



ON AIR
DIALOGUES

LISTENING TO RURAL PEOPLE 2021

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit was designed to create a path towards transforming the global food system so that it feeds the world sustainably, equitably, and inclusively. Small-scale farmers and other rural people must play an essential role in doing that. They are the backbone of the global food system, experts in their fields, and experienced in finding creative solutions.

In partnership with six radio stations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda, Farm Radio International asked small-scale farmers, vendors, processors, marketers, and others how the food system should be changed to meet their needs and the needs of their communities. Nearly 12,000 responses were recorded, as people shared their concerns and solutions for creating a healthier, more sustainable, productive, and equitable food system.

This project aligns with the values of Farm Radio International and implementing partners IFAD and World Vision Canada, especially with regards to supporting the most vulnerable, and focusing on gender, nutrition, and climate adaptation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was conducted in collaboration with and with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Vision Canada, Global Affairs Canada through the ENRICH program, and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group ahead of the 2021 United Nations Food System Summit.

Farm Radio International would like to thank all those who made this report possible, especially IFAD, World Vision Canada, Global Affairs Canada through the ENRICH program, and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group for their rich contributions and input to the planning and implementation of this initiative. We also express deep gratitude to all the farmers and broadcasters who shared their time and information with us.

FARM RADIO INTERNATIONAL

Farm Radio International is a Canadian international non-governmental organization uniquely focused on improving the lives of rural Africans through the world's most accessible communications tool, radio, in combination with Information and Communications Technology (ICTs).

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome – the United Nations food and agriculture hub. IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience.

WORLD VISION CANADA

World Vision Canada is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

CANADIAN FOOD SECURITY POLICY GROUP

The Canadian Food Security Policy Group is a network of Canadian development and humanitarian organizations with expertise in global food systems, and food security in the Global South.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit was designed to create a path towards transforming the global food system so that it feeds the world sustainably, equitably, and inclusively. Small-scale farmers and other rural people must play an essential role in doing that. They are the backbone of the global food system, experts in their fields, and experienced in finding creative solutions.

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NOTE TO THE READER

This report outlines the perspectives, concerns, and experiences of individuals throughout the food systems in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda, including small-scale farmers, vendors, processors, marketers, and others. In this report, we often refer to this group as small-scale farmers and other rural people, or participants, as appropriate. The term “youth” is defined in this report as people under 30 years old. Participants were asked to identify their gender as either “male” or “female,” and were also offered the option “prefer not to specify.”

LIST OF ACRONYMS

FRI	Farm Radio International
FSPG	Food Security Policy Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WVC	World Vision Canada

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Small-scale farmers and other rural people are the backbone of the global food system. From farm to table, small-scale farmers, vendors, processors, marketers, and others feed their communities and countries, contribute to local and international economies, and preserve the local environment. According to a 2018 study, small farms produce one-third of the world's food.¹ Notably, women make up an estimated 43% of the agricultural workforce, but lack access to and control over critical assets and inputs, and are consistently underrepresented in leadership and decision-making.²

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit draws attention to the need to transform global food systems so that they work for everyone and ensure safe and nutritious food for all. The urgency of transforming the food system is underlined by the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of hungry people in the world by 118 million.³

Small-scale farmers can speak for themselves — yet there are significant intersectional barriers to their participation in decision-making processes. Radio can reach the most remote, rural, and vulnerable communities in sub-Saharan Africa, including places where literacy is low and the internet is either too expensive to access or unreliable. By using the combined power of radio and mobile phones, the voices of small-scale farmers and rural people can make critical contributions to discussions and debates about food systems. People can express what they really need and want in order to improve their livelihoods and quality of life, local solutions can be prioritized, and long-standing inequities in global power relations can be addressed. Learning from the vast knowledge and experience of farmers brings the world one step closer to creating food systems that ensure healthy diets and are equitable, sustainable, and productive for all. As nations, organizations, and individuals, we all must commit to listening and taking action together.

Over the course of three weeks in June 2021, and in partnership with IFAD, World Vision Canada, and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group, Farm Radio International collected the perspectives, concerns, and experiences of thousands of small-scale farmers on how to create equitable, sustainable, and productive food systems. We worked with six radio stations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda to create and amplify compelling discussions around food systems. On air, broadcasters invited local experts, farmers, and other guests to speak their minds and share their knowledge. Off air, we asked listeners to join in with their thoughts by asking them a series of questions and analyzing their responses.

Our goal was to bring farmers' voices into the global conversation about food systems. Many of these voices represent rural, remote, and vulnerable populations — people who might not otherwise be reached by the Summit, and whose voices would therefore go unheard.

Episode one of the On Air Dialogues radio program discussed access to safe and nutritious food for all.

When asked about coping mechanisms when food is scarce, the largest percentage of participants said that their family would cope by asking everyone to cut back equally. A somewhat higher percentage of women than men said that those in need should eat first, and that the family should sell assets such as animals. Women aged 30+ were more likely to believe that those most in need should eat first, while women under 30 were much more likely to say that the family should find other ways to make money.

We also asked participants what would need to change for everyone in their community to have equal access to safe, healthy, nutritious food all year round. Many participants identified moving away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers as a key priority. Many also placed a significant emphasis on the importance of food hygiene and safety.

Next, we asked what participants worry about most when they think about the safety and quality of their family's

1 Ricciardi et al., 2018. *How much of the world's food do smallholders produce?*

2 FAO, 2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture.*

3 FAO, 2021. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021.*

food. Almost 75% of participants reported feeling troubled about the safety and quality of the food their families eat. Women were somewhat more concerned about nutritionally inadequate diets than men, while men were more likely to believe that their family's food is safe and nutritious. Only 1 in 5 women aged 30+ said that the food their family eats is safe and nutritious.

Episode two of the On Air Dialogues focused on equitable livelihoods, including land and land tenure, gender inequality, and the role of youth in the food system.

We asked participants what would give them the most success as a farmer. The need for finance emerged strongly. The largest percentage of participants said that loans and credit would give them the most success. Participants over the age of 30, both men and women, were more likely to choose this option, while younger participants, both male and female, more often chose better market access.

We also asked about the future of farming for today's children. Only 1 in 9 thought that young people should avoid farming altogether. Almost one-third said that young people would be successful in farming, while another third felt that they would struggle to succeed unless things change — pointing to the need to transform food systems to make successful livelihoods possible. A quarter of participants felt that young people would farm but would need other sources of income. Men under 30 were most pessimistic about the future for young farmers, while women 30+ were the most optimistic, with more than 1 in 3 confident that today's children will succeed.

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit aims to identify solutions that improve livelihoods and food security. Thus, we asked participants to talk about what **they** would do to make life better for farming families. Many participants said that the lives of farming families would be better if they had access to farming inputs. Others favoured more loans, credit, and general financial support. A number of participants said that farming families' lives would improve if markets worked better for them. Finally, many mentioned various types of training and education. These responses underline the need to improve access to the resources, services, and markets that rural people need to improve their lives and livelihoods.

Rural livelihoods are affected not only by marginalization and lack of access to resources and markets, but also by shocks of various kinds, including the impact of climate change. Thus, episode three of the On Air Dialogues focused on resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses. It included topics such as climate change, instability and conflict, infrastructure, and finance.

Over 90% of participants felt there was something they could do in their community to cope with climate change. Less than 1 in 12 said that the only way to cope would be to move to another place. The highest proportion chose "protecting the natural environment." Men were more likely than women to think that protecting the natural environment was the best strategy, while women were more likely than men to choose migration. Participants over 30, both men and women, were more likely to think that improved inputs were the best way to deal with the changing climate and less likely to choose migration.

Participants were also asked where they would turn for information to help them cope with threats to their family and livelihood. This question allowed participants to identify the threats that were most significant to them, as well as where they would go for information to help them cope with those threats. The largest percentage of participants said they would turn to family, friends, and neighbours. A little more than 1 in 4 chose radio. Women aged 30+ were more likely to turn to family, friends, and neighbours than men, and somewhat less likely to turn to farmers' groups or radio. Women under 30 were more likely than women aged 30+ to turn to radio, while men under 30 were more likely to turn to agricultural experts than men over 30.

The final question for episode three asked participants to name the biggest threat to their family eating enough safe and nutritious food. The four most common responses were: poor hygiene and sanitation, weather-related threats, agrochemical use, and lack of inputs or poor-quality inputs. Some pointed to poverty itself as a cause — the lack of physical space due to poverty reduces the ability to ensure that cooking equipment and food preparation

surfaces are hygienic. Others noted threats related to climate change, including drought, poor rainfall, and the risk of unpredictable weather, especially unpredictable rainfall. (Most farmers in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to irrigation and depend on rainfall to grow their crops.)⁴

The thousands of people who participated in the On Air Dialogues demonstrated that rural people can articulate what they need to transform their lives, from strategies for coping with climate change to accessing resources and markets. Most see a future in rural areas for the next generation — but say that action to transform food systems and combat rural poverty and marginalization is needed for them to have success as full-time farmers. Their voices are a vital contribution to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

You can explore audio recordings of participants' voices at dialogues.farmradio.org.

⁴ Jawoo Koo, Olawale Olayide, Saadatou Sangaré, 2019. *Small-scale irrigation potential in Sub-Saharan Africa: Targeting investments in technologies, locations and institutions.*

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

AMPLIFYING RURAL VOICES

Small-scale farmers are the backbone of the global food system. From farm to table, these individuals feed their communities and countries, contribute to local and international economies, and preserve the local environment. From fishers and pastoralists to marketers and processors, small-scale farmers and other rural people are central to the food system and dependent upon it. Each has the knowledge and experience to help transform the food system in positive ways — if they have a seat at the table!

Small-scale farmers' experiences are diverse and varied. If we want to transform the food system to meet the needs of farmers, processors, marketers, and others, we must listen to all kinds of voices — especially those who are underrepresented in agricultural decision-making, such as women. By engaging people throughout the food system, we can help create policy change and drive local solutions.

Small-scale farmers can speak for themselves. Inclusive and accessible communication platforms that enable farmers to express themselves are much needed but too often missing. When farmers' voices and perspectives are amplified, we can base decisions, policies, and programs on what people really need and want. Learning from farmers' vast knowledge and experience can bring the world one step closer to food systems which support healthy diets, and are equitable, sustainable, and productive for all.

Farmers have a lot to say. As nations, organizations, and individuals, we all must commit to listening and taking action together.

THE 2021 UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit was designed to create a path towards transforming the food system. It brings together global actors from a variety of sectors to engage in dialogue on all aspects of food systems, including producing, processing, transporting, and consuming food. The summit aims to:

1. Identify solutions and leaders in food system transformation
2. Raise awareness about the important role that transforming the food system can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. Develop principles to guide governments' progress on the SDGs through transforming the food system
4. Create a follow-up system to measure and maintain actions taken in the summit

WHAT WE DID

Over the course of three weeks in June 2021, and in partnership with IFAD, World Vision Canada, and the Food Security Policy Group, Farm Radio International collected the perspectives of thousands of small-scale farmers' and other rural people on how to create equitable, sustainable, and productive food systems. We worked with six stations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda to create and amplify compelling discussions about food systems. On air, broadcasters invited local experts, farmers, and other guests to speak their minds and share their knowledge. Off air, we asked listeners to join in with their own thoughts.

HOW WE DID IT

In 18 original episodes of radio programming, we asked listeners: Which issues impact farmers most? How do barriers and opportunities play out differently for female and male farmers? What is the future of food systems? And what needs to change to make life better for farming families?

Our goal was to bring farmers' voices into the global conversation about food systems. Many of these voices represent rural, remote, and vulnerable populations — people who might not otherwise be reached by the Summit, and whose voices would therefore go unheard.

We used an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system called Uliza to present listeners with questions on topics ranging from nutrition and food safety to climate change and gender inequality. By calling the Uliza system from their mobile phones and listening to simple voice prompts, participants responded to multiple-choice questions by pressing numbers on their keypad. They also recorded voice messages in response to open-ended questions.

The results are presented in this report, which highlights farmers' key messages about food systems.

You can explore audio recordings of participants' voices at dialogues.farmradio.org.

LISTENER POLLING FOR THE ON AIR DIALOGUES: HOW DOES IT WORK?



As advertised on the radio program, listeners can use any mobile phone to leave a missed call on the Uliza system. The call ends.



Uliza returns the call, free of charge.



Uliza presents the caller with a series of multiple-choice questions. Callers respond by pressing numbers on the keypad.



Uliza presents the caller with an open-ended question. Callers record a voice message in response.



Responses to multiple-choice questions are analyzed and disaggregated to shed light on key themes by country, age, and gender. Voice messages are similarly analyzed and documented.



THE ULIZA SYSTEM

Swahili for “ask,” Farm Radio International first developed Uliza as a tool for polling radio audiences and used it in the On Air Dialogues for this purpose. It has since evolved into a suite of digital services that combine radio, mobile phones, and an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system that enable listeners to communicate and exchange information with radio stations quickly, easily, and free of charge.

Uliza is built on an IVR system that enables listeners to respond to multiple-choice questions and to record voice messages that express their unfiltered perspectives, concerns, and experiences. When combined with interactive radio programming, Uliza is a powerful tool for farmers to join important conversations.

RESEARCH METHODS

Farm Radio International partnered with six stations to produce and broadcast three episodes of On Air Dialogues: two stations in Burkina Faso, one in Ghana, two in Tanzania, and one in Uganda. The episodes were 45-60 minutes each, and broadcast weekly. Many stations used time slots already allocated to agricultural programs to maximize the number of listeners engaged in agriculture. The episodes were broadcast in six languages: Dioula and Nuni in Burkina Faso, Ewe and Twi in Ghana, Swahili in Tanzania, and Luganda in Uganda. Using local languages ensured that the programs were accessible to the intended audiences and enabled wide listenership.

The programs were broadcast from June 10 to June 27, 2021. The three episodes explored broad themes related to three of the five 2021 UN Food Systems Summit Action Tracks:

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress

The content of each episode was informed by these Action Tracks and broken down into three sub-themes. For each sub-theme, broadcasters invited local experts, farmers, and other guests to discuss, exchange, and debate. Listeners were then invited to join in the discussion through a phone-in segment.

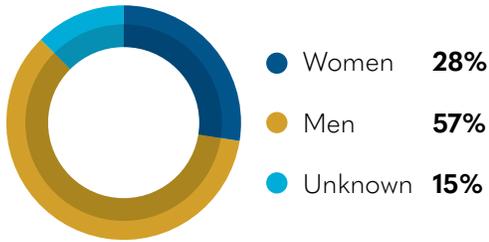
After each episode, we presented listeners with two multiple-choice questions and one open-ended question. The Uliza phone number was announced at the end of each episode, and broadcasters encouraged listeners to call. The polls were launched immediately after an episode finished and were open to receive responses until the following episode aired one week later.

While self-initiated surveys such as this one are a powerful way to collect input and feedback from a large number of people over a short period of time, they do not provide a random sample of participants. Rather, they overrepresent people in the community who have access to phones, have the time and interest in using them to participate in polls, and who live in areas with reliable connectivity. Women in rural Africa typically participate in self-initiated phone surveys at a much lower rate than men.⁵ This is a limitation of the research method, and was the case for the On Air Dialogues — about 28% of participants identified as women. The On Air Dialogues took steps to encourage and promote women's participation, which resulted in a higher rate of engagement than normal. Nonetheless, women did not make up 50% of the participants, which is a goal Farm Radio International will continue to work toward in the future. Nonetheless, the responses were disaggregated and analyzed by gender, allowing useful analysis of the views of women and men, aged 30+ or under 30.

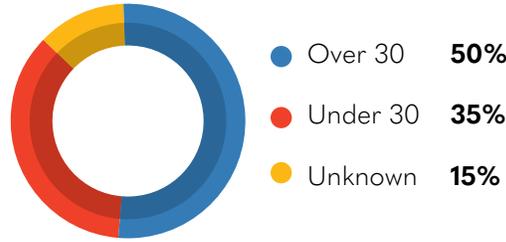
⁵ RTI International, 2019. *In Search of the Optimal Mode for Mobile Phone Surveys in Developing Countries. A Comparison of IVR, SMS, and CATI in Nigeria.*

RESEARCH FINDINGS

GENDER



AGE



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

4
COUNTRIES

6
RADIO STATIONS

3
EPISODES PER
STATION

3,494
TOTAL CALLERS

11,854
TOTAL RESPONSES
TO QUESTIONS

2,648
AUDIO
MESSAGES LEFT



963

WOMEN

2,001

MEN

530

UNKNOWN

WHO ANSWERED?



514

BURKINA FASO



1,234

GHANA



453

TANZANIA



1,293

UGANDA

6 LANGUAGES:

Dioula, Ewe, Luganda, Nuni, Swahili, and Twi.

REACH

Farm Radio International's method for estimating a radio station's potential audience combines information about the geographical coverage of the stations' broadcast range and geo-referenced population data. Thus, the estimated potential audience represents the number of people who could listen to a radio program because they live within reach of the radio station's signal.

We estimated the potential audience for the On Air Dialogues radio program as 12,339,739 people. Of these, more than 7,620,000 are classified as living in a rural area.

WEEK 1

ENSURING
ACCESS TO SAFE
AND NUTRITIOUS
FOOD FOR ALL

QUESTION 1:

IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF THE FOOD YOUR FAMILY EATS, ARE YOU MOST WORRIED THAT:

In episode one, we asked participants two close-ended questions. The first was:

If you think about the safety and quality of the food your family eats, are you most worried that:

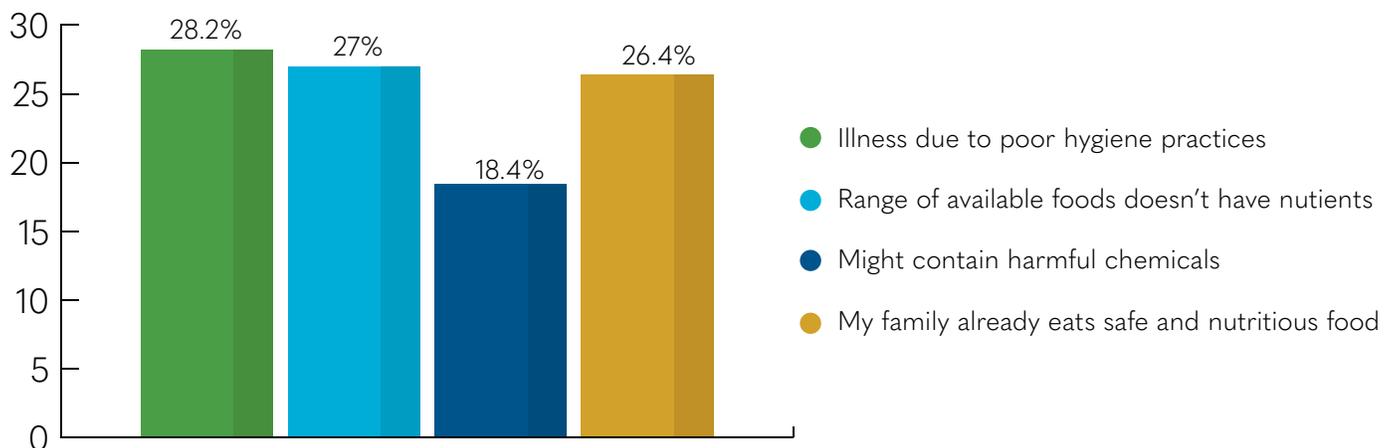
1. It might cause illness due to poor food hygiene practices
2. The range of available foods doesn't have all the nutrients needed for good health
3. It might contain harmful chemicals
4. I don't worry — the food my family eats is already safe and nutritious

We received 864 responses to this question. Figure 1 shows the overall breakdown of responses. A roughly equal percentage of participants across the four countries chose the first, second, and fourth options, while a smaller number chose the third. Thus, participants were almost equally concerned about illnesses caused by poor hygiene and nutritionally inadequate diets. Chemical contamination was also a concern, but less so. Notably, almost 75% of participants reported being concerned about the safety and quality of the food that their family eats.

“ If the environment for my place is not clean, my food will not be healthy and my family will not be normal due to dirty environments, which may cause disease.

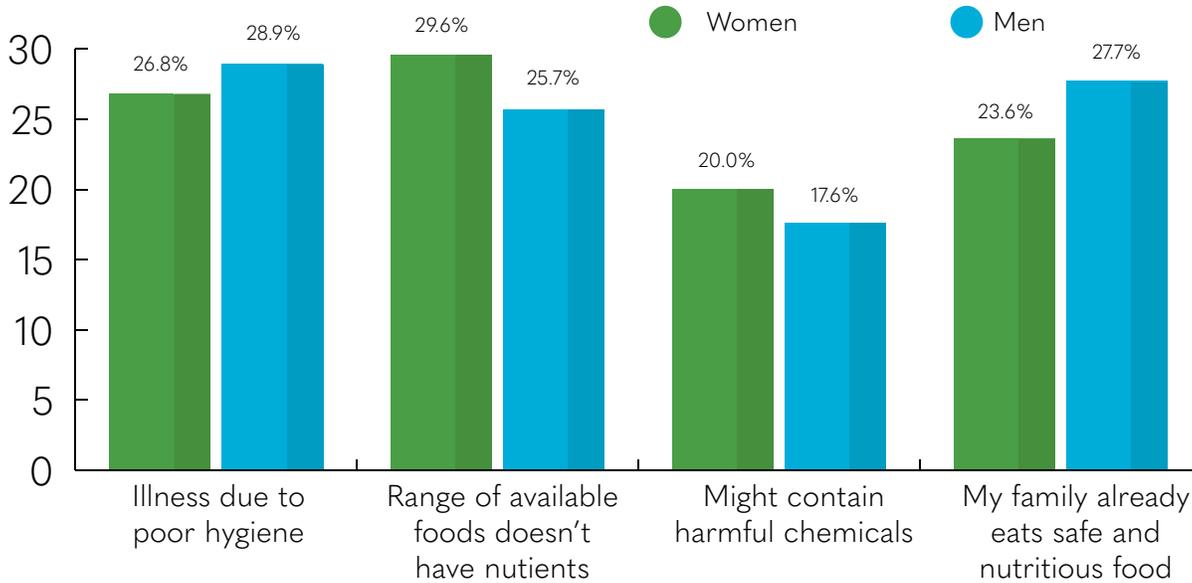
Edi, Babati, Tanzania. Female, under 30.

Figure 1: Responses to safety and quality of food



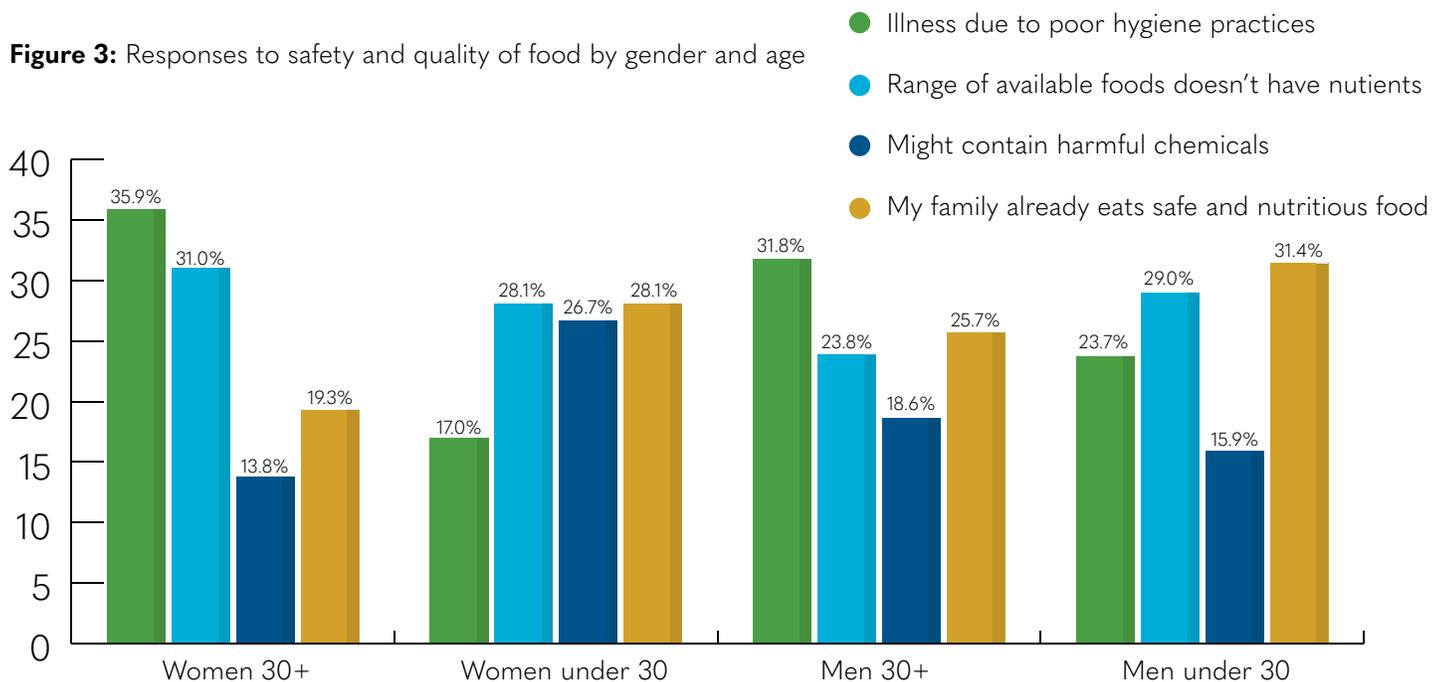
Breaking down the results by gender (see Figure 2), we see that women are somewhat more concerned about nutritionally inadequate diets than men, and that a higher percentage of men believe that their family's food is already safe and nutritious.

Figure 2: Responses to safety and quality of food by gender



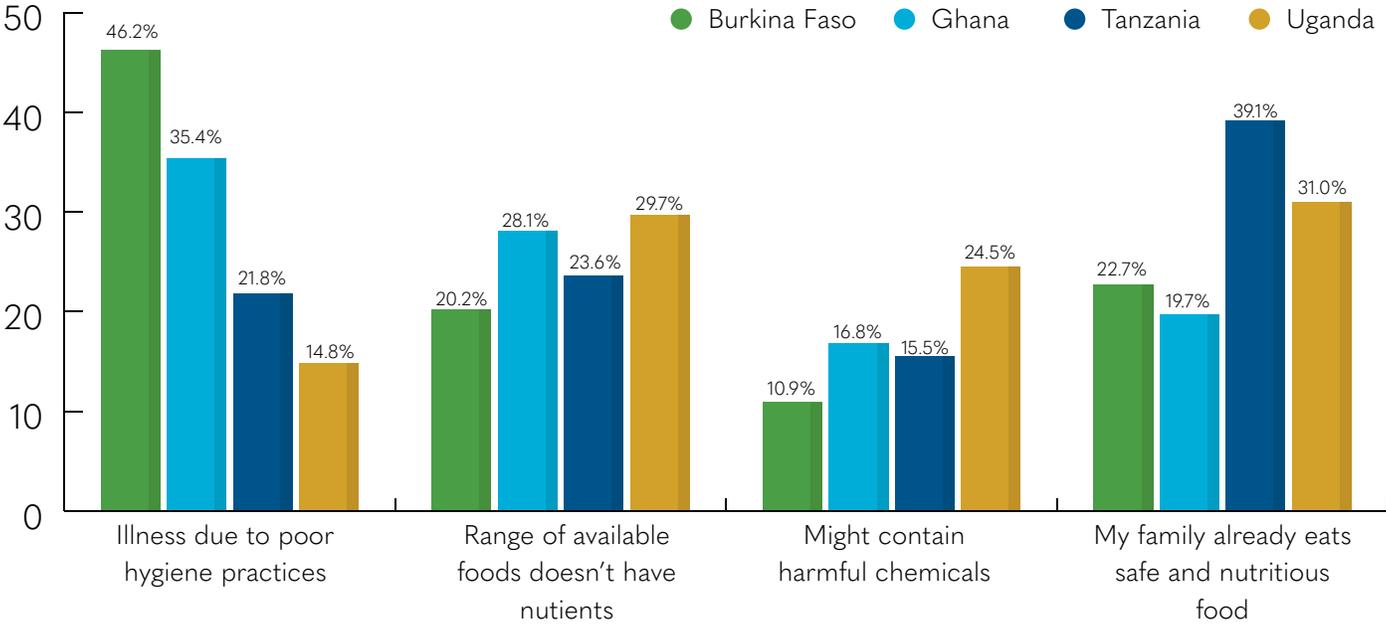
There is a large difference between the responses of women aged 30+ and women under the age of 30 (see Figure 3). Women 30+ were much more concerned about the possibility of becoming ill from poor food hygiene, while women under 30 were more concerned about chemical contamination or believed that their family's diet is already safe and nutritious. The same is true for men over and under age 30, though the difference is less marked. Only 1 in 5 women aged 30+ say that the food their family eats is safe and nutritious.

Figure 3: Responses to safety and quality of food by gender and age



We also see differences in the results per country (see Figure 4). Burkina Faso had the highest percentage of participants who were worried about illnesses due to poor food hygiene. In both Tanzania and Uganda, the highest percentage of participants believe their family already has a safe and nutritious diet.

Figure 4: Responses to safety and quality of food by country



WEEK 1

ENSURING
ACCESS TO SAFE
AND NUTRITIOUS
FOOD FOR ALL

QUESTION 2:

**WHEN FOOD IS SCARCE, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING
YOUR FAMILY DOES TO COPE?**

During episode one, we also asked participants the following question:

When food is scarce, what is the first thing your family does to cope?

1. Those most in need eat first and others sacrifice
2. Ask everyone to cut back equally
3. Sell assets like animals
4. Find other ways to earn money

We received 783 responses to this question. Figure 5 shows the overall breakdown of responses. The largest percentage of participants (about 40%), said that their family would cope by asking everyone to cut back equally, with approximately 20% choosing each of the other three options.

“ There are problems with the availability of food. At the start of the rainy season, there is enough to eat. Halfway through and towards the end of the rainy season there are difficulties.

Unknown, Burkina Faso. Male, 30+.

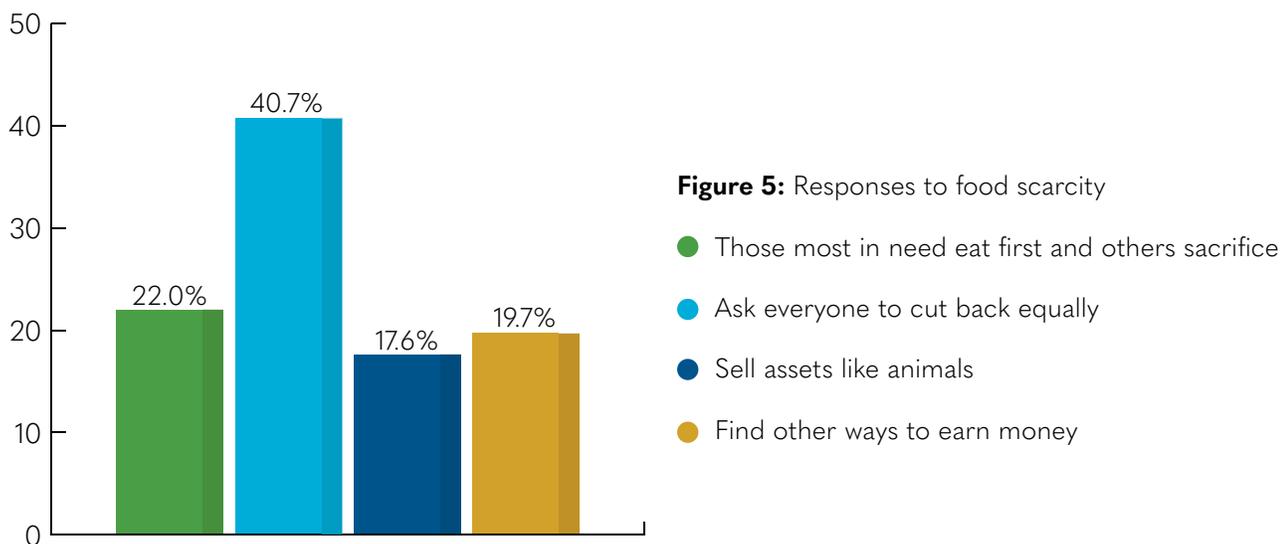
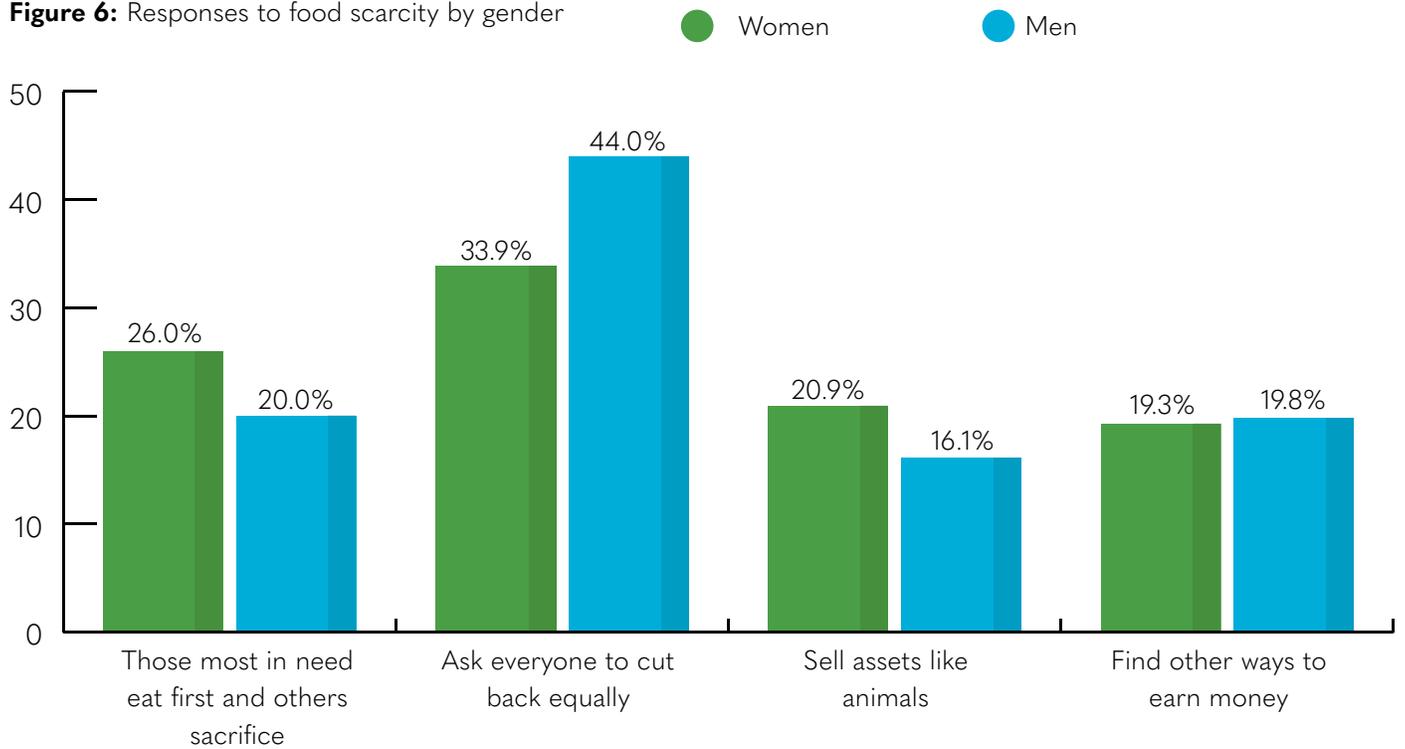


Figure 5: Responses to food scarcity

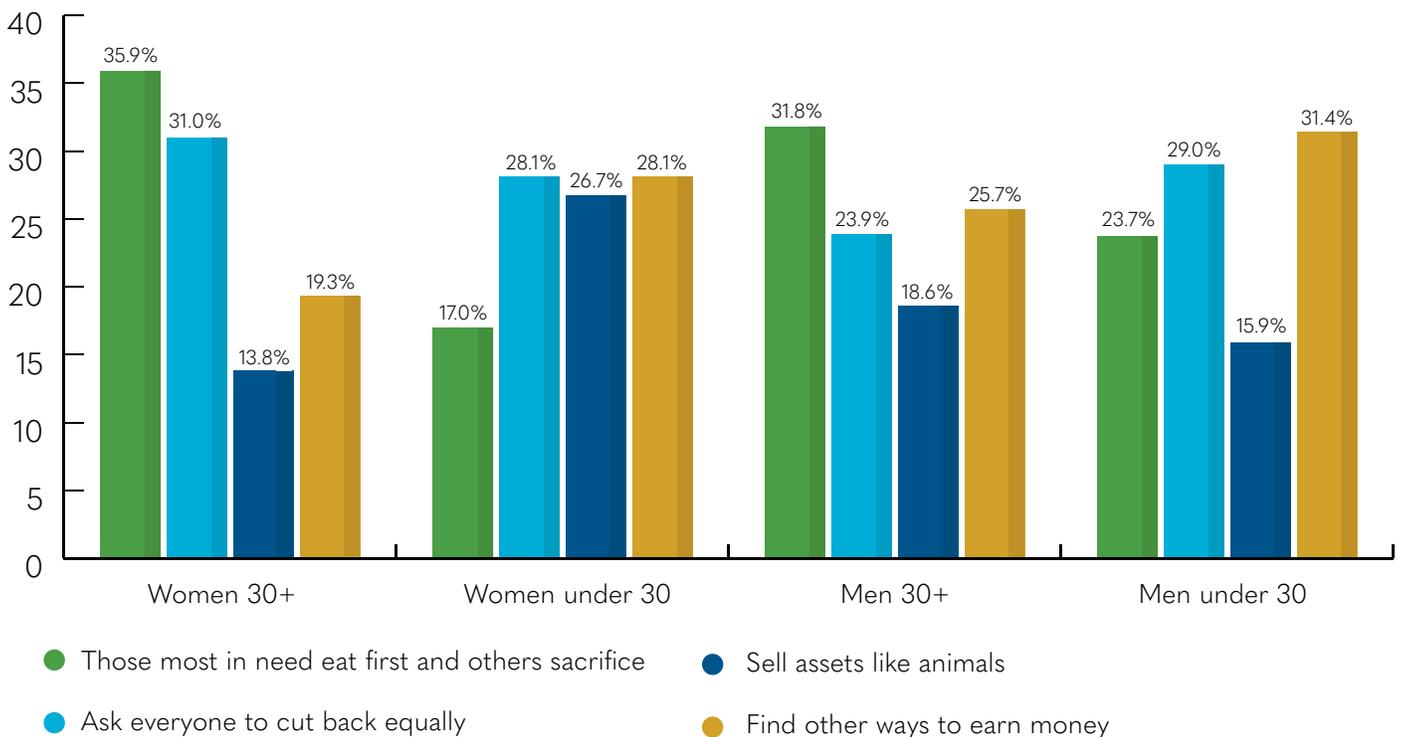
Breaking down the results by gender (see Figure 6), we see that, while the highest percentage of women chose that everyone should cut back equally, a somewhat higher percentage of women than men said that those in need should eat first, and that the family should sell assets such as animals.

Figure 6: Responses to food scarcity by gender



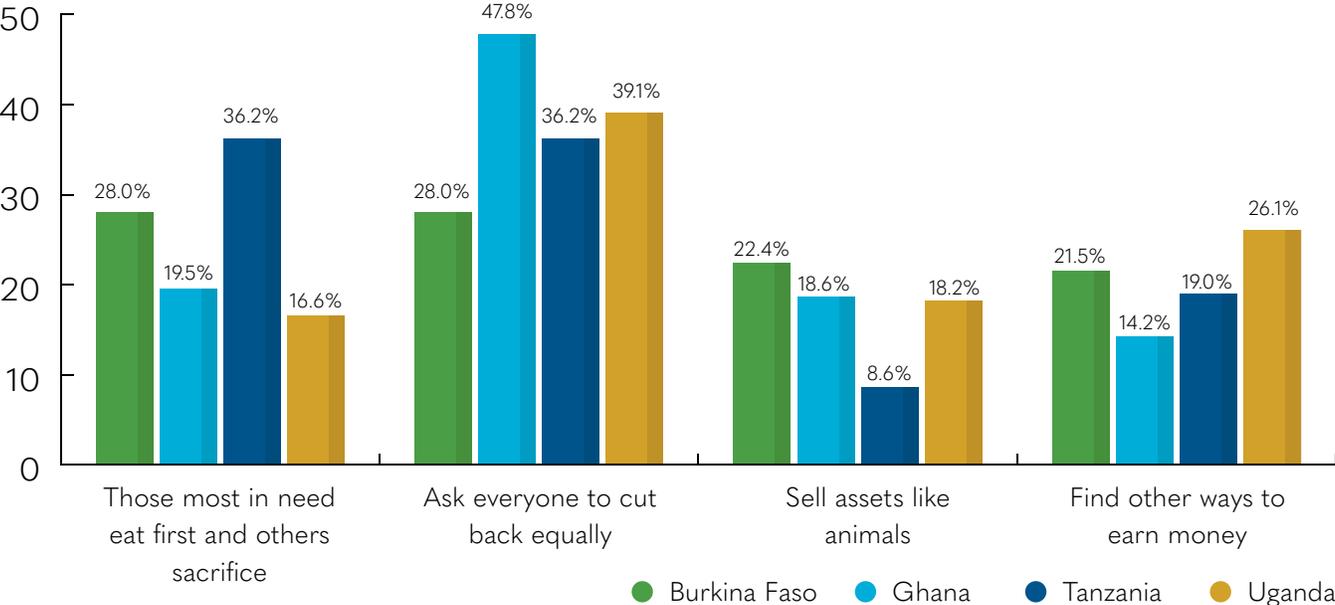
Age had a notable influence on responses (see Figure 7). Women aged 30+ were more likely than women under 30 to say that those most in need should eat first, while women under 30 were much more likely to say that the family should find other ways to make money. The differences between men over and under age 30 were smaller, but men under 30 were more likely to say that the family should find other ways to make money.

Figure 7: Responses to food scarcity by gender and age



There were also large differences in responses by country (see Figure 8). Participants from Tanzania and Burkina Faso were more likely to say that those most in need should eat first, while participants from Uganda were least likely to choose this option. Participants in Burkina Faso were less likely than those in other countries to think that everyone should cut back equally. Participants in Tanzania were least likely to choose the option of selling assets such as animals. Ghana had the highest percentage of participants who thought that everyone should cut back equally, with almost half of participants choosing this option.

Figure 8: Responses to food scarcity by country



OPEN ENDED QUESTION:

IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE, WHAT WOULD NEED TO CHANGE SO THAT EVERYONE HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO SAFE, HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD ALL YEAR ROUND?

Listeners' responses fell into several categories, of which we report on the four most common.

First, participants identified **moving away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers** as a key priority. Participants in Ghana, Tanzania, and especially Uganda — all male — shared their concerns that food produced with chemical pesticides and fertilizers is less healthy than food produced organically. A few participants emphasized the problems associated with using chemical pesticides in food storage, while others indicated a desire to learn which pesticides are safer. Some expressed particular concern about imported foods and suggested banning these from the country. No female participants identified these kinds of concerns in their responses to this question.

Second, participants emphasized the importance of **food hygiene and safety**. From proper food handling and other post-harvest practices, to storing, selling, and preparing food, both men and women expressed concern that unhygienic conditions would contribute to unsafe or unhealthy food, and ultimately lead to disease. Female participants in particular expressed their concerns about household hygiene and the cleanliness of dishes, as well as the importance of properly cooking meats. Participants presented a number of examples of good food hygiene and safety practices, including the cleanliness of food preparation surfaces.

“ In the household, hygiene must be very important in all areas. In some families, the dishes are scattered and the meals are served in dirty dishes but I give thanks to God in our family, we wash our dishes well before serving food.

Honorine, Sapouy, Burkina Faso. Female, under 30.



Third, participants emphasized the **need for information** on the “how” and “why” of healthy diets. They wanted to know more about the characteristics of a healthy diet, how to plan a healthy diet, when to eat certain foods, and the benefits of eating a healthy diet. Many expressed concern that information on healthy diets is less accessible in rural areas than in urban areas. Some suggested making nutrition officers accessible in rural areas and providing information campaigns for rural people. Other participants, including women, noted the importance of eating a variety of foods as part of a healthy diet, especially nutrient-dense foods such as leafy greens.

“ Farmers have to adopt modern or improved methods of farming in order to increase their productivity, hence more healthy food for all.

Ms. Oliver, Kayunga district, Uganda. Female, under 30.

Finally, many participants, especially in Ghana and Uganda, said that **increased productivity** would help everyone achieve equal access to safe, healthy, nutritious food all year round. Some felt that cooperation amongst farmers was the key. Others underlined the importance of producing food to sell as well as eat and using the proceeds to purchase foods and other essentials. Still others expressed the need for farmers to share amongst themselves. Callers also suggested increasing acreage, growing larger quantities of food, and intensifying the use of available land, as well as adopting modern or improved methods to increase productivity. Some participants, including women, also identified barriers to increased productivity, including lack of access to inputs and equipment such as seeds, fertilizers, equipment for small-scale irrigation, and tractors. A recurring comment from female participants was that women in particular must “work hard” to feed their families.

“ We as ladies need to work hard to produce food that our families will feed on.

Peace, Mukono District, Uganda. Female, under 30.



WEEK 2

ADVANCING
EQUITABLE
LIVELIHOODS

QUESTION 1:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE OPTIONS WOULD
GIVE YOU THE MOST SUCCESS AS A FARMER:

For episode two, we asked participants:

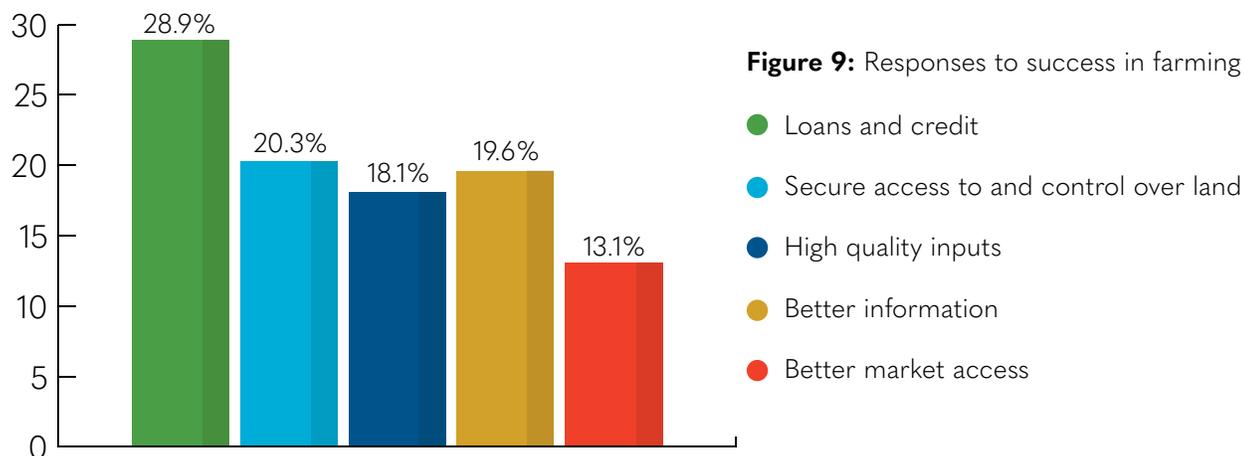
Which of the following five options would give you the most success as a farmer?

1. Loans or credit
2. Secure access to and control over land
3. High quality inputs
4. Better information
5. Better market access

We received 1,687 responses to this question. Figure 9 shows the overall breakdown of responses. The largest percentage of participants said that loans and credit would give them the most success. An approximately equal proportion of participants chose options 2, 3, or 4, while about 1 in 8 chose the last option.

“ I would advocate for the government to tell banks to provide agricultural loans with lower interest rates for farmers and also give subsidies for inputs like seeds and pesticides.

Mugoya, Uganda. Male, under 29.

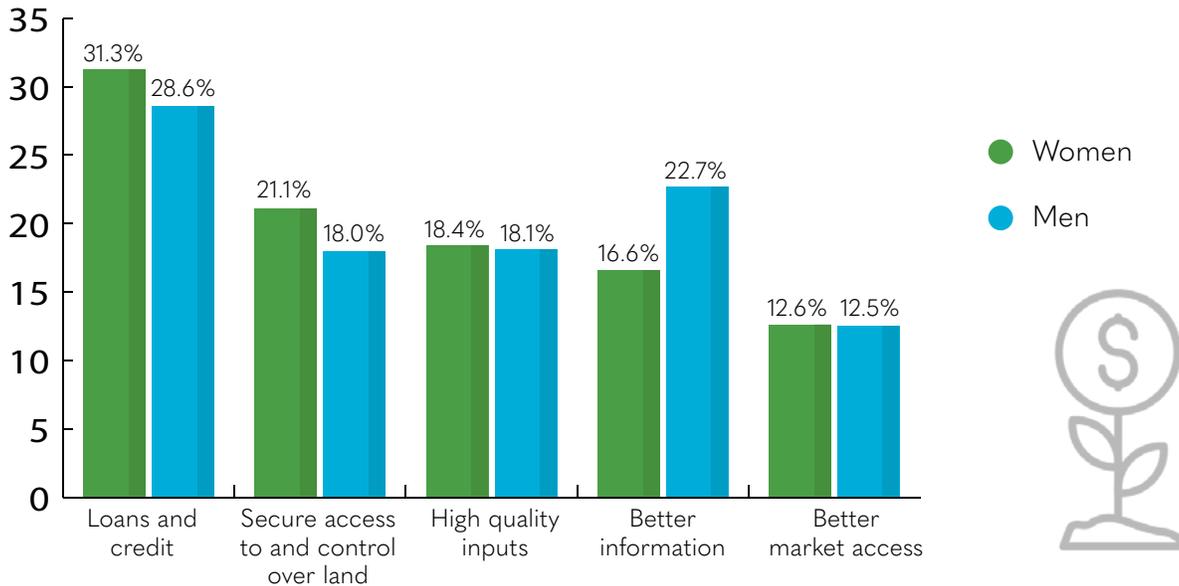


When we break down the results by gender (see Figure 10), there is little difference between men and women, though men chose “better information” more frequently than women.

“ If I had more power to change things, I would work with agricultural extension officers to educate farmers on good agricultural practices and also support them with loans and equipment to aid them in their farming activities.

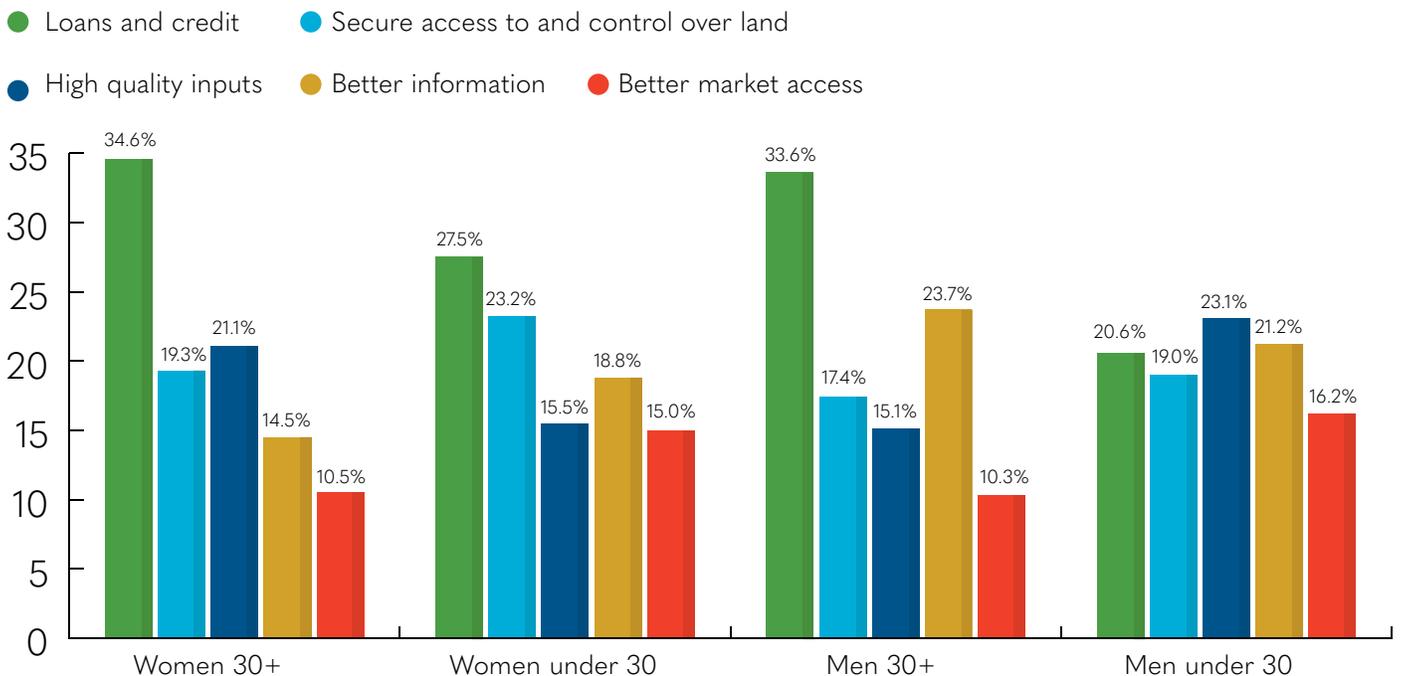
Unknown, Ghana. Female, under 30.

Figure 10: Responses to success in farming by gender



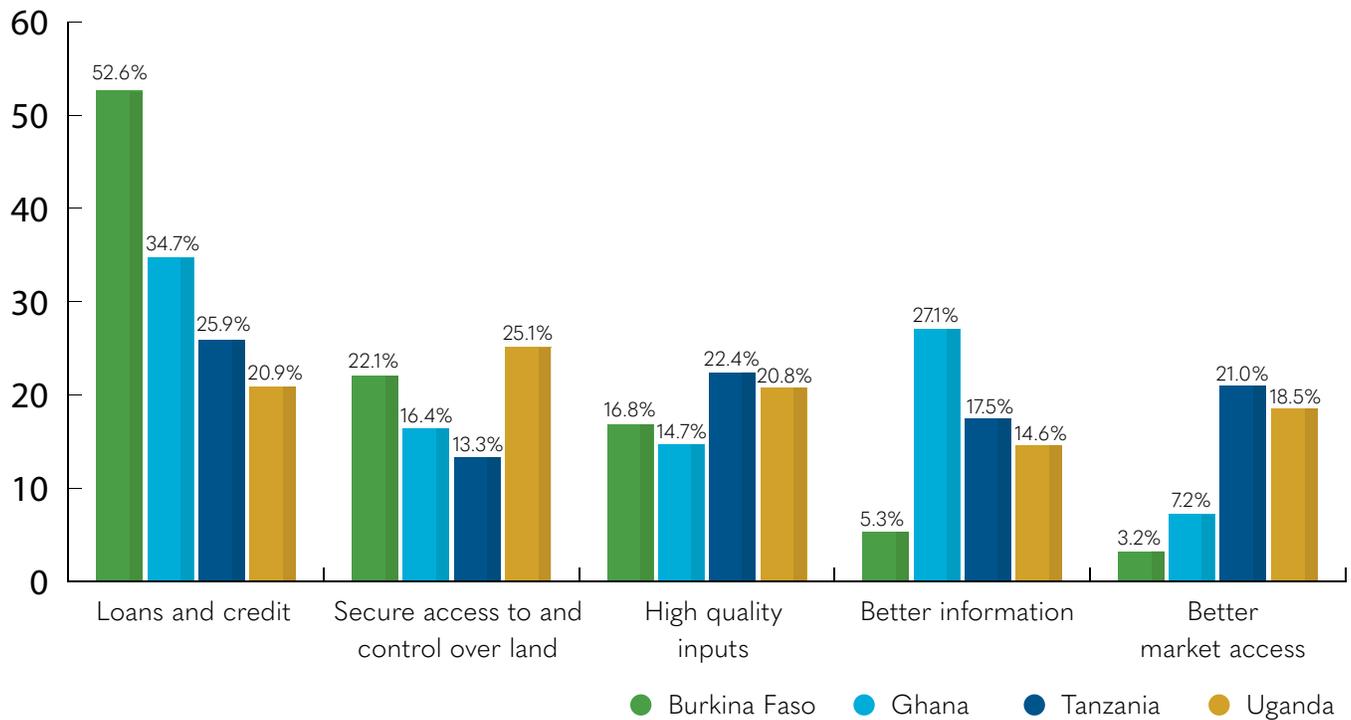
Age had a noticeable influence on responses (see Figure 11). Participants over 30, both men and women, were more likely to see loans and credit as the key to success than younger participants. Participants under 30, both male and female, were more likely to believe that better market access is most important than those over 30.

Figure 11: Responses to success in farming by gender and age



As with previous questions, there were large differences in country responses (see Figure 12). In Burkina Faso, more than half of participants chose loans and credit, a much higher figure than in other countries. By contrast, only about 1 in 5 in Uganda chose this option, while 1 in 4 chose “secure access to and control over land.” Ghana had the highest percentage of participants who chose “better information” at 27.1%, while only 5.3% in Burkina Faso chose this option.

Figure 12: Responses to success in farming by country



WEEK 2

ADVANCING
EQUITABLE
LIVELIHOODS

QUESTION 2:

WHAT WILL FARMING LOOK LIKE IN
THE FUTURE FOR TODAY'S CHILDREN?

We also asked:

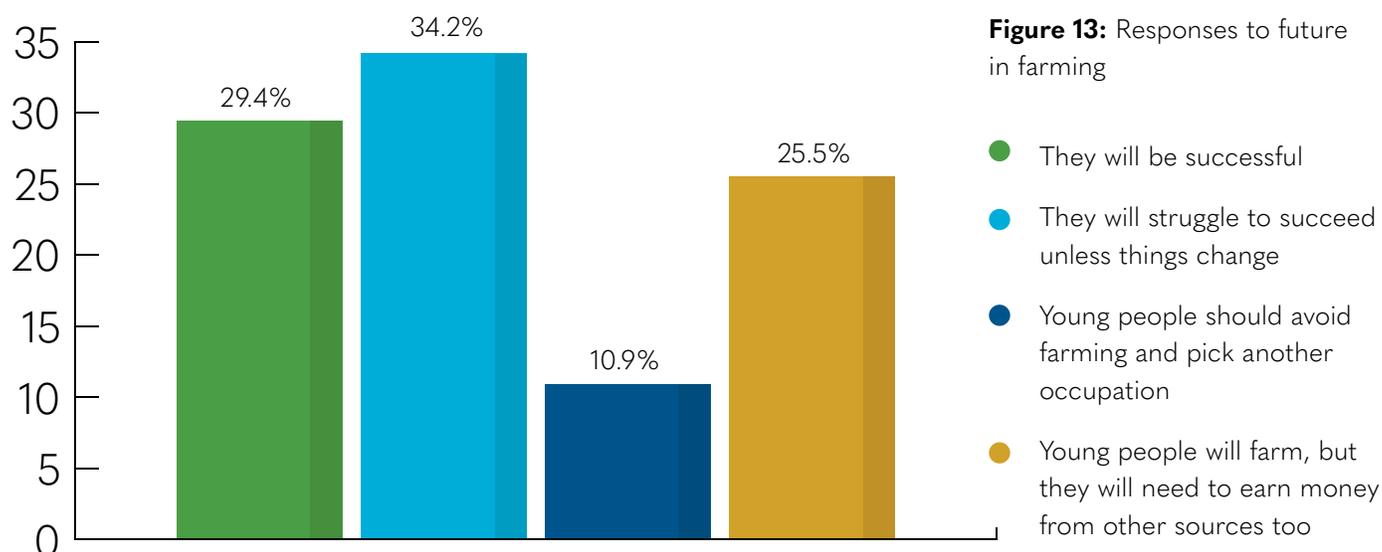
What will farming look like in the future for today's children?

1. They will be successful
2. They will struggle to succeed unless things change
3. Young people should avoid farming and pick another occupation
4. Young people will farm, but they will need to earn money from other sources too

We received 1,411 responses to this question. Figure 13 shows the overall breakdown of responses. Only 1 in 9 thought that youth should avoid farming and pick another occupation. Almost one-third (29.4%) said that young people would be successful in farming, while another third (34.2%) felt that young people would struggle to succeed unless things change. A quarter (25.5%) felt that young people would farm but would need other sources of income.

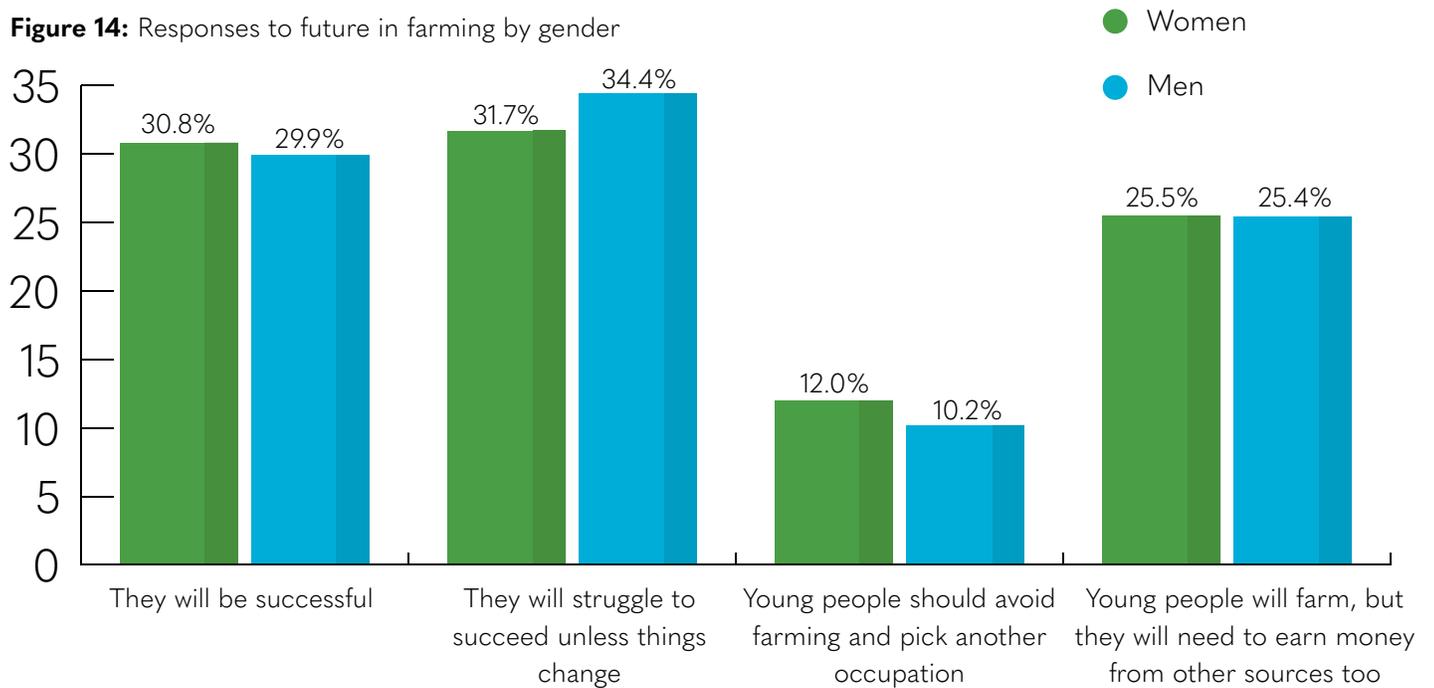
“ Really, we are farmers, we were born into it, the difficulties of agriculture, we see them.... Thinking that those who come after us, our children and our little brothers and sisters will have difficulties if we do not agree to seek solutions together, it will be difficult to have enough to eat.... We use these shows to ask anyone who can help us with innovative ideas in agriculture because we can't do other work. We were born into agriculture and we want to farm to have our daily bread. We are looking for solutions to win our case in agriculture.

Konaté, Bourammarka, Burkina Faso. Male, 30+.



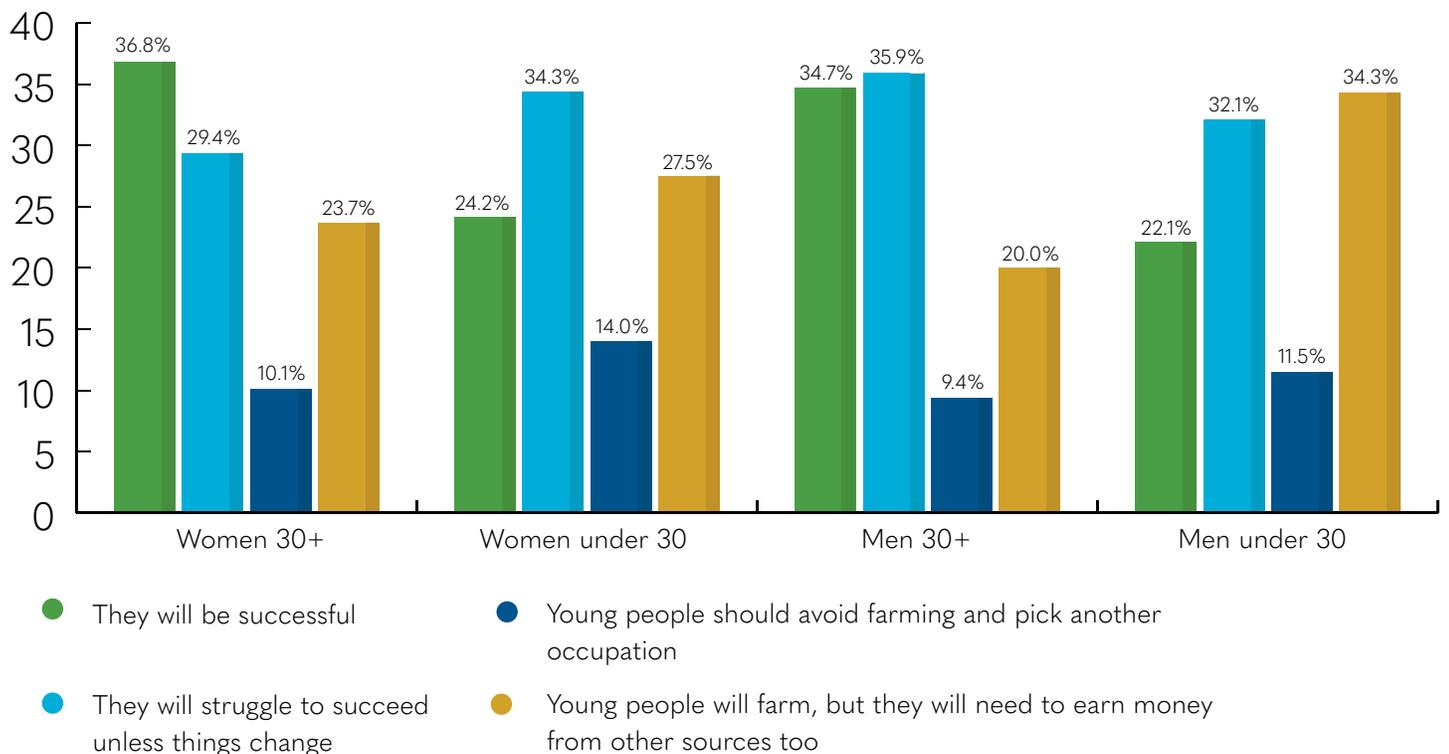
When we break down the results by gender (see Figure 14), we see only minor differences in the attitudes of men and women towards the future of farming for their children.

Figure 14: Responses to future in farming by gender



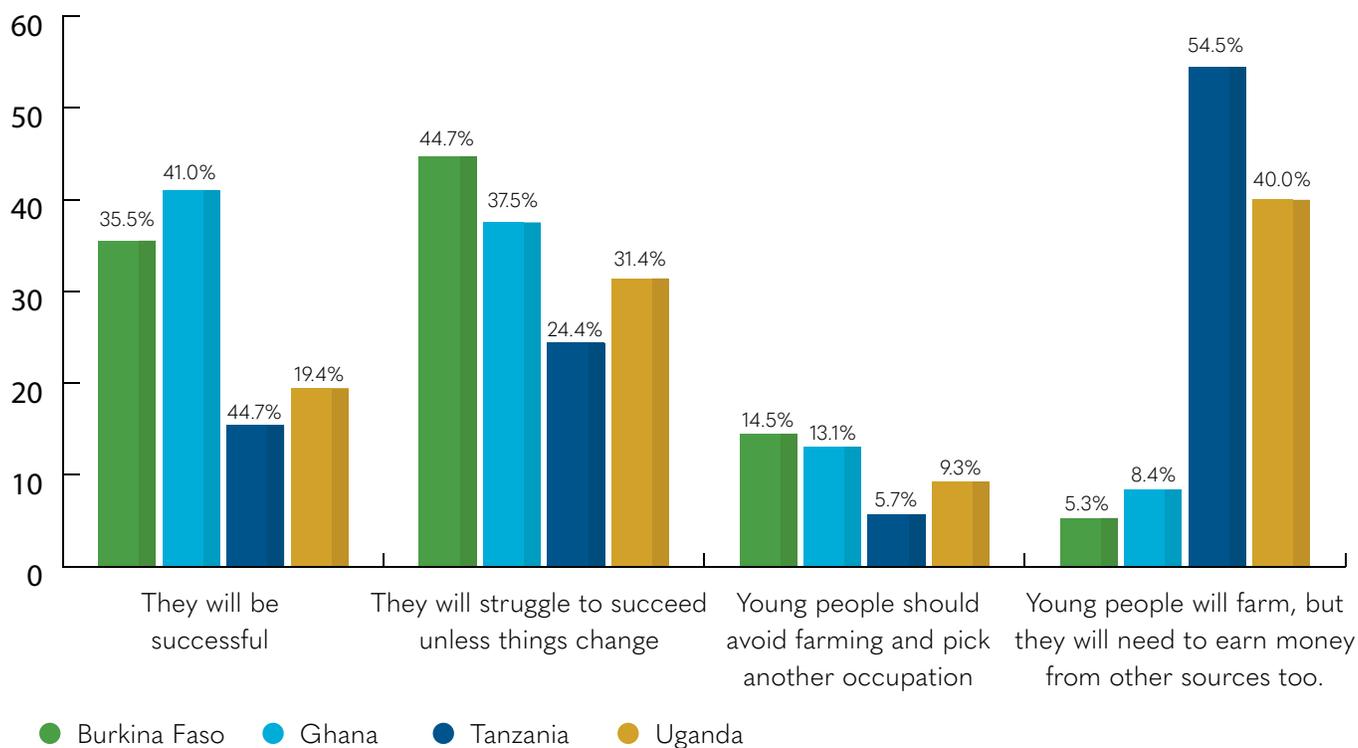
Age had a noticeable influence on responses (see Figure 15). Participants over 30, both men and women, were much more likely to think that today's children will be successful than younger participants. Men under 30 were most pessimistic about the future of youth in farming, while women 30+ were most optimistic, with more than 1 in 3 confident that today's children will succeed.

Figure 15: Responses to future in farming by gender and age



There were also large differences in country responses (see Figure 16). In the two West African countries, participants were much more likely to think that their children would succeed in farming. In Ghana and Burkina Faso, 41.0% and 35.5% of participants chose this option, compared to only 19.4% and 15.4% in Uganda and Tanzania, respectively. A high percentage of participants in East Africa, 54.5% in Tanzania and 40.1% in Uganda, thought that young people will farm, but will need to earn money from other sources as well. Participants in Ghana were most likely to predict a bright future for youth in farming, with 41% believing that today's children will succeed.

Figure 16: Responses to future in farming by country



OPEN ENDED QUESTION:

IF YOU HAD MORE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR FARMING FAMILIES?

Listeners' responses fell into several categories, of which we report on the four most common.

First, many participants said that the lives of farming families would be better if they had **access to farming inputs** — either by governments providing inputs directly to farmers through subsidization or reducing the price of inputs; by providing credit that farmers could use to purchase inputs; or by importing more inputs. Among female participants, access to inputs was identified as the number one factor which would make the lives of farming families better.

Participants, both female and male, mentioned a variety of types of inputs: fertilizers (including manure), pesticides, seeds, tractors and other types of farm equipment, and storage warehouses.

Second, many participants, both female and male, said the lives of farming families would be better if they had more **loans, credit, and general financial support**. A number of participants indicated that the government should provide loans and other kinds of financial support directly. In some cases, participants said that such support should be dedicated to helping farmers purchase specific types of inputs. Participants also mentioned low or reduced-rate interest loans, or simply said that farmers should be financially supported. One female participant also mentioned the importance of managing household finances, noting that men should “stop spending” farm revenues.

Third, a number of participants said that farming families' lives would improve if **markets worked better for farmers**. They conceived of better markets in various ways: better or higher prices, linking farmers with buyers, standardizing crop prices, cutting out middlemen, improving or ensuring access to markets, and ensuring good roads. Among female participants, market access was identified as a key priority, closely following access to farming inputs.

“ If I had more power to change things, I would work with agricultural extension officers to educate farmers on good agricultural practices and also support them with loans and equipment to aid them in their farming activities.

Unknown, Ghana. Female, 30+.



Fourth, many participants said that farming families' lives could be improved through **training and education**. An equal number of female participants chose training and education and making markets work better for farmers. As described by participants, training and education should take a variety of forms and cover a variety of topics: training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), composting, mulching, irrigation, crop diversification, using inputs, growing cash crops, managing money, activities to promote soil fertility, selecting seeds, and training youth in farming skills.

“ Ah, farming is becoming difficult for children, it is not raining much anymore. Before we used to start the field work in May, today the rainy season goes until July and it is from this moment that we start sowing. Also, there is not enough space for the fields, no more manure to put in the cultivating land, we cannot have enough food and eat our fill.... Where are our children going to farm in the future? It's very difficult, there has to be a change in our activities. We must give advice to farmers, train them in composting techniques to increase their yield.... Nowadays, the field oxen eat the leftovers of the post harvest; there is not even a place for the plow oxen to eat. There has to be a change in the way we do things.... May God help us, may God give us good rain, may he give us long life.

Dramane, Kiribi, Burkina Faso. Male, 30+.



WEEK 3

BUILD
RESILIENCE TO
VULNERABILITIES,
SHOCKS & STRESS

QUESTION 1:

WHERE WOULD YOU TURN TO FOR INFORMATION TO HELP YOU
COPE WITH FUTURE THREATS TO YOUR FAMILY AND LIVELIHOOD?

For episode three, we asked:

Where would you turn to for information to help you cope with future threats to your family and livelihood?

1. Family, friends, and neighbours
2. Farmers' co-operative/group
3. Radio
4. Agricultural experts
5. Input suppliers



We received 636 responses to this question. Figure 17 shows the overall breakdown of responses. The largest percentage of participants (32.7%) said they would turn to family, friends, and neighbours. Radio was second at 22.3%.

“ I am a farmer. I am over forty years old. Really, the difficulties that exist if we do not find solutions to come into contact with the agricultural agents and radios so that they can give us ideas to show us how to make manure, how to apply fertilizer. If we do not come into contact with the farmers and the radios ah! It will be difficult. The rain is no longer enough, the soil is no longer rich.

Zena, Yé, Burkina Faso. Male, 30+.

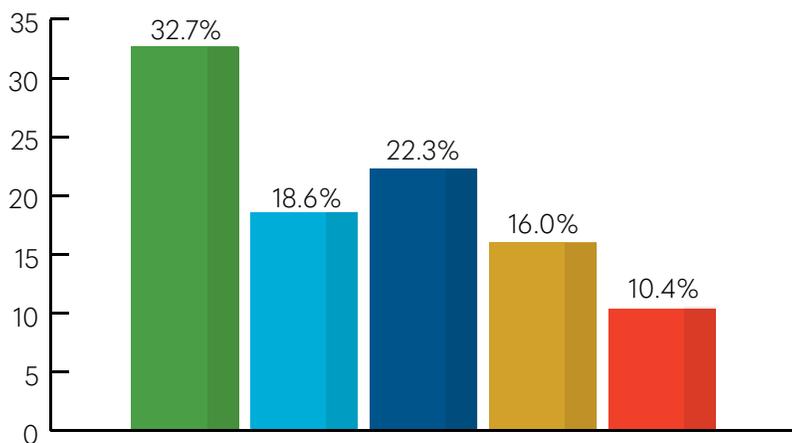
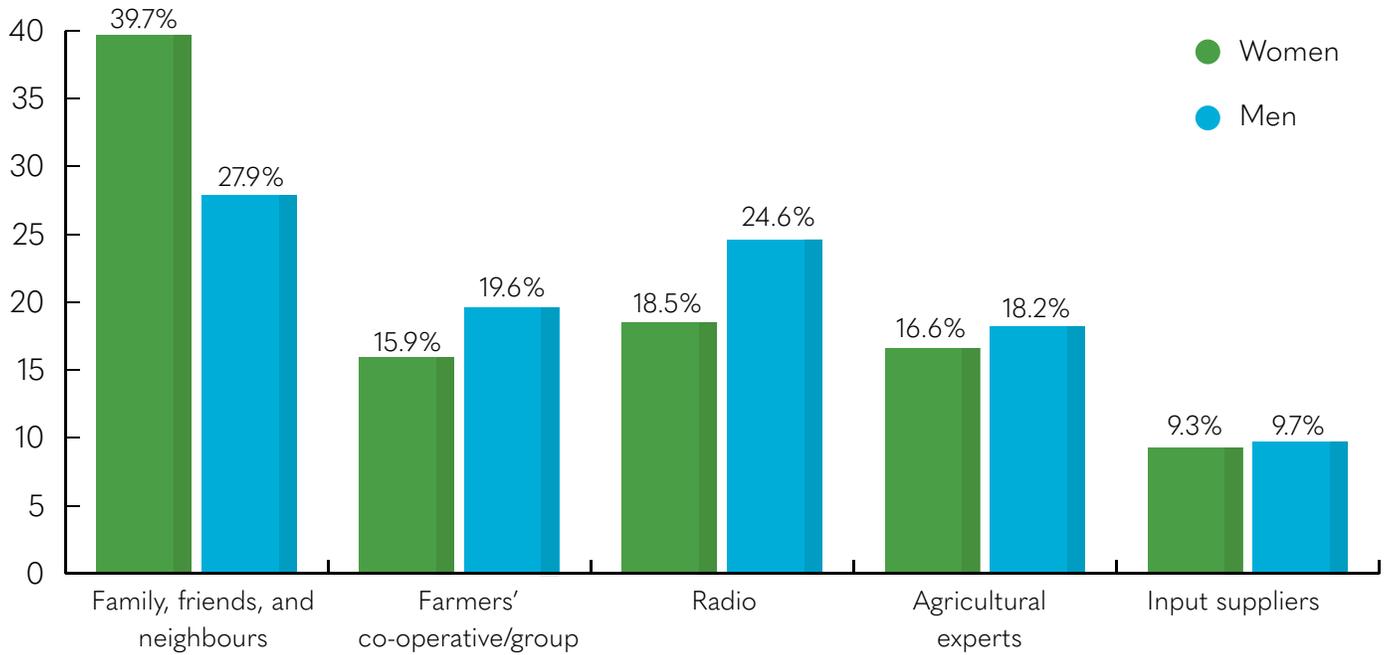


Figure 17: Responses to finding information

- Family, friends, and neighbours
- Farmers' co-operative/group
- Radio
- Agricultural experts
- Input suppliers

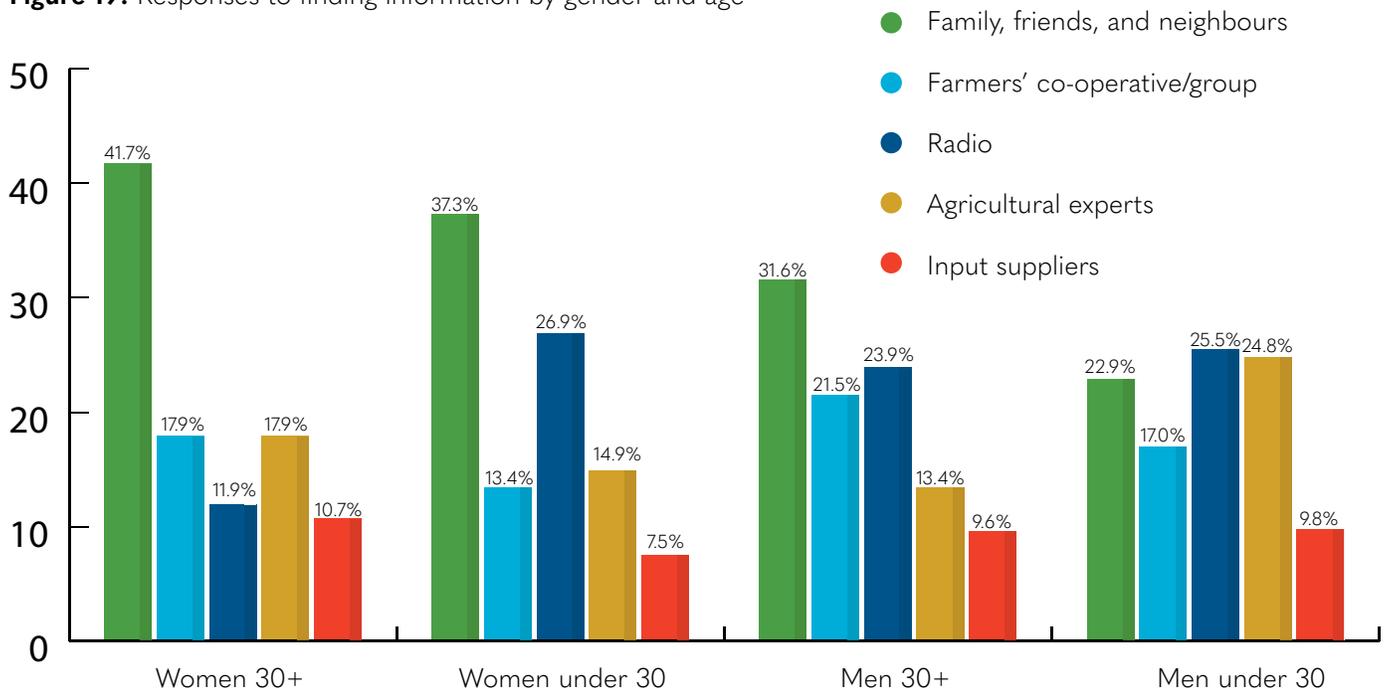
When we break down the results by gender (see Figure 18), we see that women were even more likely to turn to family, friends, and neighbours than men, and somewhat less likely to turn to farmers' groups or radio. This is useful to note when devising strategies to reach and support female farmers.

Figure 18: Responses to finding information by gender



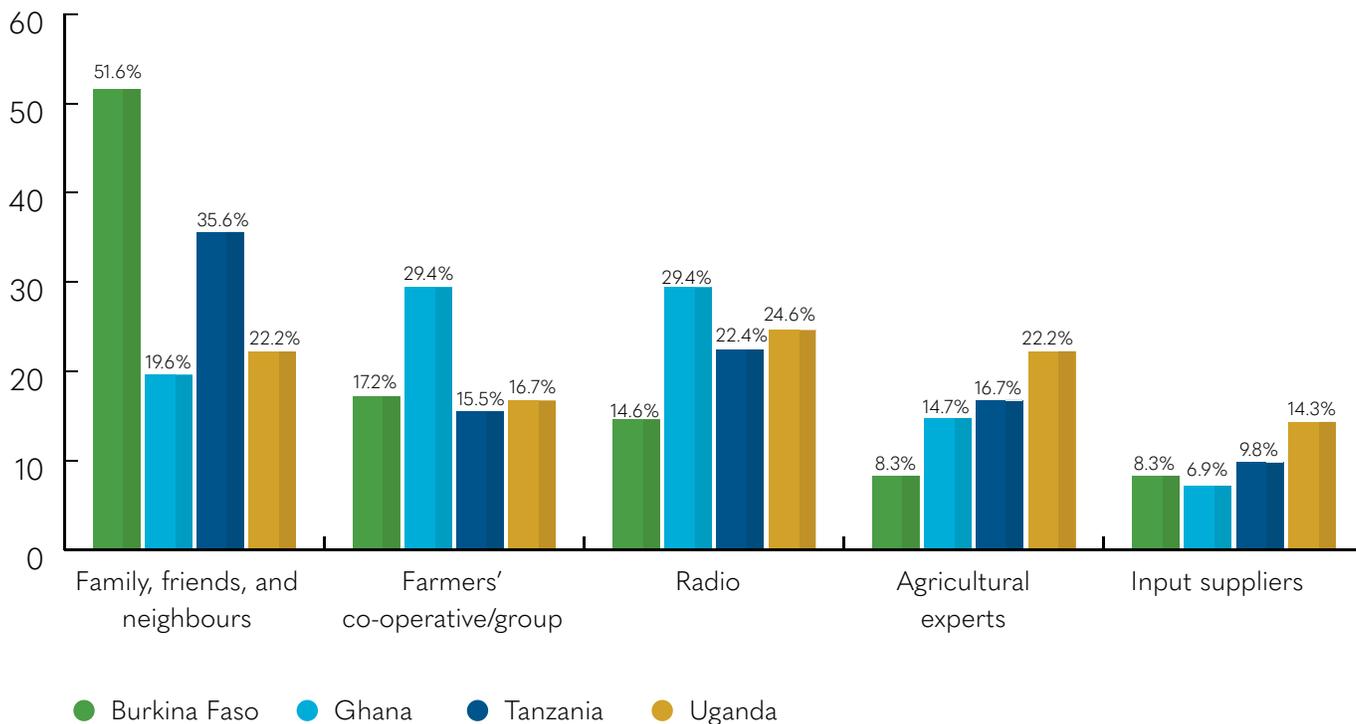
Similar to previous questions, age had a considerable influence (see Figure 19). Women under 30 were more likely than women 30+ to turn to radio while men under 30 were more likely than men 30+ to turn to agricultural experts. Men and women under 30 were also somewhat less likely to turn to family, friends, and neighbours, or to farmer groups.

Figure 19: Responses to finding information by gender and age



There were large differences in country responses (see Figure 20). In Burkina Faso, more than half of participants (51.6%) reported that they would turn to family, friends, and neighbours for information to help them cope with future threats to their family and livelihood, followed by participants in Tanzania at 35.6%. In Ghana, slightly less than 30% chose farmers' groups and radio, while in Uganda, there was a roughly equal split between the five options, ranging from 14.3% for input suppliers (the highest country-level response for this option) to 24.6% for radio. The percentage of participants in Uganda who chose agricultural experts was the highest of any country at 22.2%.

Figure 20: Responses to finding information by country



WEEK 3

BUILD
RESILIENCE TO
VULNERABILITIES,
SHOCKS & STRESS

QUESTION 2:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD HELP YOU AS A FARMER TO BEST DEAL WITH CHANGES IN THE WEATHER?

For episode three, the second question we posed to participants was:

Climate change can have a big effect on farming. Which of the following would help you as a farmer to best deal with changes in the weather?

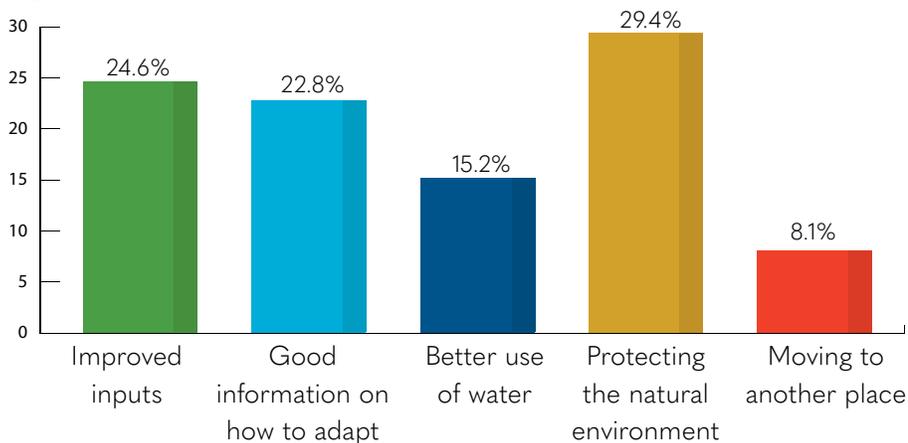
1. Improved inputs
2. Good information on how to adapt
3. Better use of water
4. Protecting the natural environment
5. Moving to another place

We received 545 responses. Figure 21 shows the overall breakdown of responses. The highest proportion of participants (29.4%) chose protecting the natural environment. Over 90% of participants felt there was something they could do in their current communities to adapt to climate change, while only 8.1% chose the option to move to another place.

“ If I had more power to change things, I would engage farmers and everyone to plant more trees, due to the fact that cutting down of trees and not replanting has caused the rain to stop and this is affecting our farming activities since we depend on the rain. No matter the crop you cultivate, when the rain patterns become unpredictable we all are affected. This is my opinion.

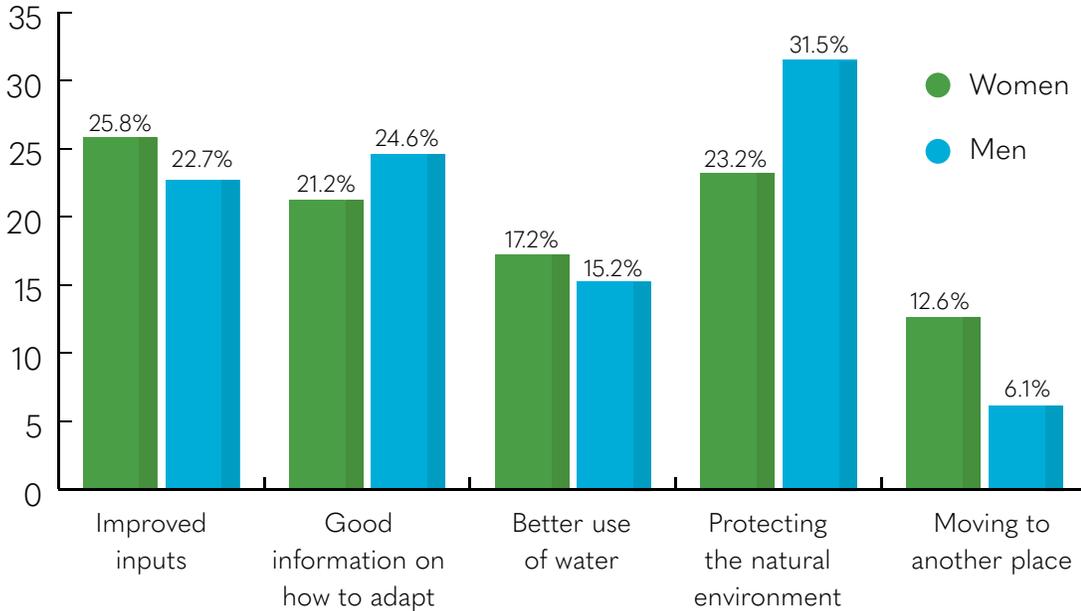
Francis, Apesika, Ghana. Male, 30+.

Figure 21: Responses to climate adaptation



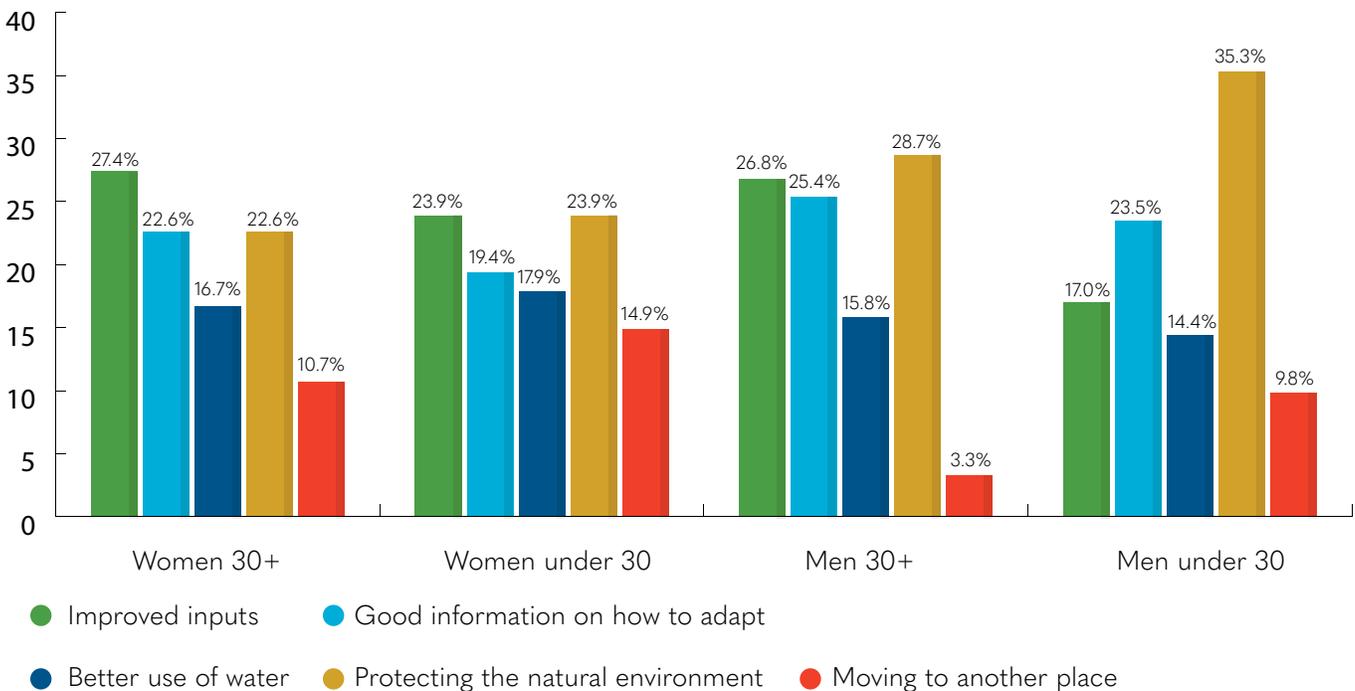
When we break down the results by gender (see Figure 22), we see that men were more likely than women to think that protecting the natural environment was the best way for farmers to deal with the changing weather, while women were more likely (12.6% to 6.1%) to choose moving to another place.

Figure 22: Responses to climate adaptation by gender



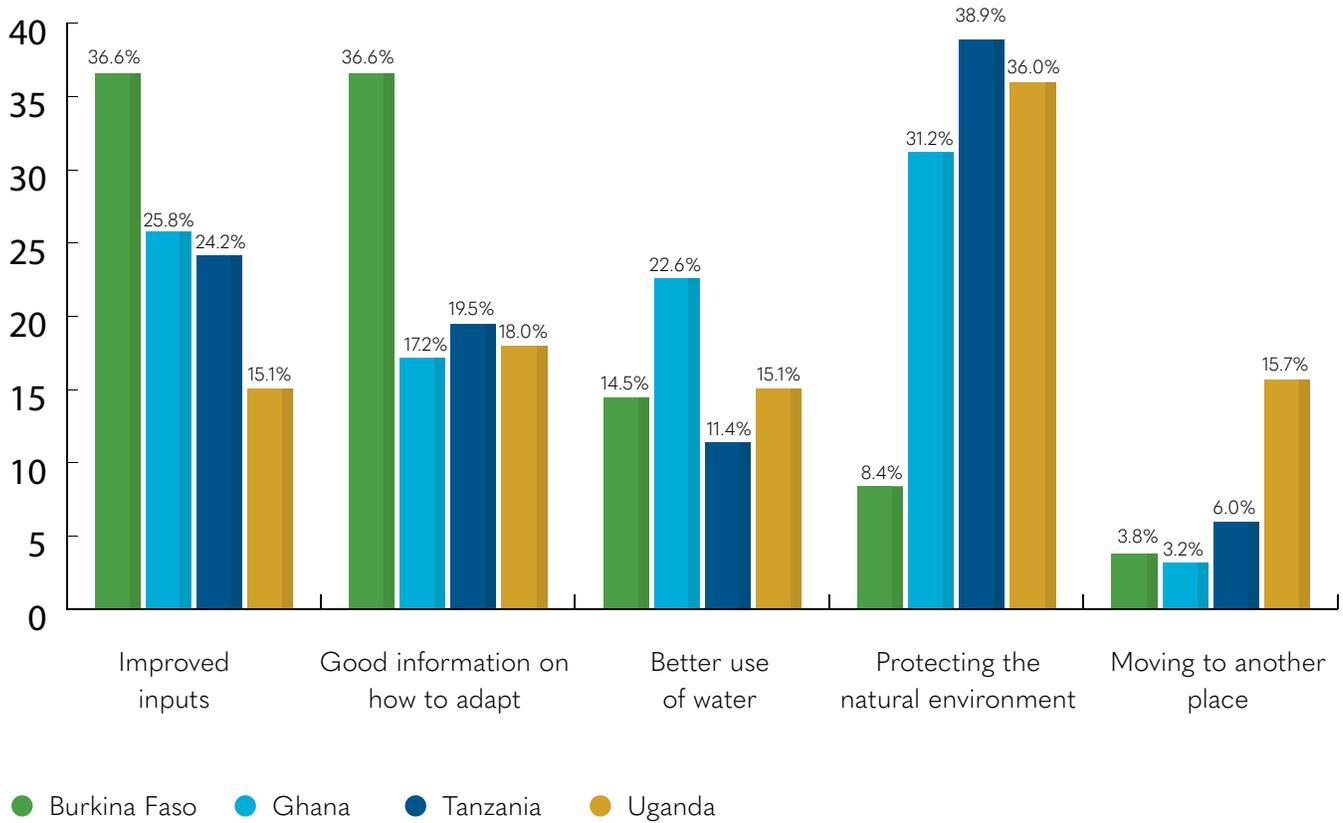
Age again had an influence (see Figure 23). Participants over 30, both men and women, were more likely to say that improved inputs were the best way to deal with the changing climate and less likely to choose to move to another place.

Figure 23: Responses to climate adaptation by gender and age



There were large differences in country responses (see Figure 24). Participants in Burkina Faso were more likely than participants in other countries to say that improved inputs or good information on how to adapt were the keys to dealing with the changing climate. They were also strikingly less likely to say that protecting the natural environment was the solution. Participants in Uganda were most likely to say that moving to another place was the best strategy.

Figure 24: Responses to climate adaptation by country



OPEN ENDED QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST THREAT TO YOUR FAMILY EATING ENOUGH SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD?

Listeners' responses fell into several categories, of which we report on the four most common. Each of these categories received an approximately equal number of responses. There were not enough responses by women to disaggregate this question by gender. However, we feature womens' voices through quotes where they are available and relevant.

First, participants emphasized the threat posed by **poor hygiene and sanitation**. Responses in this category covered a variety of issues, including lack of clean drinking water, poor hygiene practices when preparing food or before eating food (e.g., not washing food before eating it), general cleanliness at the household level, poor individual hygiene, and a lack of physical space due to poverty to ensure that food preparation surfaces and cooking equipment are hygienic.

Listeners also identified various **weather-related threats**. Responses in this category included the threat of drought or generally poor rainfall, and the risk of unpredictable weather, especially unpredictable rainfall.

Listeners also expressed their concerns regarding **agrochemical use**. Responses in this category included risks related to using chemicals to control pests and diseases or promote crop growth. The chemicals listed included pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, and associated chemical residues in food. Chemical preservatives in purchased foods were also mentioned as a threat. Responses also flagged the overuse of chemical products and counterfeit or fake chemicals.

“ The main threat I have in my family is the counterfeit or fake chemicals sold in the market. This has affected the foodstuff we buy in the market, especially vegetables and fruits. What I do now is to plant mine around the compound or backyard where I am sure I can harvest safe and healthy foodstuffs.

Naluma, Matuga-Wakiso district, Uganda. Female, 30+.

Listeners equally identified the threat posed by a general **lack of inputs or poor-quality inputs**. A number of participants said that the biggest threat to their family eating enough safe and nutritious food was a lack of quality agricultural inputs, including inorganic or organic fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds. This also includes information, for example, information on the weather, and help from extension officers. A related issue was that agricultural inputs do not arrive on time.

“ We eat safe food. But the difficulties that exist, I will tell you. It is the scarcity of rains, and of manure. Some say fertilizers, some say manure. We miss it here. We have no help. If we can get any help, we would expand our fields. Even if you have a big field, you don't have any help, you don't have plow oxen, you don't know how to make manure, that's the difficulty.

André, Dédé, Burkina Faso. Male, 30+.

RESEARCH RESULTS

COUNTRY OUTCOMES*

BURKINA FASO

KEY THEMES

To cope with food scarcity, participants in Burkina Faso were **less likely** than participants in other countries **to say that everyone should cut back consumption equally (28.0%: women 35.3%; men 24.7%)**. Instead, they also placed an equally high importance on ensuring those most in need should eat first.

When asked what would give them the most success as a farmer, **more than half of participants (52.6%; women 60.6%; men 56.1%) in Burkina Faso chose “loans or credit,”** a much higher figure than other countries. Only 5.3% (women 3.0%; men 7.3%) of participants in Burkina Faso chose “better information.”

Almost half of participants in Burkina Faso (44.7%: women 30.3%; men 56.1%) believed that their children would struggle to succeed in farming, unless things changed.

More than half (51.6%: women 53.1%; men 46.2%) reported that **they would turn to family, friends, and neighbours for information** to help them cope with future threats to their family and livelihood.

Participants in Burkina Faso were more likely than in other countries to say that **improved inputs (36.6%: women 42.9%; men 30.8%) or good information on how to adapt (36.6%: women 32.7%; men 39.7%) were the keys to dealing with the changing climate.**

In Burkina Faso, women were more likely than men to say that their family’s diet isn’t sufficiently nutritious, much more likely than men to think that their children would be successful farmers, and more likely to say that, when food is scarce, everyone should cut back equally.

With regards to safety and quality of food, participants in Burkina Faso were most worried about **illnesses due to poor food hygiene (46.2%; women 40.0%; men 48.8%)**.

*Please note that some respondents did not disclose their gender. Therefore, the overall percentage of respondents who chose a given response option may not align exactly with the percentages of women and men who chose that option.

2

RADIO STATIONS

2

LANGUAGES

514

PARTICIPANTS

62%

MEN

28%

WOMEN

10%

UNKNOWN

RESEARCH RESULTS

COUNTRY OUTCOMES*

GHANA

KEY THEMES

When faced with the need to cope with food scarcity, participants in Ghana were the **most likely of any country to say that everyone should cut back consumption equally** (47.8%: women 39.8%; men 50.9%).

When asked what would give them the most success as a farmer, Ghana had **the highest percentage of participants in any country to choose “better information” at 27.1% (women 20.4%; men 32.2%)**. Still, more than one third (34.7%: women 40.8%; men 33.9%) said that loans or credit would make the biggest difference.

Participants **in Ghana were the most likely of any country to see a bright future for youth in farming**, with 41% (women 43.4%; men 43.7%) believing today’s children will have success.

To help them cope with future threats to their family and livelihood, participants in Ghana were **equally likely to turn to radio (29.4%: women 34.5%; men 30.0%) or farmers’ groups (29.4%: women 10.3%; men 33.3%) for information**.

Participants in Ghana believed that the best way to cope with climate change is to protect the natural environment (31.2%: women 31.0%; men 31.7%), closely followed by improved inputs (25.8%: women 31.0%; men 23.3%). Participants **in Ghana were the least likely of any country to choose to move to another place (3.2%: women 3.4%; men 3.3%)**.

Women in Ghana were more likely to be concerned that their family diet doesn’t include all the necessary nutrients, more likely to think that those most in need should eat first when food is scarce, more likely to turn to agricultural experts and less likely to turn to farmer groups for information to help them cope with threats.

With regard to the safety and quality of food, participants in Ghana were almost equally concerned about **illnesses due to poor food hygiene** (35.4%: women 33.7%; men 36.0%) as they were that **the range of available foods doesn’t have all the nutrients needed for good health** (28.1%: women 34.7%; men 25.5%).

*Please note that some respondents did not disclose their gender. Therefore, the overall percentage of respondents who chose a given response option may not align exactly with the percentages of women and men who chose that option.

1

RADIO STATIONS

2

LANGUAGES

1,234

PARTICIPANTS

61.5%

MEN

25.5%

WOMEN

13%

UNKNOWN

RESEARCH RESULTS

COUNTRY OUTCOMES*

TANZANIA

KEY THEMES

When responding to a question about the safety and quality of their family's food, participants **in Tanzania were the most likely of any country to believe that their family already has a safe and nutritious diet (39.1%: women: 24.1%; men 44.4%).**

With regard to coping with food scarcity, participants **in Tanzania were the least likely of any country to choose selling assets like animals (8.6%: women 7.1%; men 9.1%).** Instead, participants equally preferred that those most in need should eat first (36.2%: women 39.2%; men 35.1%) and for everyone to cut back equally (36.2%: women 35.7%; men 36.4%).

When asked what would give them the most success as a farmer, **1 in 4 participants in Tanzania chose "loans or credit" (25.9%: women 29.5%; men 25.6%).**

Participants in Tanzania most often reported that **they would turn to family, friends, and neighbours for information (35.6%: women 62.5%; men 27.0%)** to help them cope with future threats to their family and livelihood.

Participants in **Tanzania were the most likely of any country to believe that the best way to cope with climate change is to protect the natural environment (38.9%: women 31.0%; men 31.7%).**

In Tanzania, **women were more likely than men to be concerned that poor hygiene practices could lead to illness**, less likely to think that family diets were safe and nutritious, more likely to think that loans or credit were the key to success as a farmer, much more likely to turn to family, friends, and neighbours and much less likely to turn to radio for information to cope with threats.

*Please note that some respondents did not disclose their gender. Therefore, the overall percentage of respondents who chose a given response option may not align exactly with the percentages of women and men who chose that option.

2

RADIO STATIONS

1

LANGUAGE

453

PARTICIPANTS

59%

MEN

22%

WOMEN

19%

UNKNOWN

RESEARCH RESULTS

COUNTRY OUTCOMES*

UGANDA

KEY THEMES

When responding to a question about the safety and quality of food, participants **in Uganda most often believed that their family already has a safe and nutritious diet** (31.0%: women 30.5%; men 31.4%) though almost an equal amount thought that the family diet was lacking in nutrition (29.7%: women 25.4%; men 32.6%).

With regards to coping with food scarcity, participants **in Uganda were the least likely of any country to say that those most in need should eat first (16.6%: women 18.3%; men 15.4%)**, instead choosing that everyone should cut back equally.

When asked what would give them the most success as a farmer, **1 in 4 (25.1%: women 27.7%; men 20.7%) participants in Uganda chose "secure access to and control over land."**

Most participants in Uganda (40.1%: women 29.6%; men 48.1%), thought that young people will farm in the future, but will need to earn money from other sources as well.

To help them cope with future threats to their family and livelihood, participants **in Uganda were more likely than participants in other countries to turn to agricultural experts for information (22.2%: women 18.4%; men 26.5%)**. Otherwise, participants in Uganda were almost evenly split between other information sources.

When considering how to cope with climate change, participants **in Uganda were more likely than participants in other countries to say that moving to another place was the best strategy 15.7%: women 22.4%; men 12.4%)**. Still, the majority of participants said that protecting the natural environment was the best course of action.

Women in Uganda were less likely than men to say that their family's diet is lacking in nutrition, less likely than men to say that everyone should cut back equally when food is scarce, more likely to think that secure access to and control over land was a key to farming success, more likely to turn to farming groups for information about threats and less likely to turn to radio or agricultural experts, less likely to say that protecting the natural environment was the best way to deal with the changing weather, and more likely to say that moving to another place was the best way to deal with the changing weather.

*Please note that some respondents did not disclose their gender. Therefore, the overall percentage of respondents who chose a given response option may not align exactly with the percentages of women and men who chose that option.

1

RADIO STATION

1

LANGUAGE

1,293

PARTICIPANTS

51%

MEN

31%

WOMEN

18%

UNKNOWN

CONCLUSIONS

There was a great diversity of opinion among participants who responded to the polling questions we posed during the On Air Dialogues. But several patterns emerged.

First, participants anticipate that their children will be involved in farming. Only 1 in 9 felt that today's youth should choose another occupation. However, over one-third felt that changes would be necessary to enable the next generation of farmers to succeed. Further, 1 in 4 people believed that young people will farm but will need to earn money from other sources as well.

Second, while climate change is increasingly affecting small-scale farmers, few rural people think that migration is necessary to help them deal with climate-related threats. Over 90% of participants felt there was something they could do in their community to cope with climate change. To increase the resilience of their farming activities and livelihoods, these farmers need support in protecting the natural environment, and receiving improved inputs and better information.

Third, while many participants said that quality inputs would improve their yields, they said the single most important factor for success in agriculture was access to loans and credit.

Fourth, many people were concerned about the safety of the food they eat and whether it meets their family's nutritional needs. Many respondents registered concerns about the effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers on the safety of food. Some emphasized the benefits of agroecological approaches to farming, and of the benefits of basing food production around local farming systems rather than food imports. Many spoke of the need for better access to farming inputs.

While there was significant agreement between women and men regarding food systems, there were important differences that should inform actions to create more gender-responsive food systems. Notably, women were more concerned about household nutritional intake, were more likely to consider loans and credit as key to farming success, and relied more strongly on informal networks such as friends and neighbours for information. They were also more likely than men to prioritize those most in need when food is scarce.



There were also some striking differences related to age and to country. For example:

- In Burkina Faso, more than half of participants said loans and credit are the key to success, a much higher figure than in other countries. Just 1 in 5 chose that option in Uganda, while 1 in 4 thought that secure access to and control over land was the key to farming success.
- Men under 30 were most pessimistic about the future of youth in farming for youth, while women over 30 were most optimistic, with more than 1 in 3 confident that today's children will succeed in farming.
- Women under 30 were more likely than women 30+ to turn to radio for information on how to cope with threats to their families and livelihood, while men under 30 were more likely than men 30+ to turn to agricultural experts.

The On Air Dialogues show that small-scale farmers and other rural people are concerned about the food they eat and the future of farming. They see the impacts of climate change on their lives, and in their communities. They want more — and better — resources and information to improve their livelihoods. The initiative also demonstrated that small-scale farmers are ready and able to offer solutions.

The On Air Dialogues are one of many simple ways to engage small-scale farmers and other rural people in discussions about the systems that directly affect them. When given the chance, farmers are keen to contribute. As nations, organizations, and individuals, we must commit to creating inclusive, accessible channels for farmers to join the conversation — and be heard — no matter what work they do, where they live, or what language they speak.

Locally, nationally, and globally, decision-makers must not only hear but listen to, respect, and act on farmers' opinions and concerns, and take full advantage of their knowledge and experience. Small-scale farmers and other rural people are the backbone of the global food system and must hold a central place in the conversation.

Farmers and rural people have a lot to say. As nations, organizations, and individuals, we all must commit to listening and taking action together.



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We work in partnership with hundreds of radio stations across 37 sub-Saharan African countries and have offices in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. We also work closely with our strategic partner Farm Radio Trust in Malawi.

Together, we reach tens of millions of small-scale farmers and rural Africans with life-changing information and opportunities to have a stronger voice in their own development.

