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Farmers' perceptions of climate change: a case study from the Portuguese Centro Region

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Context

- Agriculture and livestock production greatly depend on weather conditions
- Climate change (CC) projections
 - Increase of temperature
 - Droughts
 - Decrease of precipitation
 - desertification
 - Increase of extreme phenomena occurrence

Objectives

- Assess the farmers' perception of CC
- Assess the farmers' knowledge and believes related to CC
- Assess if more sustainable practices are already being implemented

Methodology: study site

- The study site is **Baixo Mondego** located in the Centro region, one of the most fertile regions of Portugal
- Surveyed farmers by face-to-face interviews.



Methodology: Main crops and livestock

- Maize



- Rice



- Dairy farming

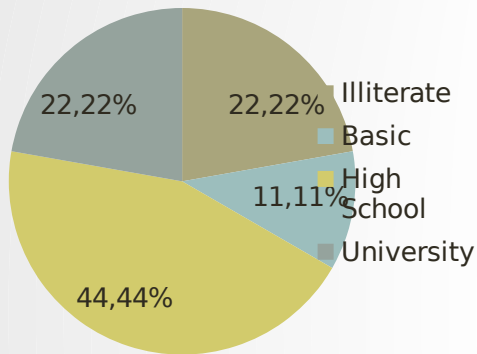


Methodology: Survey

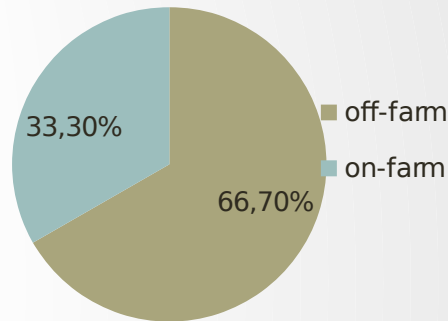
- Socio-Economic data: gender, education level, off- or on-farm income, land tenure
- Agro-livestock data: crops, livestock, organic-waste management, fertilizers use
- Changing of agricultural practices data : changing crops, saving water, mulching, direct seeding, reduced tillage
- Animal well-being data: improved building structure, ventilation, changing feed

Results: Socio-economic

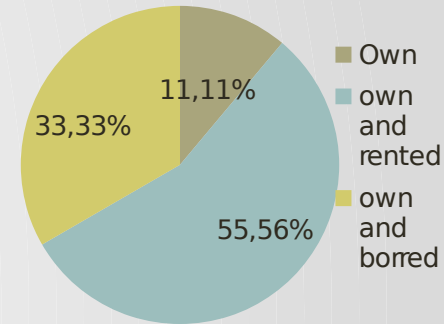
Education level



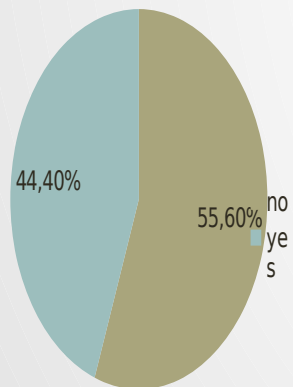
Income source



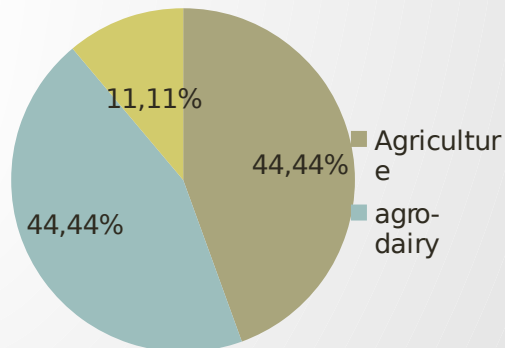
Land tenure



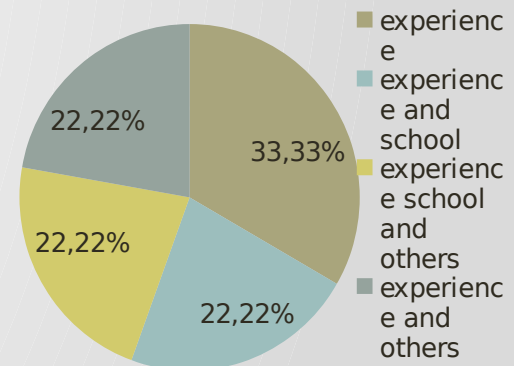
Consumption of farm products



Farming system

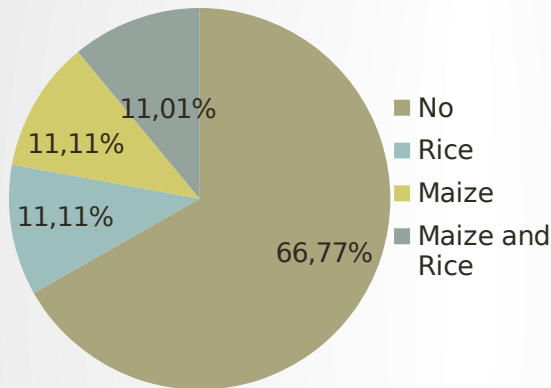


Source of information

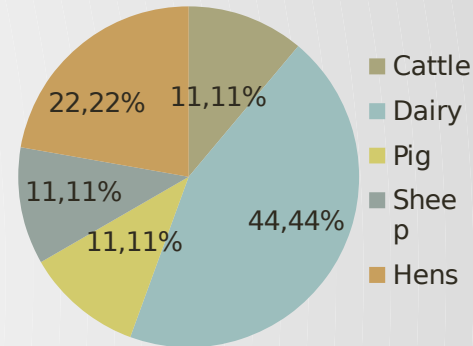


Results: Agro-livestock

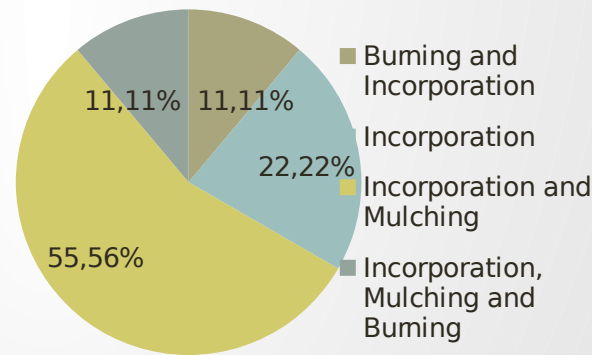
Cash crops



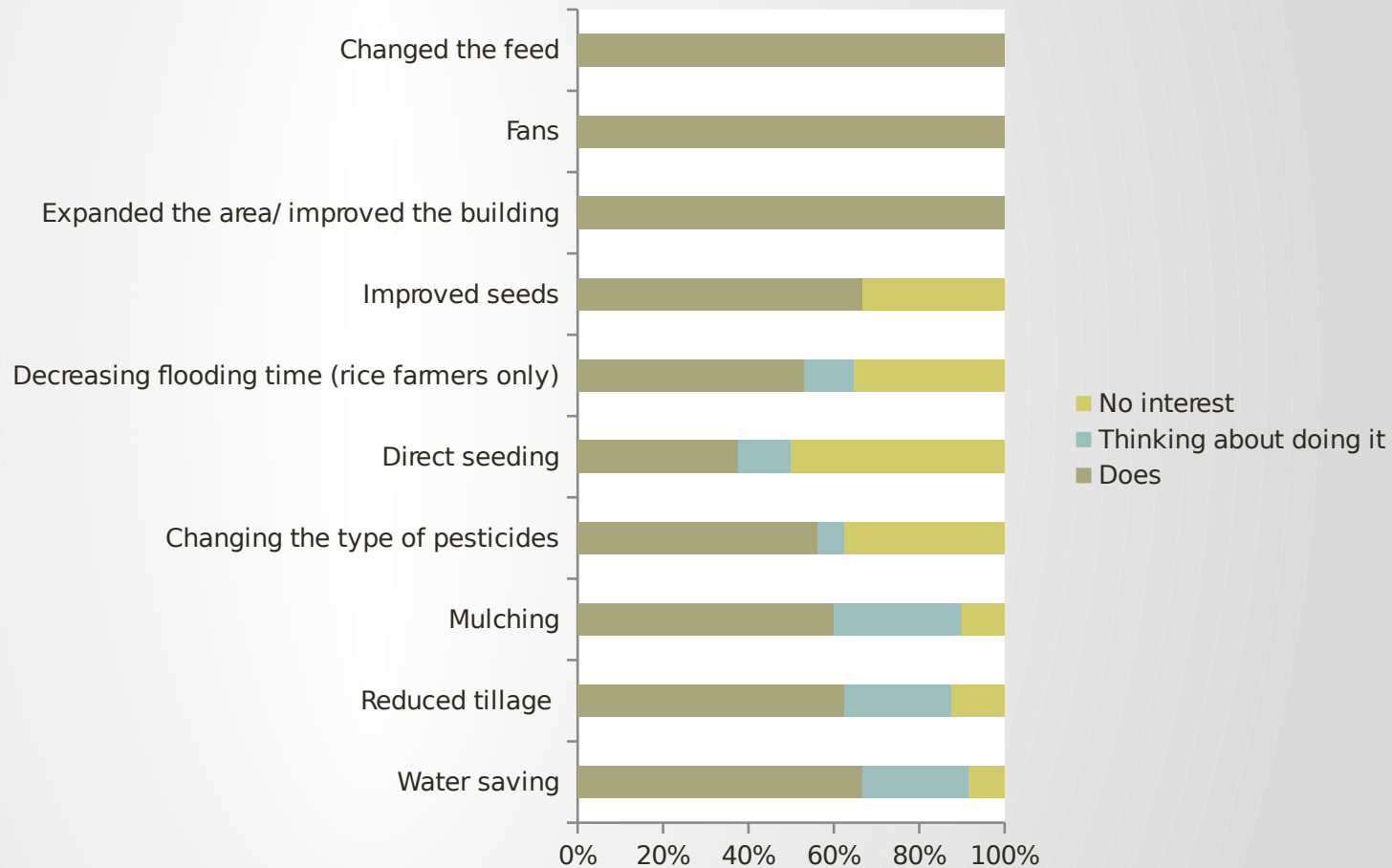
Livestock production



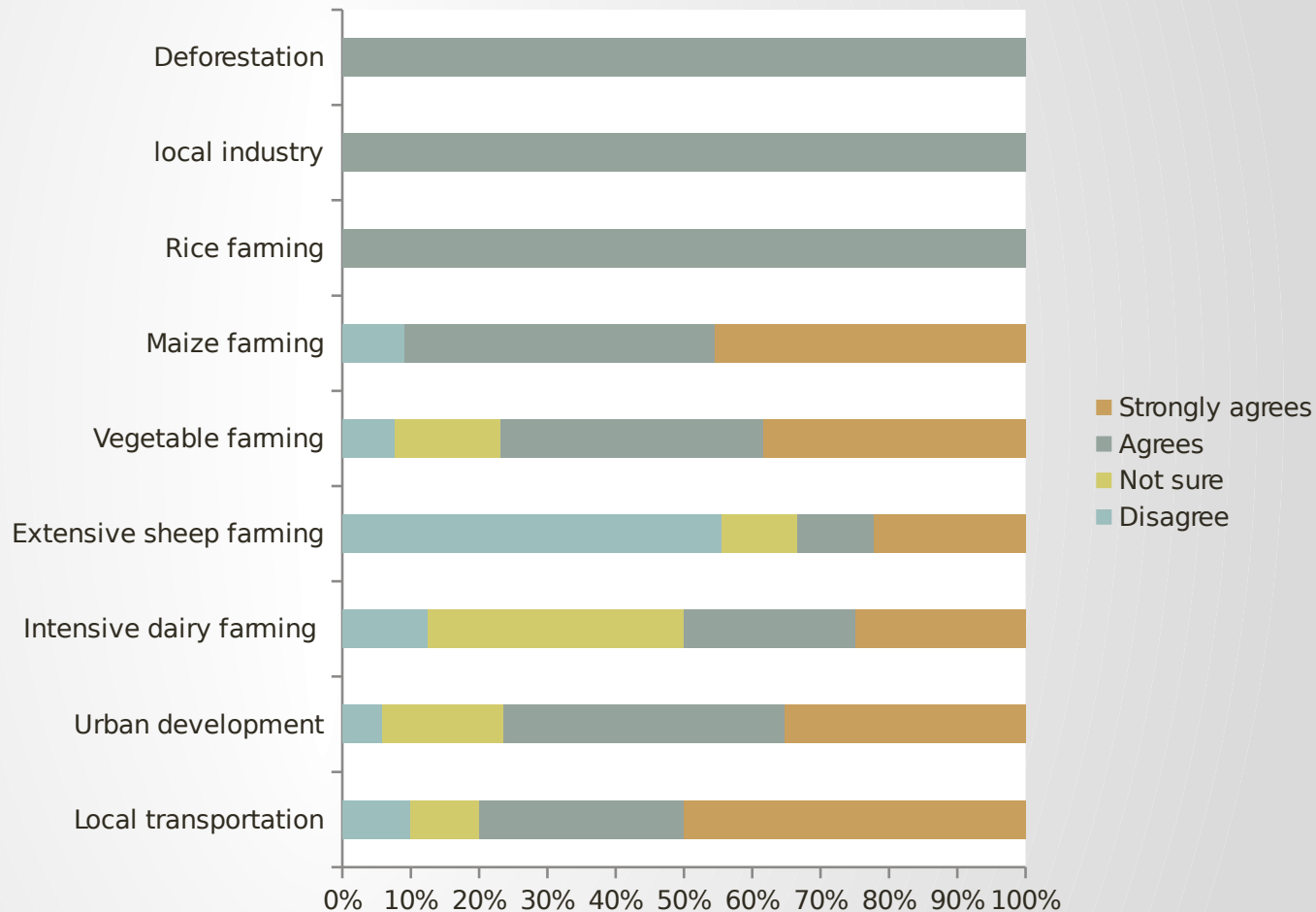
Organic-Waste Management



Results: CC adaptation practices

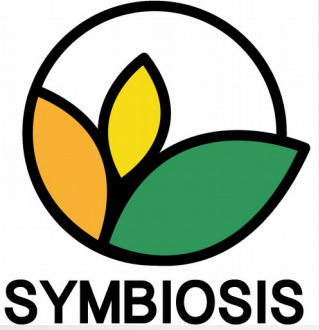


Results: CC causes at local level



Conclusions

- All the farmers are aware of CC and its implications
- They all have already adopted adaptation practices
 - Reduced tillage
 - Incorporation of organic waste in the soil
 - Improved seeds
 - Drip irrigation
 - The reason is economical but the positive impacts on CC are undeniable
- They all watch TV and in the last couple of years the amount of programs related to CC has increased significantly



Thank you for your attention

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