

▶ Measuring Women's Empowerment in Rural Context: Case Study on Women in Agri-cooperatives in Georgia

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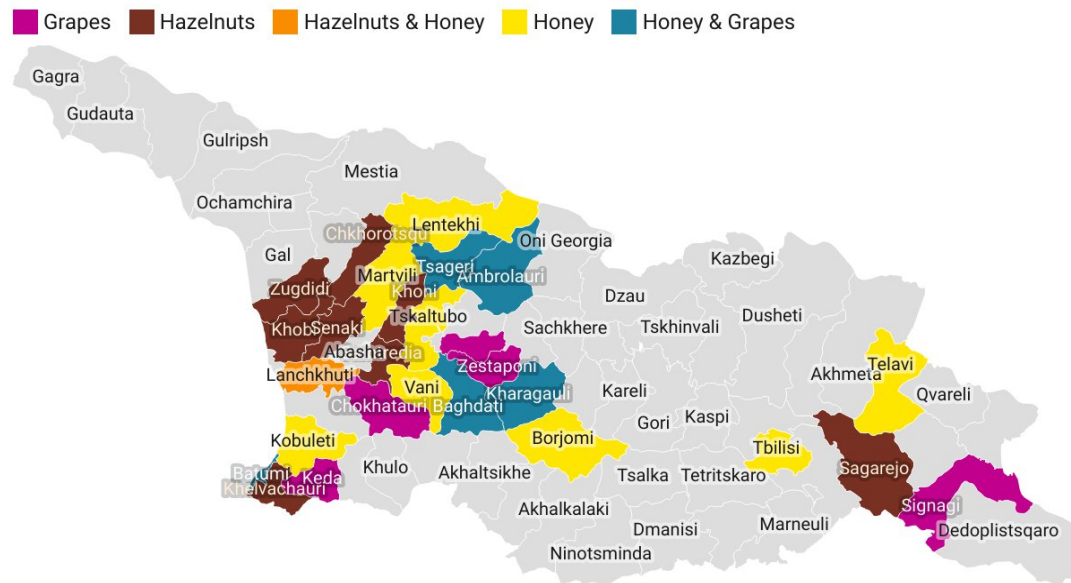
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Methodological Overview
3. Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index
4. Levels of Cooperative Participation
5. Binary Logit Regression Model
6. Outcomes and Conclusion

Introduction to Research Question

- Contextual methodological approach of women's empowerment (WE) measurement
 - to be incorporated in regular monitoring of the cooperative performance and consequent impact at the level of the cooperative members
- Interviewed 65 female and 145 male farmers: members or non-members of local ENPARD Georgia agri-cooperatives
- Increased our focus on female members and non-members to uncover factors for joining (or not joining) a cooperative

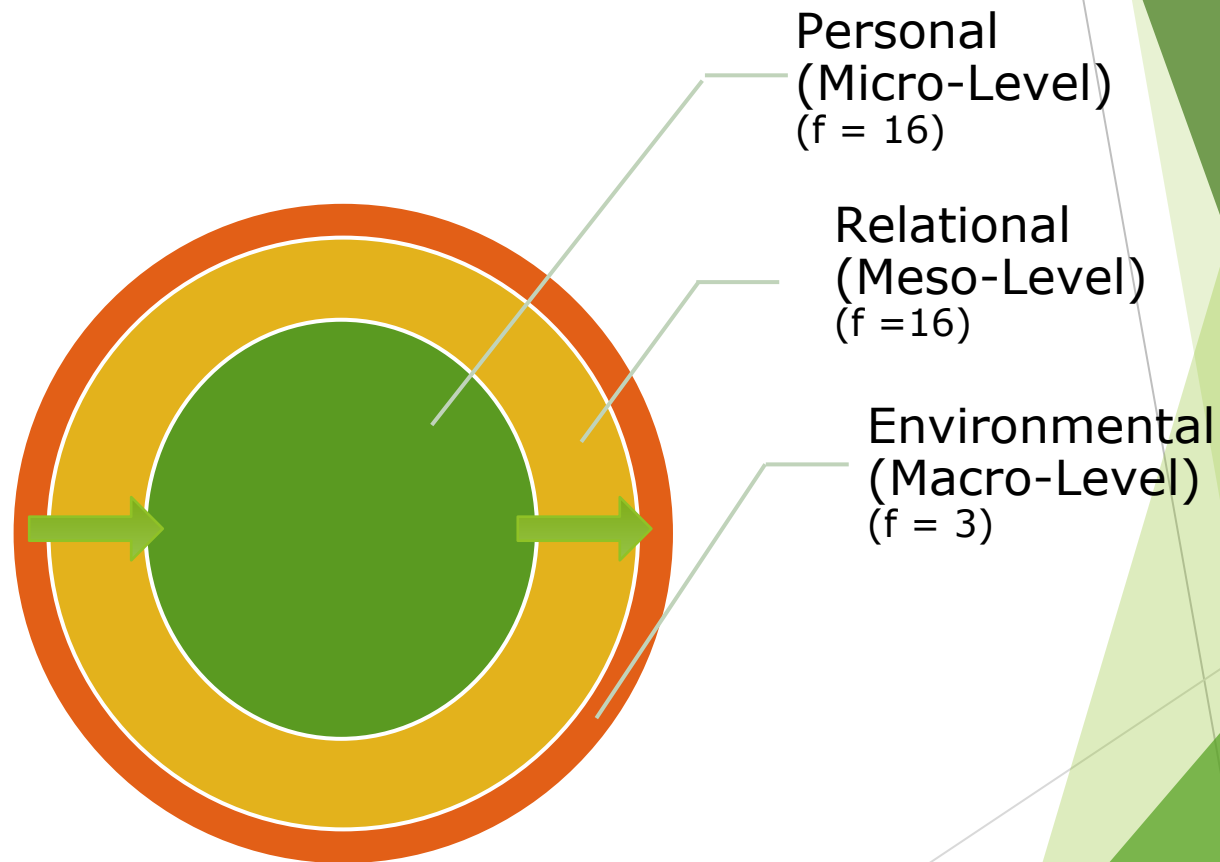


Methodological Approach

- 📍 Operationalized the **Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index** to tailor it to our research question (Lombardini et al. 2017)
 - 📍 Compared female members and non-members – Mann Whitney U test (ordinal variables) and Chi-square (nominal variables) (* $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$)
- 📍 Compared male and female members' rates of **active participation** (Ferguson and Kepe, 2011; Dohmworth & Hanisch, 2019; Po and Hickey, 2020)
- 📍 Compared female members and female non-members with a Binary Logit Regression Model to **determine factors** that affect rates of **membership** (Meier zu Selhausen, 2015)

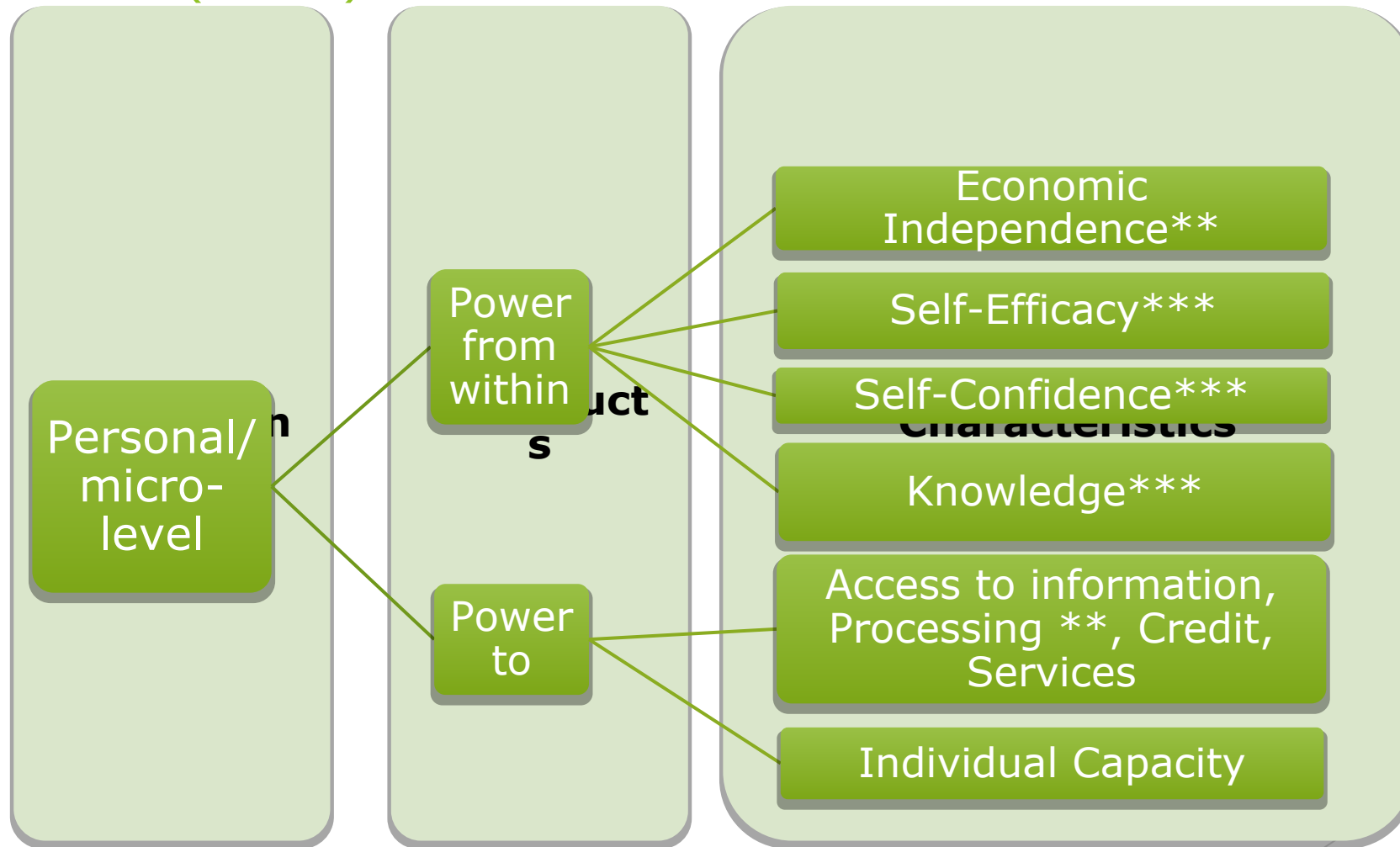
Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index

- Modified from Lombardini et al. (2017)
- Field size (f) represents amount of focus given to each dimension
- Arrows indicate possible movements of change

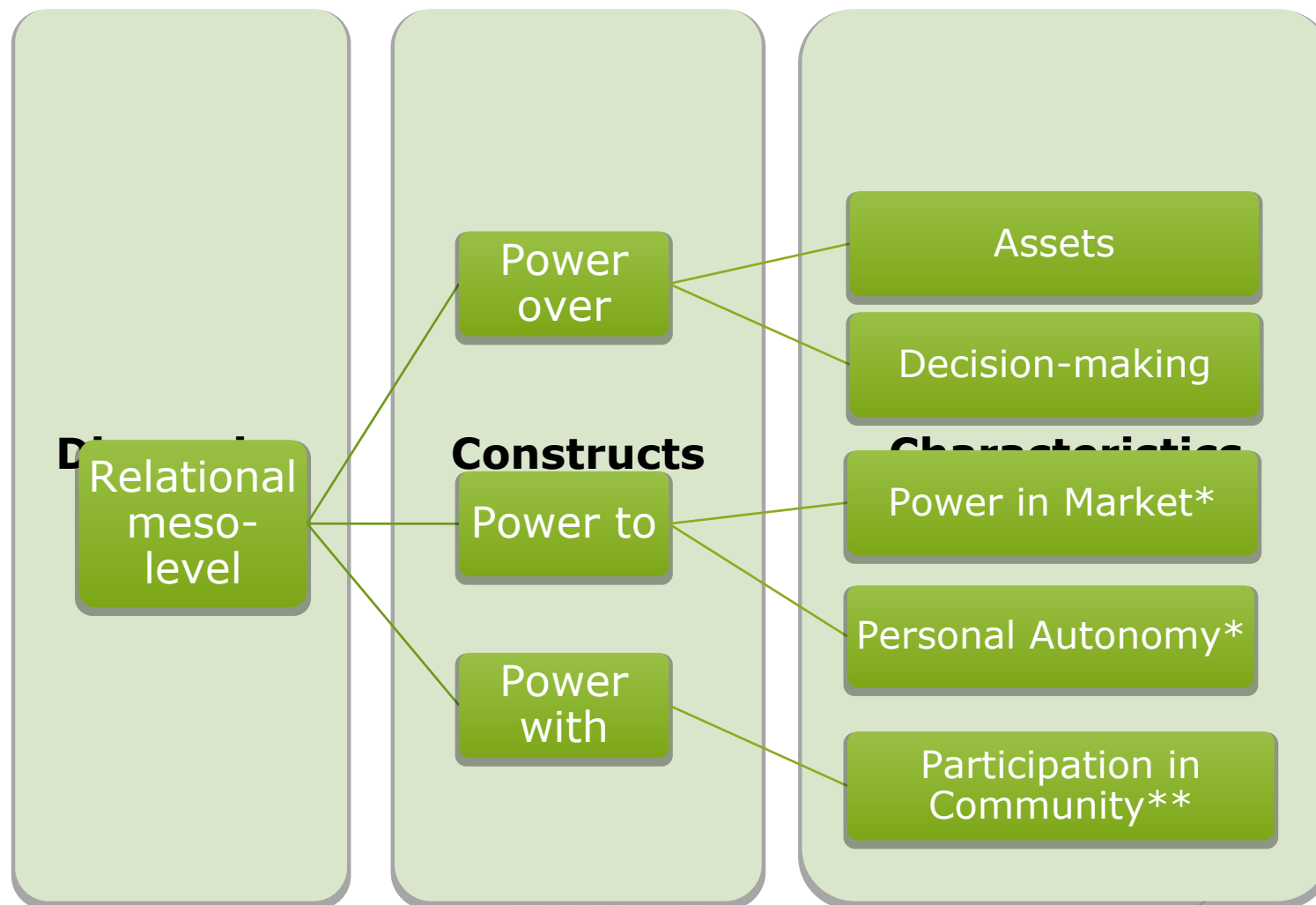


Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index –

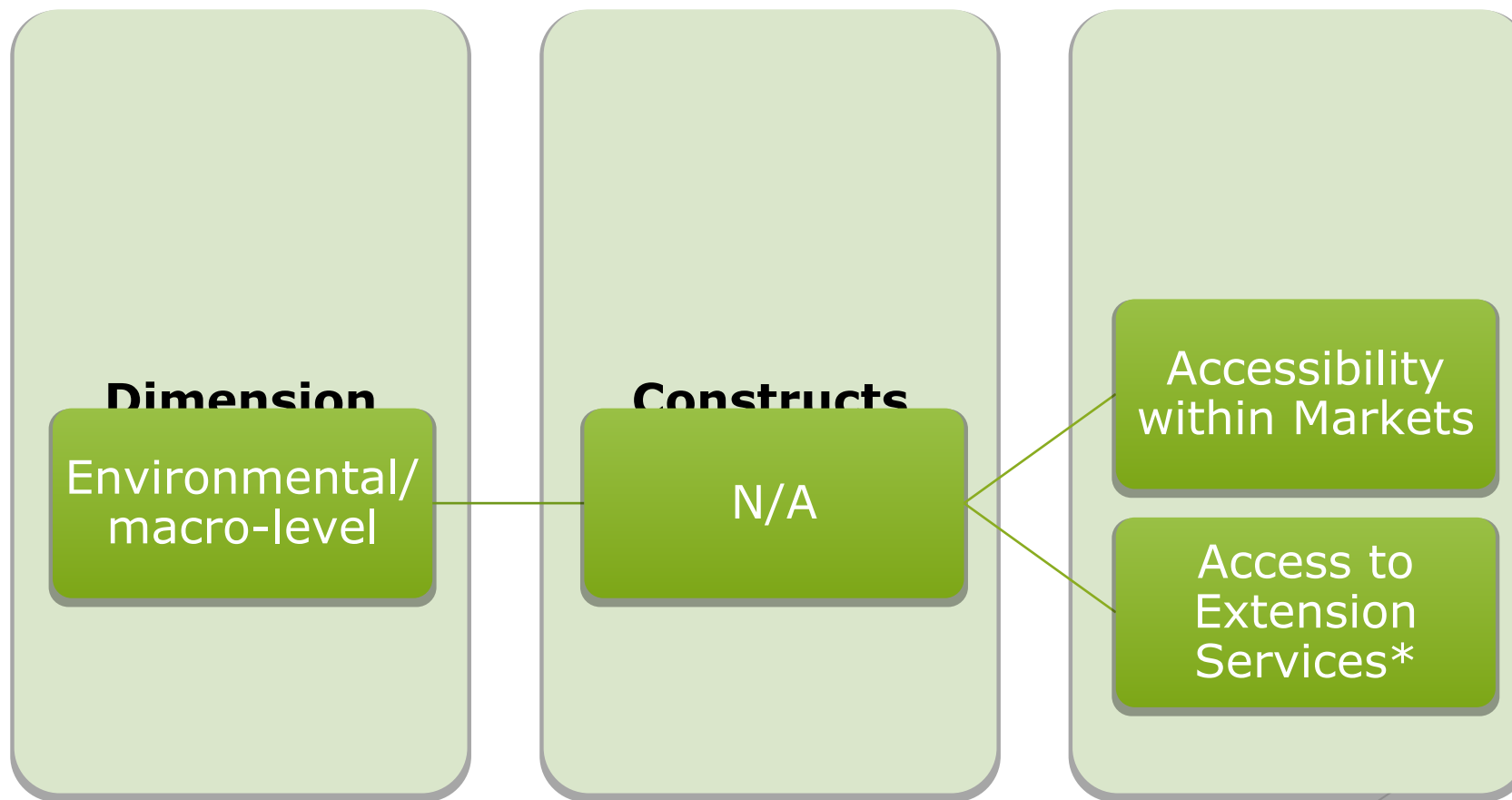
Concept and Results of compared female members (n=29) vs. female non-members (n= 36)



Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index



Aggregated Women's Empowerment Index



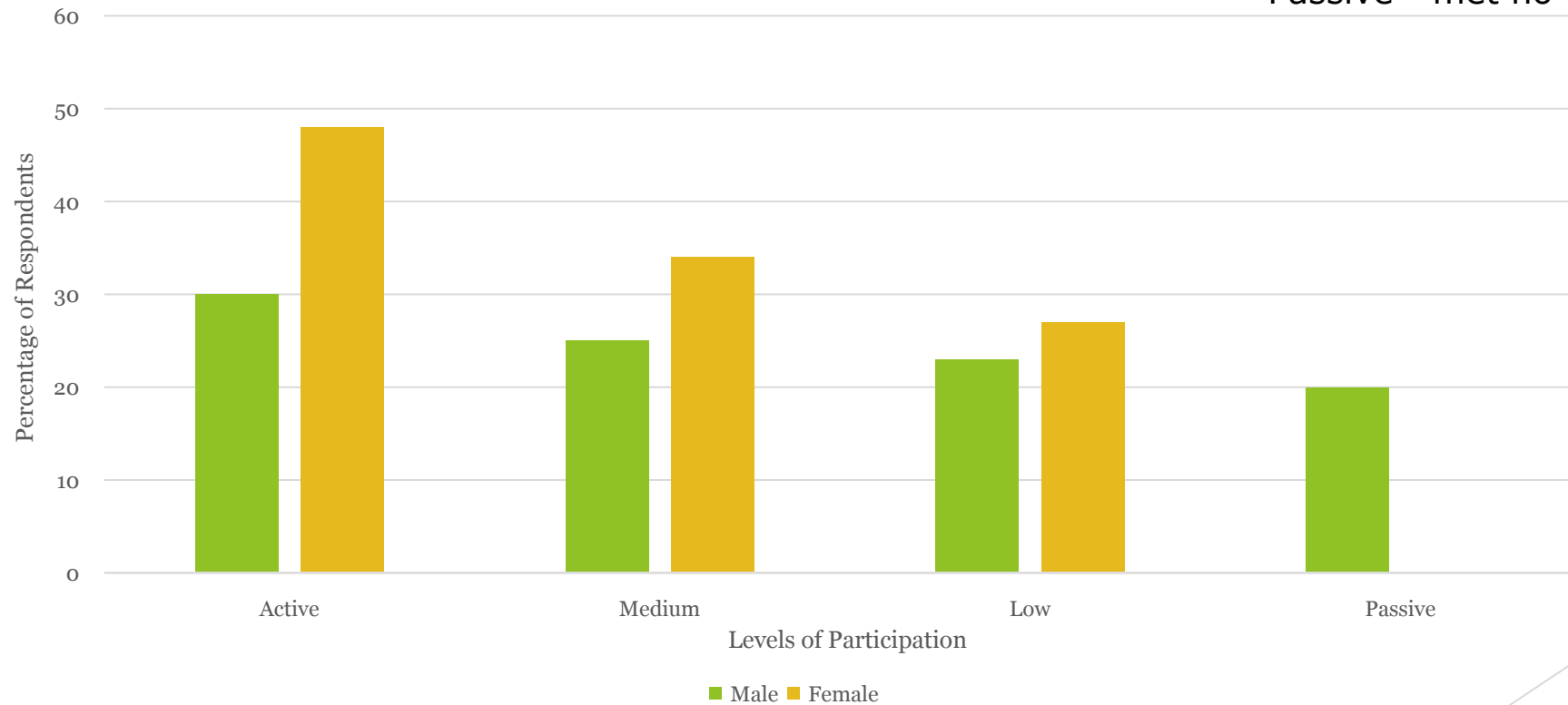
Criteria to Determine Participation

- 🗳️ Cooperative members (sex-desaggregated) were ranked on their participation based on the following criteria:
 - 🗳️ If they **voted** on the cooperative's leadership (Dohmwirth & Hanisch, 2019)
 - 🗳️ If they **sold 50%** or more of their produce through the cooperative (Ferguson and Keep, 2011)
 - 🗳️ If they answered "partly agree" or "strongly agree" (on a 5-point Likert scale) when asked if they thought they were **active** members (Po and Hickey, 2020)

Levels of Participation

— male (n=76) vs. female (29) coop members

- Active - met all 3 criteria
- Medium - met 2 criteria
- Low - met 1 criterium
- Passive - met no criteria



Binary Logit Regression Model

- ☺ This model exists to test factors (categorical)

- ☺ Binary dependent variable: cooperative membership

- ☺ Five-step backwards regression was used

- ☺ Independent variables should not be affected by cooperative membership

☺ Independent Variables Tested:

- ☺ Age (continuous)

- ☺ Educational status (ordinal: basic, elementary, secondary, tertiary)

- ☺ Marital status (categorical: single, married, divorced, widowed)

- ☺ Main product (categorical: grapes, hazelnuts, honey)

- ☺ Household size (continuous)

- ☺ Number of household members under 18 or over 65 (continuous)

- ☺ Years spent in the farming sector (continuous)

- ☺ Method of land acquisition (categorical: family, purchase, family and purchase, rent, and privatization efforts post Kolkhoz)

- ☺ Distance from the closest market (continuous)

- ☺ Farming as the main source of income (categorical: yes, no)

Binary Logit Regression Outcome

Negative Correlations

- 📍 Size of household **
 - 📍 Possibly due to increased demands at home
- 📍 Years spent in the farming sector**
 - 📍 Possibly due to age and negative association with *Kolkhozes*
- 📍 Educational status**
 - 📍 Possibly due to diversified income streams outside of farming

Positive Correlations

- 📍 Distance from markets **
 - 📍 Possibly due to increased need for transportation options provided by cooperative status

**p < 0.05



Conclusion

- 📍 WEI can be modified within the context
- 📍 women with secondary education, larger families and being involved in the farming of the main product longer are less likely to enter cooperatives
- 📍 Georgia's agricultural sector is an understudied area with a lot of potential as it enters the global market
- 📍 More time may be needed to fully examine the impact of cooperative membership on women's empowerment

Thank You for Your Time

Any Questions?

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This study is supported by the Internal Grant Agency of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences (IGA20213111).