



TABLE RICE

Research presentation

Research conducted February 2020



La Différence

Our Objectives

Please note this is a preliminary piece of research to help gain some understanding on the below objectives:

- Assess the standard of living of rice farmers in the plain; Analyze the social, environmental and financial benefits of these producers by being a member of a cooperative compared to personal work
- Assess the involvement of cooperatives in the change of life of rice producers and the distribution of profits when selling rice

Summary

- Farmers talked about several aspects of their lives that have changed through the sale of rice (*this includes schooling children, building houses, having money to meet other family needs, improving the culture of the harvest, carry out other entrepreneurial projects*)
- Farmers who collaborate with cooperatives predominantly refer to the ease of selling the rice, having stability / security and receiving training
- Farmers have the capacity to sell even more rice if the cooperatives are able to purchase more

Who did we interview?

22 Women

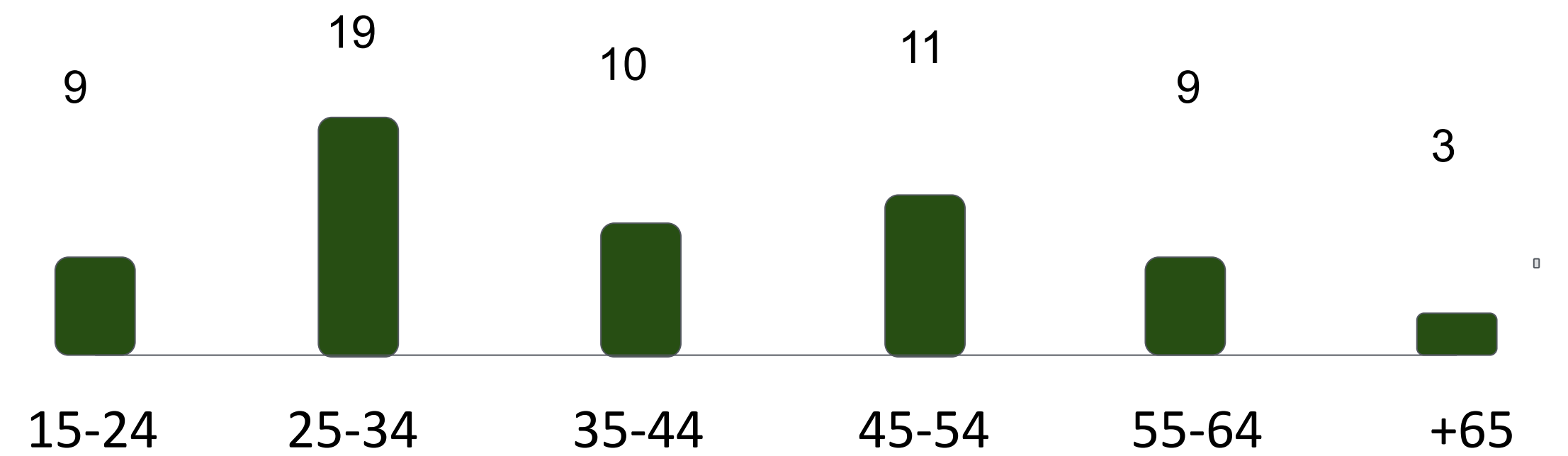
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39 Men

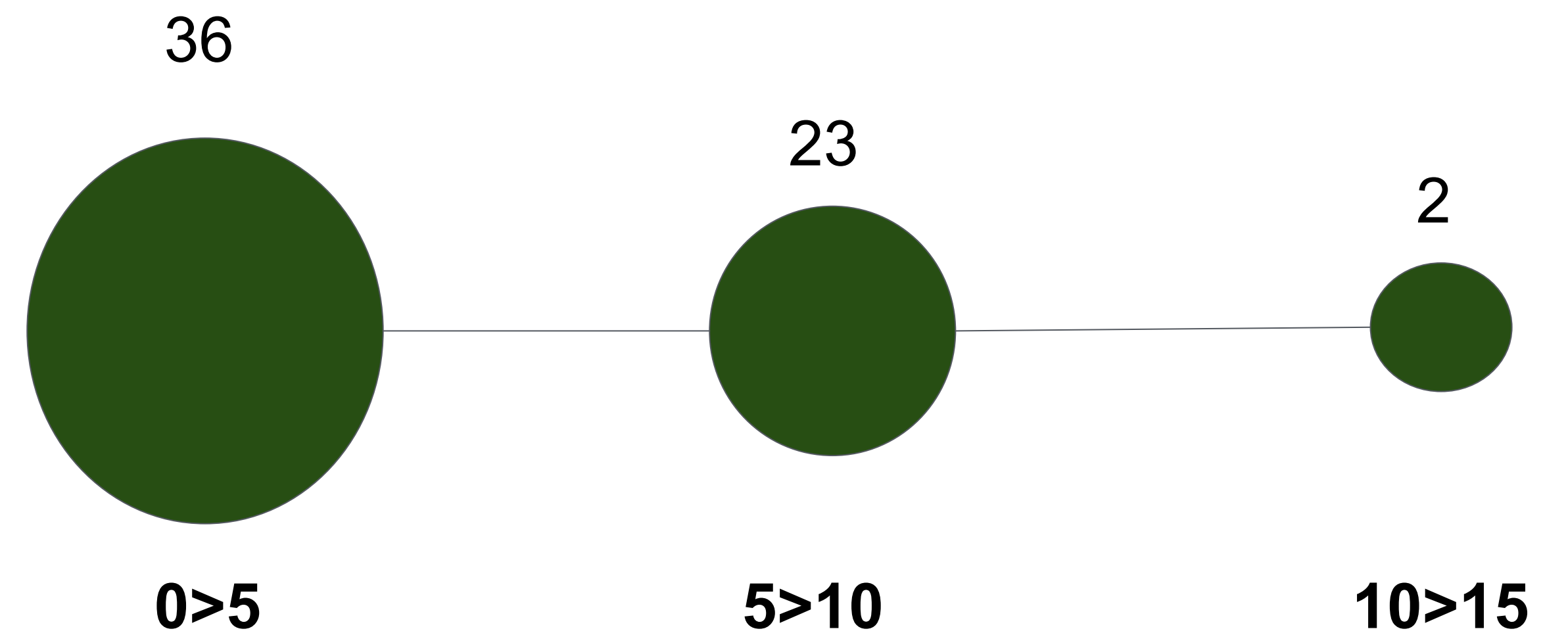
Where do you live?

Luvungi	21
Luberizi	20
Sange	20

How old are you?



How many children do you have?



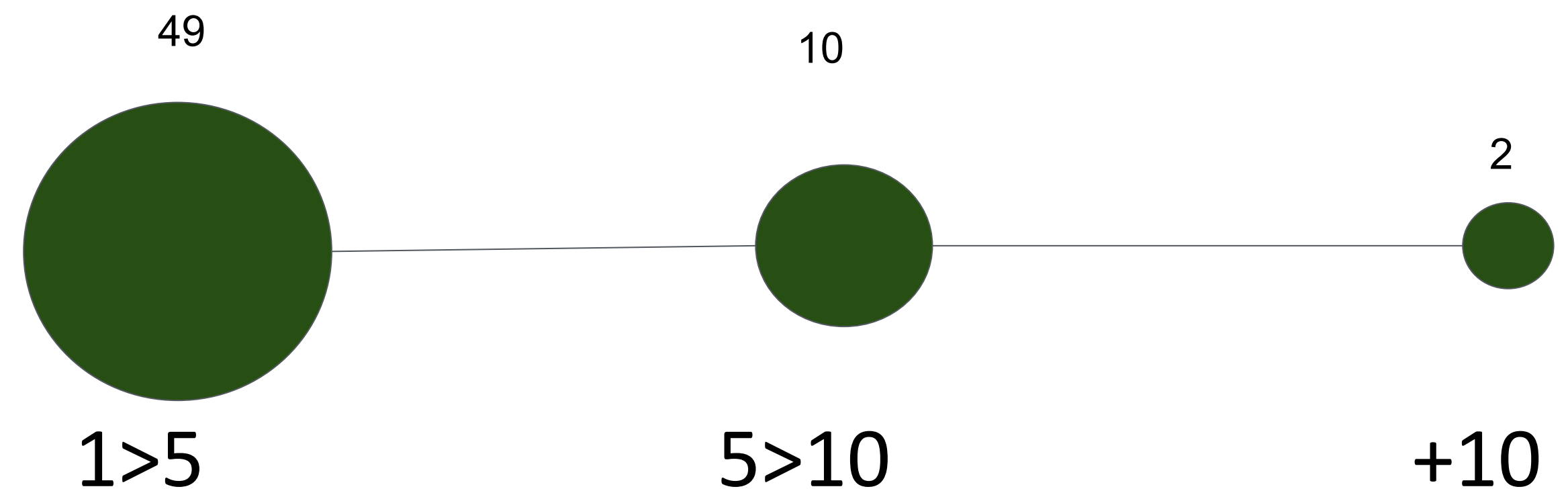
The average number of children per family is 5

How many go to school?

- On average per family 62% of the children go to school
- The main reasons why the remainder don't go to school is because they are too young

The role of the cooperatives

How many rice fields do you work on?



On average the number of years cultivating rice is 13

Do you own or rent the rice fields?

19 Own

13 Rent of 61

29 Own and Rent

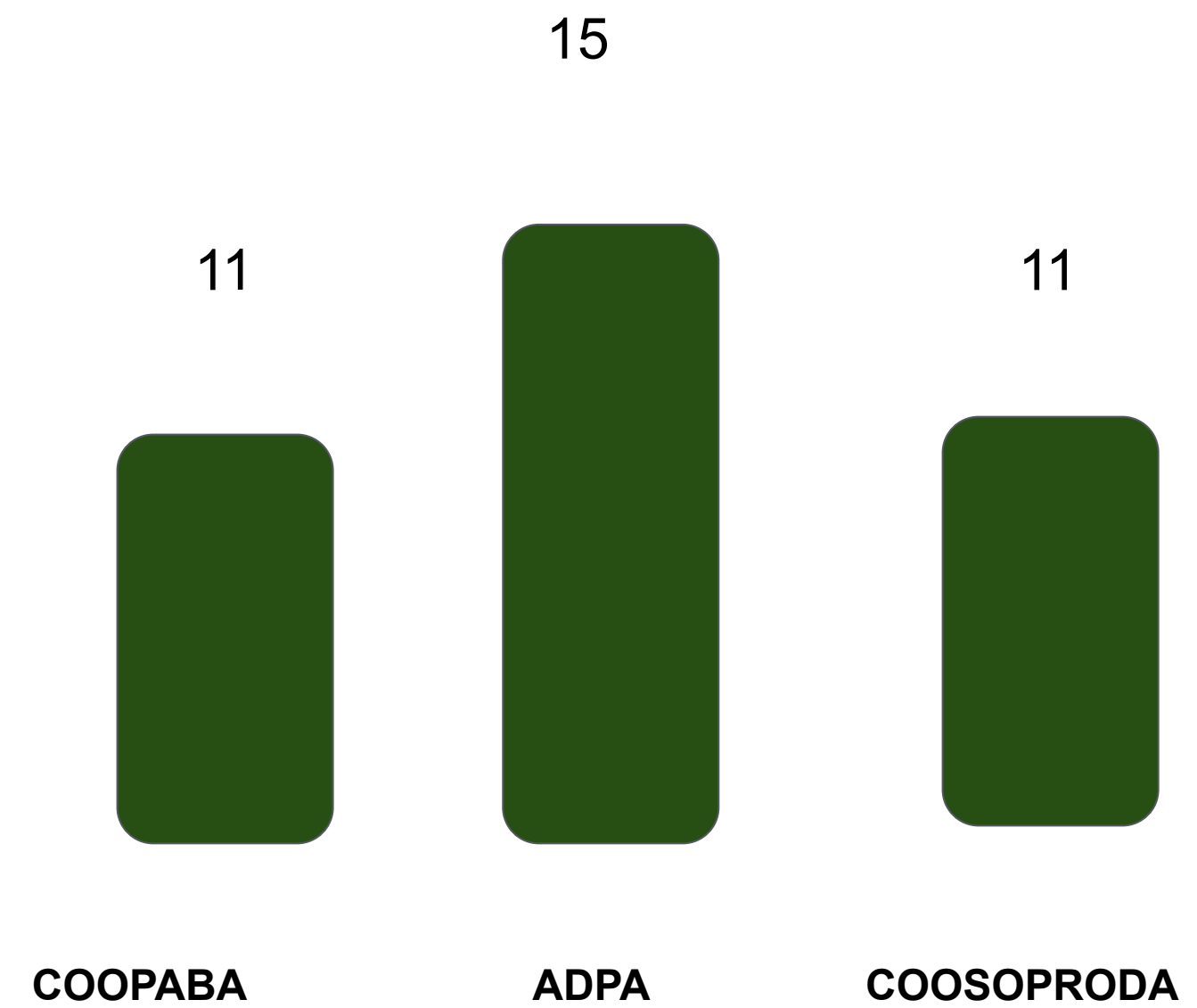
**Are you a
member of a
cooperative?**

37 Yes

of 61

24 No

Which cooperative?



The question asked to 37 cooperative members

**Do you sell
rice to other
cooperatives?**

10 Yes

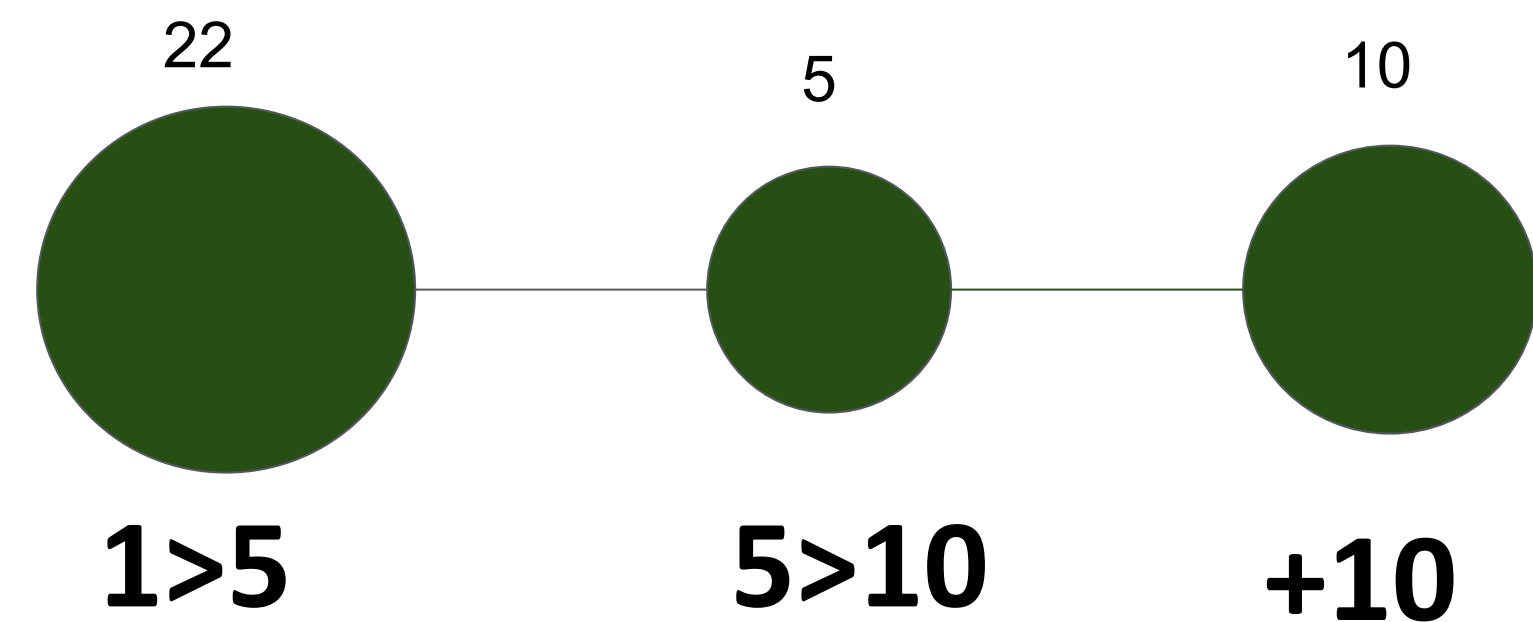
of 37

27 No

The question asked to 37 cooperative members

The other cooperatives include: ADPA, COOPABA,
COOSOPRODA, COOPRITU

How many years have you been a member of a cooperative?



The question asked to 37 cooperative members

The average amount of time belonging to a cooperative is 7 years

Do you sell rice to cooperatives? (non cooperative members)

14 Yes

of 24

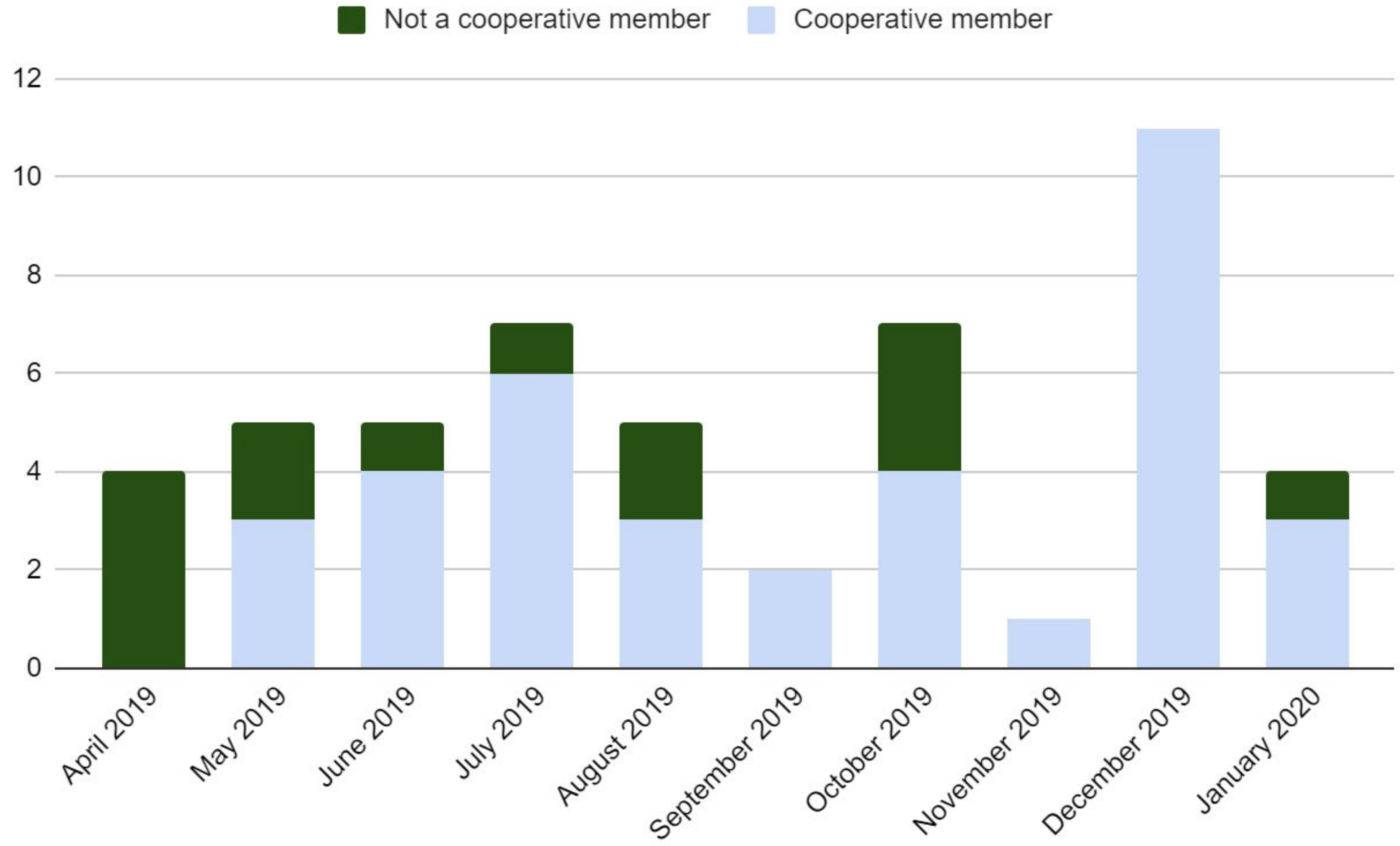
10 No

The cooperatives include: COOPASA (14 responses), COOSOPRODA (9 responses), COOPABA (3 responses), ADPA (2 responses)

Why have you decided to sell rice to cooperatives?

- Stability
- Trust the cooperative
- Ease of selling the rice
- The price is better
- Training
- Security

When did you last sell rice to a cooperative?



Note the research was conducted in February 2020

Based on the 51 people who sell rice to cooperatives (cooperative members and non-members)



Have you previously sold rice to foreign buyers?

25 Yes

of 61

36 No

The buyers include: Rwanda (15 responses), other private buyers (9 responses), Burundi (1 response)

Only 8 people continue to sell rice to foreign buyers today

Why did you / did you not sell rice to foreign buyers?

Sold to foreign buyers because:

- Stock left over / the cooperatives could not buy any more
- A better price compared to cooperatives
- A need for money

Did not sell to foreign buyers because:

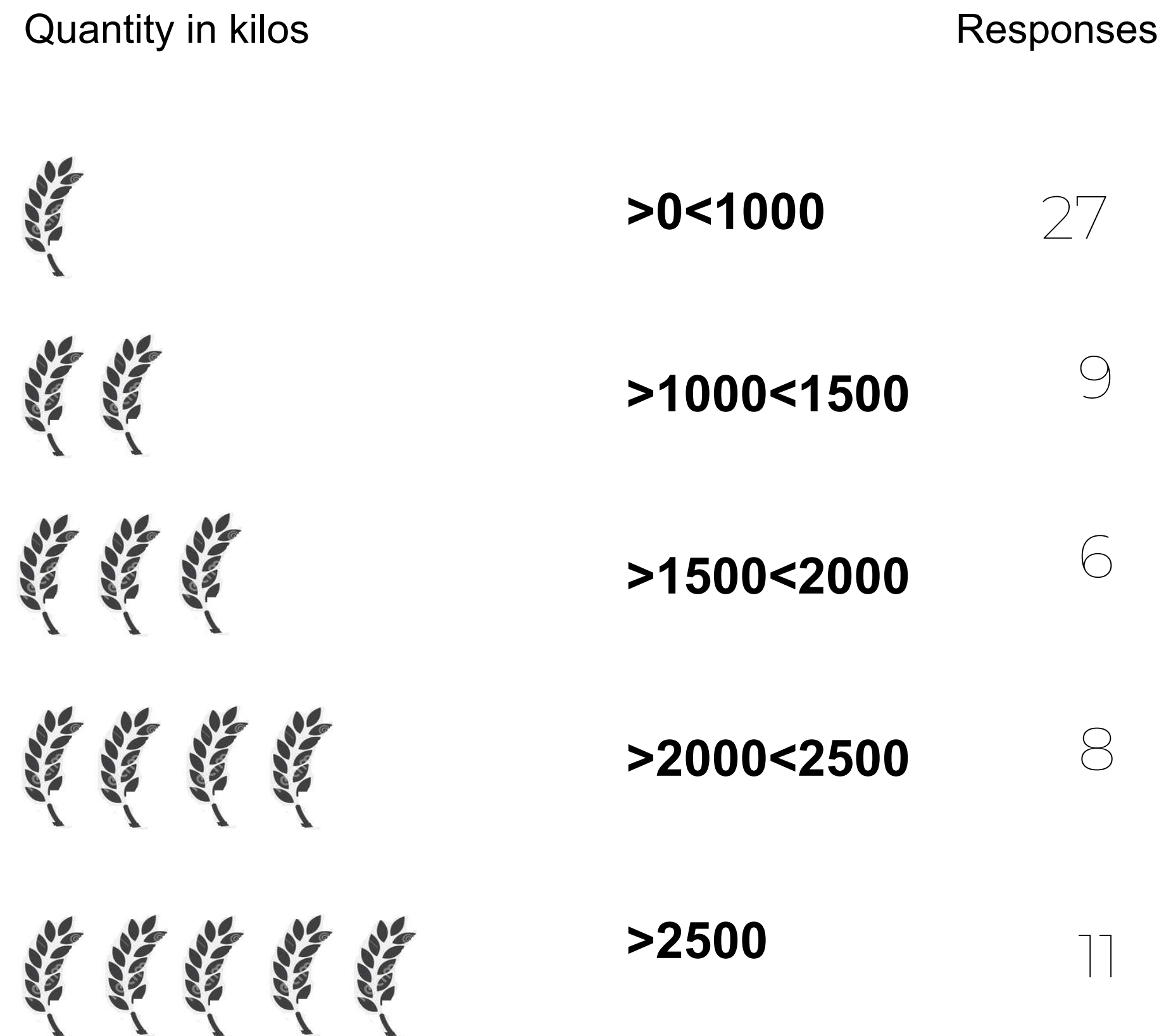
- There is a ban on foreigners importing rice
- Loyalty to cooperatives
- Not approached by foreign buyers

Summary of the role of the cooperatives

- The average amount of time belonging to a cooperative is 7 years. Whereas the average number of years cultivating rice is 13
- Farmers join the cooperatives as they cite a number of benefits including stability, better price, confidence in the cooperative etc
- Farmers sold to foreign buyers or other cooperatives (outside of their own cooperative) when they have stock left over to sell
- One of the frequently cited reasons not to sell to foreign buyers is a loyalty to the cooperatives as well as a ban on foreigners importing rice






Rice production

How many kilos of rice do you produce per harvest?



The average amount of rice produced is 1,677 kilos

How many kilos of rice do you sell to cooperatives per harvest?

Quantity in kilos	Responses
Does not sell to Cooperatives	10
 >0<1000	22
 >1000<1500	8
 >1500<2000	7
 >2000<2500	4
 >2500	10

The average amount of rice sold to cooperatives is 1,611 kilos. This represents 91% of the farmer's rice production per harvest*

*Calculation based on the 51 farmers that sell to cooperatives

How many kilos do you think you can sell this year?

Quantity in kilos

Responses

Does not sell to Cooperatives

10



>0<1000

16



>1000<1500

12



>1500<2000

4



>2000<2500

6



>2500

13

The average uplift compared to the rice produced in the last harvest is 36%

**Are you
capable of
producing
more rice if
the
cooperative is
willing to
purchase?**

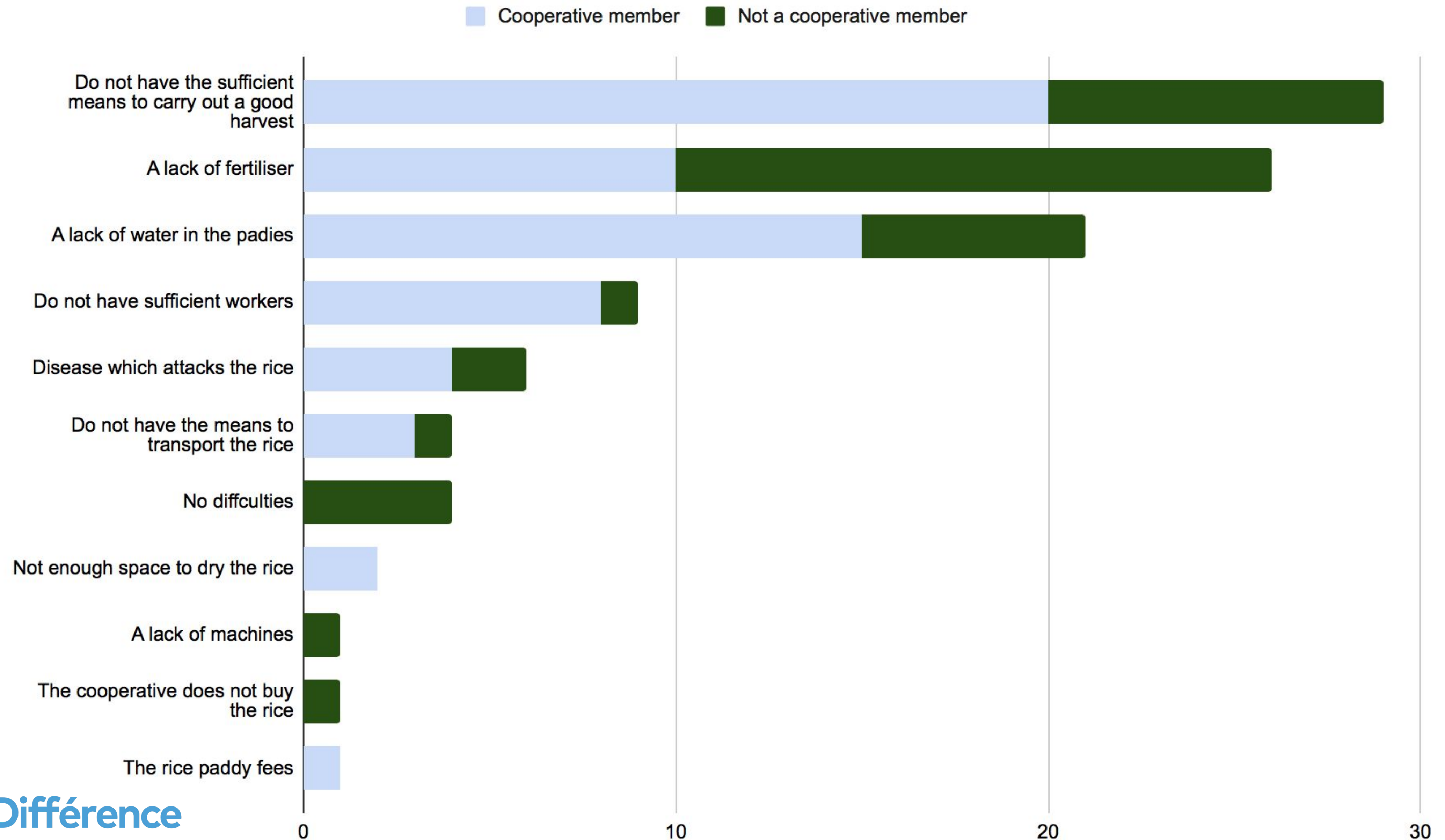
47 Yes

of 51

4 No

Question asked to 51 respondents who sell to cooperatives

What difficulties do you face in growing rice?



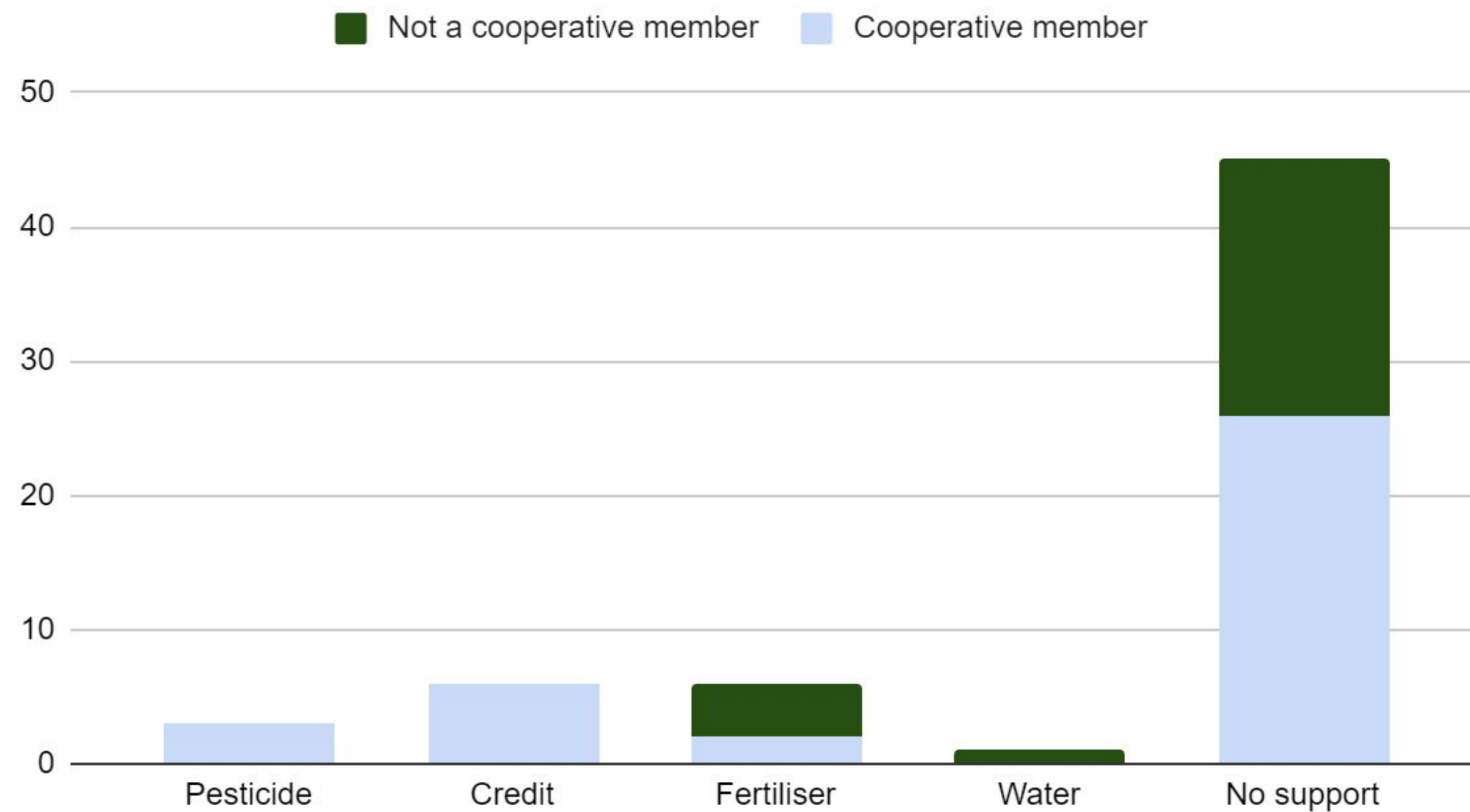
**Have you
received any
support to
overcome
these
difficulties?**

16 Yes

of 61

45 No

Farmers received the following support:



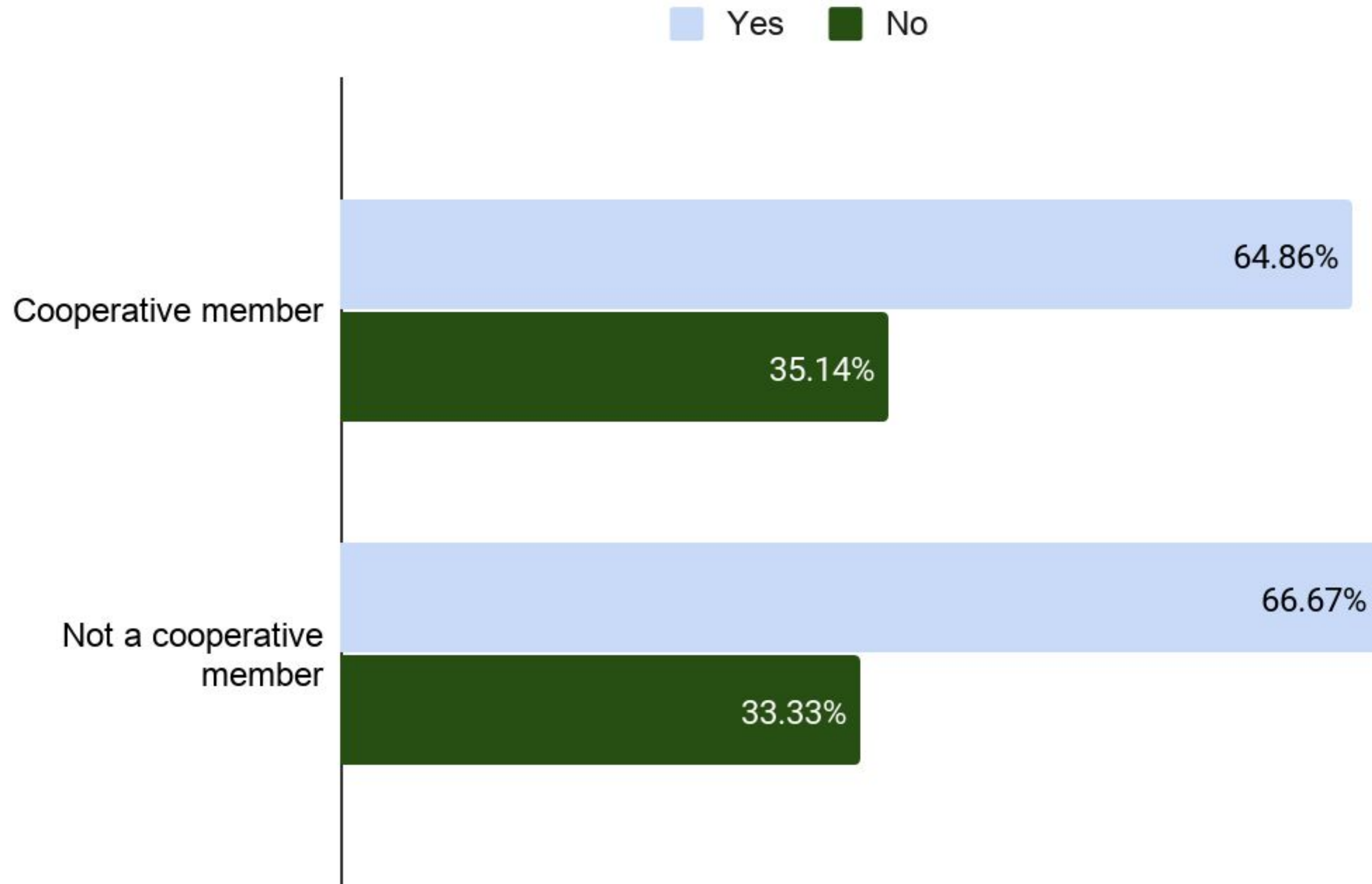
**Do you use
fertilisers or
equipment in
your rice
production?**

60 Yes

of 61

1 No

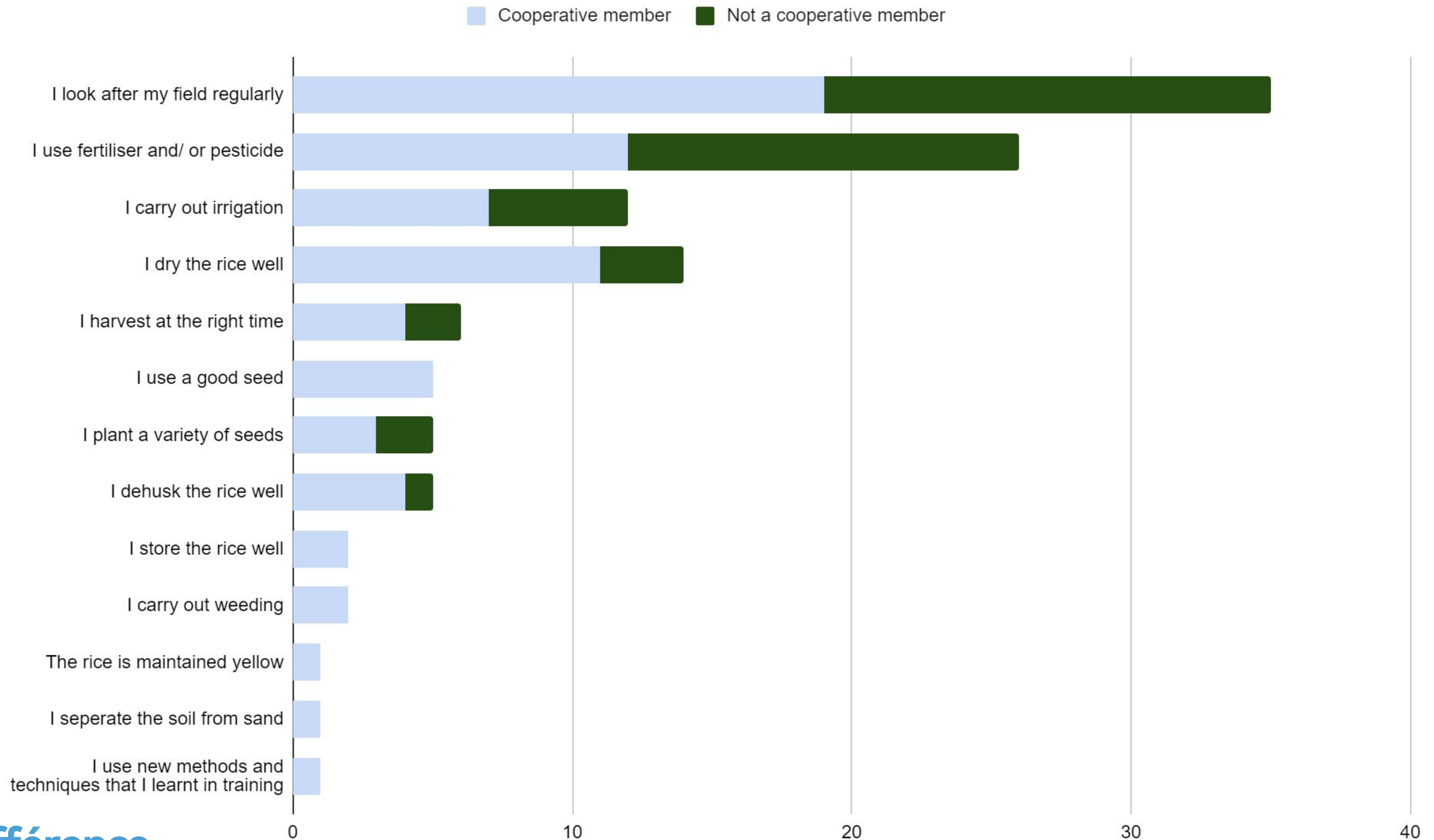
Does the quality of rice affect the price?



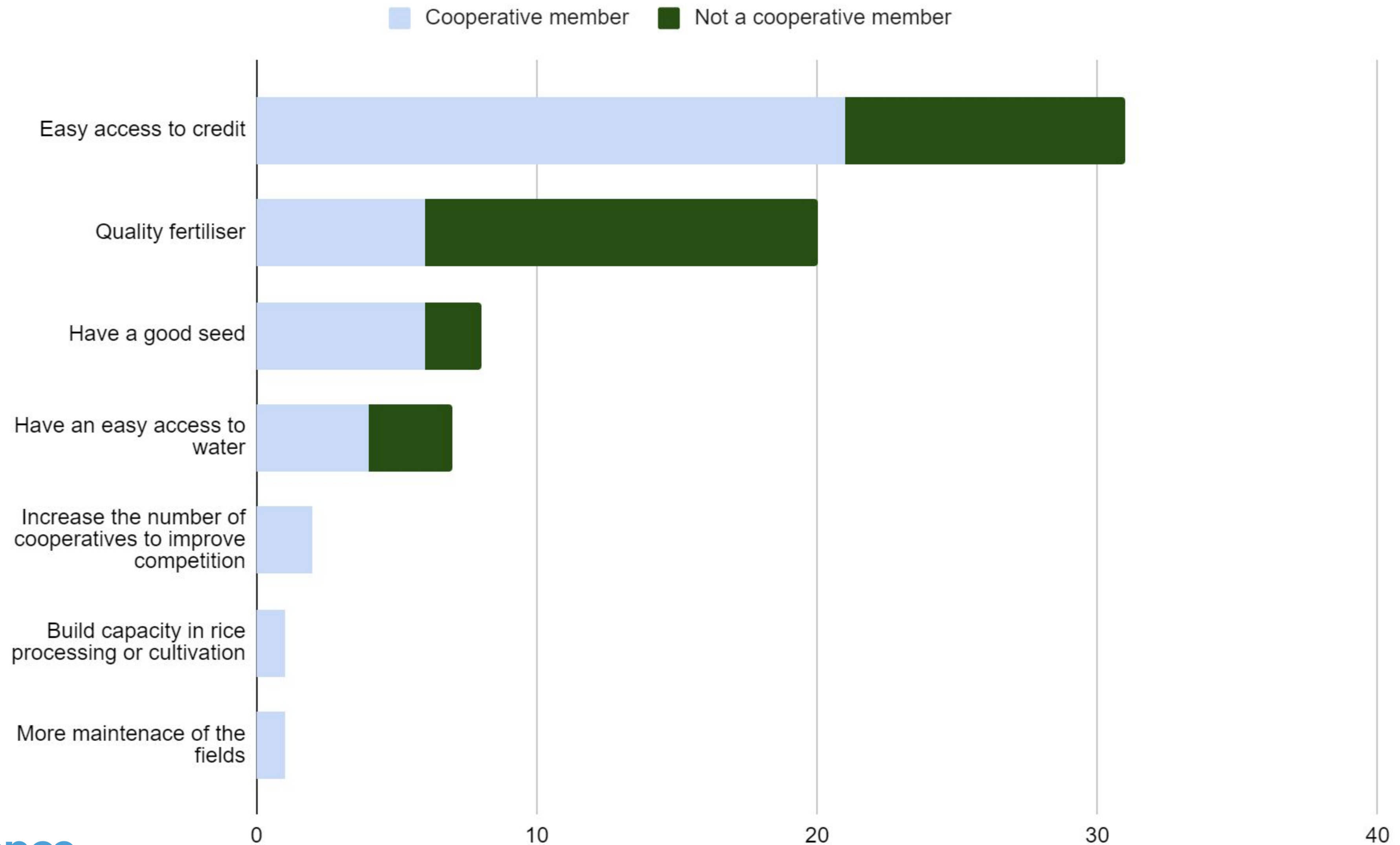


- **Yes**, a good quality of rice will be bought at a higher price than a poor quality of rice. A good quality rice is in demand by many buyers which also allows us to set a good price.
- **No**, the price is set by the cooperative despite the quality. We work hard to improve the quality but do not see the returns.

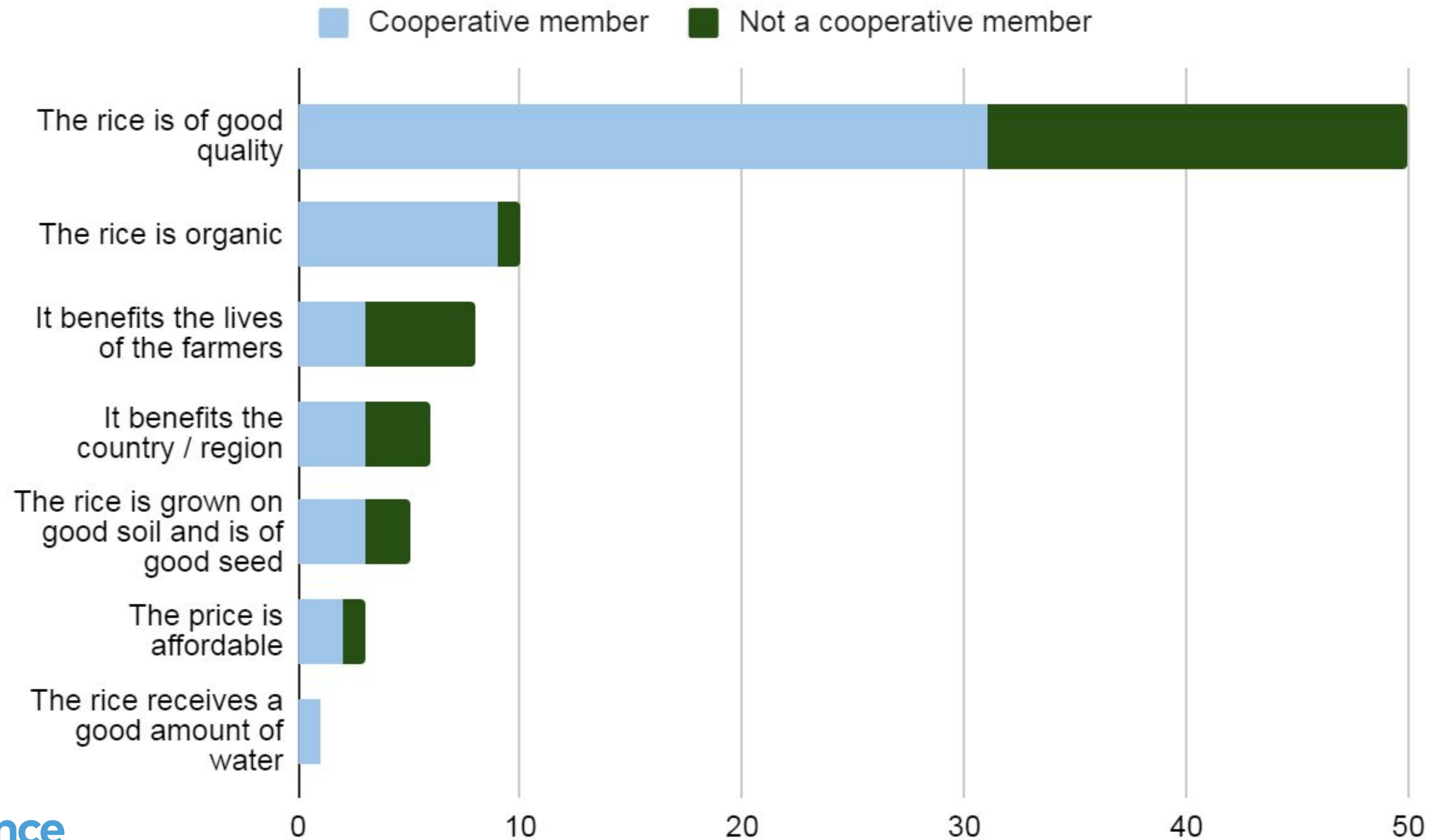
What are you doing to improve your rice quality?



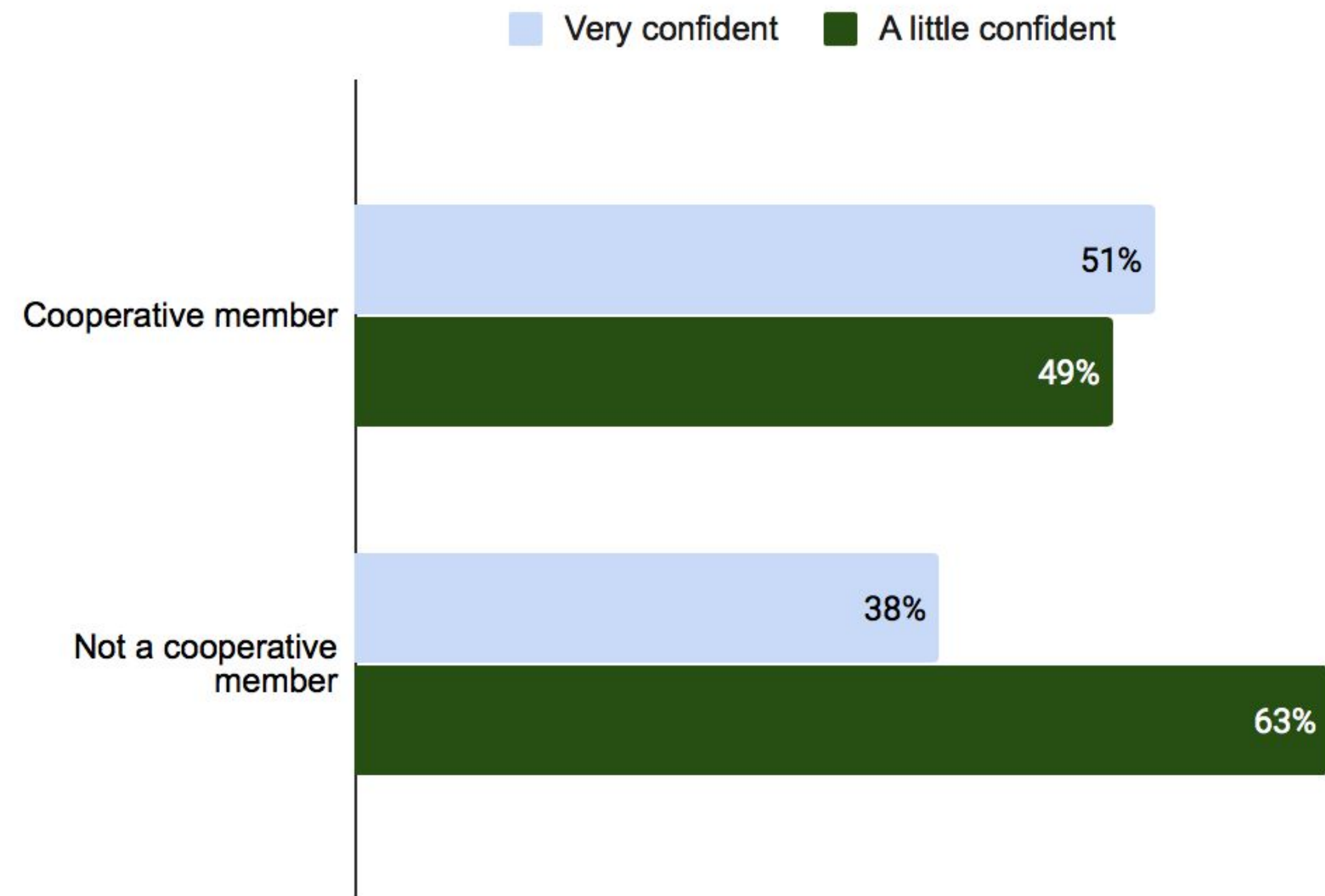
What will you need to further improve the quality of your rice?



Why do you think people should buy rice from the Rusizi plain?



How confident are you in your knowledge of growing rice?



Summary of rice production

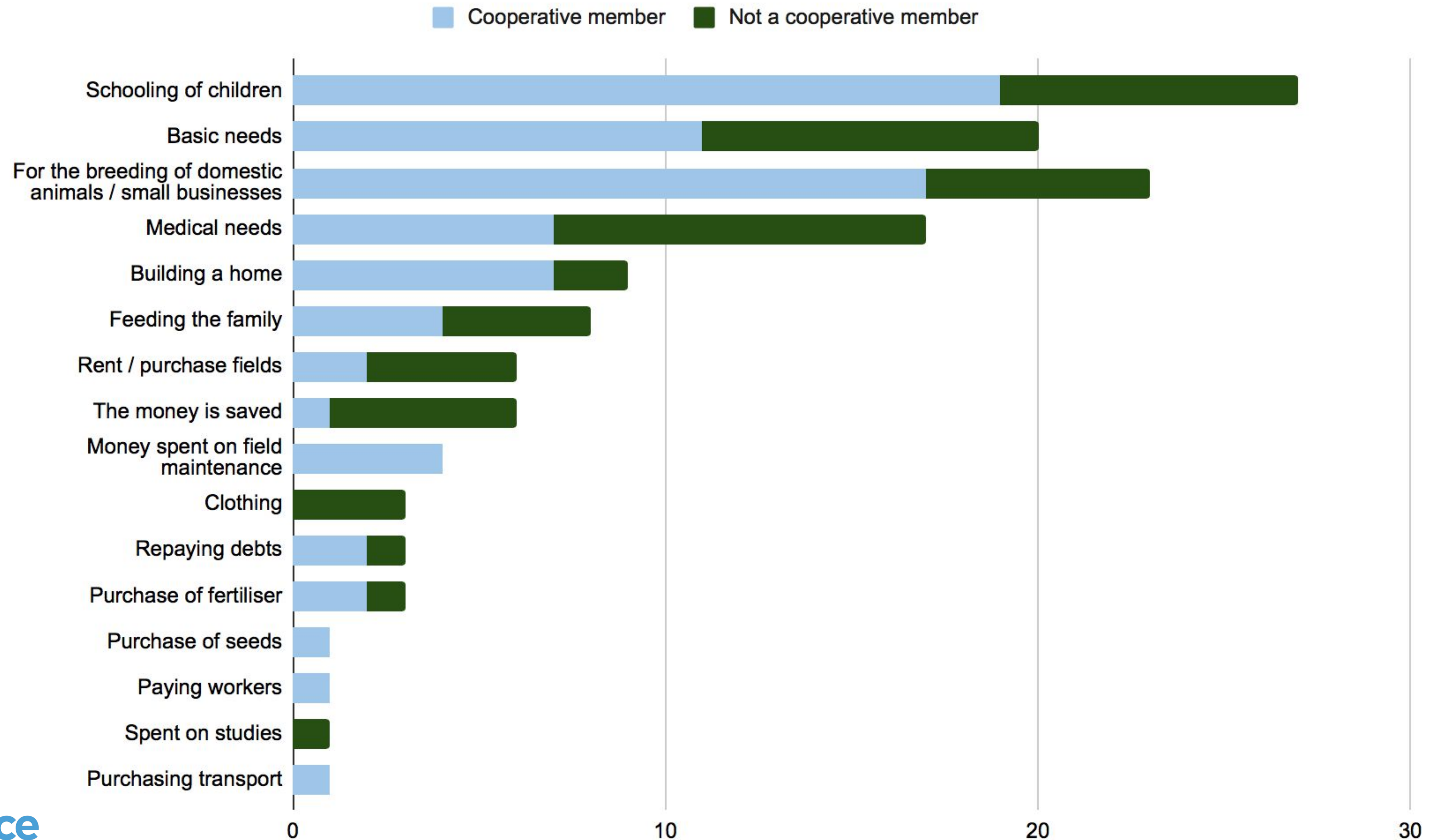
- There seems to be a level of optimism amongst the farmer community where a 36% uplift in the next harvest is expected compared to the current average rice production of 1,677 kilos
- The average amount of rice sold to cooperatives is 1,611 kilos. This represents 91% of the farmer's rice production per harvest
- Both cooperative and non cooperative members refer to the current difficulties as lack of credit, fertiliser, workers and water. These elements are cited as needed by the farmers
- A small proportion of farmers 26% have received support in the form of fertiliser, credit, pesticide and water
- 92% of farmers believe they can produce more rice if the cooperatives can purchase it
- More cooperative members than non cooperative members believe that the rice quality does not affect the price because the price is fixed by the cooperatives

Impact on daily life



La Différence

How do you spend the money you make on selling rice?



**Does the
money meet
all your
needs?**

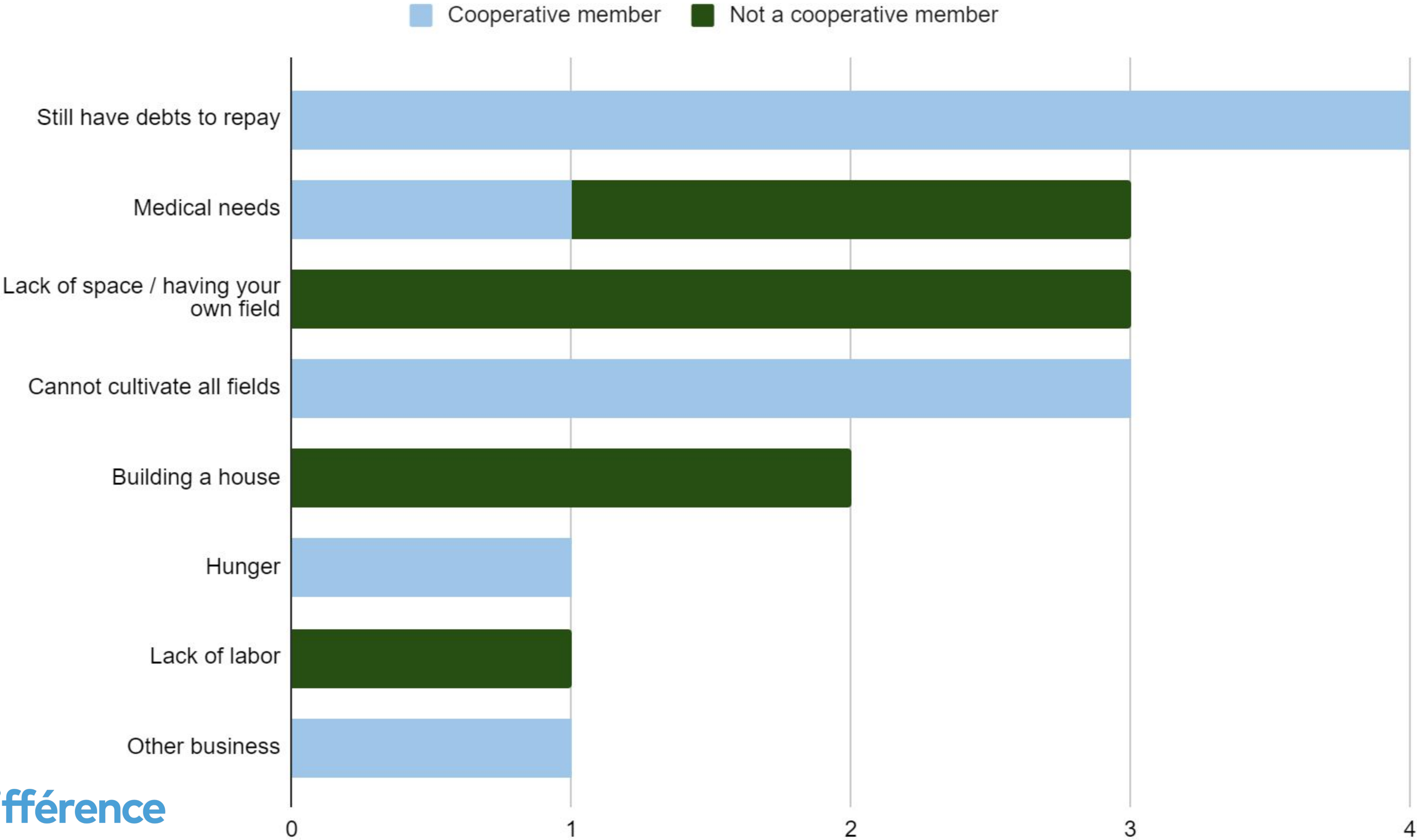
47 Yes

of 61

14 No

77% of farmers are able to meet their basic needs

What needs are not being met?



How much money would you need annually to meet your needs?

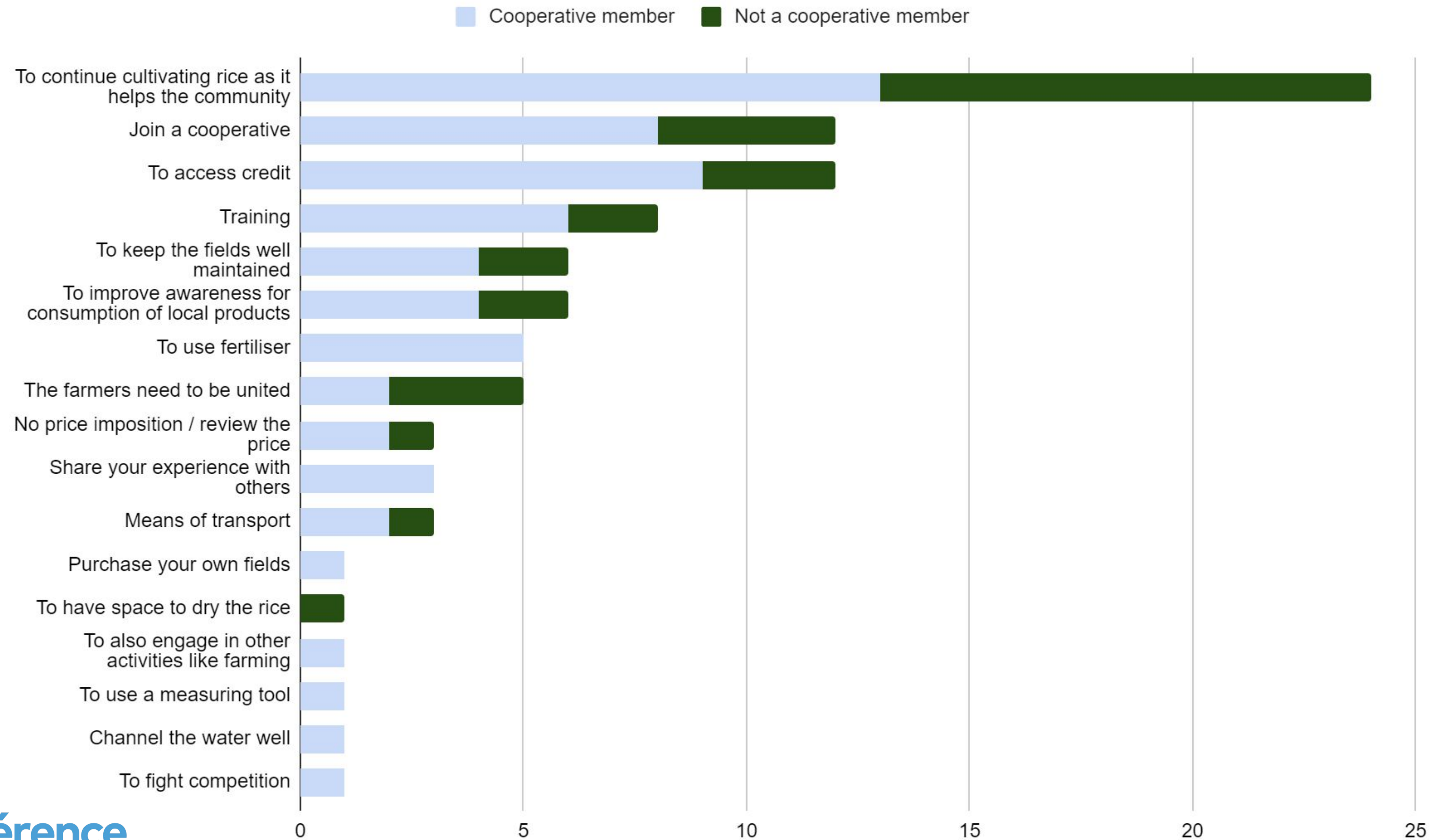
Quantity in dollars

Responses

\$					>0<100	1
\$	\$	\$			>100<500	39
\$	\$	\$	\$		>500<1000	13
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	>1000	8

The average amount of money needed is \$735

Do you have any recommendations to other farmers / to the cooperatives?



**Is there a
change in
your life by
selling rice?**

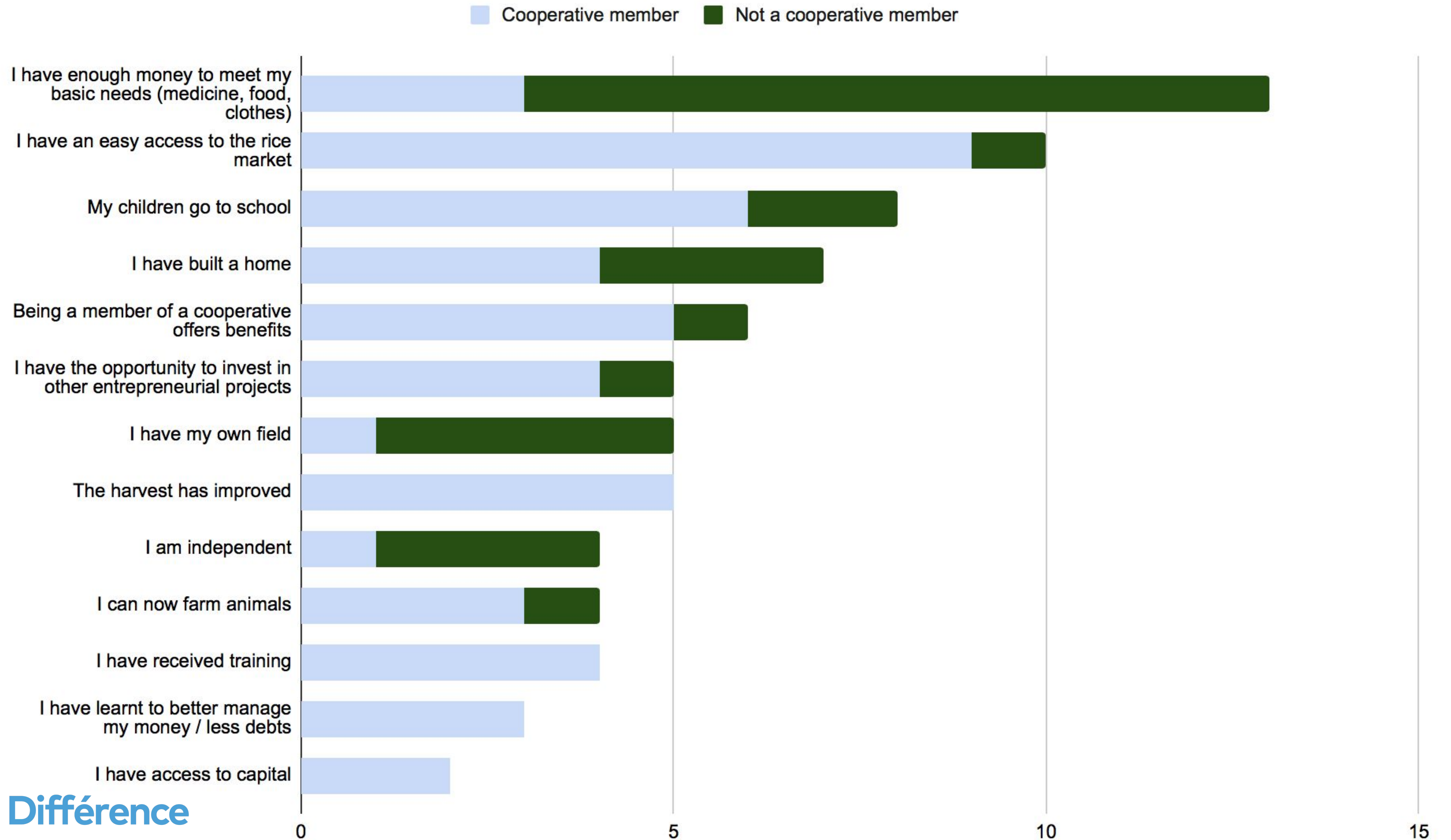
60 Yes

of 61

1 No

The 1 negative response relates to no material change has occurred in their life

Is there a change in your life by selling rice?



Summary of Impact on daily life

- 77% of farmers are able to meet their basic needs. The main need not met is not being able to repay debts
- To complete their needs, the average amount of money needed is \$735
- The main recommendations given by farmers is for other farmers to continue cultivating rice and to join a cooperative
- A large majority of farmers, their money is used to send their children to school
- From farming rice 60 out of 61 people say there has been a positive change in their lives as they have money to meet their basic needs. The 1 negative response says that psychologically there has a been a positive change but there is no material benefit

Conclusion

- There is an optimism seen within the rice farmer community, seen with the expected uplift in this years harvest and the number one recommendation to other farmers is to continue cultivating rice
- A recurrent theme amongst both cooperative members and non members is the need for credit
- From the results cooperative members feel more confident in their knowledge of growing rice this could be a result of the training received
- Farmers say they are able to produce more rice if the cooperatives are able to purchase more



Thank you

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