

# Gender roles and constraints in cowpea and groundnut cropping: a case from Niger

Sapna Jarial and Epiphane Mamane Lamine

*Affiliations:* International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Sahelian Centre Niamey, Niger. *Funding:* The study was conducted under the Resilient Dryland Systems program. *This work was sponsored by Grain Legumes- Gender component. Partner:* University of Maradi, Niger.

## INTRODUCTION

- Women are main custodian of local seeds. And whenever the word *farmer* is used it is mostly considered as men.
- Elsewhere reported cowpea and groundnut are cash crops & women crops. Then what role men contribute in these crops? Such examinations of a farming system often leave researchers muddled by paradoxes.
- This requires distinguishing between reported norms and opportunities, and actual behaviour and intentions.
- This necessitates to understand what are women and men roles, preferences in the crops they cultivate, the varieties they select and the constraints faced by them to better manage risks and improve their livelihoods by diversifying the farming system and rural income.
- The present paper reports the findings of gender roles, constraints and preferences in food- feed crops particularly on cowpea and groundnut in Niger.

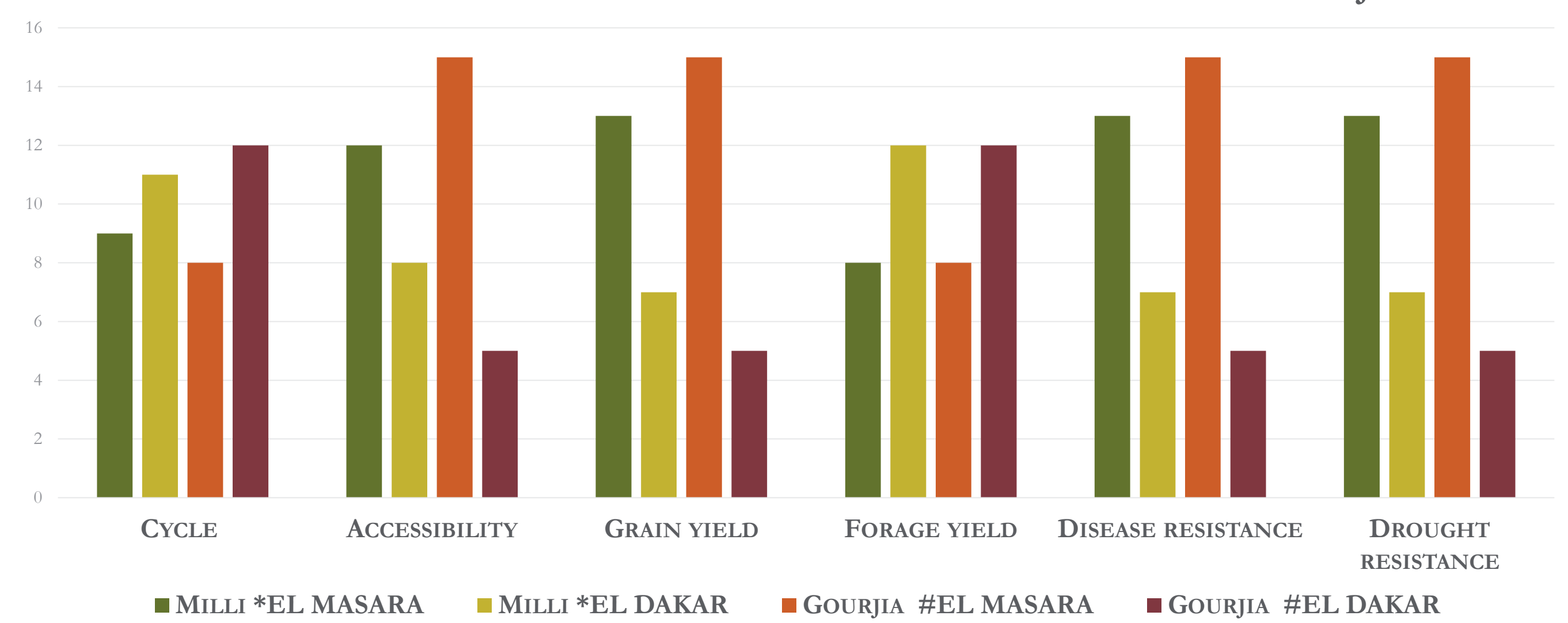
## METHODS

- Location: Milli and Gourjia villages of Niger
- Criteria: 0.35 aridity index, 70 habitation km<sup>2</sup> (population density)
- Time frame: July to September 2015 Using mix-methods, participatory qualitative tools of socio-economic gender analysis (SEGA), rank based quotient, four square analysis and matrix tools.
- Sample: Randomly 15 men and 15 women farmers were drawn for rank based quotient in two villages. Joint and separate group discussion involving random selection of 5 men and 5 women farmers.
- Cross verification of data: Using triangulation techniques of various SEGA tools, direct observation and secondary information.

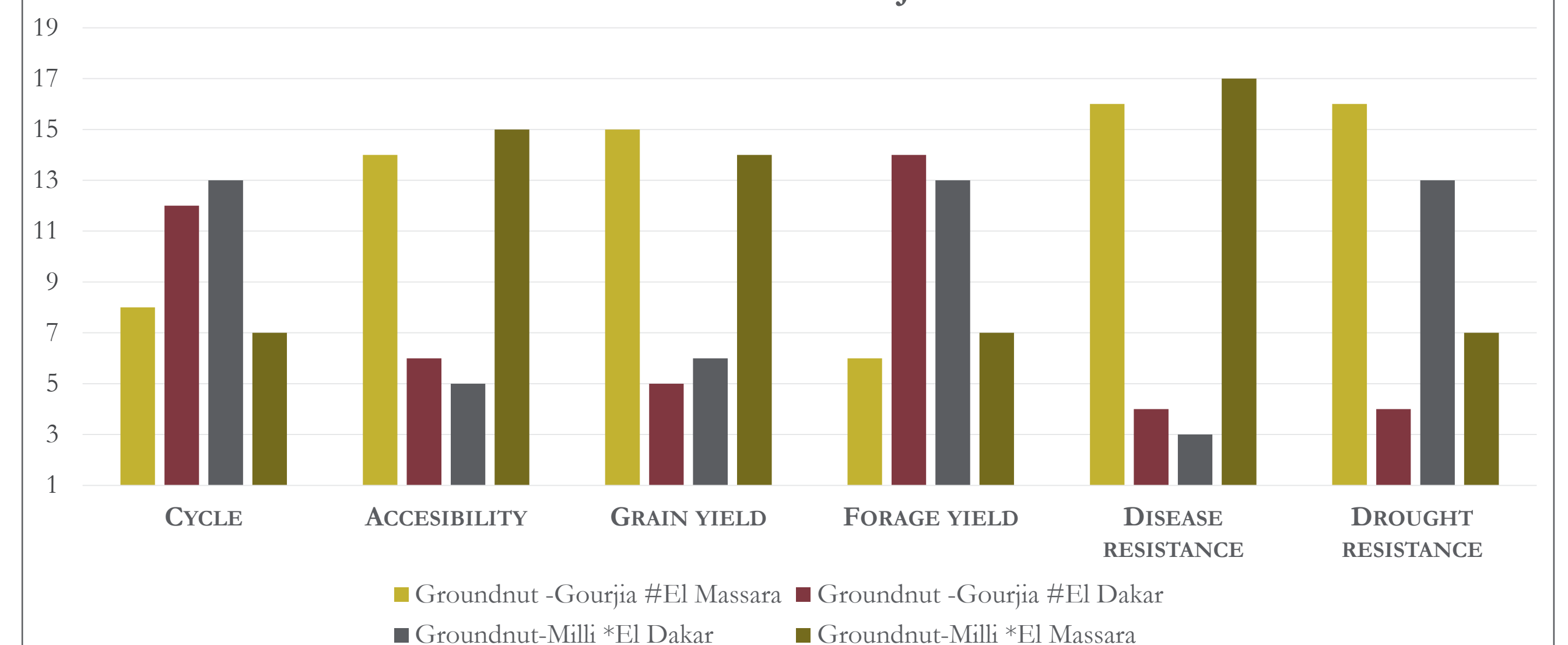
## RESULTS

- Women had lesser role in decisions making, ownership and marketing of cowpea and groundnut crop than men farmers.
- Rank based quotient revealed constraints by women in Milli were: low yield, insufficient rainfall and crop diseases while men reported: low rainfall, no access to fertiliser and crop diseases.
- Crop germplasm more available for cowpea than groundnut.
- *Mai Hutila* was most preferred cowpea variety by men and women
- Men gave 2nd rank to *cowpea IT90* variety because of its high market value, while women preferred *Jan Wake* because of its taste.
- *El Masara* groundnut variety was preferred by men and women farmers

GROUNDNUT PREFERENCE BY MEN FARMERS IN MILLI AND GOURJIA



GROUNDNUT VARIETY PREFERENCE BY WOMEN OF MILLI AND GOURJIA



## CONCLUSION

Breeding institutions should consider the gendered distribution of preference and needs of the special traits and integrate them into selection scheme in order to develop relevant variations for wo/men farmers.



Participatory rural appraisal in Niger. Photo Credits: E. Lamine/ICRISAT

## Contact:

[s.jarial@cgiar.org](mailto:s.jarial@cgiar.org), Scientist, Crop-livestock, Niger  
[m.epiphane@icrisatne.ne](mailto:m.epiphane@icrisatne.ne) Senior Research Technician



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