



Gendered experiences of food and energy insecurities linked to Russia's war on Ukraine— Insights from a phone survey in Honduras (Feb/March 2023)

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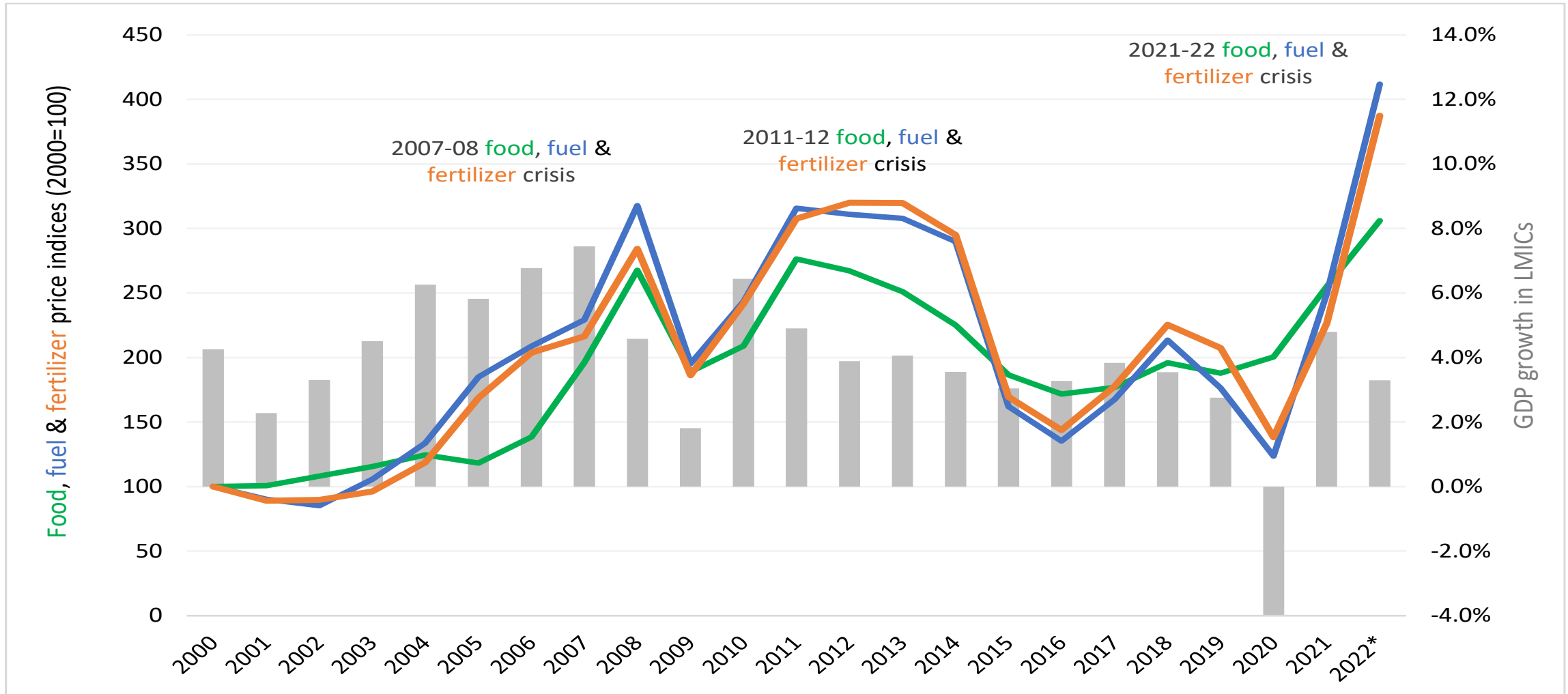


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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

The war on Ukraine, together with the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have led to dramatic increases in fuel/fertilizer/food prices



Source: [Headey and Hirvonen \(2022\)](#) using data from FAO, the World Bank and the IMF.

Basic information & profile of respondents

- Data were collected through a phone survey during February and March 2023 with 500 households, including 250 women and 250 men respondents
- Respondents were randomly selected from a Geopoll national database of mobile phone numbers and then filtered to include only men and women from rural households
- The average age of men and women respondents is 42 years and 46 years, respectively
- The average household size is 5 individuals

Key Findings

PRICES

- 95% of women and men observed increases in **food prices**
 - **Maize and rice** were the foods mentioned the most as having increased in price
- 72% of women and 78% of men observed increases in **fuel prices**
- 65% of women and 80% of men observed increases in **pesticide prices**
- 72% of women and 86% of men observed increases in **fertilizer prices**

RESPONSES

- The main response to higher fuel prices of both women and men was to **go less to the market** or **use different modes of transportation**
- **Child marriage** was mentioned by 8% of women and 13% of men as a response to increases in food/fuel prices
- Some of the common responses to high food prices were to reduce expenditures, **consume less or save food**
- Over half of women and men respondents **blamed the government** for the high energy and food prices

IMPLICATIONS

- About half of farmers surveyed **used less fertilizer** as a result of higher prices with most (64%) expecting **lower crop yields** compared to the previous planting season
- **Food insecurity levels** went up for both women and men. Proportionally, more women than men were impacted:
 - 81% of women and 71% of men said that they **do not have enough food**
 - 77% of women and 63% of men **ate fewer kinds of food**
 - 68% of women and 60% of men **skipped meals**

Characteristics of respondents



Credit: Ian MacLellan/Shutterstock

Farming or raising livestock is the main occupation of men while most women reported that they do not work

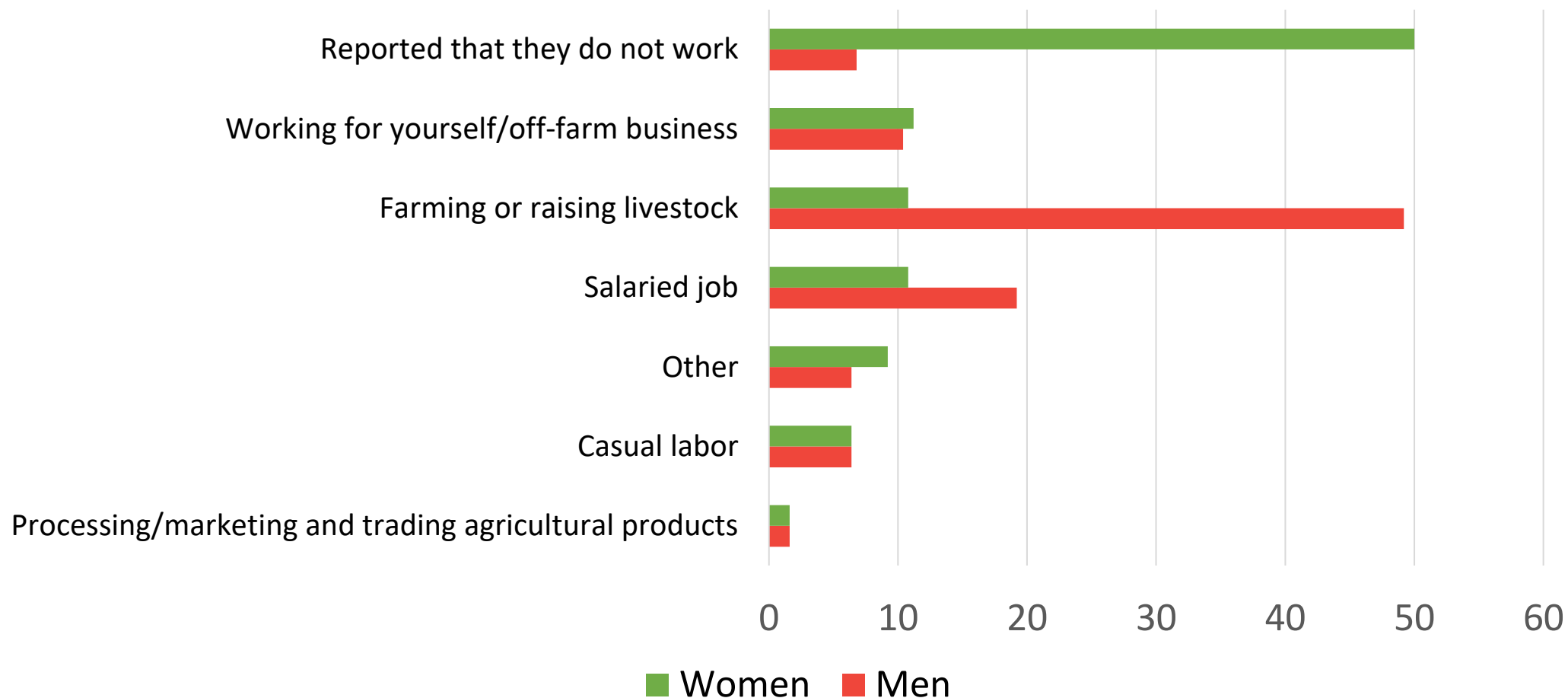


Figure 1. Main occupation (phone survey, n=500), % of respondents

Most farmer respondents (76%) cultivate staple crops

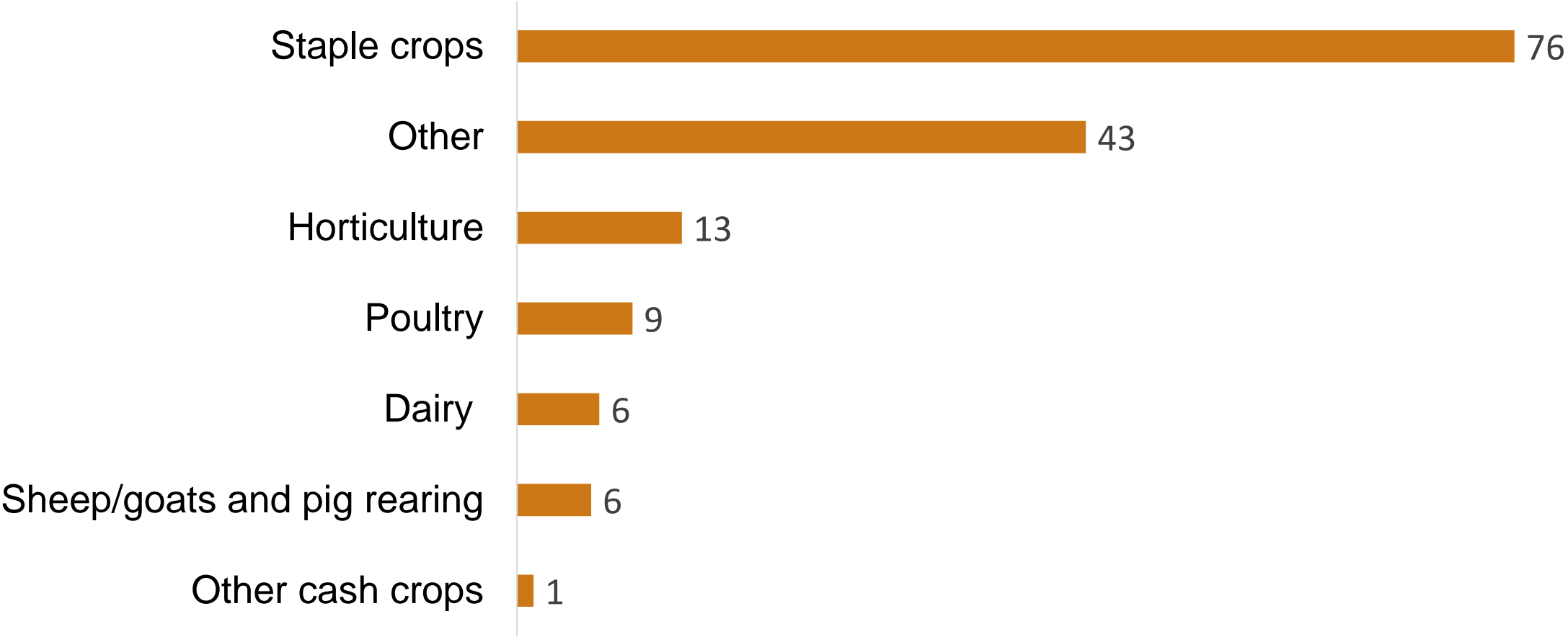
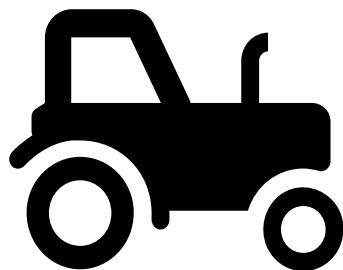


Figure 2. Farming types, % of respondents (n=159)

Few farmers reported having access to machinery (25%)



Of those farmers who have access to farm machinery, fuel is mostly used for pumping water for irrigation and transportation to buy inputs

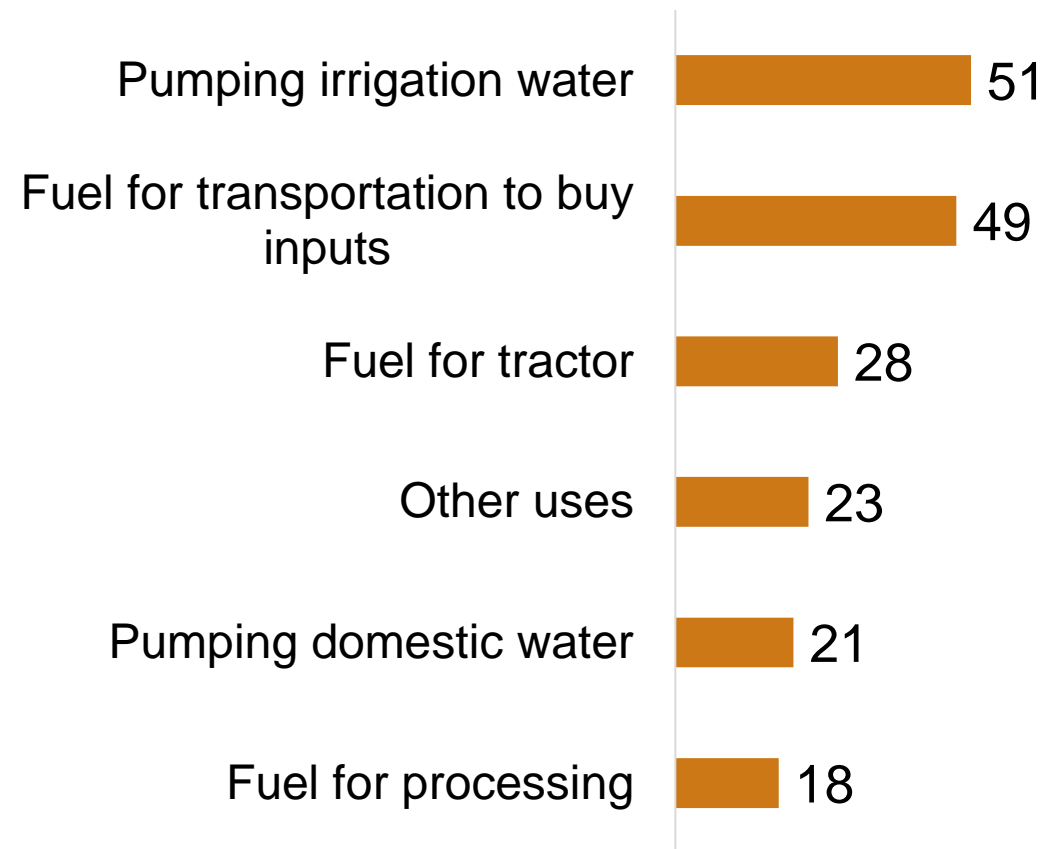


Figure 3. Fuel uses among farmers who have access to farm machinery (n=39), % of respondents

**Water sources:
For 43% of
women and 28%
of men, piped
water is the
main source of
drinking water**

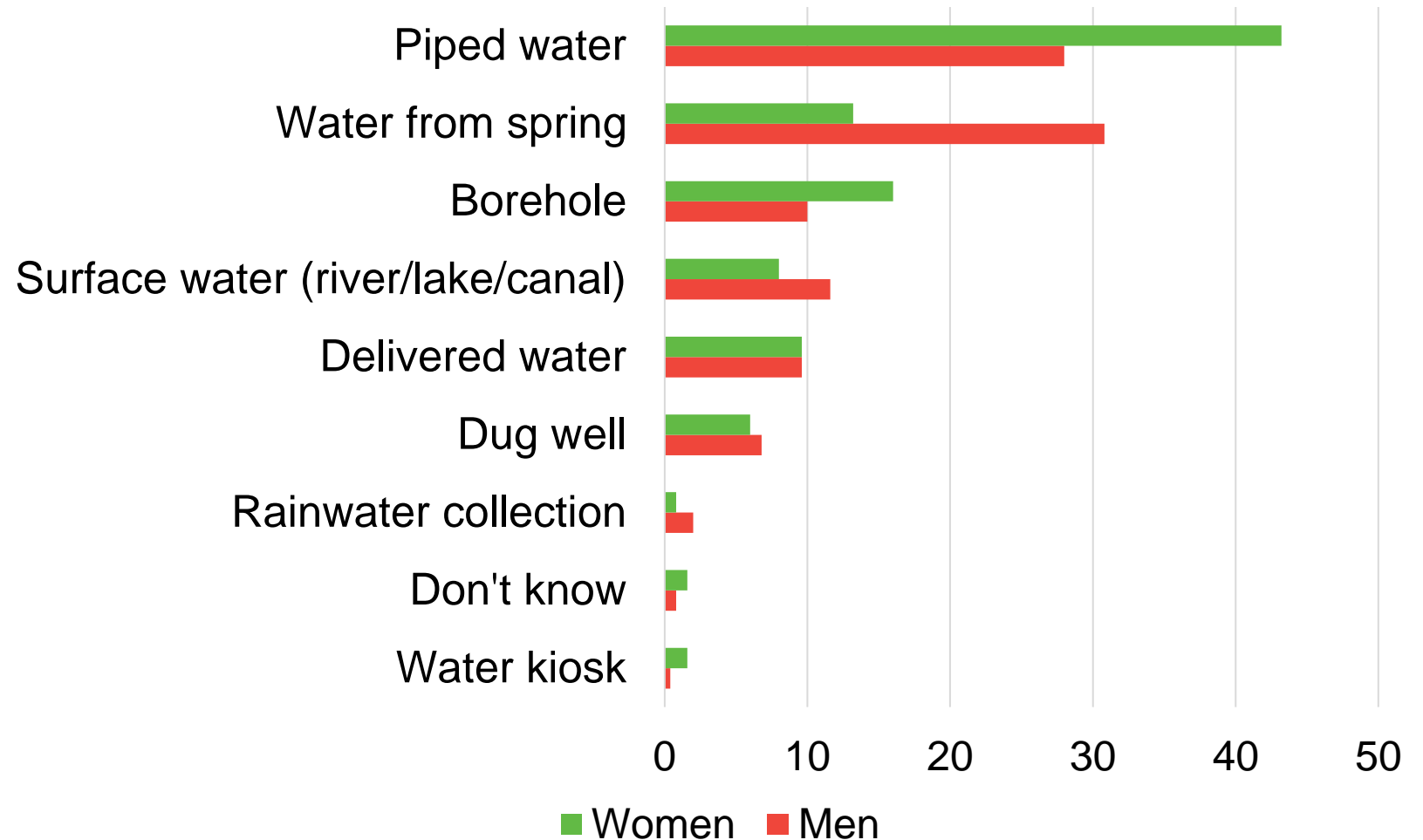


Figure 4. Water sources, % of respondents (n=500)

Perceptions of price increases



Credit: Can

About 95% of women and men observed increases in food prices in the six months before the survey (n=500)

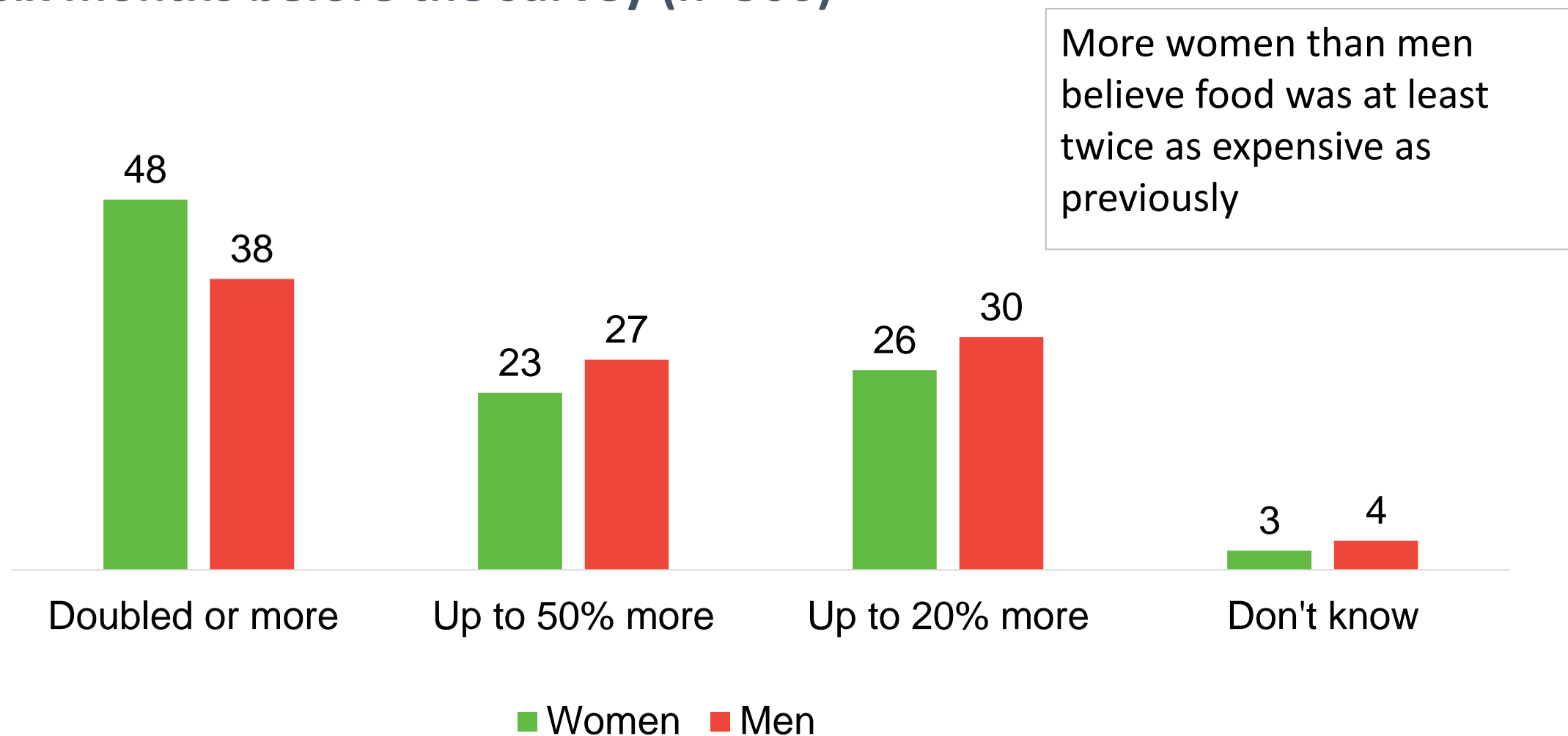


Figure 5. Perceptions on food price increases among respondents who observed increases in prices compared to the last year, % (n=475)

Increases in the price of maize and rice were reported by most women and men

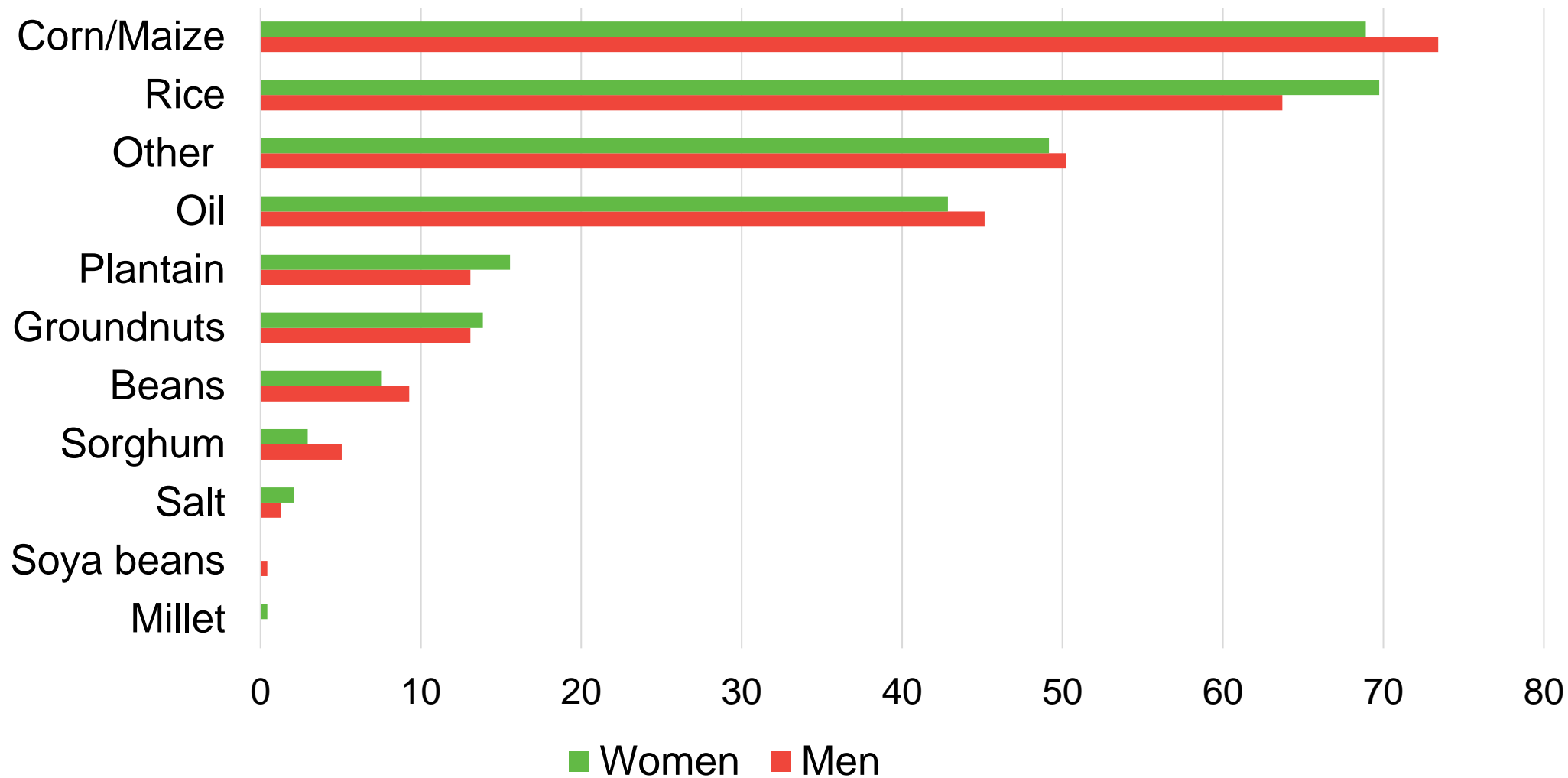
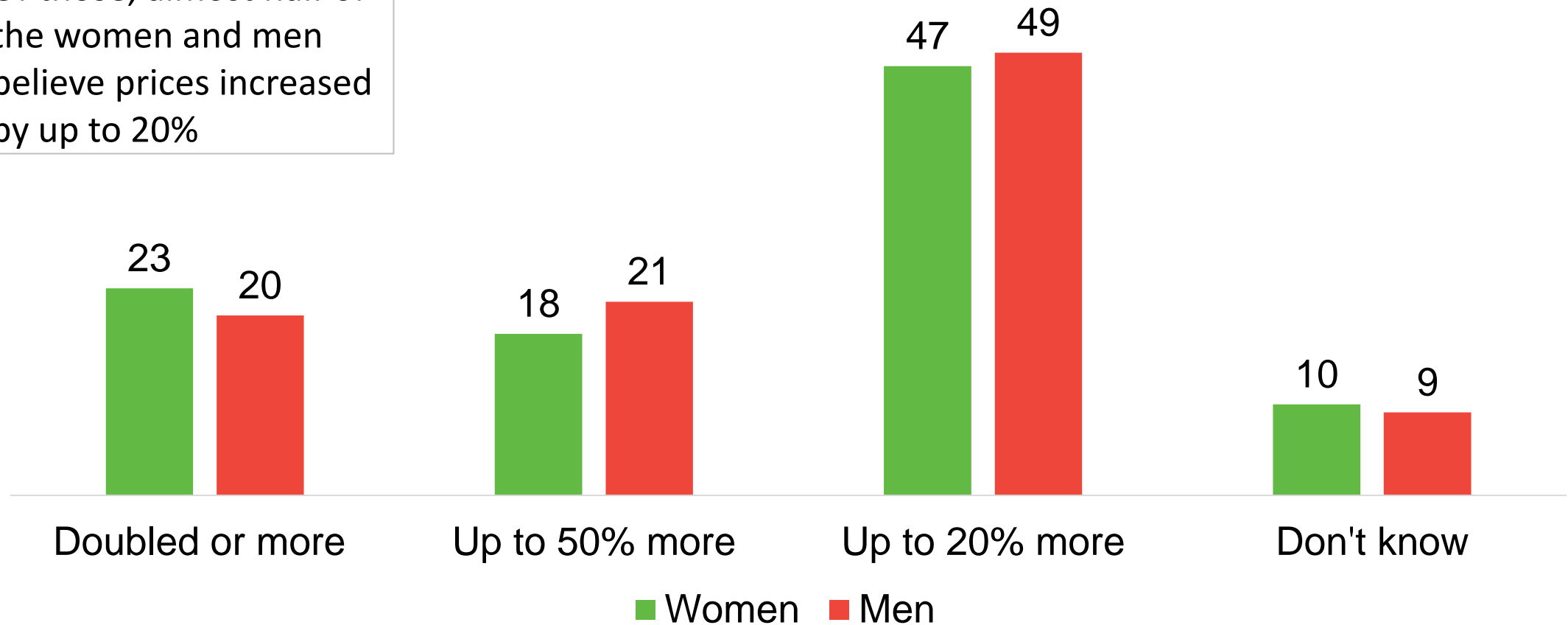


Figure 6. Food commodities identified as affected by higher food prices, % of respondents (n=475)

About 72% of women and 78% of men observed higher fuel prices in the six months before the survey (n=500)

Of those, almost half of the women and men believe prices increased by up to 20%



About 65% of women and 80% of men observed increases in pesticide prices in the six months before the survey (n=500)

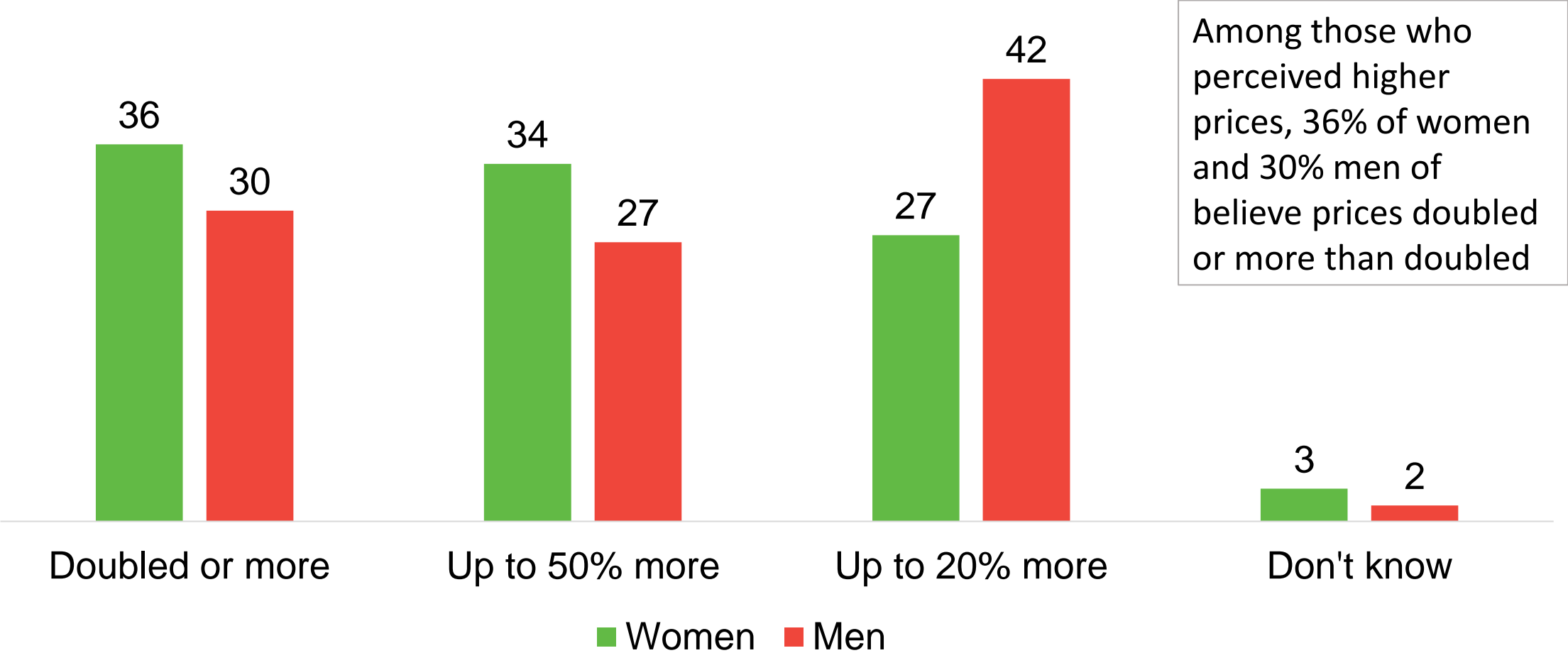


Figure 8. Perception of increases in pesticides prices, % of respondents that observed increases in prices compared to the previous year (n=362)

About 72% of women and 86% of men observed increases in fertilizer prices in the six months before the survey (n=500)

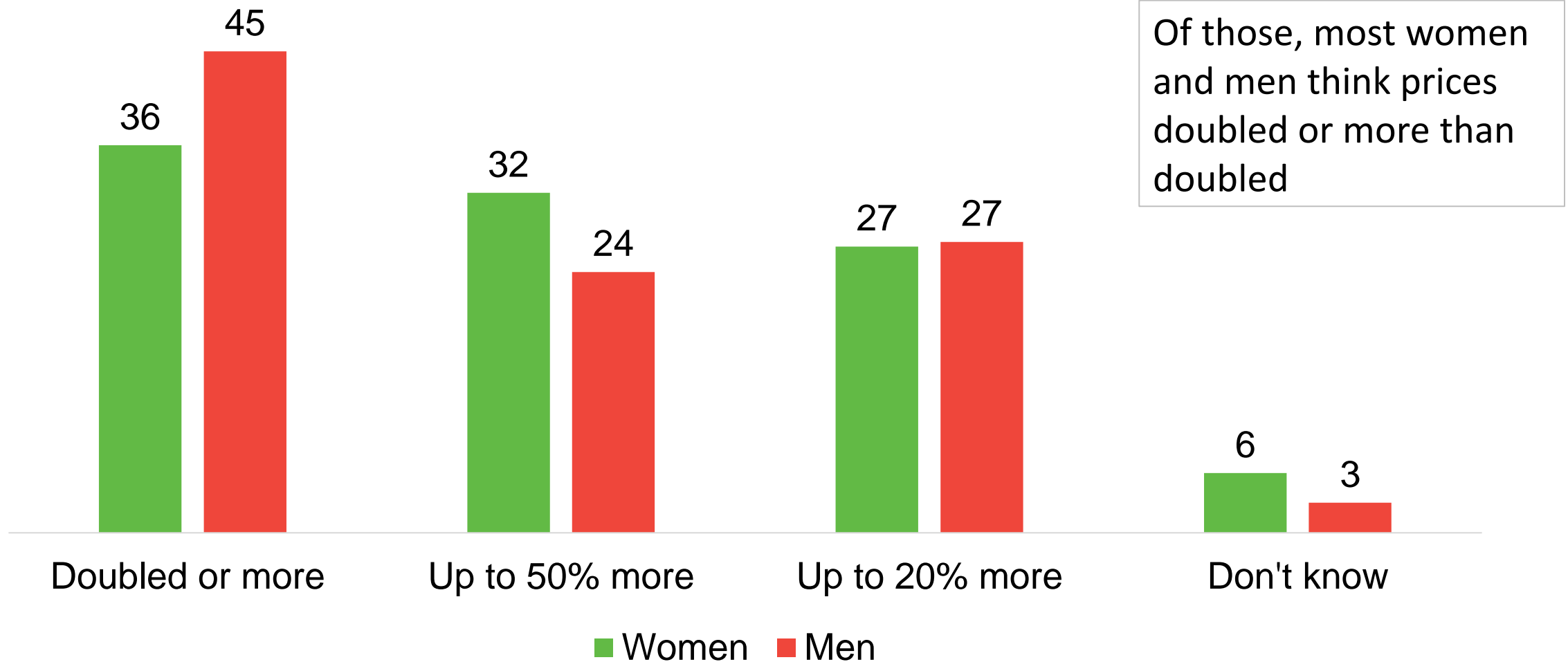


Figure 9. Perception of increases in fertilizer prices, % of respondents that observed increases in prices compared to the last year (n=394)

Water prices remained the same or increased for most women and men compared to the previous year

Most respondents pay for water

Women: 91.2%

Men: 89.6%

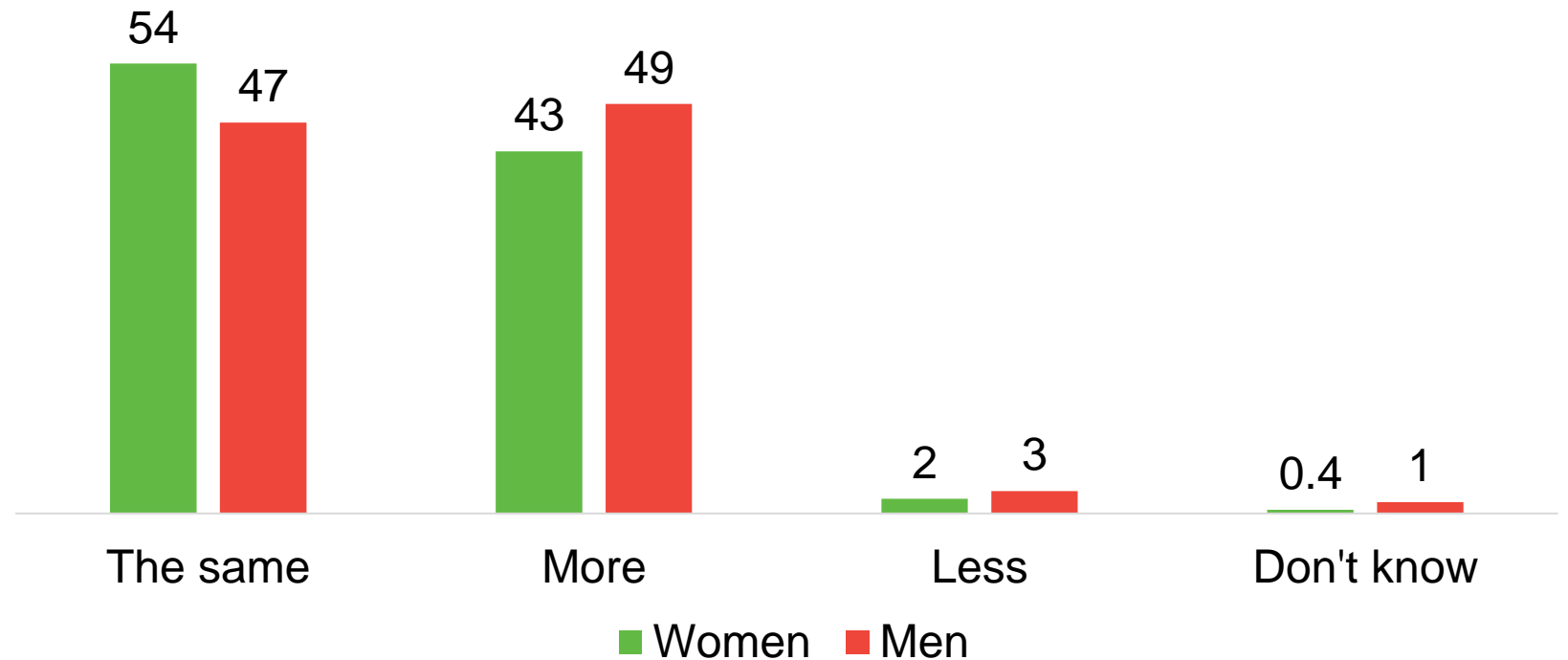


Figure 11. Water payments in comparison to last year, % of respondents (n=452)

Implications for agriculture, food and water security



Credit: Christian Vincas/Shutterstock

Higher fertilizers prices led 54% of farmer respondents to use less fertilizer on family plots and 49% on their own plot

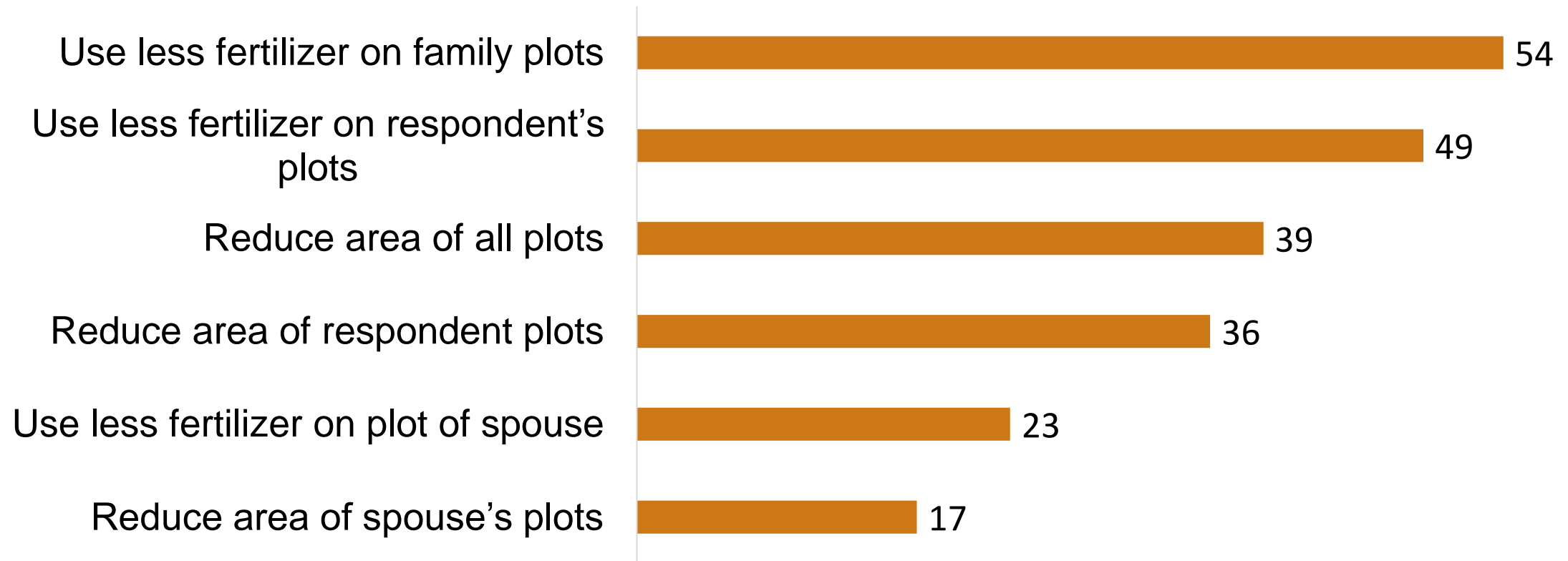


Figure 12. Responses to higher fertilizer prices, % of respondents (n=121)

Among farmers who reduced cultivated area, most mentioned that maize was the most affected crop

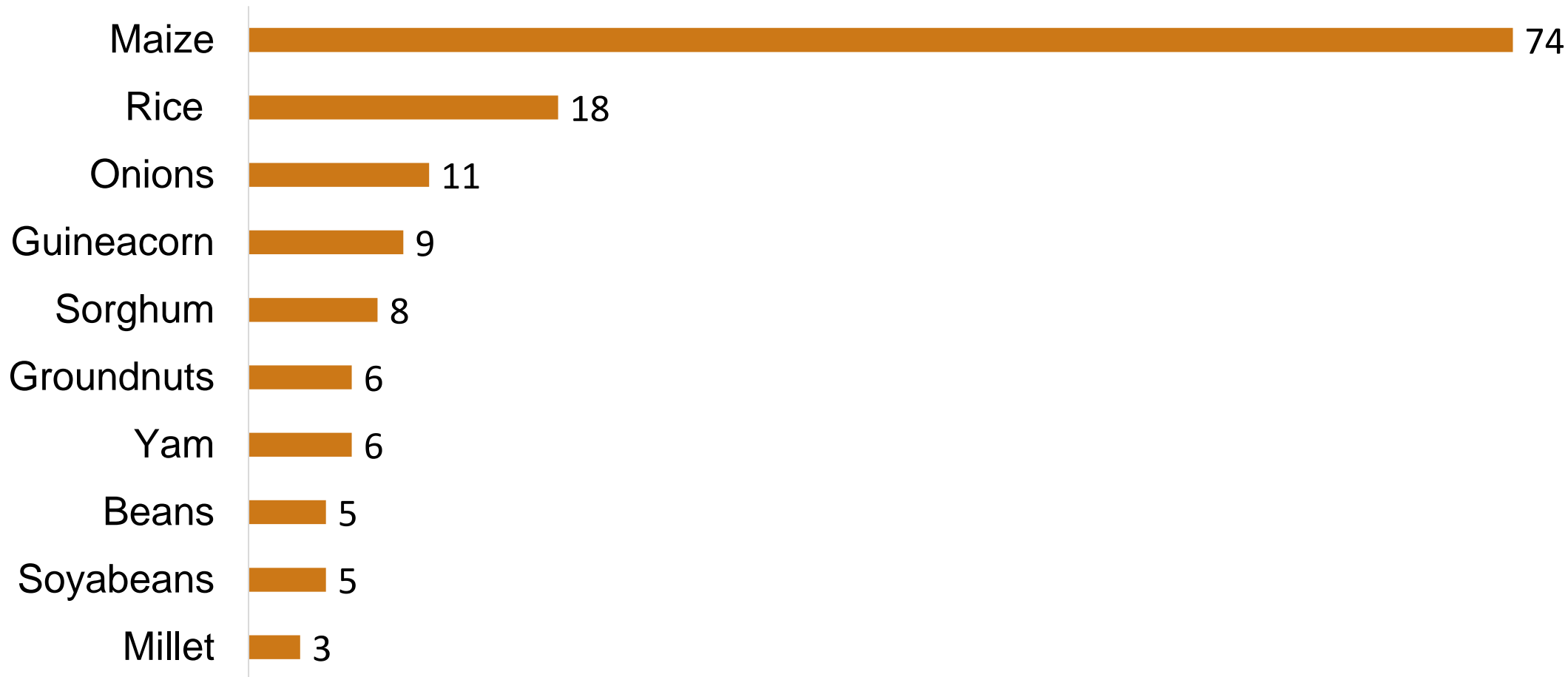


Figure 13. Crops with reduced area due to higher fertilizer prices, n=66, % of respondents

Most farmers reported that they expect lower crop yields as a result of increases in fertilizer prices

64% of farmers expected lower crop yields due to higher fertilizer prices

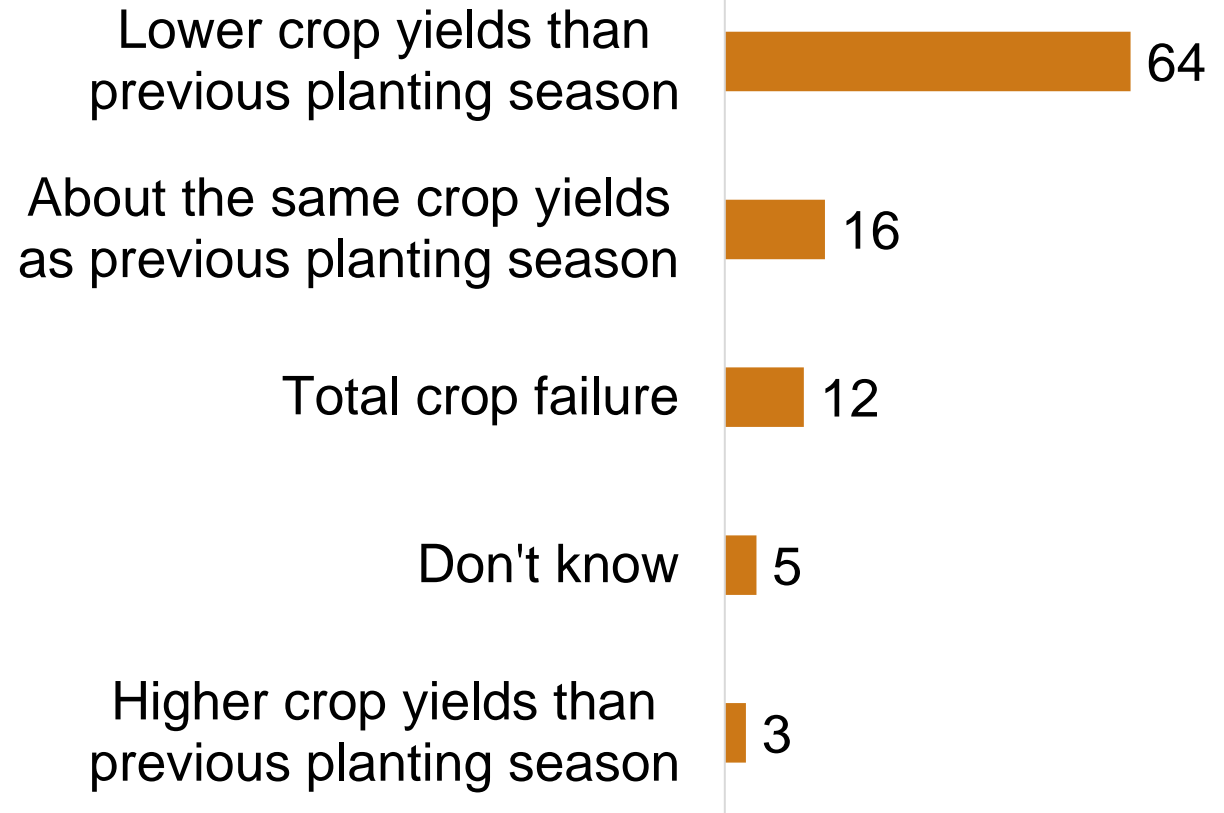


Figure 14. Expected effects of increases in fertilizer prices on crop yields, % of farmer respondents (n=121)

According to different indicators, proportionally, more women than men were impacted by increased food insecurity

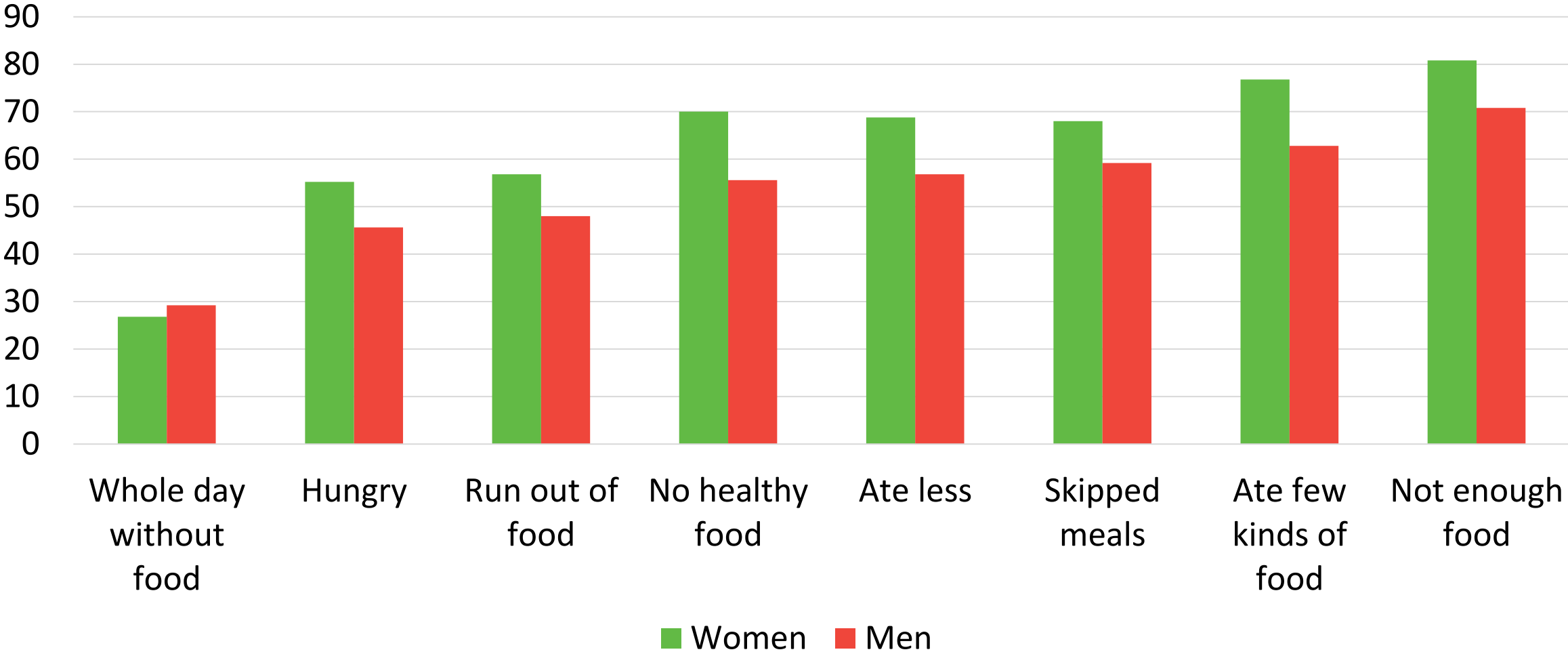


Figure 15. Food access difficulties as a result of current overlapping crises, % of respondents (n=500)

Most women and men consumed eggs and dairy in the last 24 hours before the survey; however, more men than women consumed other types of food such as meat

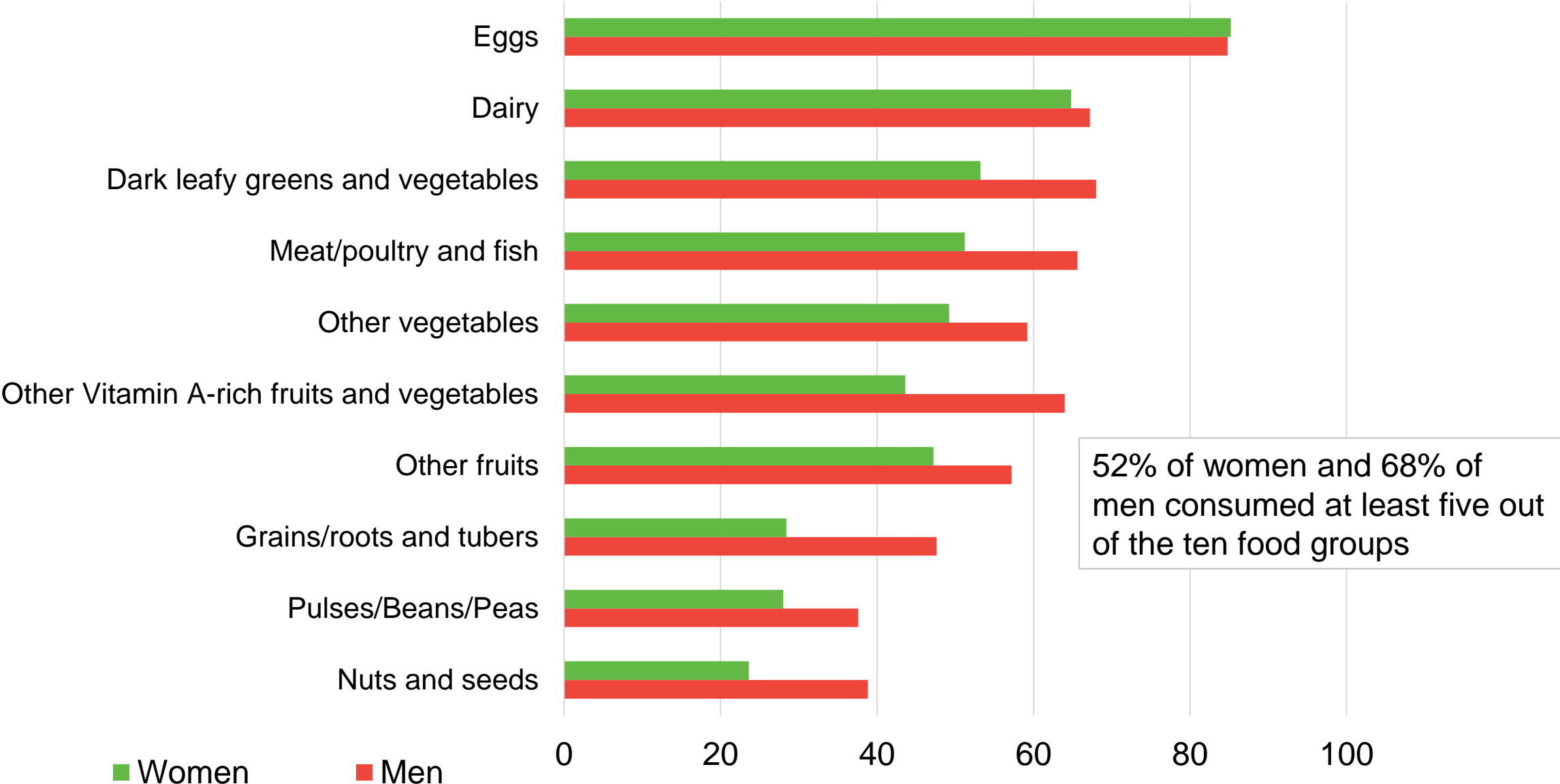


Figure 16. Foods consumed in the last 24 hours, % of respondents (n=500)

Water insecurity is very high: 70% of respondents worry about having enough water and more than 50% worry about drinking water access

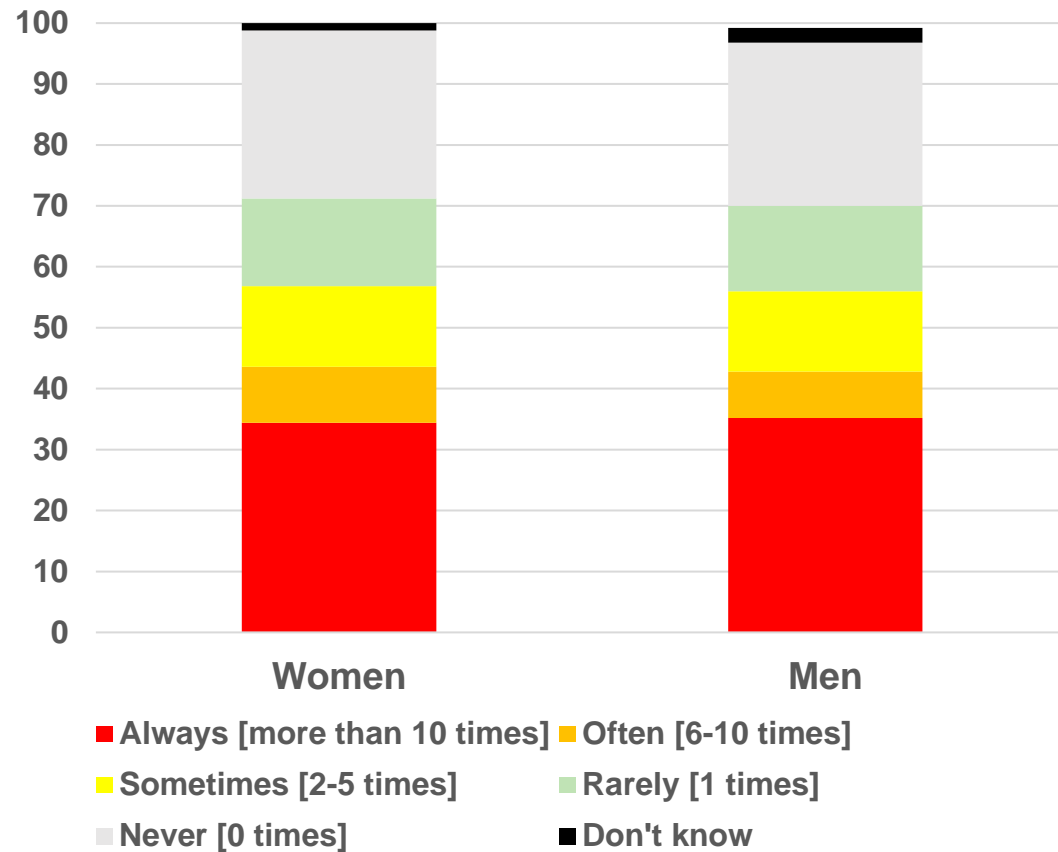


Figure 17. Frequency of worrying about not having enough water for household needs, % of respondents (n=500)

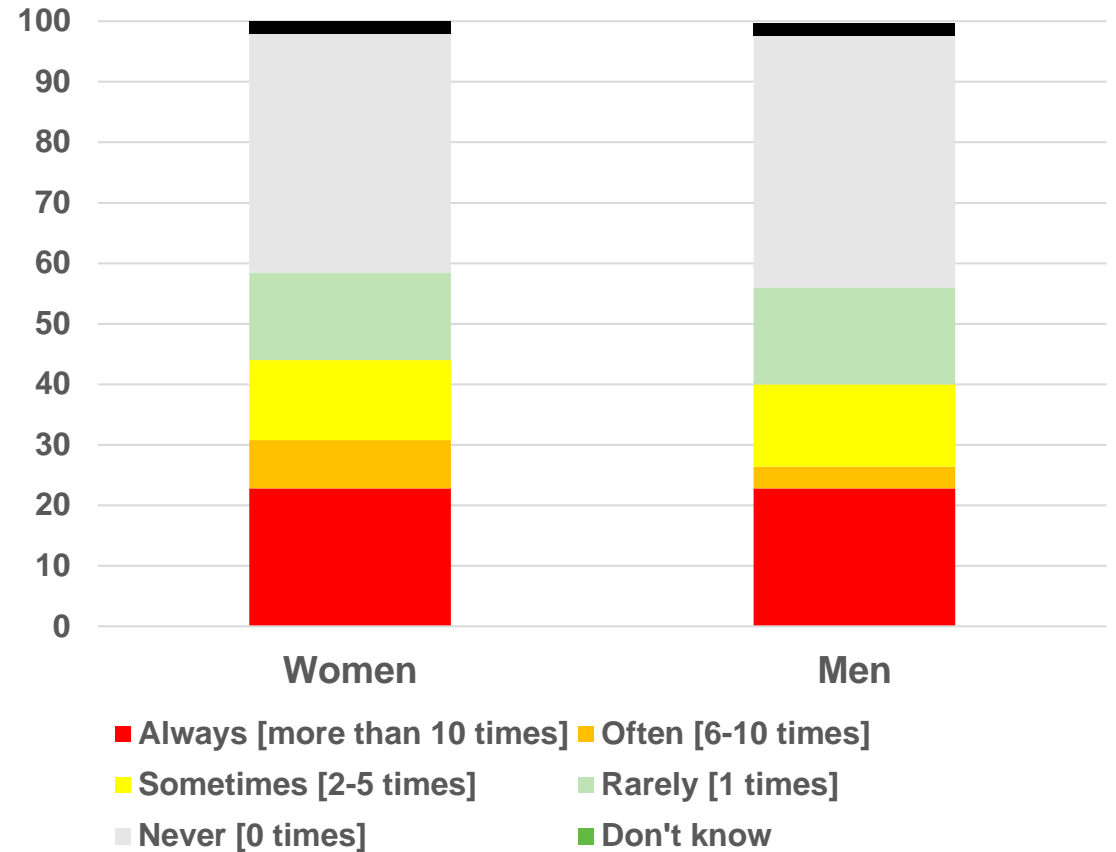


Figure 18. Frequency of worrying about not having enough water to drink, % of respondents (n=500)

Responses to high prices



Credit: Canto-IFPRI

The main response to higher fuel prices was to go less to the market or use a different mode of transportation

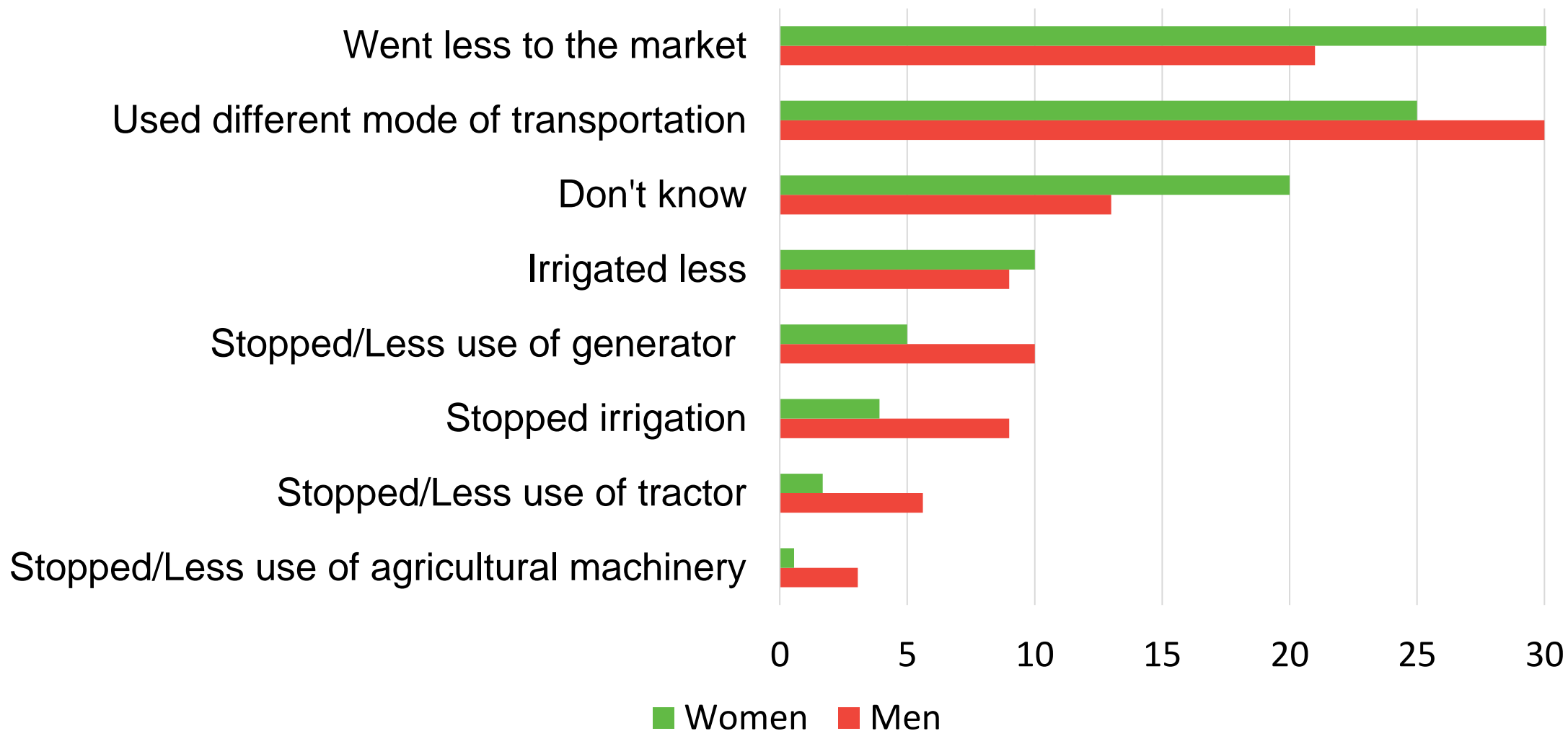


Figure 19. Main response to higher fuel prices, % of respondents (n=375)

Among women and men who reported responding to higher food prices, most reduced expenditures, and saved and/or consumed less food

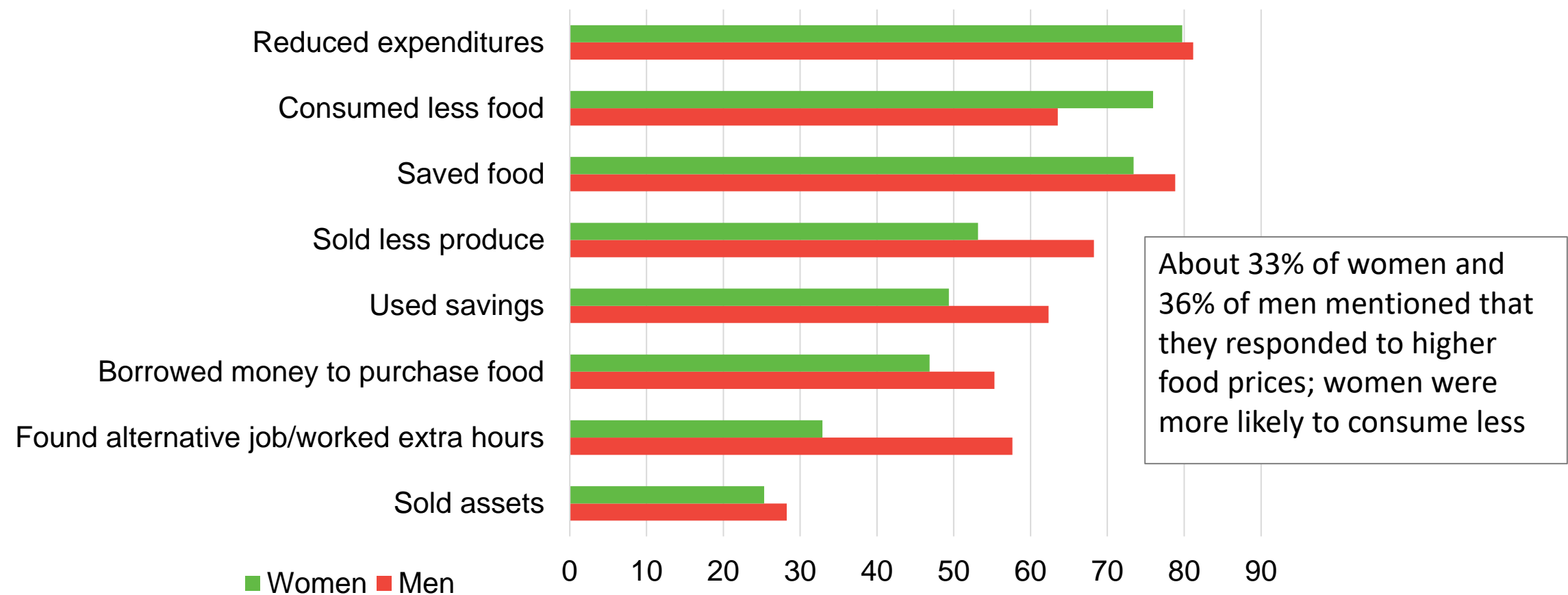


Figure 20. Responses to higher food prices (n=164) among those that responded to higher prices, % of respondents

Women and men particularly reduced their expenses on clothing, transportation, mobile phones and utilities

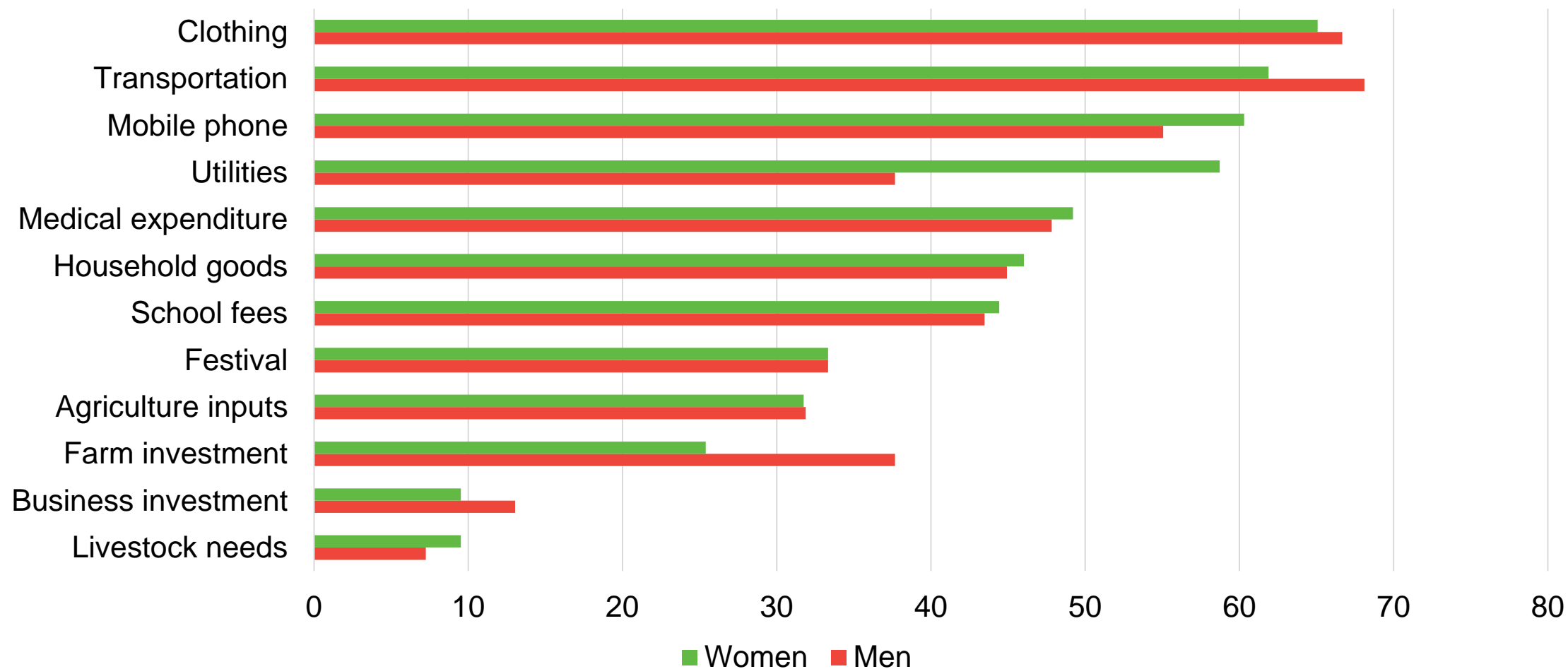


Figure 21. Expenditure reductions (n=132), among those that mentioned reducing expenditures to cope with higher food prices, % of respondents

Some women (8%) and men (13%) reported that they heard that families in the community married their daughters under 18 years old in response to rising prices

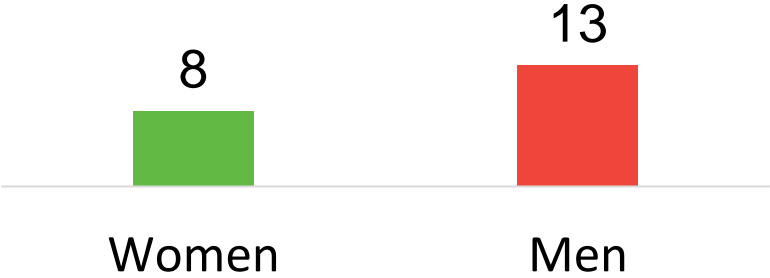


Figure 22. Observed child marriage in response to rising food/fuel prices, % of respondents (n=500)

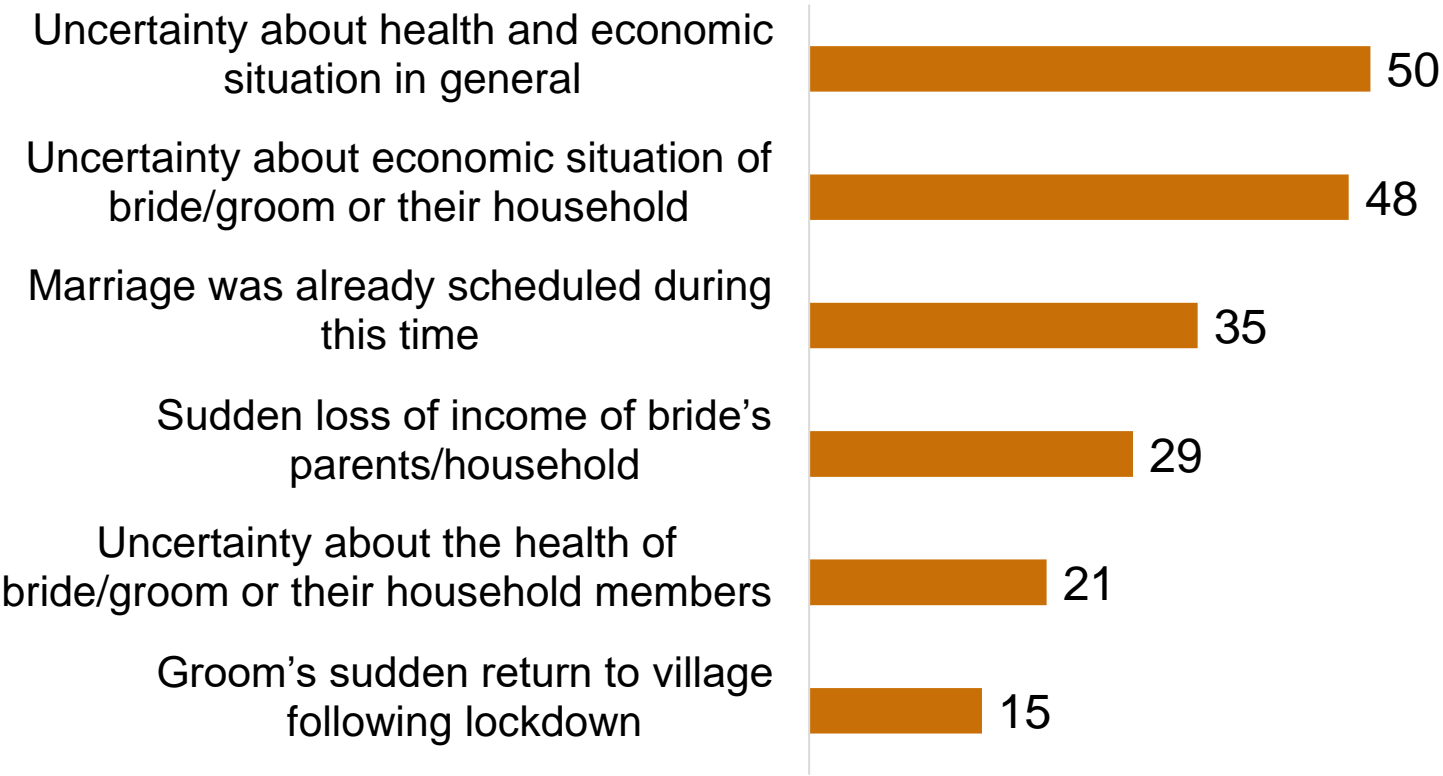


Figure 23. Reasons for child marriage, % of respondents, n=52

Perceptions of reasons for higher prices



Most women and men blamed their government for higher energy prices with the war on Ukraine ranking second

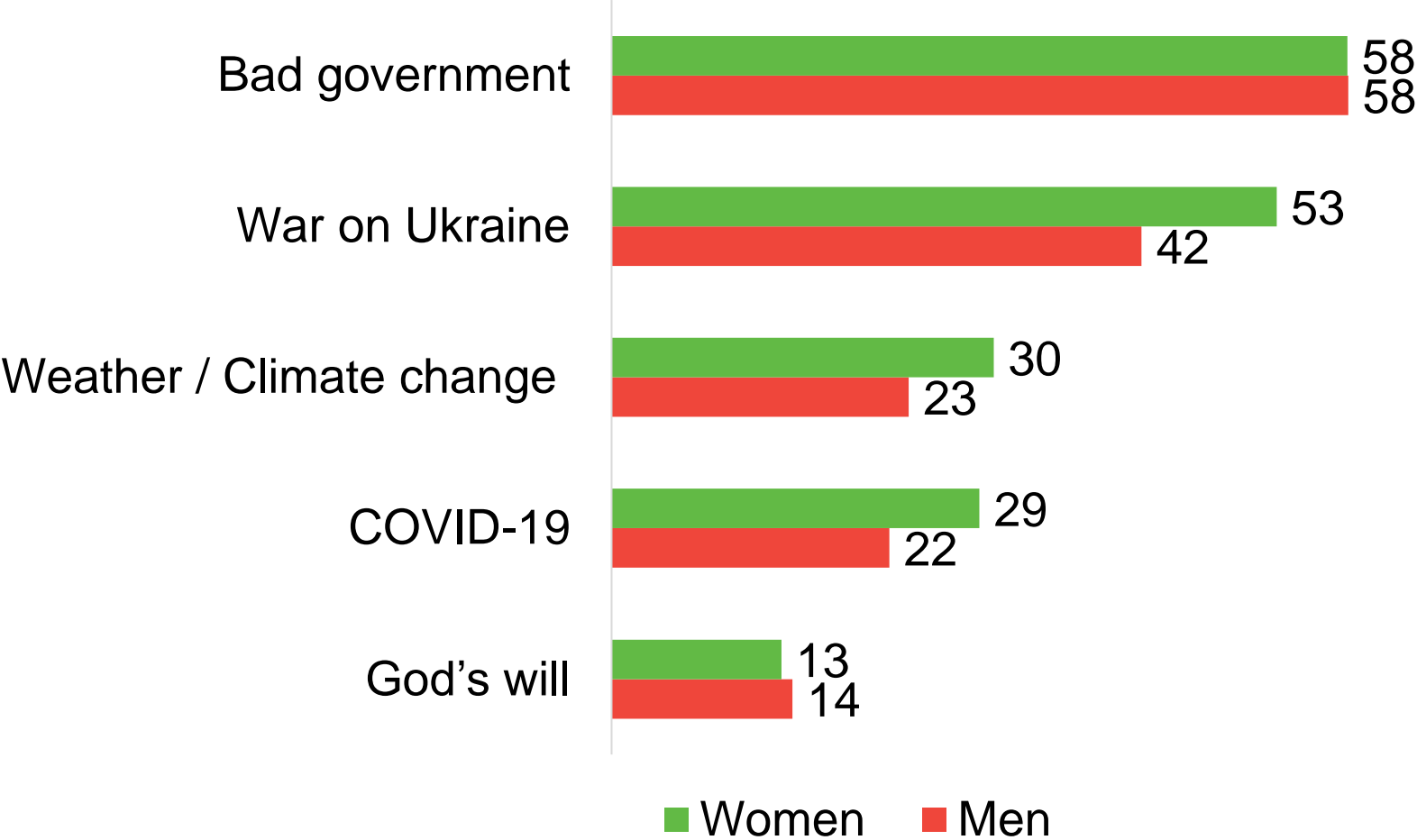


Figure 24. Reasons for higher energy prices, % of respondents (n=375)

Likewise, bad government was blamed by most for food price increases

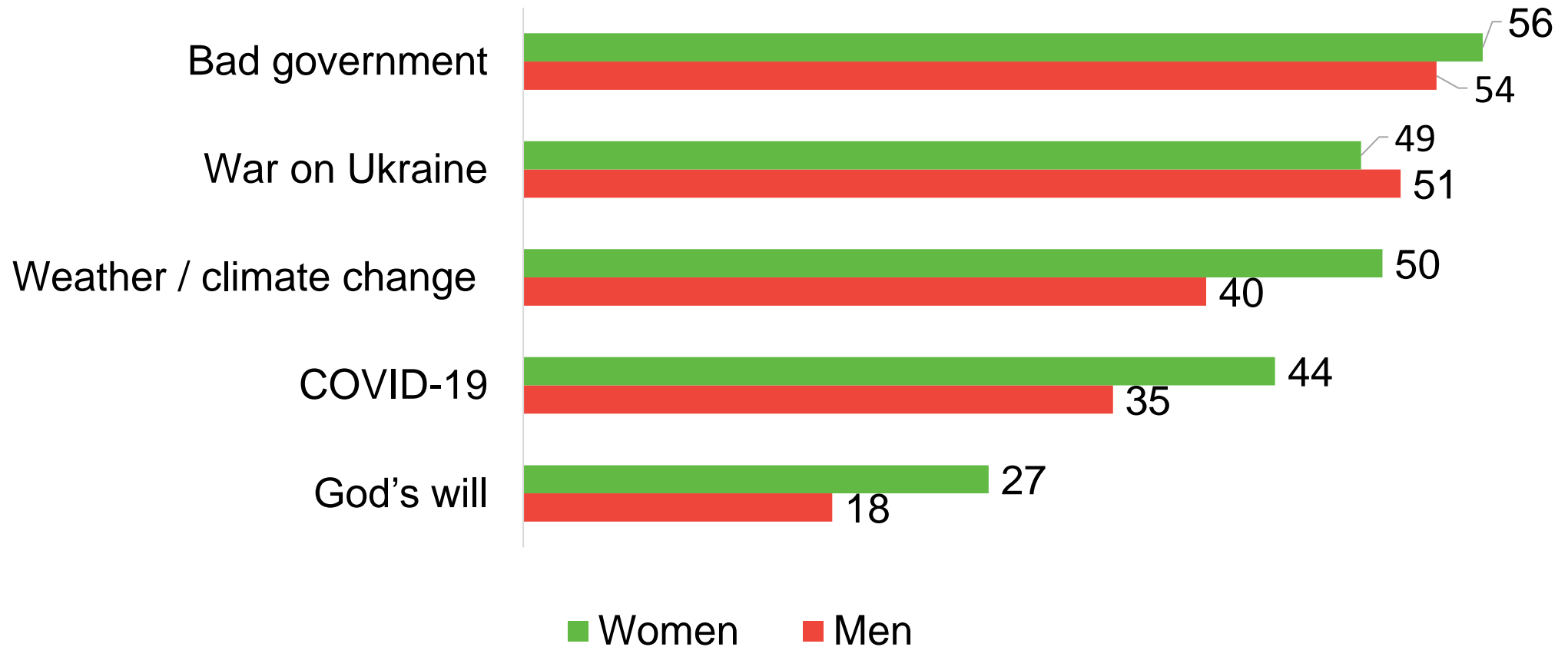


Figure 25. Reasons why food prices have increased, % of respondents

Other findings

- 63% of women and 65% of men think food prices will increase even more in the future
- Few respondents received transfers from the government (10%) or non-governmental institutions (4%) – in cash or in-kind
- 90% of respondents mentioned that transportation costs increased in the community and as a result they went to the market less frequently (83%), had problems accessing schools and health clinics (70%) and faced challenged transporting grains/harvest to the market (63%)
- 58% of women that reported they do not work said that they care for children or other family members as opposed to only 6% of men

Conclusions

- Both women and men in Honduras perceived recent spikes in prices of food products, fuel, fertilizers and pesticides
- High food and fuel price inflation came on top of income losses experienced by most women and men because of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Food insecurity levels went up for both women and men, but women reported higher levels of various types of food insecurity and had lower dietary diversity
- Respondents who were farmers reported that reduced area planted and expected lower crop yields as a result of higher fertilizer prices, particularly for maize
- There was high worry about the ability to access sufficient (clean) water
- Women lost access to markets as a result of higher fuel prices
- Overall, the government was held most responsible for the spike in prices

Recommendations

- Strengthen social protection programs to help households to cope with multiple crises and reduce food insecurity levels, for example, school-feeding programs, food banks and cash transfer directed at mothers
- Target financial services to poor households and women in poor households without cumbersome requirements
- Develop gender-sensitive asset programs to rebuild assets after multiple crises, including in the water supply and sanitation area
- Monitor interventions in the agricultural input space in terms of reach and benefits (as many such programs do not reach poorer and women farmers)