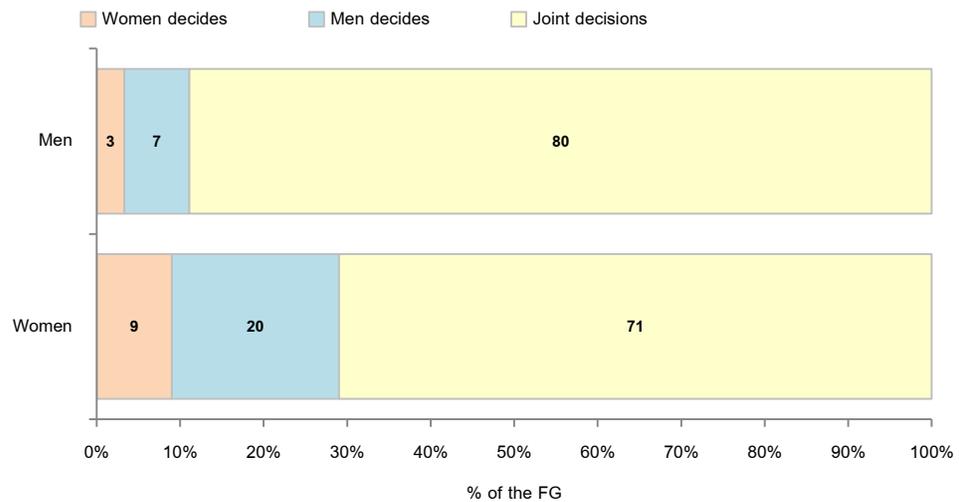


Figure 8.3: Focus Groups Perception on who Makes Decisions on what to Spend Money on (% , women's & men's perceptions)

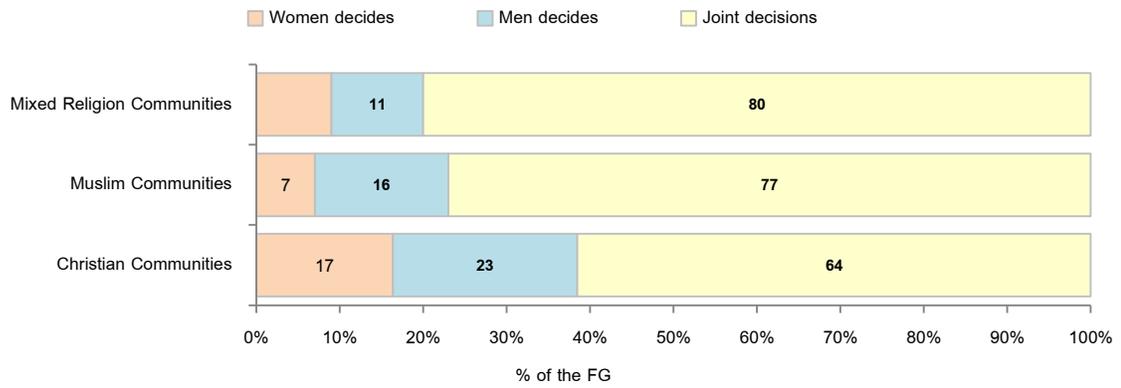


Figure 8.4: Focus Groups Perception on Who Makes Decisions on what to Spend Money on (% , perceptions of different religion people)

8.4: Selling Products:

In general, those who sell seem to be more in control of money received by these sales. The majority of the focus groups said that men are predominantly responsible for selling honey, calves and cattle and control the money from these sales. Other products like cheese, raw milk, and dairy products are sold mostly by women and they have control over this income. Figures 8.5 and 8.6 and Table 9 below describe this in detail, looking at different items for sale:

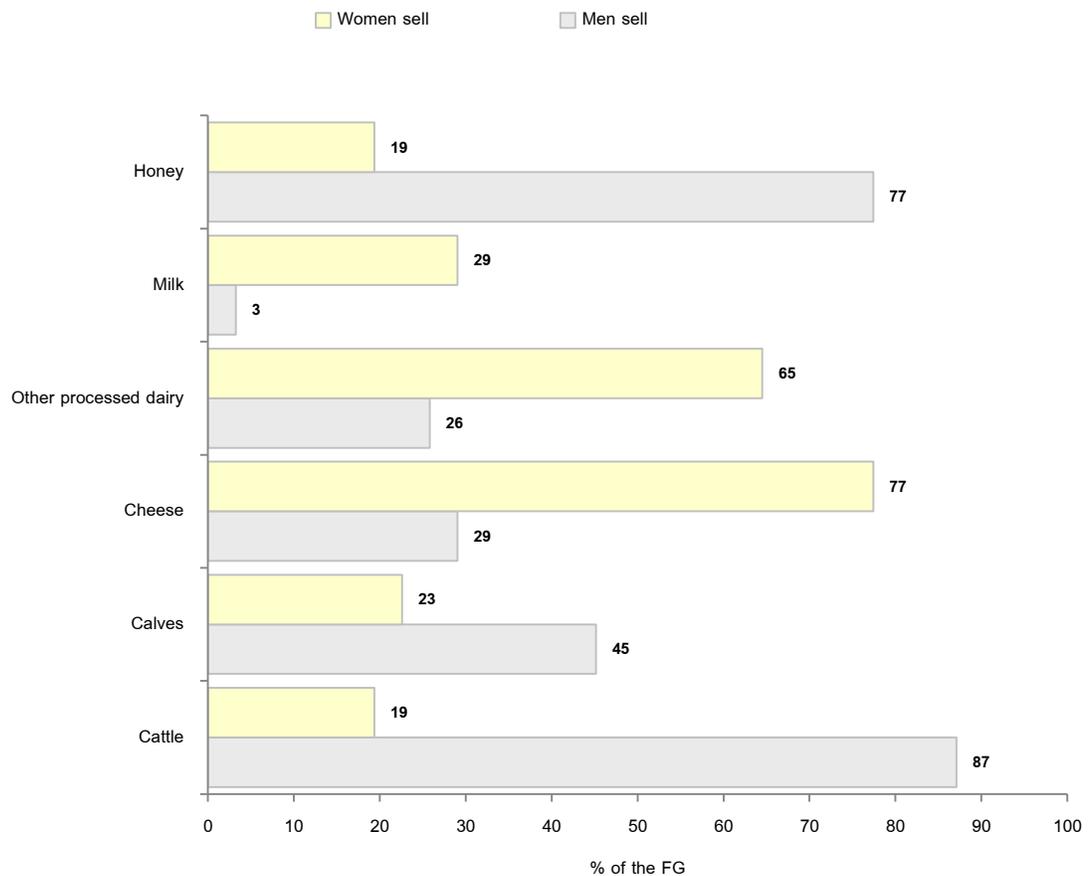


Figure 8.5: % Focus Groups that Name Following to be Responsible for Selling Products

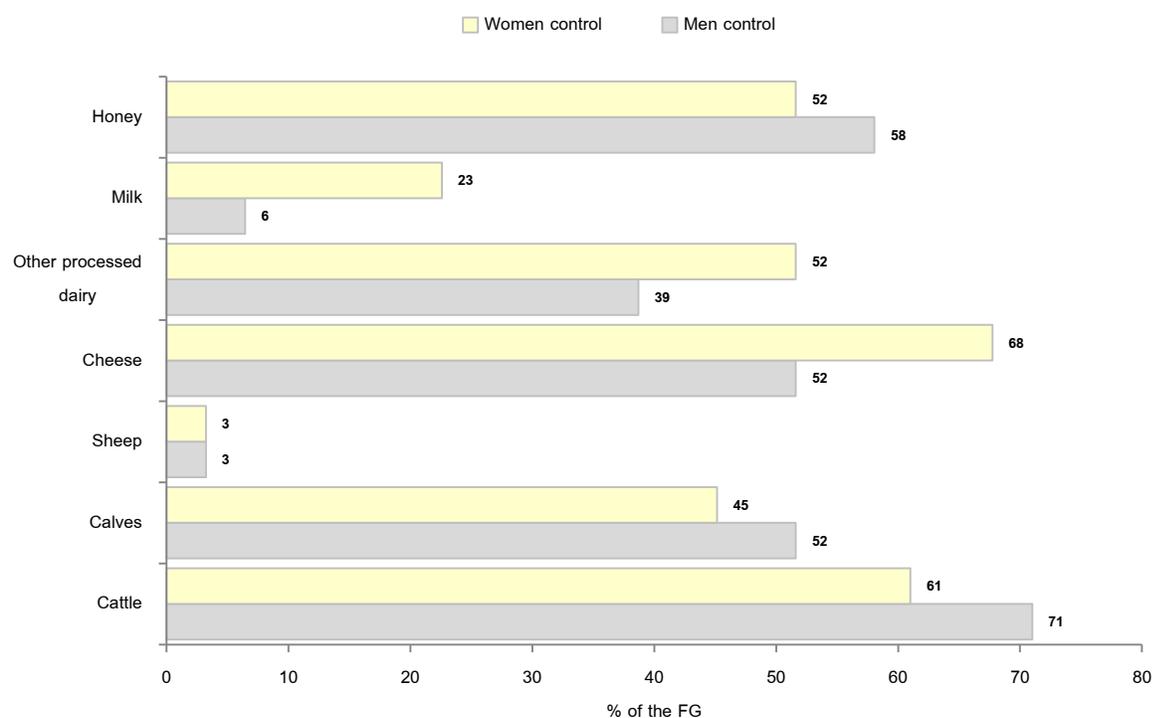


Figure 8.6: % Focus Groups that Name Following to Have Control over Income from Sales

Table 9: Who sells the following and why that person

Who sells following and why that person?	
Calves	The majority of the focus groups stated that men sell them, as it requires some strength. There was an interesting behavioural pattern if the livestock is sold from home "while men are away (e.g. work abroad) then women sell the livestock".
Cheese	Here, women are the most dominant. They are more aware of dairy product prices and are the ones who are involved in the dairy products processing. Another reason is that "it's easy to transport to the market that's why women take care of it".
Other dairy products & Raw milk	The same is true for: <i>Other dairy products and Raw milk</i> : "it's women's business", "and women are more involved".
Honey	Men are the main sellers of honey, but here also appears behavioural pattern if the honey is sold from home "while men are away (e.g. work abroad) then women sell the honey".

9. GOVERNMENT

The following section mainly concentrates on farmers' attitudes towards the government, their level of contact with the government and their awareness of their official representatives. Contact with government representatives, visiting municipal buildings and attendance at community and municipality meetings are not very common for farmers, especially for women and for Muslims.

9.1: What specific activities does the government carry out to support agriculture in your community?

All female and male FGs mentioned mainly that the government distributes vouchers to farmers and to a lesser extent carries out road maintenance. :

Table 10: Activities Performed by Government Representatives in Target Communities, in order to Support Agriculture

	Men	Women
Khulo	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (roads) - Provides tractors	- Vouchers for fertilizers
Shuakhevi	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (water supply, roads)	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Provides tractors
Keda	- Vouchers	- Vouchers
Khelvachauri	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (roads)	- Vouchers for tractors and fertilizers
Kobuleti	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (roads, water supply)	- Vouchers for tractors and fertilizers

9.2: Are you aware of any local and/or national government plans for agricultural development?

15% of female and 40% of male focus groups are aware of national government plans for agricultural development from village representatives¹⁶. Another source mentioned as supplying this information is the TV.

9.3: Are you aware of any changes in the law which may affect you directly or your markets?

In the programme area farmers are not informed about any changes in the law, which may directly affect them. A few female focus groups mentioned that they do receive this kind of information from the TV (Khelvachauri, Shuakhevi and Keda).

9.4: Who do you approach if there is a problem relating to agriculture in your community?

In case of problems related to the agricultural issues farmers approach the village representative.

9.5: Do you have regular contact with government officials? (1 = never; 3 = frequently)

Generally, farmers do not have frequent contact with the government representatives, on average only 18% of respondents stated that they communicate with government officials on a regular basis (village rep and/or Sakrebulo/Gamgebeli). The village rep is the most easily accessible government official for farmers (24%), while the Sakrebulo/Gamgebeli are second in regard to accessibility (13%). In addition, men tend to be engaged with government representatives more than women, this is true for all five municipalities separately and for both levels of government bodies. It should be mentioned that the gender gap on average across municipalities varies from 10 to 15%. The other significant factor determining people's behaviour patterns regarding the topic is religion. There are some clear tendencies: mixed religion communities behave more

¹⁶ In the period of Focus Group survey pre-election promo-campaigns were held in each community

similarly to Christian communities rather to Muslim. Another tendency is that, mixed communities have more regular contact with the government representatives than Muslim communities and the same is true for gender. (See figure 9.1 and 9.2 below)

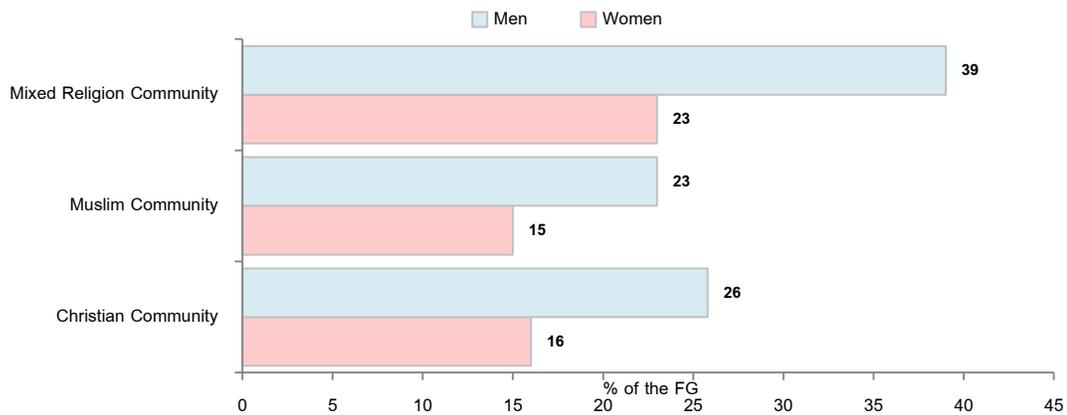


Figure 9.1: % of Focus Groups Having Contact with Village Rep Regularly
(Comparison across gender and religion groups)

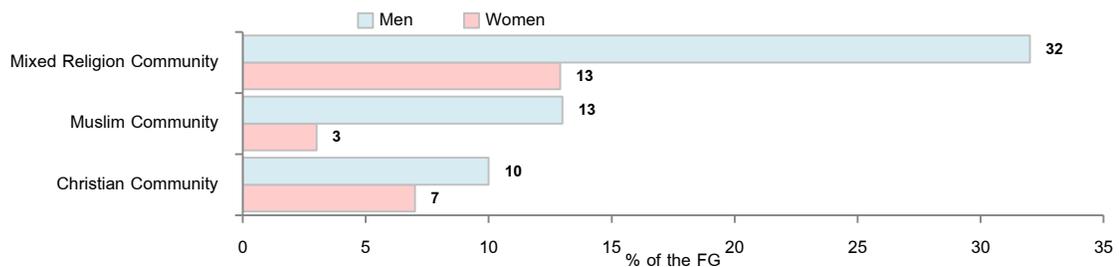


Figure 9.2: % of Focus Groups Having Contact with Gamgebeli Regularly
(Comparison across gender and religion groups)

9.6: How frequently do you visit Municipality building?

The overall frequency of the visits of Municipality building is not high and only 3% of farmers use this service (at least) once a year. Men tend to be more actively engaged in this activity, and patterns across different religious groups are the same. The only noticeable difference is the variation of men and women behaviour in different municipalities were men across municipalities visit significantly more than women (see Figure 9.3 below). Local elections, health issues, social aid, village infrastructure problem and mechanization were named as the reasons for visiting municipality building.

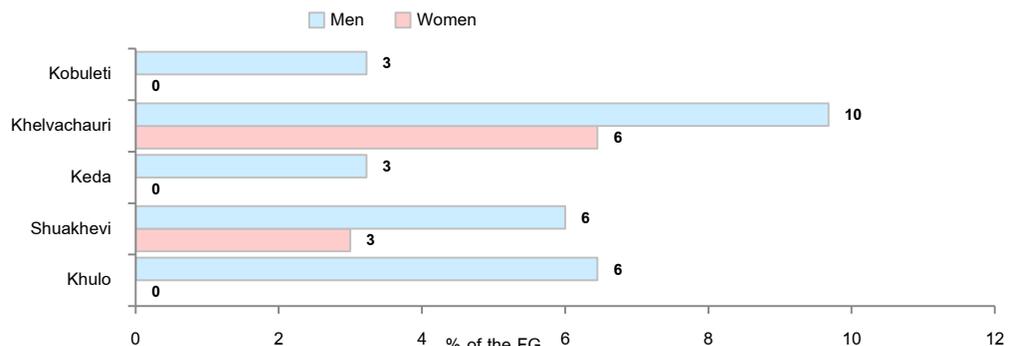


Figure 9.3: % of Focus Groups Visiting the Municipality Buildings at Least Once a Year

9.7: Do you attend community meetings? How many meetings have you attended during last year?

9.8: Do you attend municipality meetings? How many meetings have you attended during last year?

The same tendency for men and women is true for attending community and municipal meetings; however the attendance rate, especially at community meetings, is considerably more for both genders than for municipal meetings. The figures do not differ sizably across municipalities: Figure 9.4 below pictures the comparison of men and women in the frequency of their attending community and/or municipality meetings.

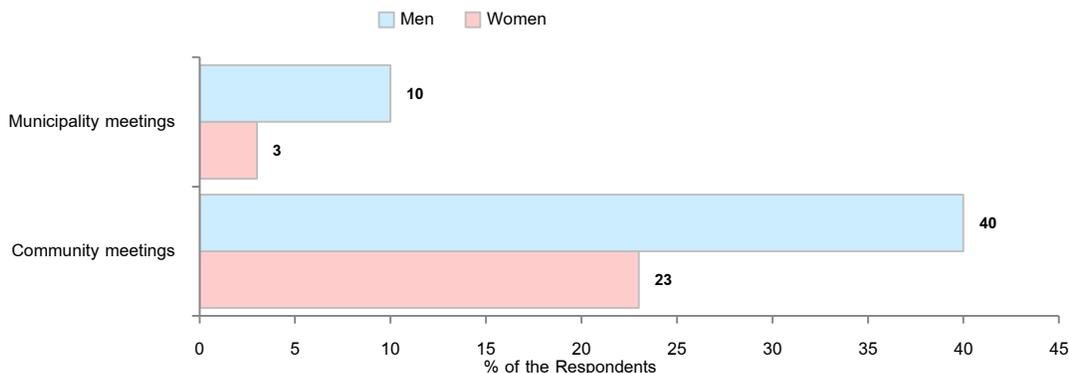


Figure 9.4: % of the respondents who has attended community and/or municipality meetings during last year

9.9: What kind of services and supports provided by your municipality do you get?

The most frequent answer on the municipality help issue was again vouchers' distribution.

Table 11: Activities Performed by the Government in Target Communities to Improve Local Livelihoods

	Men	Women
Khulo	- Vouchers for fertilizers and tractors - Renovates infrastructure (roads)	- Vouchers for fertilizers
Shuakhevi	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (water supply, roads)	- Vouchers for fertilizers and tractors
Keda	- Vouchers for machinery and fertilizers - Cultivation	- Vouchers
Khelvachauri	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (roads)	- Vouchers for tractors and fertilizers
Kobuleti	- Vouchers for fertilizers - Renovates infrastructure (roads, water supply)	- Vouchers for tractors and fertilizers

10. DRR

This section concentrates on DRR and gives a picture of the target communities. The most common DRR issues are: severe winter, landslide and erosion. The local government is the institution named by farmers to assist them after disaster has occurred and in reduction of risks.

10.1: When was the last (fill in the disaster)? How bad was it (1 – very minimal damage to 5 – so bad everyone was affected)?

Severe winter is regarded to be the major disaster in the target communities by 65% of interviewed farmers; it was evaluated to be severe or very severe. Less severe but still important are regarded to be landslide, and erosion, the figures for these disasters are: 46% and 40% respectively. The comparison of female and male answers was inconclusive. Figure 10.1 below demonstrates these general tendencies in more detail. Much more informative were the differences in results caused by the location and altitude, farmers from municipalities with higher altitude tend to evaluate the major disasters more severely than those from municipalities located on lower altitudes, see Figures 10.1 and 10.2 below:

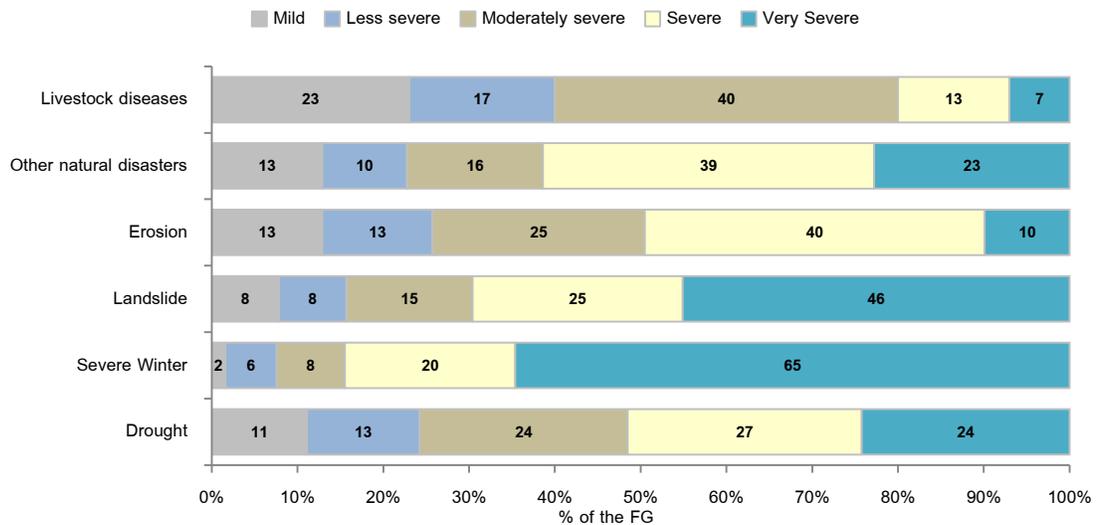


Figure 10.1: The Focus Groups evaluating severity of following disasters (% , general trend)

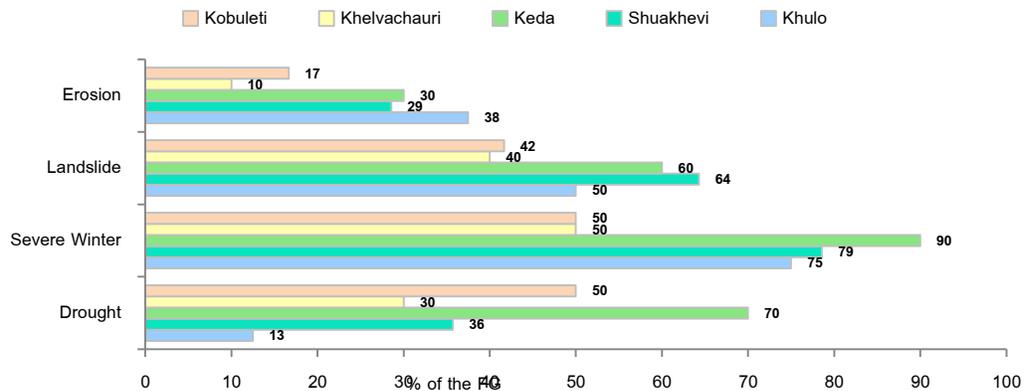


Figure 10.2: The Focus Groups evaluating the Following Disasters to be Severe or Very Severe during the Last Year (% , comparison across municipalities)

10.2: If livestock diseases have occurred (q. 10.1) please name the disease and say what affect it had on you?

Anthrax and Foot and Mouth diseases were named as the most widespread in the target communities. Farmers say that the main effect on them is that their cattle die. See Table 12 below:

Table 12: Number of Livestock Diseases Cases across Municipalities % of FG's

	Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
Foot and mouth	75%	43%	30%	10%	8%
Anthrax	6%	0%	10%	20%	8%
Brucellosis	0%	21%	10%	0%	0%
Ticks	6%	14%	20%	20%	8%

10.3: Who helps/does something in the incidence of livestock disease outbreak?

Local government is the institution named by farmers to assist them after disaster has occurred and in reduction of risks. The regional government/NFA and national government/NFA along with neighbours and relatives are also named by the farmers as the source of help, in case of a disaster. It should be mentioned that no formal or informal farmers' associations, NGOs and commercial organisations have provided any help to farmers. Figure 10.3 below demonstrates the sources of help in case of a disaster occurrence in detail, separately for each municipality:

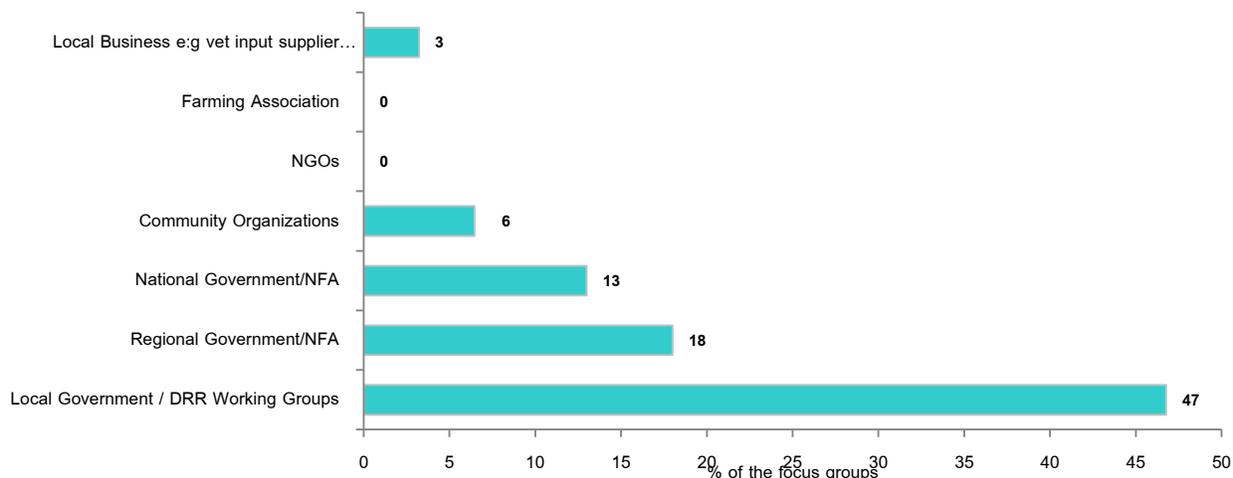


Figure 10.3: % of Focus Groups Naming Following Institutions to help them in DRR

10.4: Have you ever received any disaster assistance from any of these bodies?

Local government assistance to farmers is mainly in the form of providing vaccination. Singular cases of help in during landslide were also mentioned (1 focus group in Khulo, two in Shuakhevi, and one in Kobuleti).

11. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES & WRAP UP

11.1: What are your main priorities for agricultural development in your community?

The leading priority of the five municipalities is access to markets for liquid milk or inputs related to improvements in livestock production in particular showing that importance of dairy production but the constraints under which it is labouring with regard to income generation.¹⁷ Beekeeping is considered important in all municipalities but is a particular priority in Khelvachauri. Table 13 below portrays community priorities mentioned in the focus groups, for different municipalities in detail (results do not vary much across gender) and Table 14 the main significant sources of income as stated by the focus groups at the beginning of the survey.

Table 13: The Priorities of Target Communities

Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
❖ Milk Collection	❖ Milk Collection	❖ Vet/Pharmacy	❖ Beekeeping	❖ Milk Collection
❖ Breed improvement	❖ Market for dairy products	❖ Market for dairy products	❖ Vet/Pharmacy	❖ Livestock nutrition
❖ Vet/Pharmacy	❖ Breed improvement	❖ Milk Collection	❖ Breed improvement	❖ Breed improvement
❖ Beekeeping	❖ Vet/Pharmacy	❖ Beekeeping		❖ Vet/Pharmacy
❖ Slaughterhouses	❖ Beekeeping	❖ Breed improvement		❖ Beekeeping
	❖ Livestock nutrition	❖ Livestock nutrition		❖ Market for citrus
	❖ Slaughterhouses			

Table 14: The Main Significant Sources of Income as Stated By Focus Groups across Municipalities

Khulo	Shuakhevi	Keda	Khelvachauri	Kobuleti
❖ Potatoes	❖ Beef	❖ Beef	❖ Honey	❖ Citrus
❖ Beef	❖ Potatoes	❖ Vegetables	❖ Beef	❖ Honey
❖ Dairy	❖ Dairy	❖ Potatoes	❖ Tree fruits	❖ Beef
❖ Vegetables		❖ Dairy	❖ Citrus	❖ Collecting fruits & nuts
❖ Cereals		❖ Honey		❖ Dairy

¹⁷ Milk and dairy products are mainly consumed at home and therefore play a very significant role in nutrition, diet and contribution to HH food security and HH income indirectly for were they not produced at home then expenditure on food would increase enormously. Constraints related to inputs and access to market mean that where excess dairy products are produced their sale is difficult and the income derived small in comparison to the larger influxes of income derived from the sale of a cow or of a crop.