



Local conventions governing natural resource management in Southern region of Mali

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Key research activities

- Assessment of different types of existing natural resource institutions in the study sites
- Level of participation in the development of the local natural resource institutions.
- Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing local natural resource institutions.

Results and main findings

- Local conventions governing natural resources management exist in all study sites mainly in an informal (oral) form. They govern natural resources use (land access and acquisition by foreigners, harvesting wild fruits, fishing, grazing, forest, water management).
- Men had a higher knowledge of local natural resource institutions compared to women (Figure 1)
- Participation of community members in elaboration of natural resources institutions was very low, and age, gender, and ethnicity appeared to influence the level of participation of the community (Table 1).
- Weakness of existing local natural resource institutions : Lack of formalization of most of the existing rules and norms governing NRM; lack of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the local rules governing NRM; poor participation of community members in the elaboration of local conventions

Implications of the research for generating development outcomes

Identification of innovative options to strengthen existing local natural resource institutions

How this work would continue in Africa RISING phase 2

By assessing impact of natural resource policy instruments in the farming system through a comparative case study with communities having these policies developed and the communities without natural resource policy instruments.

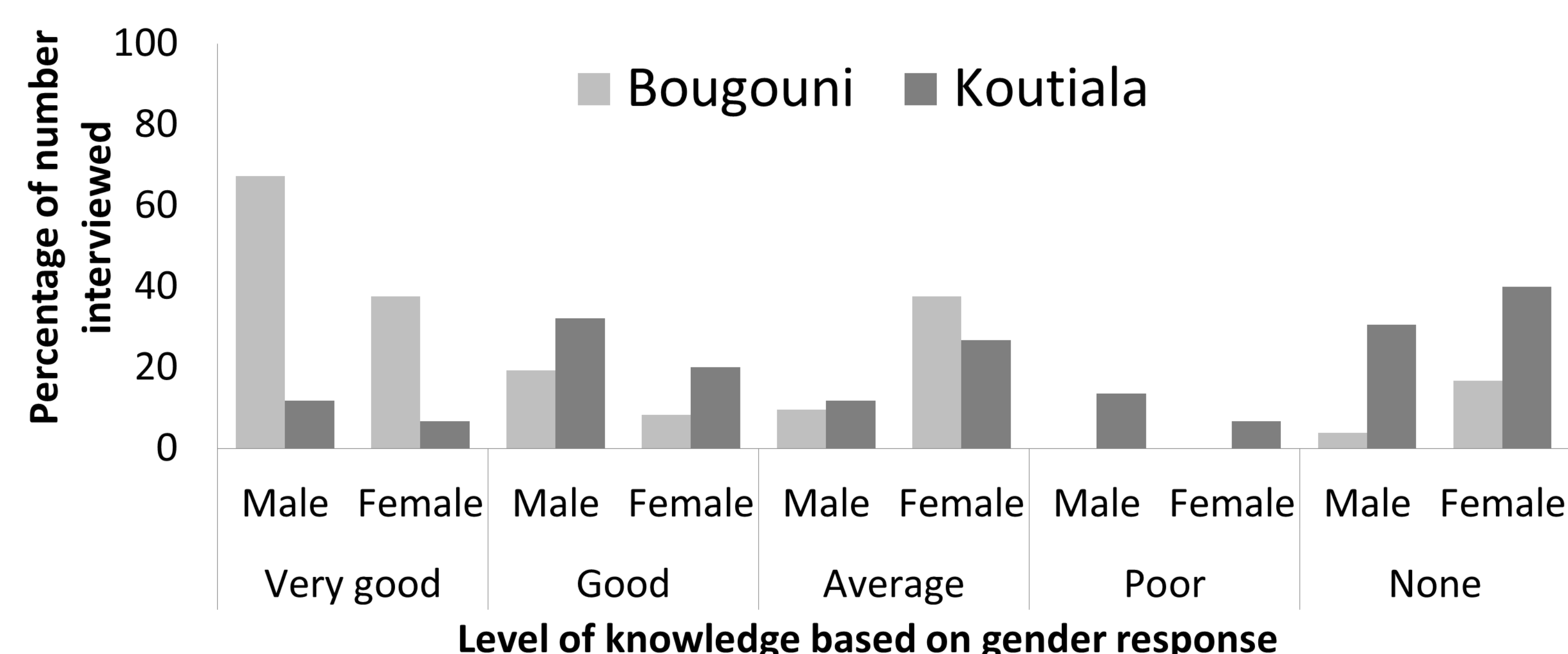


Figure 1: Level of knowledge of local rules or norms governing NRM according to gender in Bougouni and Koutiala

Table 1: Results of the regression analysis of the level of participation of community members in the elaboration of rules and norms governing natural resources use

Independent variable	Bougouni	Koutiala
Age	0.029***	0.004
Residence	-0.023***	0.010
Female	-0.575***	-0.389**
Herder	-1.098	0.189
Farmer-herder	-0.093	0.026
Formal education	-0.411**	0.340*
Koranic education	0.206	0.035
Non land owning lineage	-0.280	0.282
Constant	0.188	-0.258
R ²	0.317	0.117

Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling

Partnerships with the Association Malienne d'Eveil pour le Développement Durable (AMEDD)



The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

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