

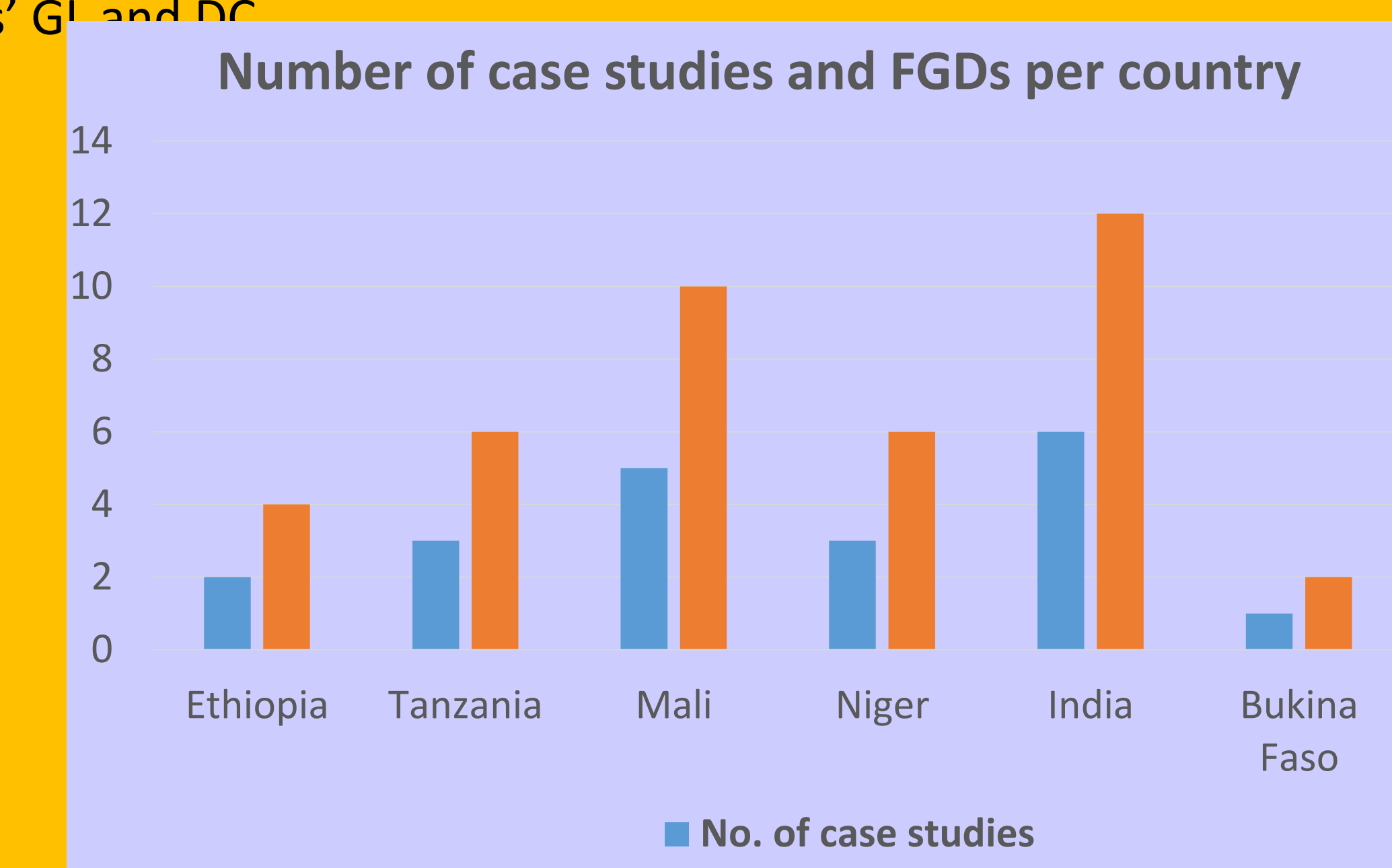
ABSTRACT: The challenge of engaging the youth in the legumes and cereals value chains in the drylands remains under represented because very little quantitative and qualitative research has been carried out on aspirations of the youth in these systems. By utilizing the GENNOVATE methodology, with a specific aim of exploring with the youth about the community's: social norms and aspirations surrounding education, access to economic opportunities and household bargaining, qualitative data from 40 focus group discussions was collected between the year 2014 and 2016 in 6 countries (India-12, Mali -10, Bukina Faso -2, Niger- 6, Ethiopia-4 and Tanzania -6) by social scientists affiliated to the CRPs' GL and DC. Findings revealed that majority of the youth aspire to exploit non-agricultural livelihood opportunities as a pathway out of poverty. Education that should lead to formal employment and entrepreneurship was viewed as a pathway towards better livelihoods. For few youth who aspire to be farmers, access to land and control over agricultural produce and income remains an impediment for them. Attracting the youth into cereals and legumes value chains requires innovative development of the nodes beyond production.

The current global trend of the youth moving away from agricultural work and rural areas and their role in the future of farming is under discussion in many agricultural global forums (FAC, 2010). Empirical evidence indicates that youth present an opportunity for a sustained effort to participate in development process because they possess greater energy, workforce and potential and have the capacity to drive positive change, highlighting its links to economic growth, poverty reduction and food and thus youth should be viewed as an integral part of the food security solution security (Proctor and Lucchesi, 2012).

Despite worrying accounts about youth's lack of interest in rural and agrarian futures, the challenge of engaging the youth in the legumes and cereals value chains in the dryland remains under represented because very little quantitative and qualitative research has been carried out on aspirations of the youth these systems. This study aimed at exploring with the youth in the dryland systems about the community's: social norms and aspirations surrounding education, access to economic opportunities and household bargaining.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- This study was part of the global CGIAR undertaking which sought to understand the interactions between opportunity structure, agency and innovation; and how they impact on empowerment and development outcomes. By utilizing the Innovation and development through transformation of gender norms in agriculture and natural resource management (GENNOVATE) methodology with use of community-level- case study approach as a qualitative research method, a total of 40 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted between the year 2014 and 2016 in six countries by social scientists affiliated to the CRPs' GL and DC.
- Twenty FGDs were with young men with aged 16-24 years while twenty FGDs were with young women of a similar age category. The FGD participants were coming mainly from families that were directly engaged in the CRPs GL and DC's focal innovation agricultural or natural resource management livelihood-based activities. The FGDs gave the youth an opportunity to visualize 'their future aspirations'.
- Qualitative data in the form of verbatim transcripts was coded in Nvivo version 10 Software. This was followed by sex-disaggregated analysis based on emerging themes. Findings were presented by use of Nvivo query charts and excerpts.

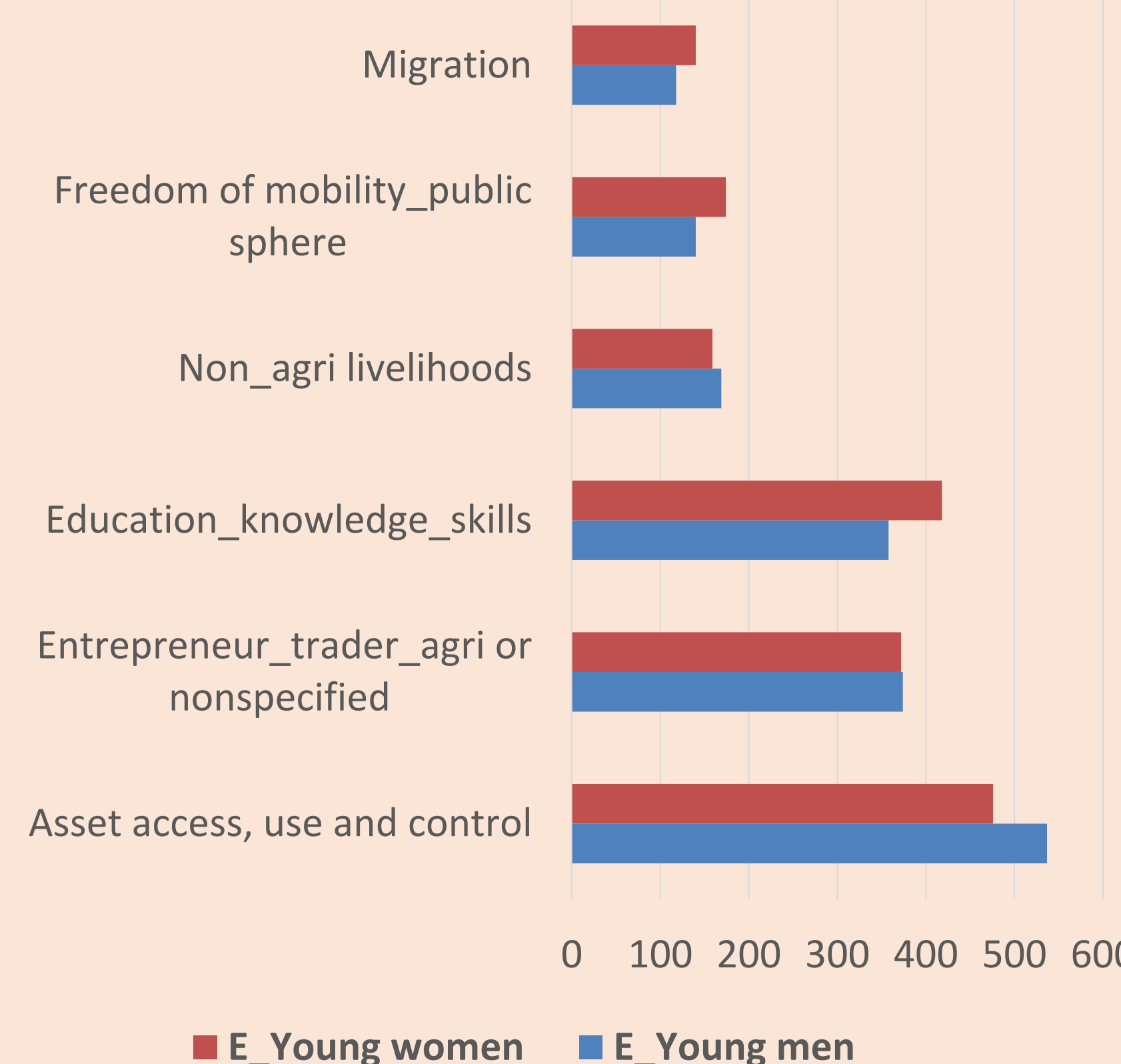


- Majority of the youth aspire to exploit non-agricultural livelihood opportunities as a pathway out of poverty. They have freedom of mobility and thus able to migrate out of their villages. *"They should get good government jobs like in the army, navy; jobs in bank or postal department, and private jobs like software jobs, or managers in a company. They should be in a stage to help and give employment to other poor youth in the village"* (Male youth FGD, JCA-India).

- Education that should lead to formal employment and entrepreneurship was viewed as a pathway towards better livelihoods. *"I have a dream to study until the end and get employed in government offices even with 50 ETB salary rather than doing farming...to be self-employed like selling factory goods...and also make coffee there in small shop at Arerti"* (Female youth FGD, Bollo Selasie-Ethiopia).

- Only few youth expressed a wish to engage in agribusiness by utilizing modern farming methods but in the horticultural production and livestock farming sectors. However, access to land and control over agricultural produce and income remains an impediment for them. *"Youth at our age are not able to [access] any assets and other resources without the help of his parents... [until] we reach the age to get married... the opportunities that young people who return home [from studies] have are activities such as cattle or sheep fattening, planting trees, masonry, otherwise they generally do not like agriculture"* (Male youth FGD, Dieba-Mali).

A gendered analysis of youth aspirations in the drylands



Traditional cereals and legumes were not major commodities of choice mentioned by the youth in all the case studies. For those youth aspiring to be farmers, they preferred commercial (mainly horticultural) crops. This implies that the youth can be attracted to agriculture if they see meaning; income opportunities as well as feel a sense of pride.

Given that youth farmer aspirants' lack access and control over basic resources such as land and mechanical farming equipment to make farming less tedious, attracting them into cereals and legumes value chains as an option for them to establish livelihood pathways requires innovative development of the value chain nodes beyond production.

- FAC (2010). 'Future Farmers: Exploring Youth Aspirations of African Agriculture' Future Agriculture Consortium Policy brief 037. Accessed 27 September 2016 < <http://www.future-agricultures.org>
- Proctor, F. and Lucchesi, V. 2012. Small-scale farming and youth in an era of rapid rural change. International Institute for Environment and Development/ Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation, London, UK/The Hague, Netherlands.

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