



GHANA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

THEMATIC BRIEF



GENDER IN AGRICULTURE (♂♀ IN AGRICULTURE)

GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
AUGUST 2023

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FOREWORD

The 2017/18 Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) is the fourth census of agriculture carried out in the country. Earlier agricultural censuses were conducted in 1950, 1970 and 1984/85. Unlike the previous censuses, the 2017/18 GCA was an electronic census that deployed tablets and the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technique to collect nationwide information on households and institutions engaged in agricultural activities.

The GCA was conducted to provide benchmark data for planning and monitoring the national development agenda-the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies 2017-2024 and the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2018-2021. The census will help policymakers set targets to assess progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. Additionally, the GCA will enhance the understanding of the effectiveness of the various agricultural interventions and other national policy initiatives, such as the "Planting for Food and Jobs" with its five modules by government and development partners to improve the livelihood of citizens and ensure food security for the country.

The census was a collaboration between the Ghana Statistical Service and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The data collection consisted of two broad phases. Phase one-the Listing Phase -entailed listing of all structures to identify all agricultural households and institutions. Phase two consisted of the administration of the core and community modules, and the collection of data on all agricultural households and institutions identified in Phase one. Appropriate statistical procedures and controls were put in place during the data collection to ensure that data from the census are of high quality.

This thematic brief demonstrates the existence of global and national efforts towards ensuring gender equality and empowerment and therefore relied on data from the Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) 2017/2018 to provide an update on the gender mainstreaming efforts in the agricultural sector. In particular, the report examines the composition of agricultural households, the gender proportion of disability households, the literacy of agricultural households among others at the national and regional levels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special gratitude goes to the following: The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank (WB), the Government of the Netherlands, and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom for financial and technical support. Further gratitude goes to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services (METSS) of USAID for logistical support. We further acknowledge the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana and the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the same University, and the Birth and Death Registry for their material and technical support during the preparation and implementation of the GCA.

We acknowledge with thanks the support of the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Communications; the Ministry of Information; the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development; and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In addition, sincere thanks and acknowledgement are extended to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development; the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Natural Resources; the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as well as the Regional and District Management Committees of the GCA.

The Management of GSS is grateful for the exemplary and inspiring leadership provided by the National Steering Committee and in particular the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Honorable Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, the Chairman of the Steering Committee and his co-chair, Honorable Vincent Sowah Odotei (MP) and Deputy Minister for Communications. The passion and technical support provided by the GSS Board made an indelible impact in ensuring the successful conduct of the GCA.

Finally, GSS is particularly grateful to Prof. Simon Mariwah whose reviews and comments have contributed to enriching this report. We are indebted to all who contributed in diverse ways to the successful implementation of the Census, especially management of GSS, the data processing and analysis team and report writers.



PROF. SAMUEL KOBINA ANNIM

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ACRONYMS

CPESDP	Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GADS	Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy
GCA	Ghana Census of Agriculture
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GSARS	Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
HDI	Human Development Index
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment are strategies for reducing poverty levels, social injustices among women and men, improving health standards and enhancing efficiency of public and private sector investments and domestic finance. Thus, achieving gender equality is regarded as the attainment of human rights and a pre-requisite for sustainable development.

One of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5) focuses on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. Though this goal is not specific to agriculture, there are some implications for the sector as one of the targets 5.a states “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”.

This relates to making sure that women have equal access to agricultural inputs including seeds, fertilizer, and technologies in the agricultural setting. Additionally, it entails expanding women's access to markets, loans, agricultural extension services, and other support networks that raise their productivity and income-generating capacity. Thus, by incorporating the SDG 5 principles into agricultural policies, initiatives, and practices, it can support the advancement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the advancement of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

Generally, the lack of sex-disaggregated data is recognized as a constraint limiting the understanding of agricultural development to support the monitoring of gender differences and their effects on agricultural production, and to promote gender equality. FAO recognizes the value of sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in agricultural statistics and supports the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) by financing work to increase their availability. Thus, as part of the GSARS – FAO recognizes that sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in agriculture constitute an essential element of agricultural statistics.

Therefore, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Bank recommended the Core Set of Gender Indicators in Agriculture to provide a comprehensive list of

indicators to measure and assess gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture. The core set of indicators covers areas such as the average number of livestock by type and sex of the holder, average area of aquaculture by sex of the holder, percentage of holdings with irrigated land and sex of the holder among others.

The National Gender Policy of 2015 themed “Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment into Ghana's Development Efforts” emphasizes an embracing aim that includes ensuring gender equality in access to productive resources such as land, labor, technology, capital/finance, and information. The overall policy goal is “to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment concerns into the national development process in order to improve the social, legal, civic, political, economic and cultural conditions of the people of Ghana; particularly women, men, boys and girls in an appreciable manner and as required by National and International Frameworks”.

Ghana's goals towards achieving gender equality targets are guided by its commitment to International Instruments, the 1992 Constitution and national development frameworks. Specifically, Article 17(1) and (2) of the 1992 Constitution guarantee gender equality and freedom of women and men, girls and boys from discrimination on the basis of social or economic status among others. Efforts of Ghana in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, men, girls and boys are evident in its recent achievements as contained in various international indices such as HDI (0.632)²⁰²¹, GII (0.529)²⁰²¹ and the SIGI (28.2)²⁰¹⁹.

Over the years, Ghana has made progress in the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women in political, economic, and social spheres. Hence, the mainstreaming of gender in the 2021-2024 Ghana's national policy framework - the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) recognizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

In the agriculture landscape, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) has also developed a Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy (GADS) to support gender mainstreaming processes. Key among the objectives of GADS was to promote production and use of sex and age disaggregated data. Similarly, as part of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics – the Global

Strategy – FAO recognizes that sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in agriculture constitute an essential element of agricultural statistics.

The above literature demonstrates the existence of global and national efforts towards ensuring gender equality and empowerment. Data is therefore required to empirically evaluate and update stakeholders on the gender mainstreaming efforts of Ghana. This report therefore relied on data from the Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) 2017/2018 National Report to provide an update on the gender mainstreaming efforts in the agricultural sector. In particular, the report examines the composition of agricultural households, the gender proportion of disability households, the literacy of agricultural households among others. Furthermore, the report examines the patterns and correlates in forest tree holdings as well as forest tree institutions by gender. All these were examined at the national and regional levels.

2. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS AND DATA SOURCES

2.1 Definition of Concepts

Agricultural activity: Agricultural activities include the cultivation of arable crops, tree crops, forest trees and the rearing of livestock, aquaculture, and capture fisheries.

Agricultural household: A household with at least one of its members engaged in agricultural activity.

Agricultural land: This is defined as the sum of arable land, land under permanent crops and land under permanent pastures.

Agricultural institution: An institution engaged in agricultural activity.

Agriculture: The production of plants and animals, including fresh water and marine species, for food, fuel, fiber or medicine.

Arable land: refers to all land generally under rotation whether it is under temporary crops, left temporarily fallow or used as temporary pastures.

Domestic forest trees: Species with very low export demand and are mostly sold on the domestic market.

Export and domestic forest trees: Species that have export value but are also commonly found on the domestic market.

Export only forest trees: Species with high export demand and are mostly exported.

Field: A piece of land in a parcel separated from the rest of the parcels by easily recognizable demarcation lines, such as paths, cadastral boundaries and/or hedges. A field may consist of one or more plots.

Forest tree planting: The growing of trees for afforestation or production of wood.

Freehold: This is a type of tenure which involves the holding of registered land in perpetuity or for a period less than perpetuity which may be fixed by a condition, that is owning a piece of land for a period that is not limited.

Gender Inequality Index (GII): A composite metric of gender inequality using three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labor market. A low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men, and vice-versa.

Holder: Agricultural holder (Farm owner) is a person who takes the major decisions regarding resource use and exercises management control over the holding.

Household: A person or group of persons who normally live together and are catered for as one unit. Members of the household may or may not be related.

Human Development Index (HDI): A measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.

Inheritance: It is the practice of passing property, title, debt, right and obligation of the death of an individual land received by members of a holding for individual use

Institution: A non-household entity engaged in commercial or non-commercial agricultural activities.

Land tenure: The relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among individuals or groups that define how access is granted to rights to use, control, and transfer land, as well as associated responsibilities and restraints. (FAO).

Large-scale farming: Land area greater than or equal to 5 acres for arable crops and greater than or equal to 10 acres for tree crops.

Leasehold: A piece of land that can be used for a limited period according to the arrangement in the lease.

Literacy: Ability to read and write in any language with understanding.

Locality: A distinct population cluster (also designated as an inhabited place, populated centre or settlement) which has a NAME or LOCALLY RECOGNISED STATUS. It includes fishing hamlets, mining camps, ranches, farms, market towns, villages, towns, cities and many other types of population clusters, which meet the above criteria.

Medium-scale farming: Land area greater than 2 acres but less than 5 acres for arable crops and greater than 5 acres but less than 10 acres for tree crops

Parcel of land: A piece of land under one land tenure arrangement, surrounded by features such as other lands (not under the same land tenure arrangement), water, road, or forest. A parcel may consist of one or more fields or plots adjacent to each other.

Promoted forest trees: Species not commonly known on the market and whose use is being encouraged by the Forestry Commission.

Protected forest trees: Endangered species (availability near extinction) whose harvest is regulated by law.

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI): A measure of discrimination against women in social institutions (formal and informal laws, social norms, and practices).

Small-scale: Land areas of sizes that are less than 2 acres for arable crops and less than or equal to 5 acres for tree crops.

Squatting: The practice where a holder is using a parcel of private or public land without any clear ownership and/or permission of the owner.

Tree crops: Crops that are cultivated for two or more years for fruits, without the need for replanting each year (e.g., mangoes, pears, etc.).

Trusteeship: A situation in which someone's land or property is managed by another person or organization on behalf of the owner.

2.2 Data Source

The statistics presented in this report are generated from the 2017/2018 Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) Thematic tables (National and Regional) including the recommended core Set of Gender Indicators in Agriculture by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF CORRELATES OF GENDER IN AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY

3.1 Sex

Agriculture is generally classified as men's activity. Besides, biologically, and physically, men have more strength relative to that of their female counterparts which enables them to engage in more vigorous activities such as farming than females. However, female farmers produce less than men not because they are less efficient farmers, but because they lack equal access to resources such as credit facilities, land, and other productive inputs. Sex, therefore, plays an important role in the nature of an individual's farming activity.

3.2 Age

Farming activity is unattractive in Ghana. It is therefore considered as one of the factors which pushes the youth away from farming activities to travel to cities to look for greener pastures such as white-collar jobs, leaving farming activity in the hands of the aged who are already weak. Age was used in the report to appreciate how younger and older women participate in agriculture activities in both rural and urban areas of Ghana. This is very key in forecasting the sustainability of agriculture in the future.

3.3 Educational Attainment

There is a negative correlation between the level of educational attainment and participation in agricultural activities. Once individuals acquire a high level of education, farming becomes less attractive, hence the level of participation in agricultural activity consequently or invariably declines.

Meanwhile, educational attainment provides an opportunity to learn, understand and adopt modern technological practices to improve agriculture yields, land use and sound environmental practices for the purposes of environmental conservation.

3.4 Literacy Status

In time past, the discourse on literacy was mainly focused on language. In recent times however, several other dimensions of literacy have evolved including financial, digital, statistics, numeracy and environmental. Even though it might make sense to assume that language literacy should have an influence on the

other dimensions, the question as to how these dimensions are interrelated has not been adequately addressed through empirical studies. The need to examine whether language literacy has some effects on agriculture holding is very critical.

3.5 Disability Status

Persons with some form of disabilities usually face the challenges of discrimination, stigmatization and even exclusion from live-sustaining opportunities in society, a situation which renders them vulnerable. Unless targeted policies are made to support person with disabilities, these people are hardly able to participate or compete for the limited social and economic opportunities that are often available in society.

3.6. Ownership and use of Machinery and Equipment

Access to farm machinery and equipment are sometimes gender skewed due to high cost of farm machinery and equipment. The report there provided information on machinery and equipment holding on a male and female basis at both the national and regional level.

3.7. Land tenure/ownership

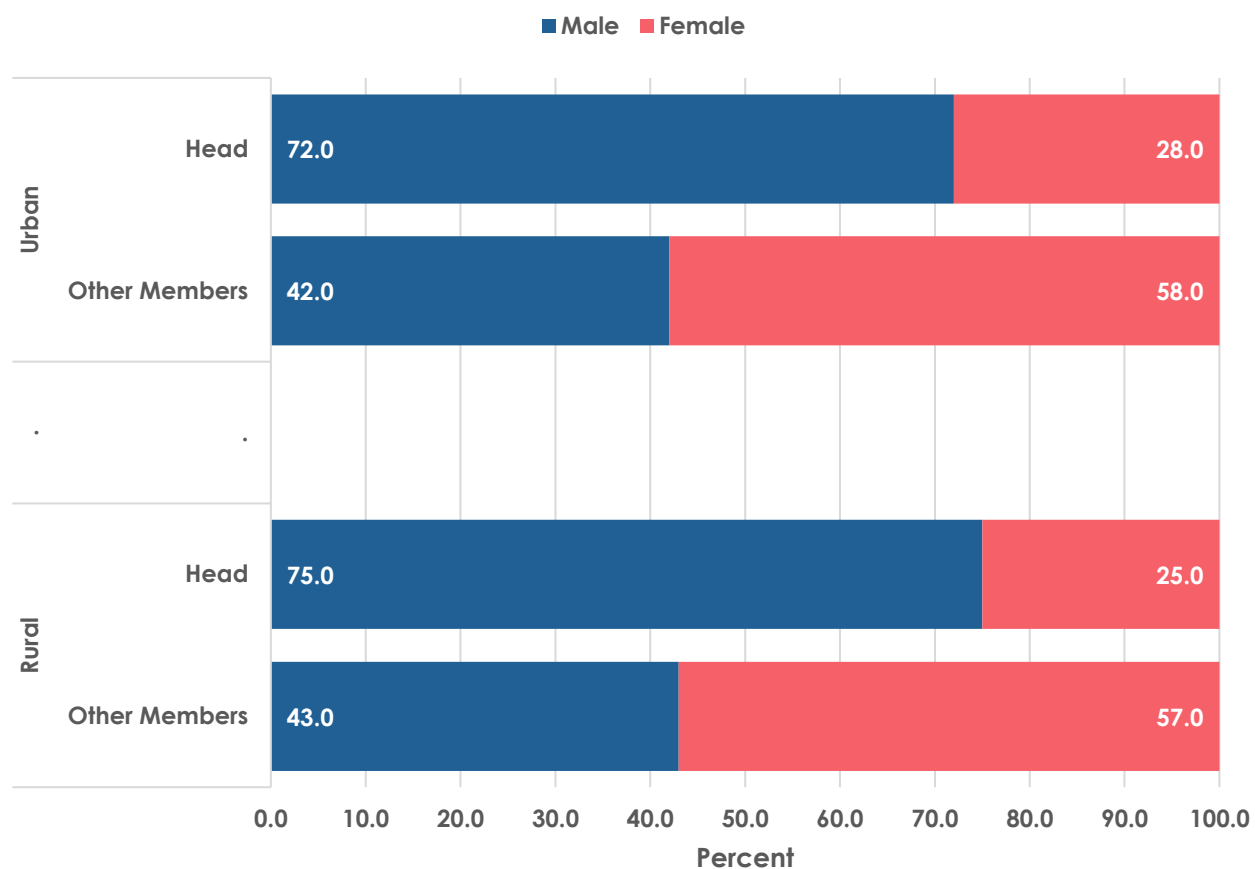
Access to land in Ghana mostly do not favor the women. Generally, more males than females have access and control over land resources in Ghana due to cultural and societal factors. Target 5.a of SDG 5 - achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls - seeks to “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”.

4.0 KEY FINDINGS

4.1 Patterns

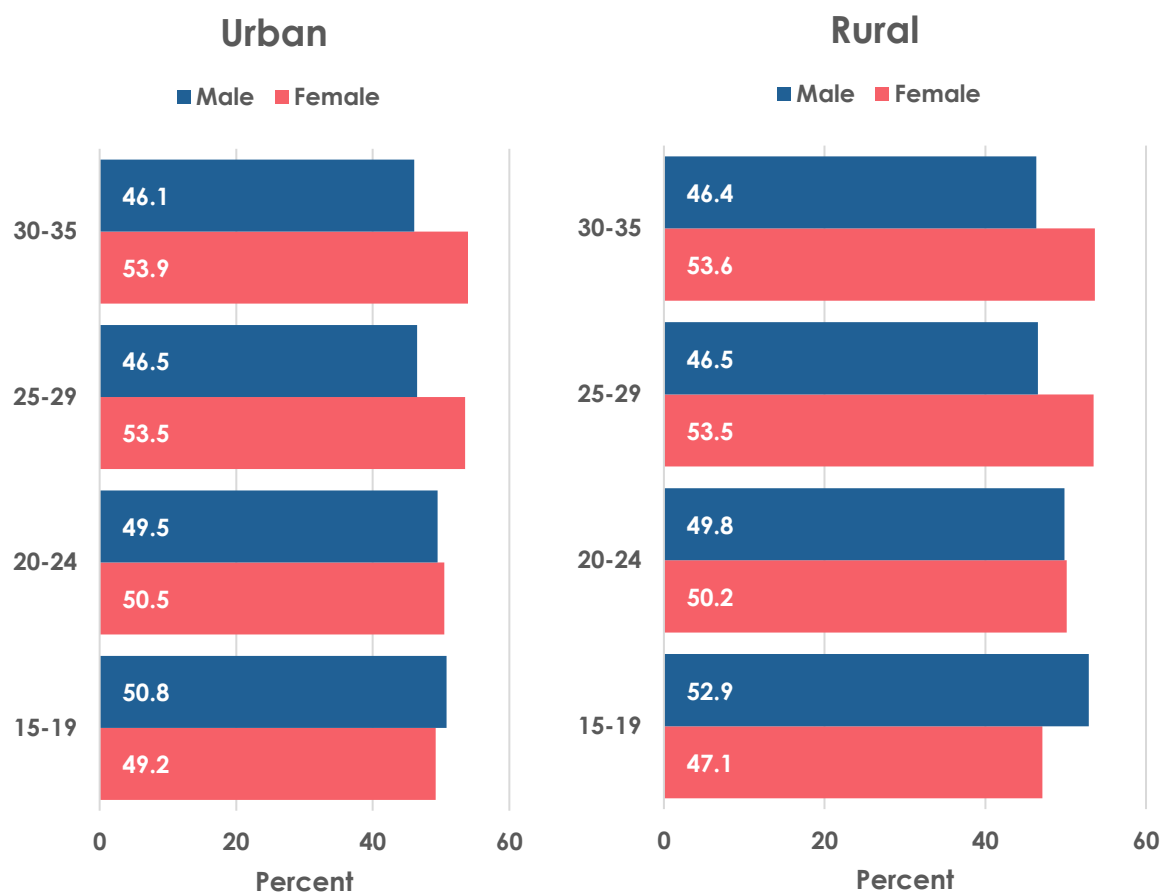
Male heads dominate agricultural households in both rural (75%) and urban (72%) localities.

Figure 1: Population in agricultural households by household membership status, and sex and type of locality



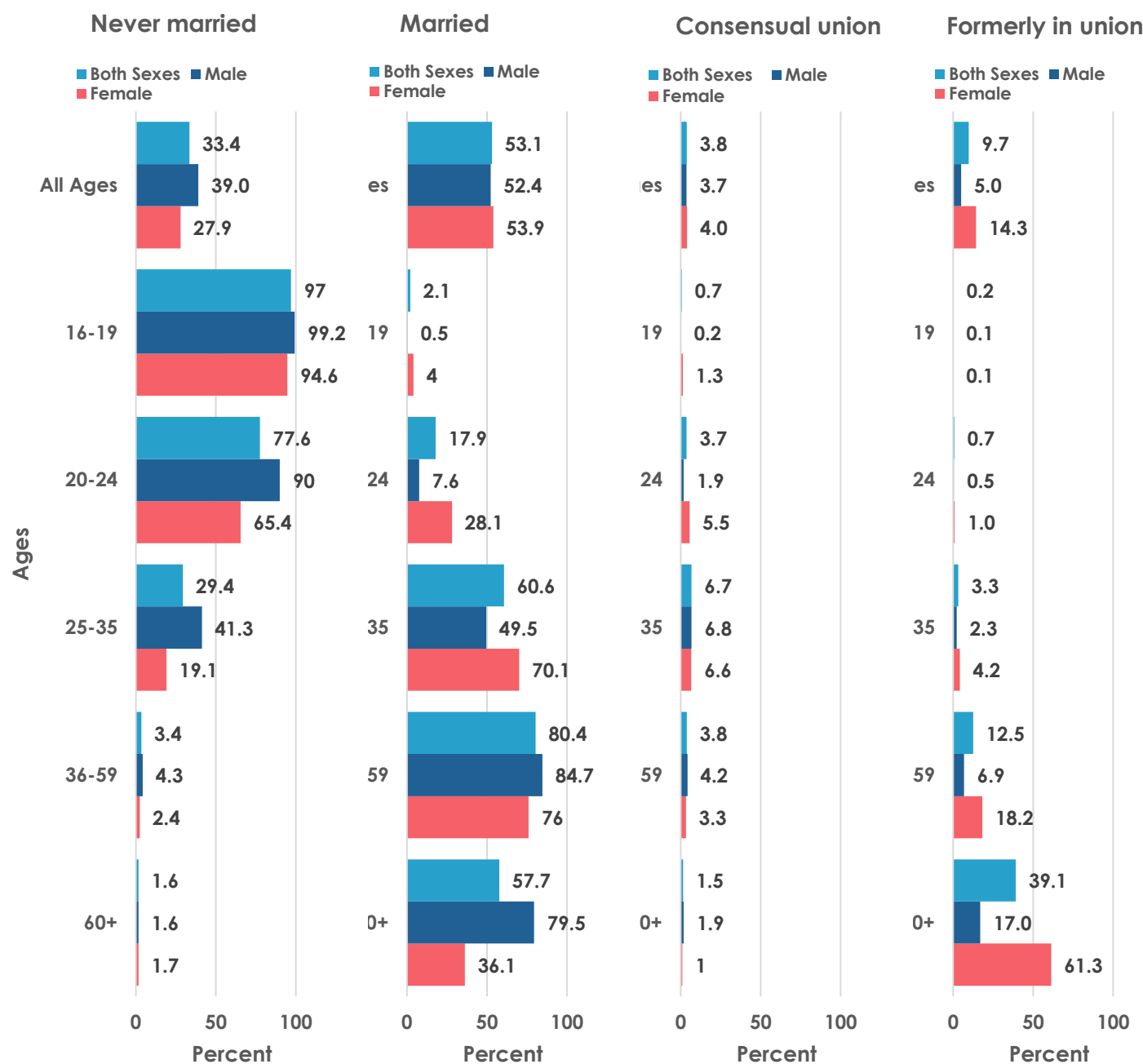
There are more female youth than male youth in both urban (53.9%) and rural (53.6%) agricultural households.

Figure 2: Youth (15-35 years) engaged in agriculture by age, type of locality and sex



Among age group 20-24 years, 28.1 percent of females compared to 7.6 percent of males are married and at age 25-35 years, 70 percent of females are married.

Figure 3: Population 16 years or older in agricultural households by marital status and sex



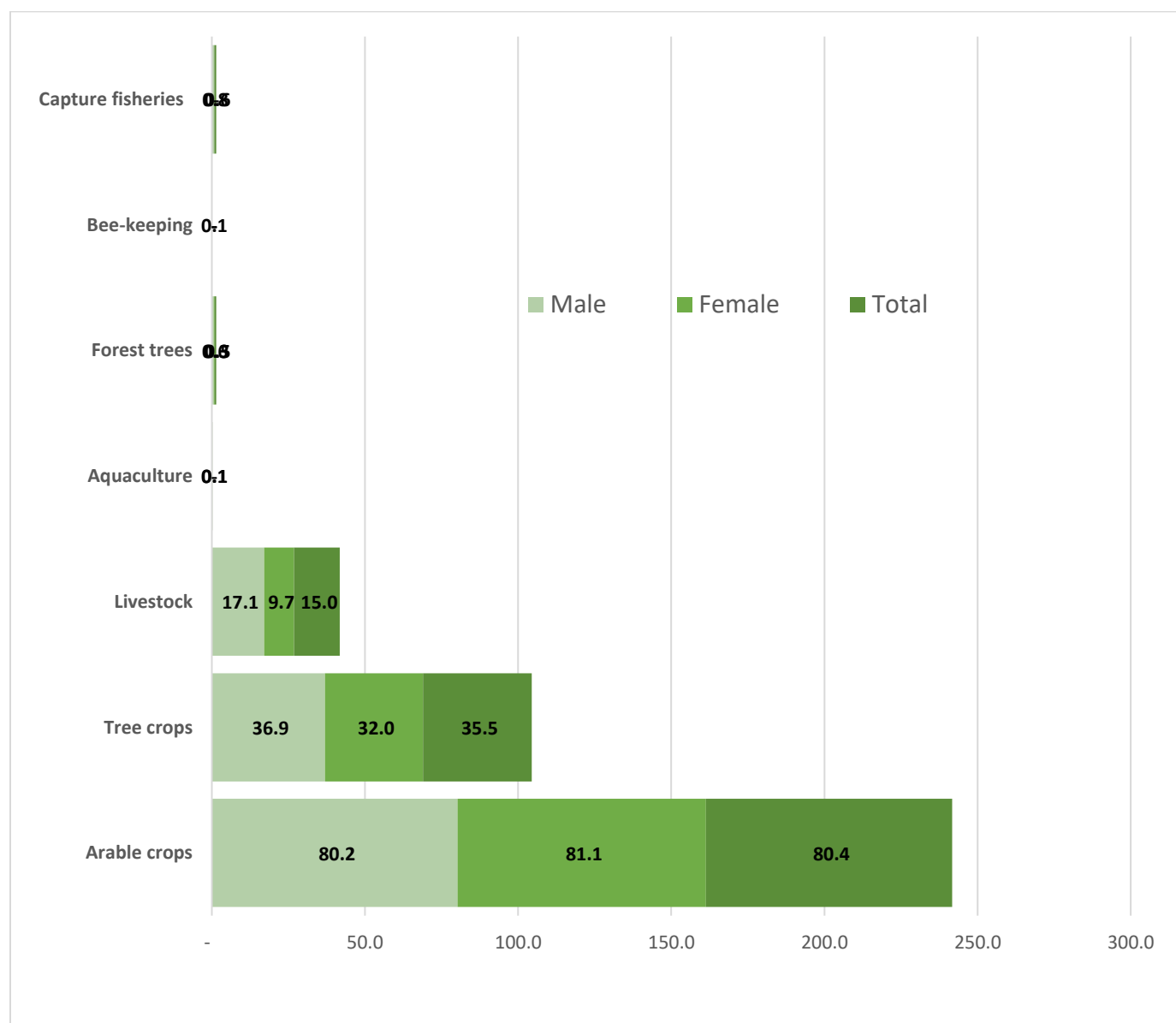
Agricultural holders are concentrated at 36-59 age groups, and this is true for both sexes. On the contrary, the proportion of female holders aged 60 years or older (23.5%) is higher than their male counterpart (16.6%),

Figure 4: Distribution of Agricultural holders 15 years or older by age and sex



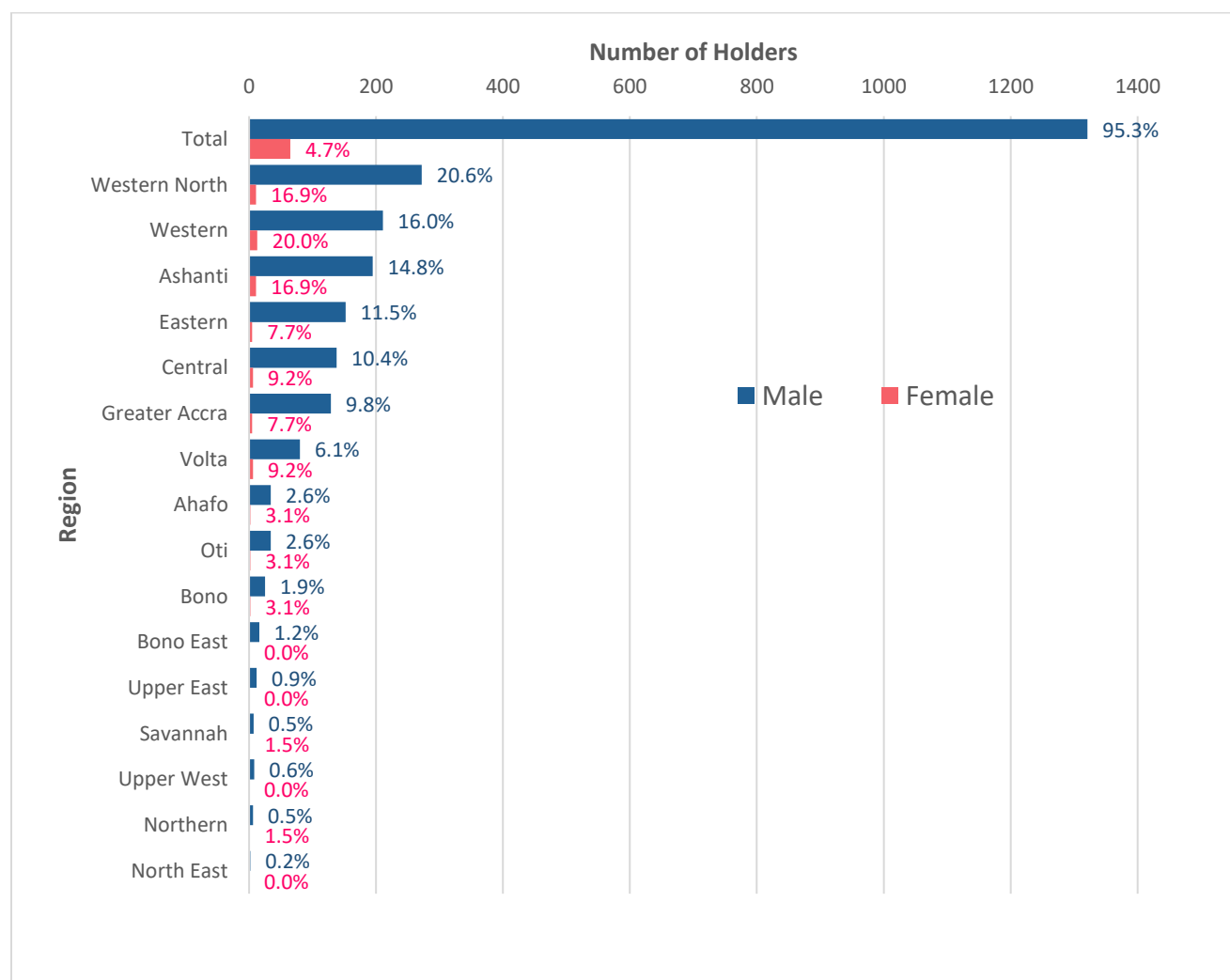
Of the total holders engaged in agriculture, male holders dominate in the production of livestock and tree crops.

Figure 5: Agricultural holders 15 years or older by type of agricultural activity and sex



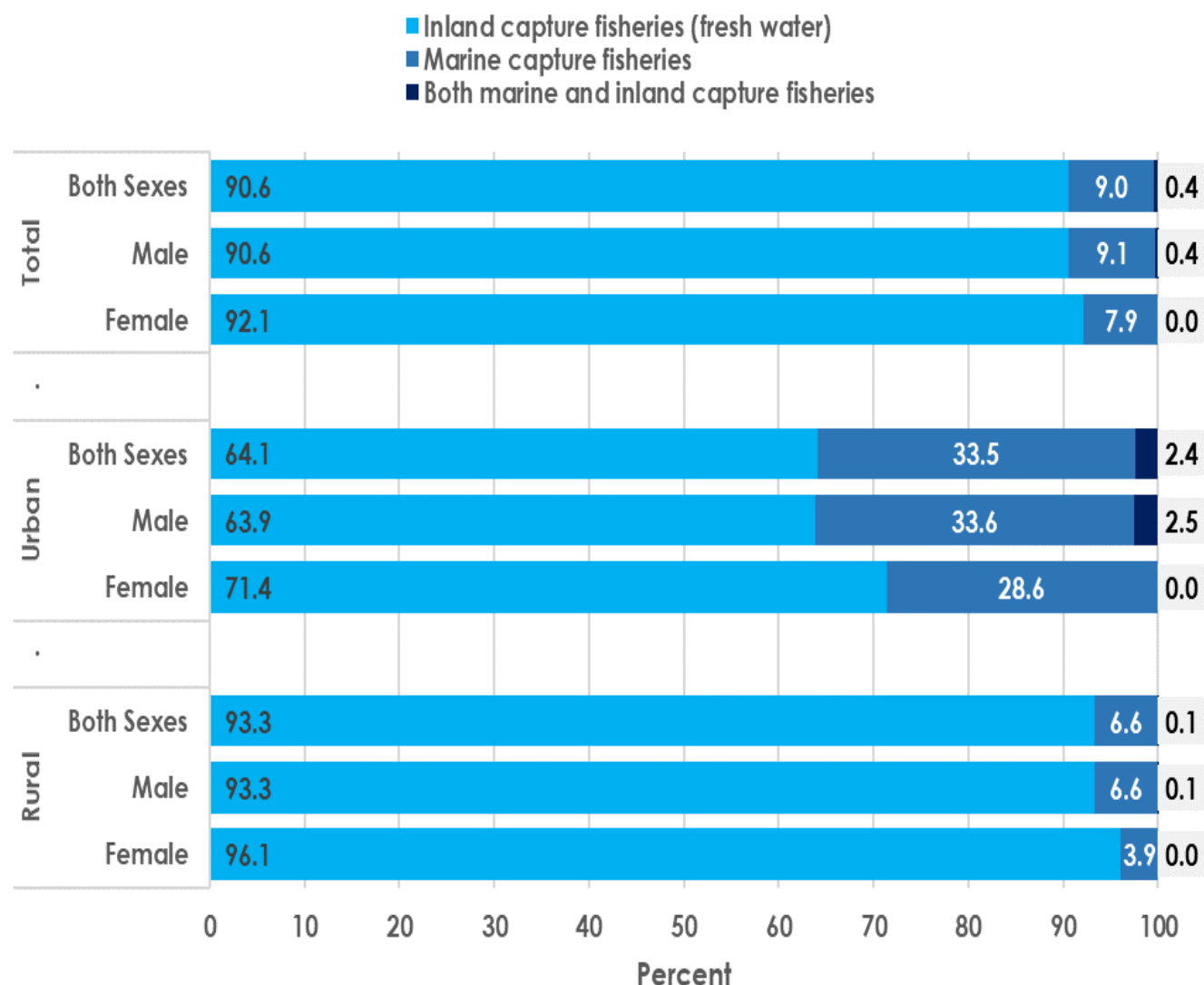
The proportion of female holders in Aquaculture is very low (4.7%) of the total number of 1,386 holders. Western region constitutes one-fifth (20%), while there are no female aquaculture holders in Bono East, North East, Upper East and Upper West.

Figure 6: Aquaculture holders 15 years or older by region



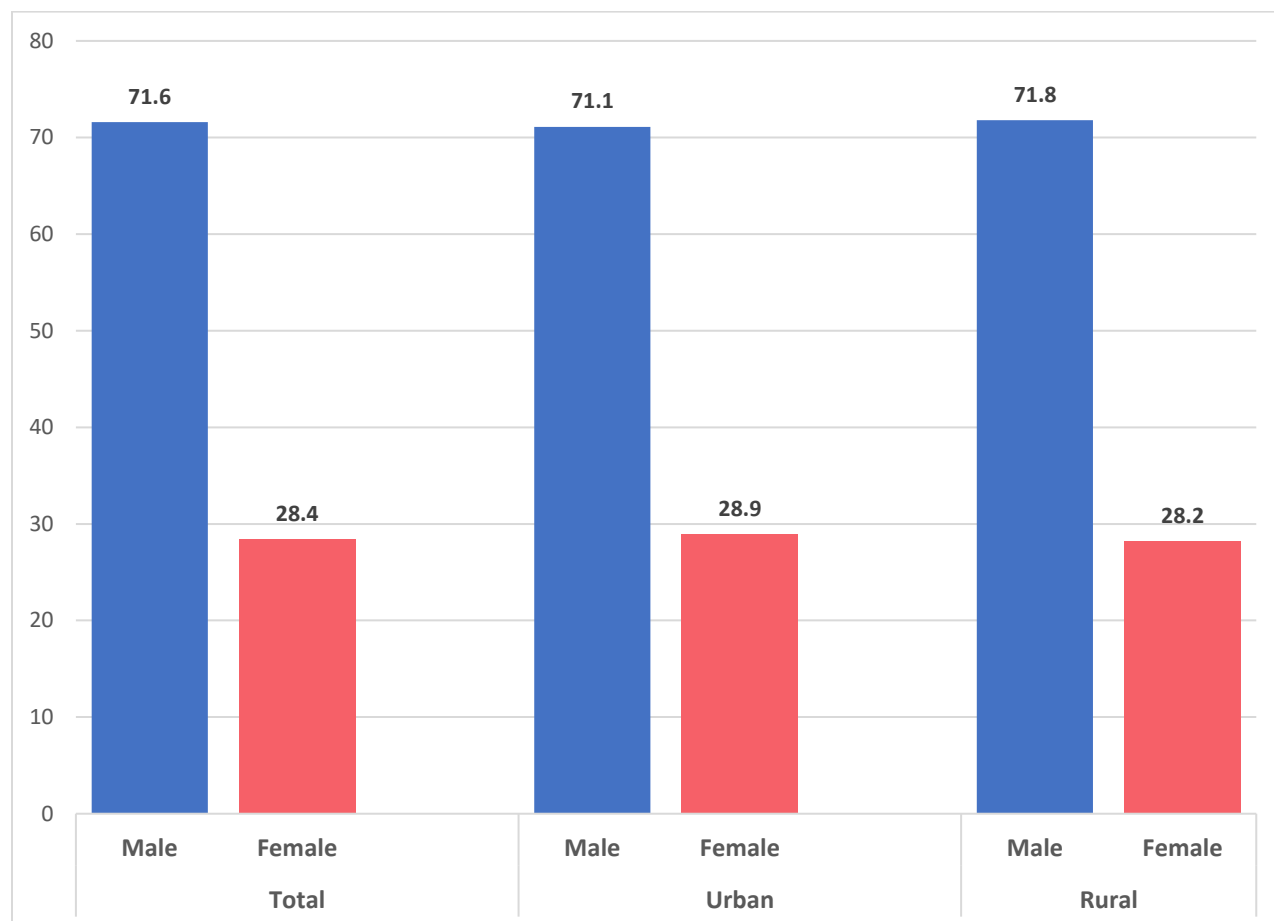
Nine in 10 holders undertake fishery activities in inland waters and inland fishing is prevalent in rural areas. In the urban areas, about 1 in 3 (33.5%) holders undertake fishing activities in marine waters compared to less than 10 percent in rural areas.

Figure 7: Capture fisheries holders 15 years or older by type of capture fisheries and type of locality, and by sex of holder



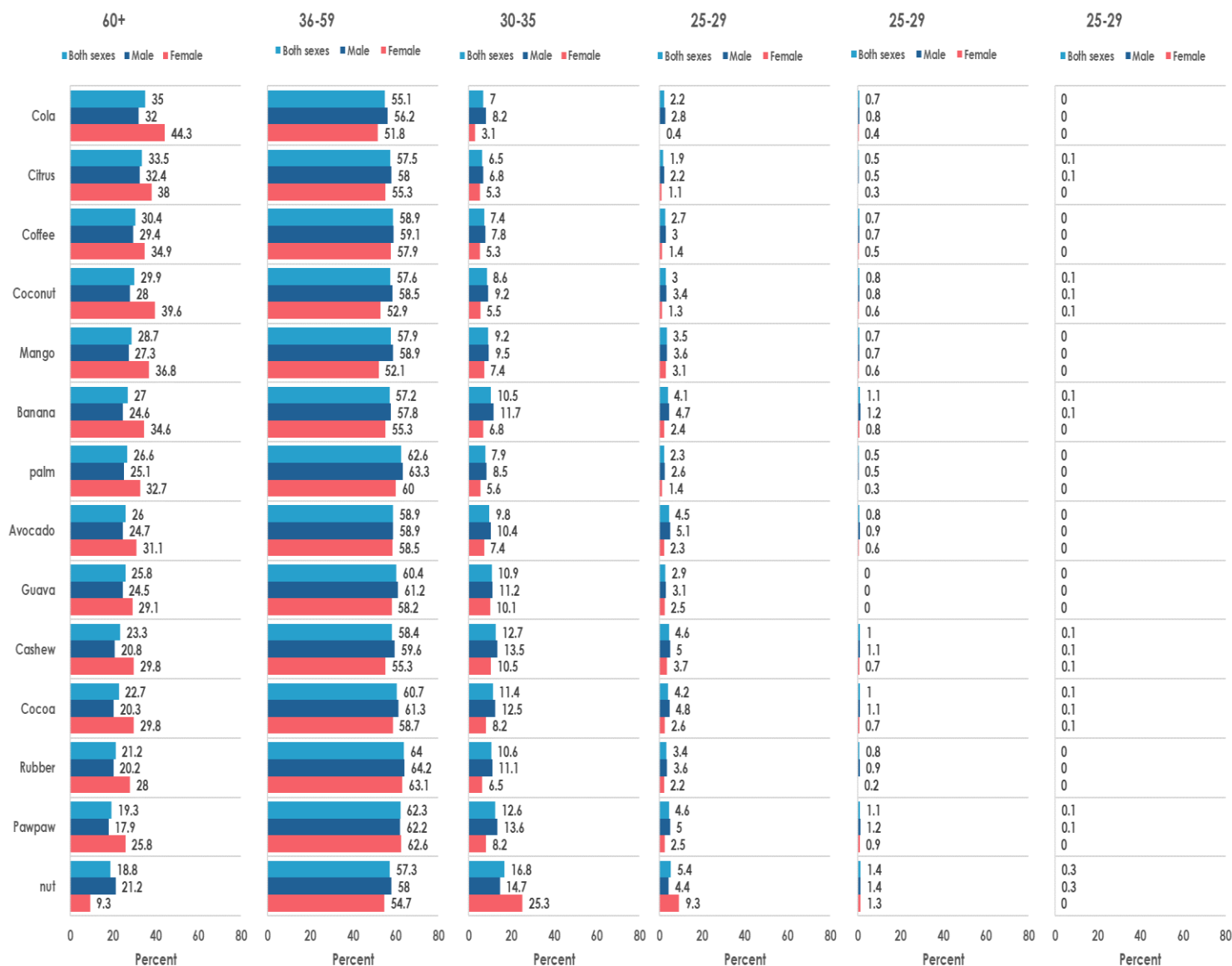
Arable crop cultivation is dominated by males in both rural and urban areas, 71.6 and 71.8 percent respectively.

Figure 8: Arable crop holders 15 years or older by type of locality and sex



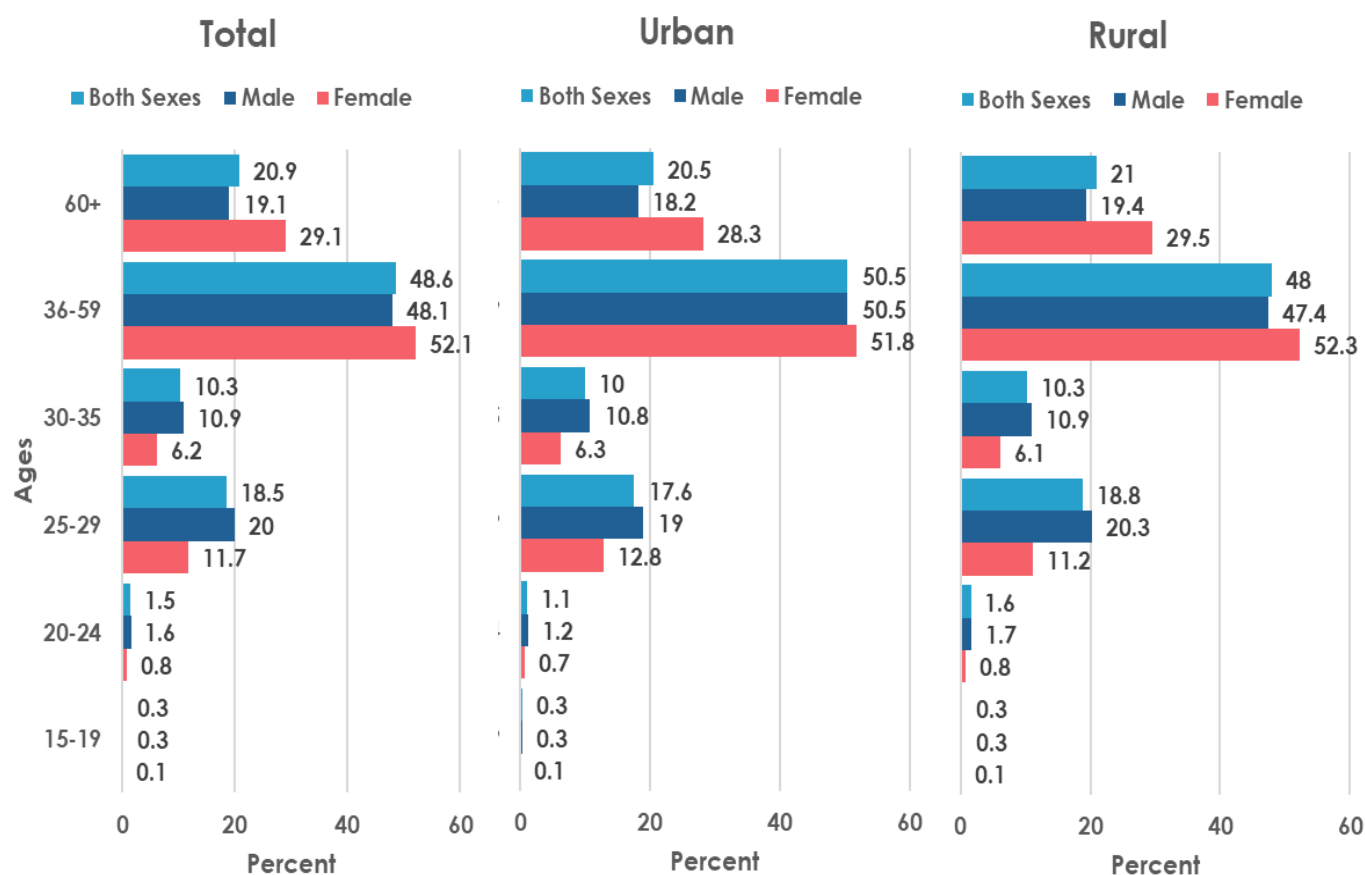
The participation of young holders aged less than 35 years in tree crop is minimal. More than eight in ten (84.1%) of all tree crop holders are 36 years or older for each type of tree crop and for males and females, except for holders of shea nut where the proportions are less than 80 percent for both males and females.

Figure 9: Tree crop holders 15 years or older by sex, age, and type of crop



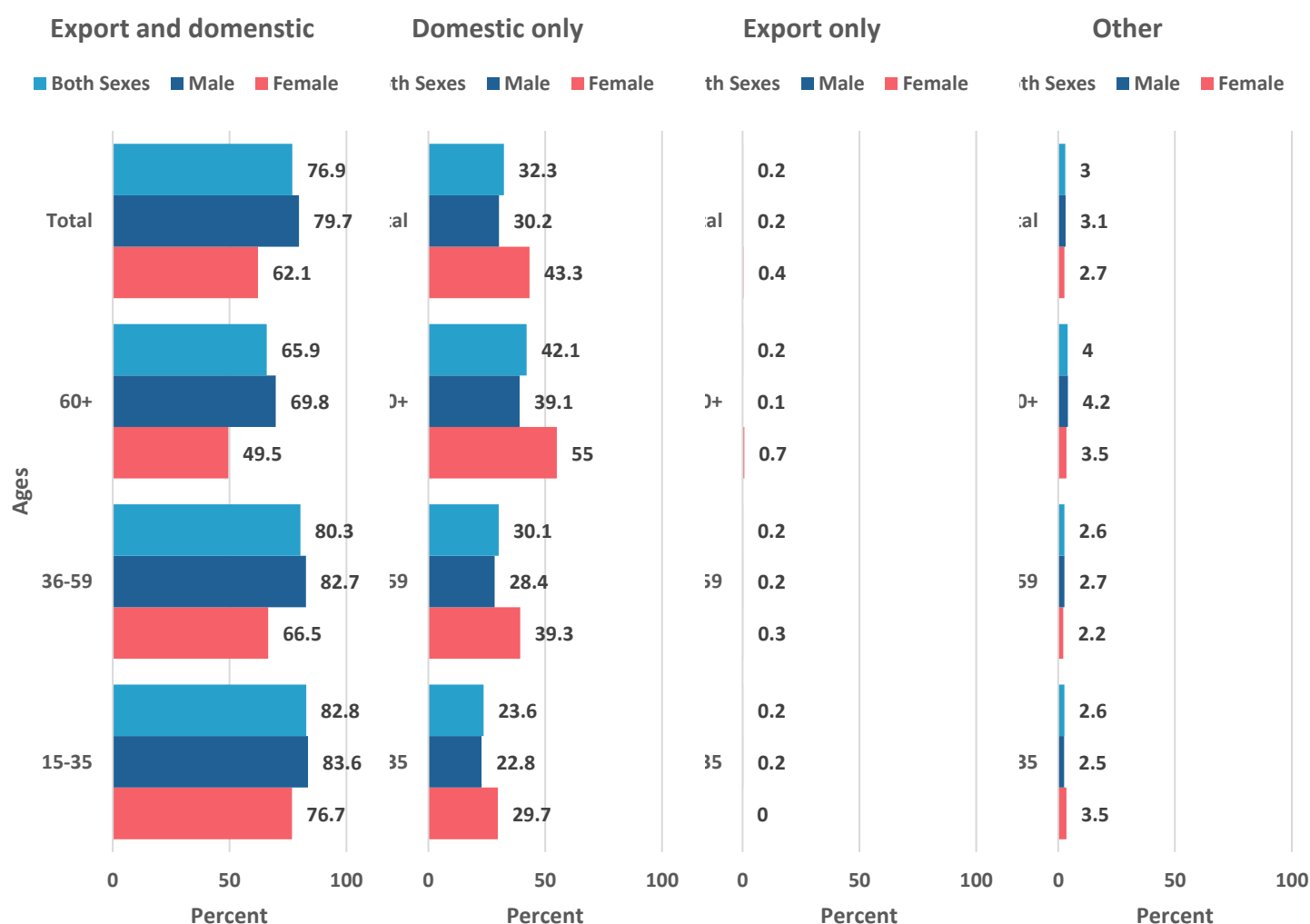
The participation of young holders (less than 30 years) in livestock production is low. About eight in ten (79.8%) of holders engaged in livestock rearing are 30 years or older for all types of livestock for both males and females and in urban and rural areas. More than 50 percent of livestock holders are in the age group of 36-59 years

Figure 10: Livestock holders 15 years or older by sex and age and type of locality



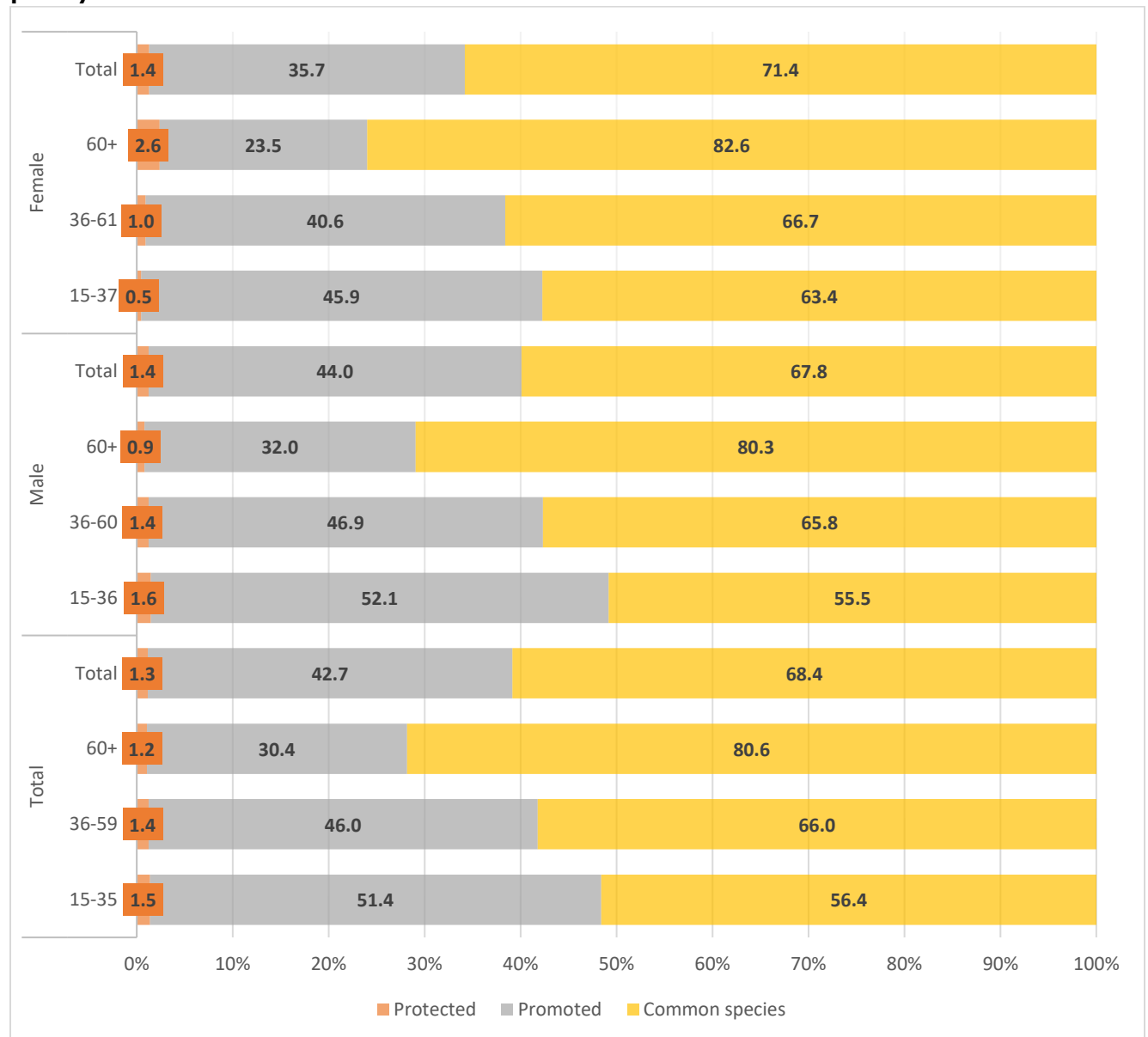
More male (79.7%) than female (62.1%) holders cultivate forest tree species classified as “Export and Domestic”. For the “Other” classification, the proportion of male (3.1%) holders is higher than female (2.7%) holders. A similar pattern is observed for each age group for both males and females.

Figure 11: Forest tree holders 15 years or older by sex and age, and by type of market-oriented forest tree classification



Only 1.3 percent of holders are cultivating forest trees classified as “Protected” species and 42.7 percent cultivate species classified as “Promoted”.

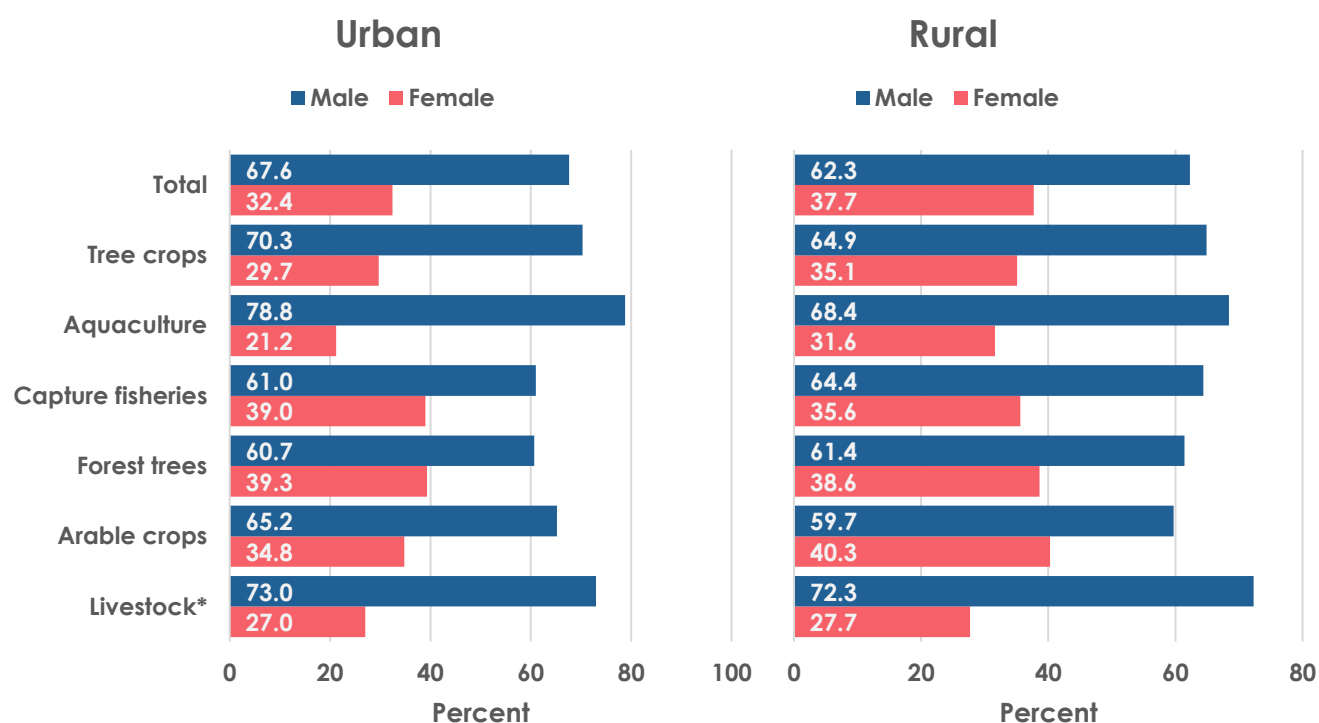
Figure 12: Forest tree holders 15 years or older by sex and age, and by type of policy-oriented forest tree classification



The proportion of persons directly involved in agricultural institution activities are male dominated in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 13: Persons in agricultural institutions engaged in agriculture by type of activity, sex and type of locality

**Includes bee-keeping*



The proportion of female farm hands engaged by agricultural institutions is 39.6 percent of which 77.1 percent are in rural areas. About one-third of male farm hands are engaged in cultivation of arable crops while a little over one-fifth are females. Among the female farm hands who are into arable crops, 81.2 percent are in rural areas.

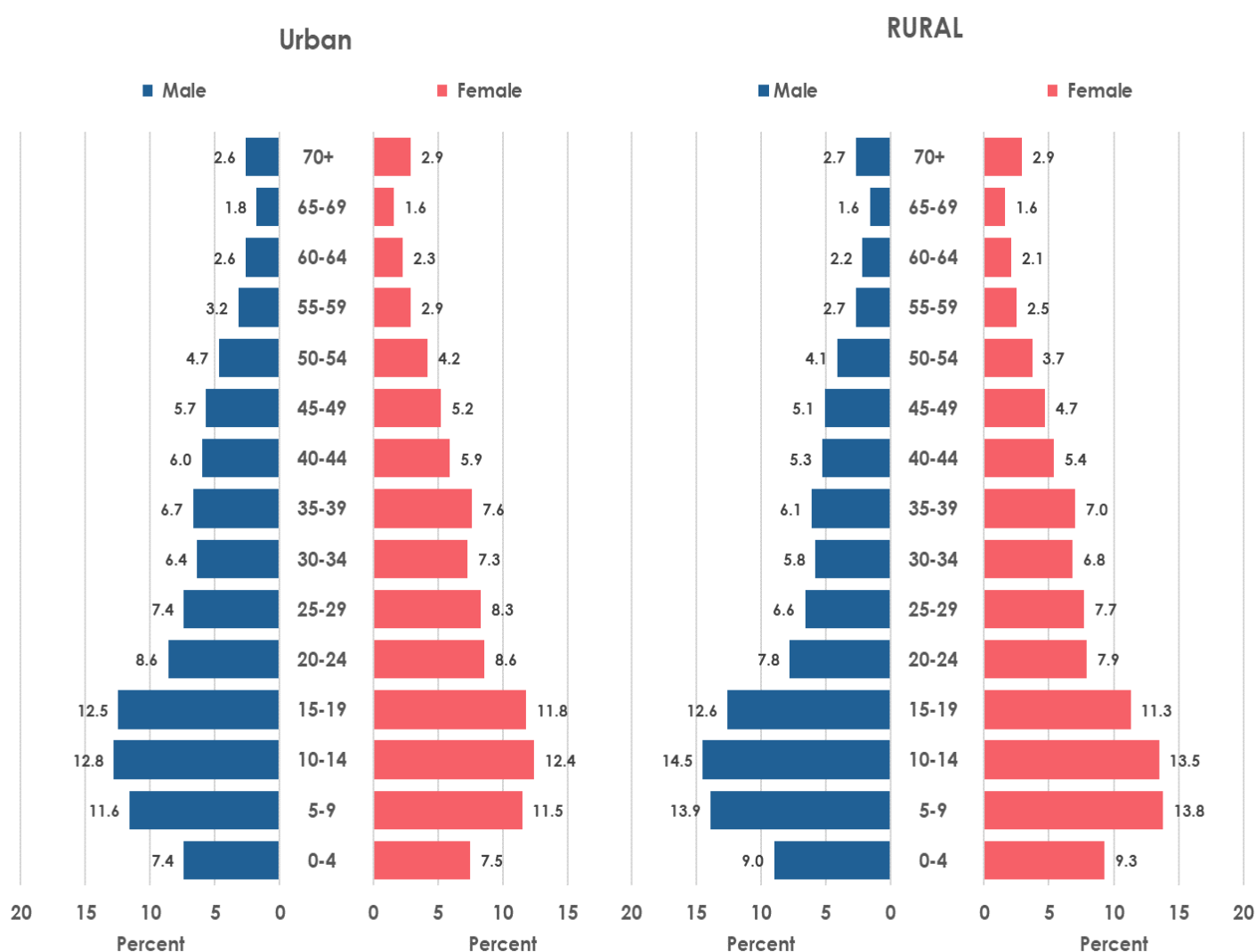
Figure 14: Farm hands in agricultural institutions engaged in agriculture by type of activity and sex, and type of locality



4.2 Correlates

There are more males than females in younger age groups between 5 and 19 years in rural areas but little difference exists between males and females in the 10-14 years age group for urban areas. There are more females than males in the age groups between 20 and 44 years for both urban and rural areas.

Figure 15: Population in agricultural households by age, type of locality and sex



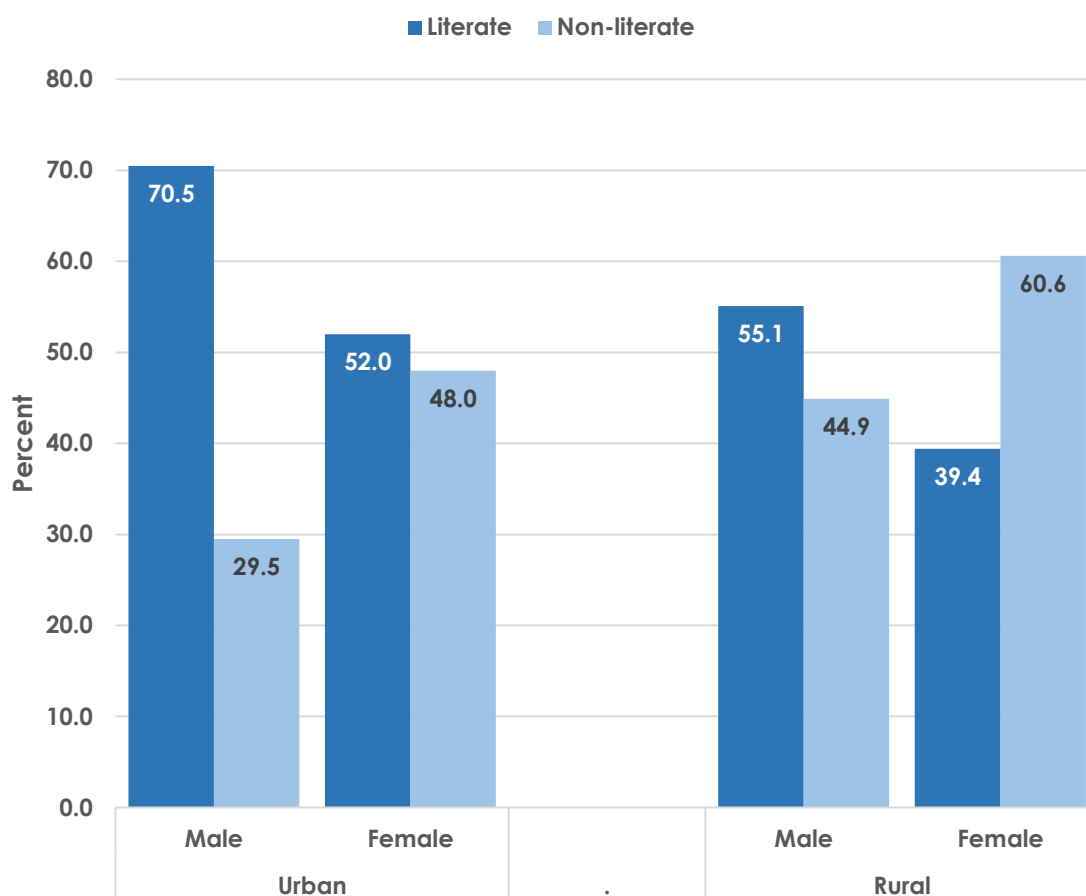
The proportion of females who have never attended school is higher than that of males.

Figure 16: Agricultural holders 15 years or older by educational attainment sex, and type of locality



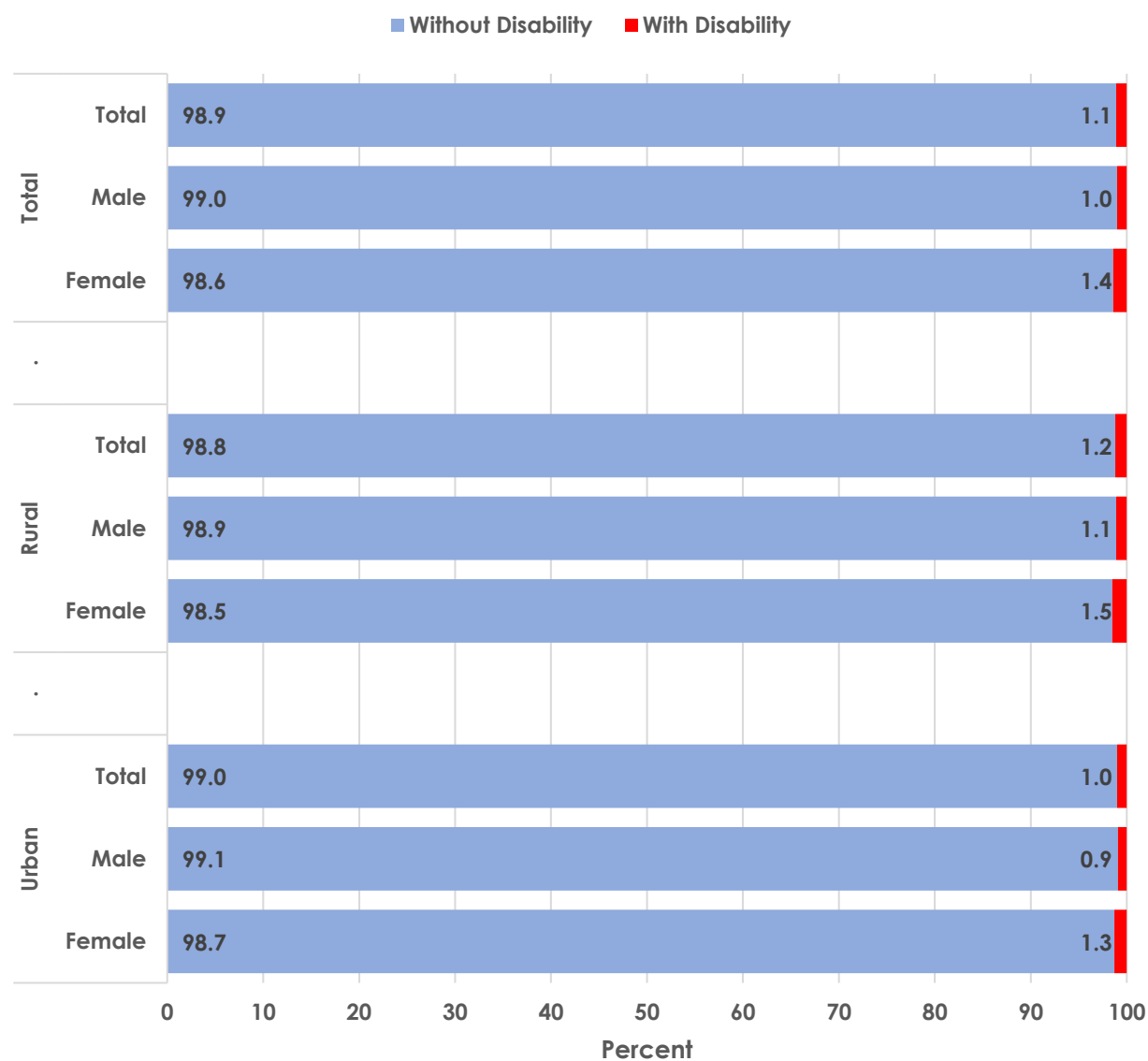
There are more male holders (70.5%) who are literate, and can read and write in at least one language with understanding than their female (52.0%) counterpart in the urban areas. Similar patterns can be observed in the rural areas.

Figure 17: Agricultural holders 15 years or older by literacy status, language sex, and type of locality



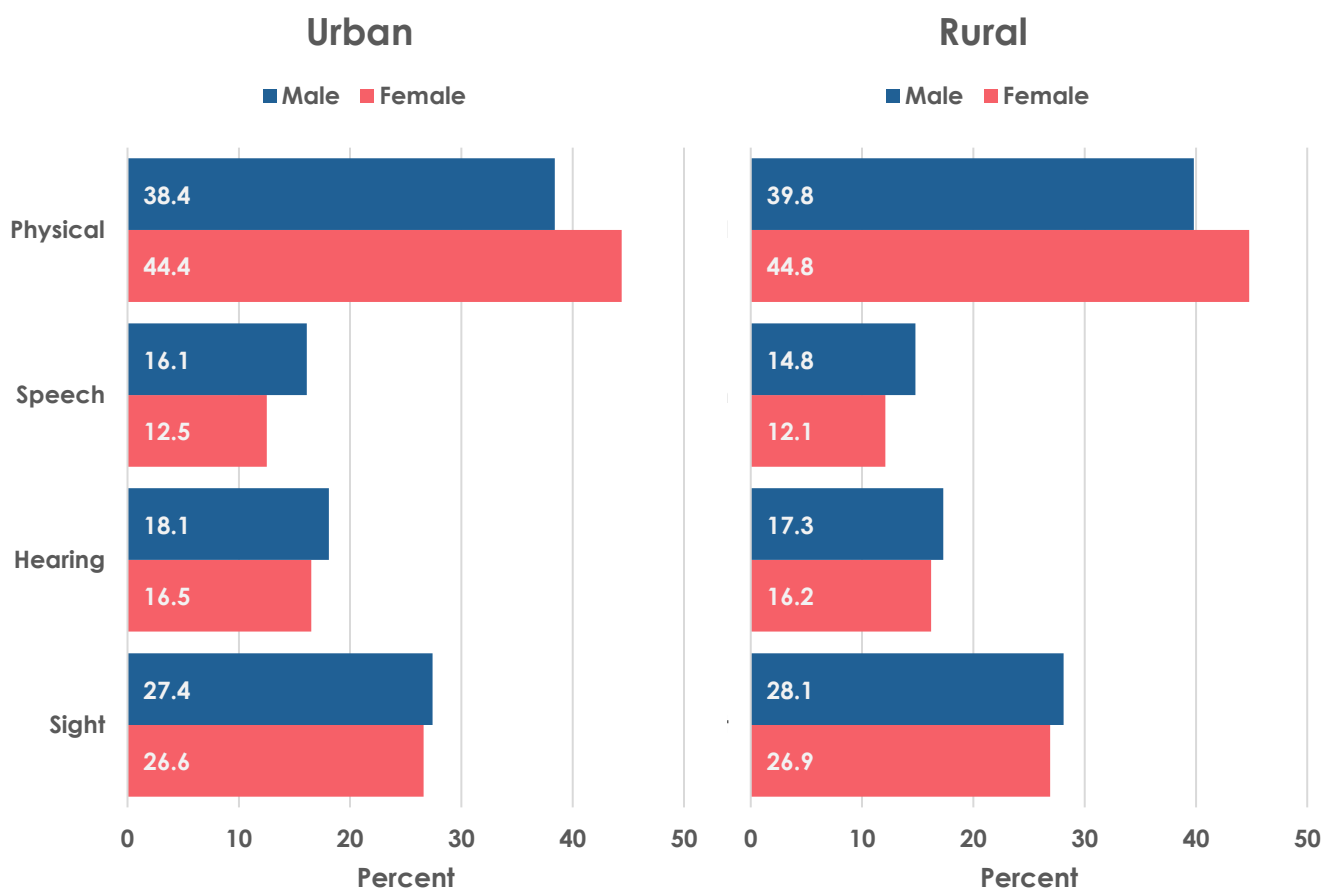
Slightly more female holders (1.4%) than male holders (1.0%) have some disability conditions. This holds true in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 18: Agricultural holders 15 years or older by disability status and sex, and by type of locality



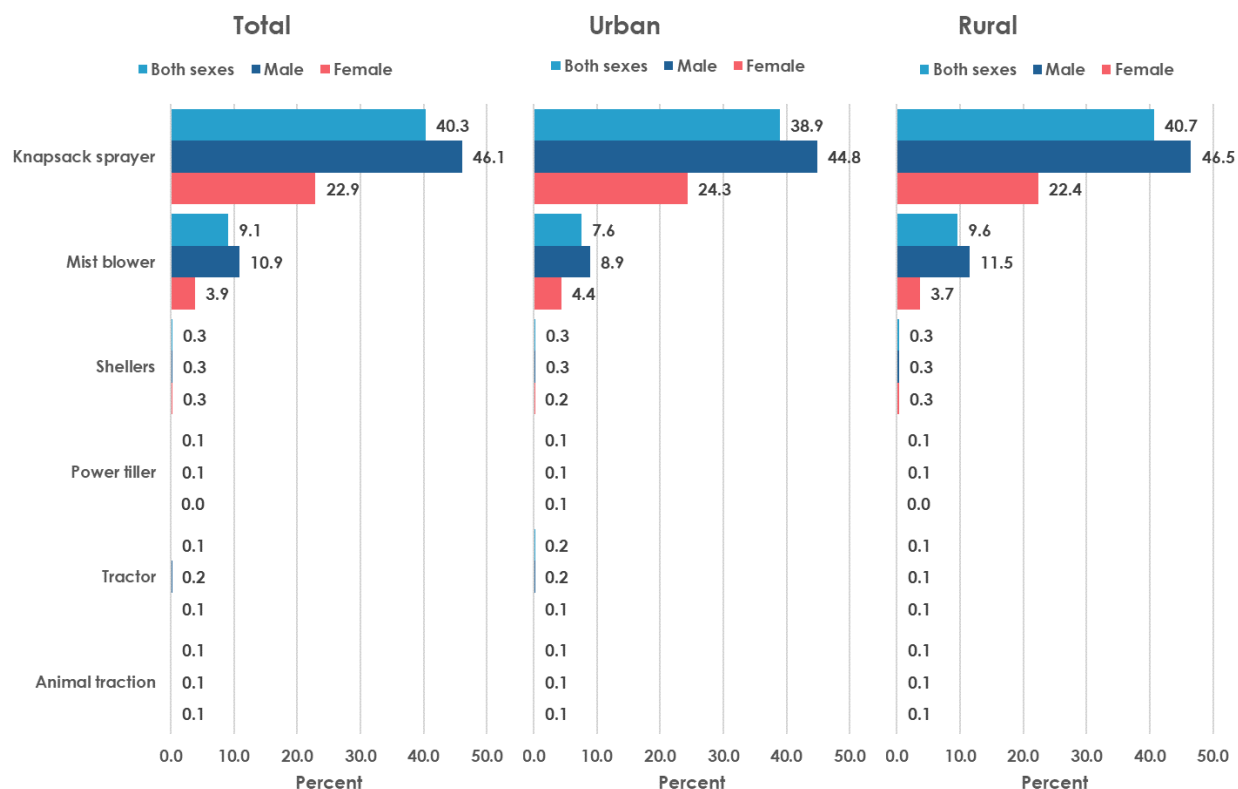
The proportion of physical disability condition is high among female (44.4%) holders compared to males (38.4%) in both urban and rural areas. However, the prevalence of the other disability conditions is higher among male than female holders in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 19: Agricultural holders by type of disability and sex, and by type of locality



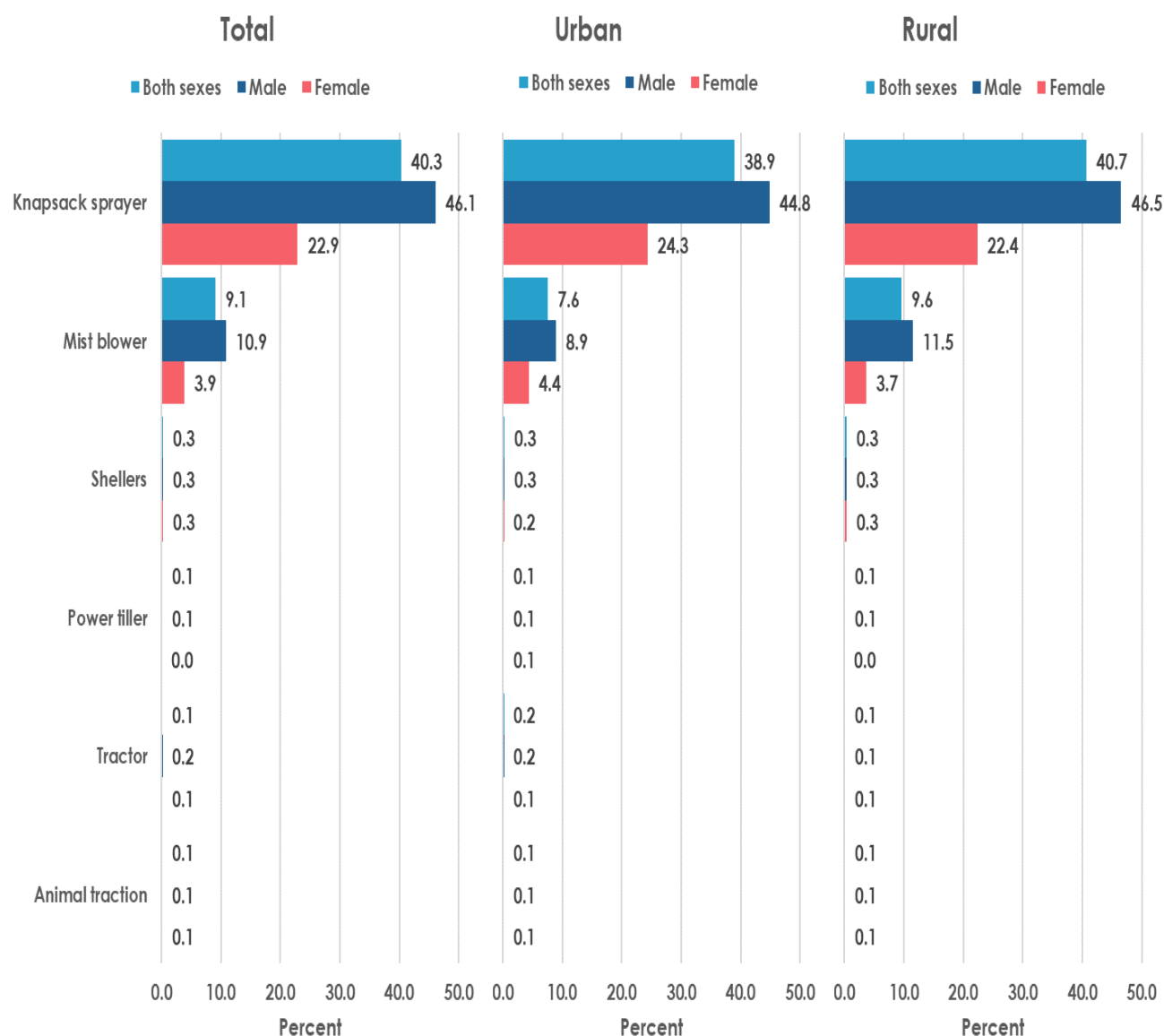
The use of knapsack and mist blower is common among arable crop holders. Regardless of sex of holder, there are no marked differences in the ownership of agricultural equipment in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 20: Arable crop holders 15 years or older who own agricultural equipment by type of agricultural equipment and sex of holder, and by type of agricultural activity and type of locality



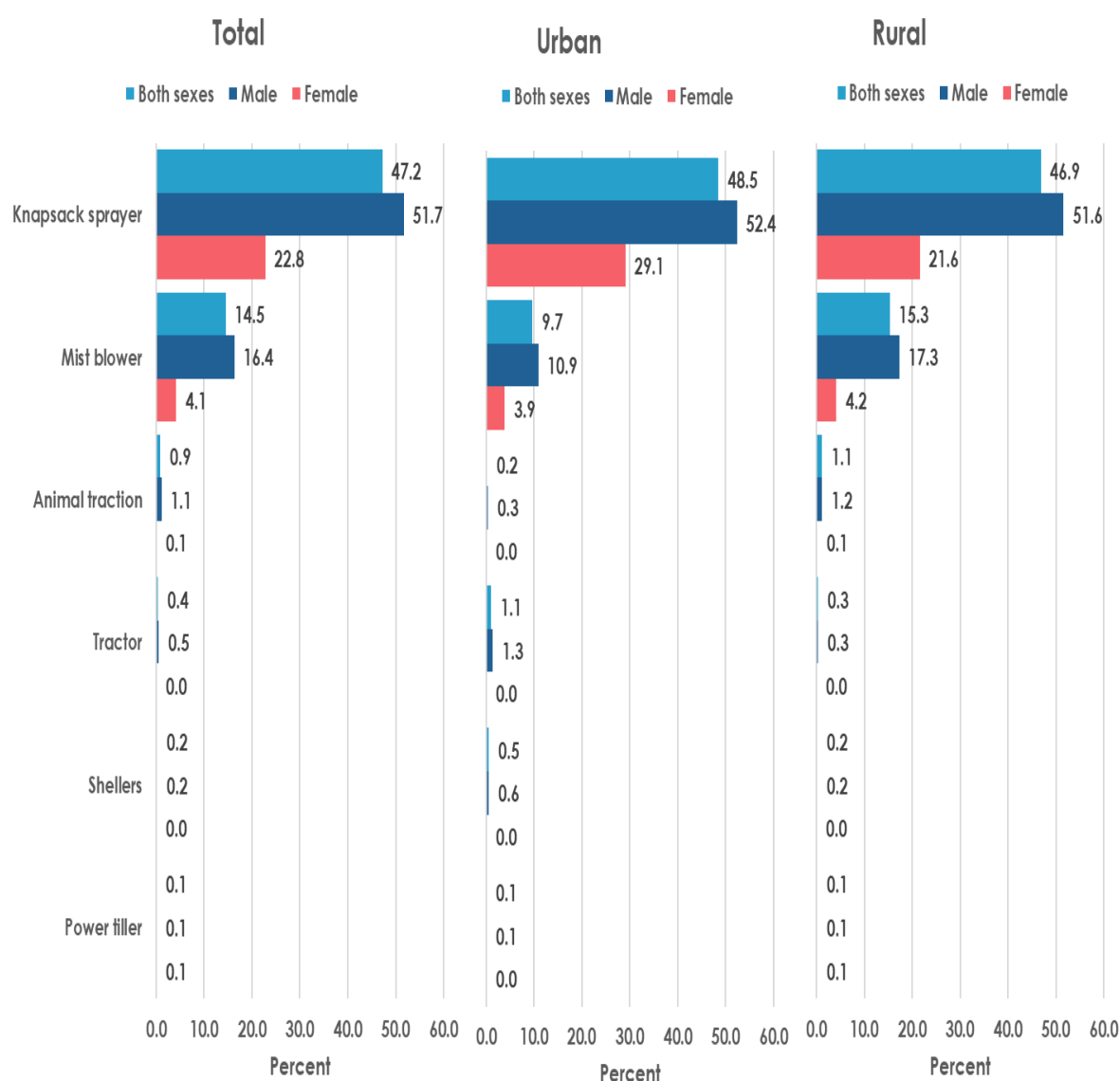
There are no marked differences between ownership of agricultural equipment by tree crop holders in both urban and rural areas regardless of the sex of holder.

Figure 21: Tree crop holders 15 years or older who own agricultural equipment by type of agricultural equipment and sex of holder, and by type of agricultural activity and type of locality



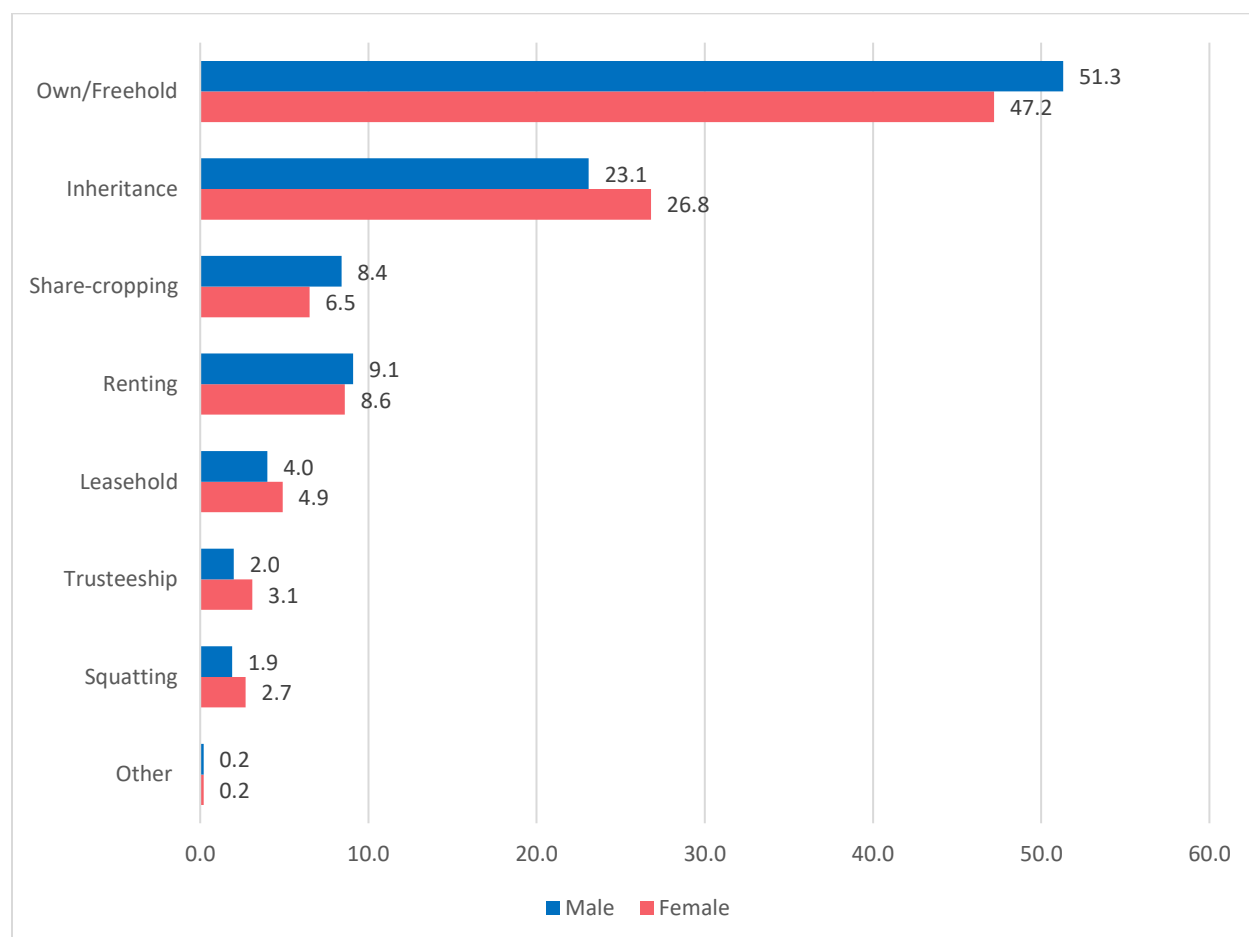
Regardless of the type of crop grown, more male than female holders own agricultural equipment in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 22: Forest tree holders 15 years or older who own agricultural equipment by type of agricultural equipment and sex of holder, and by type of agricultural activity and type of locality



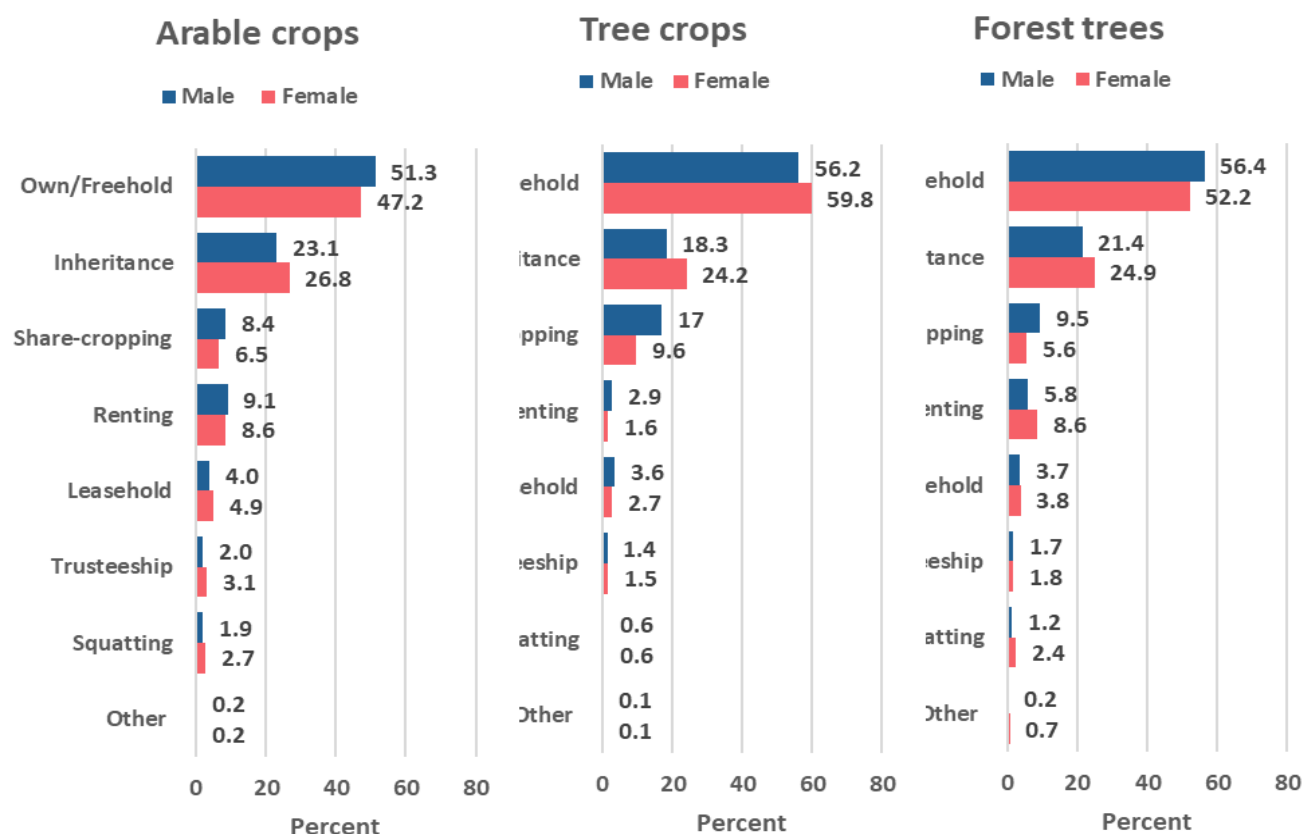
In all the types of land tenure arrangements, the proportion of the parcels used for the agricultural cultivation of crops by female holders is inheritance (26.8%) followed by trusteeship and squatting.

Figure 23: Type of Agricultural land tenure arrangement by sex



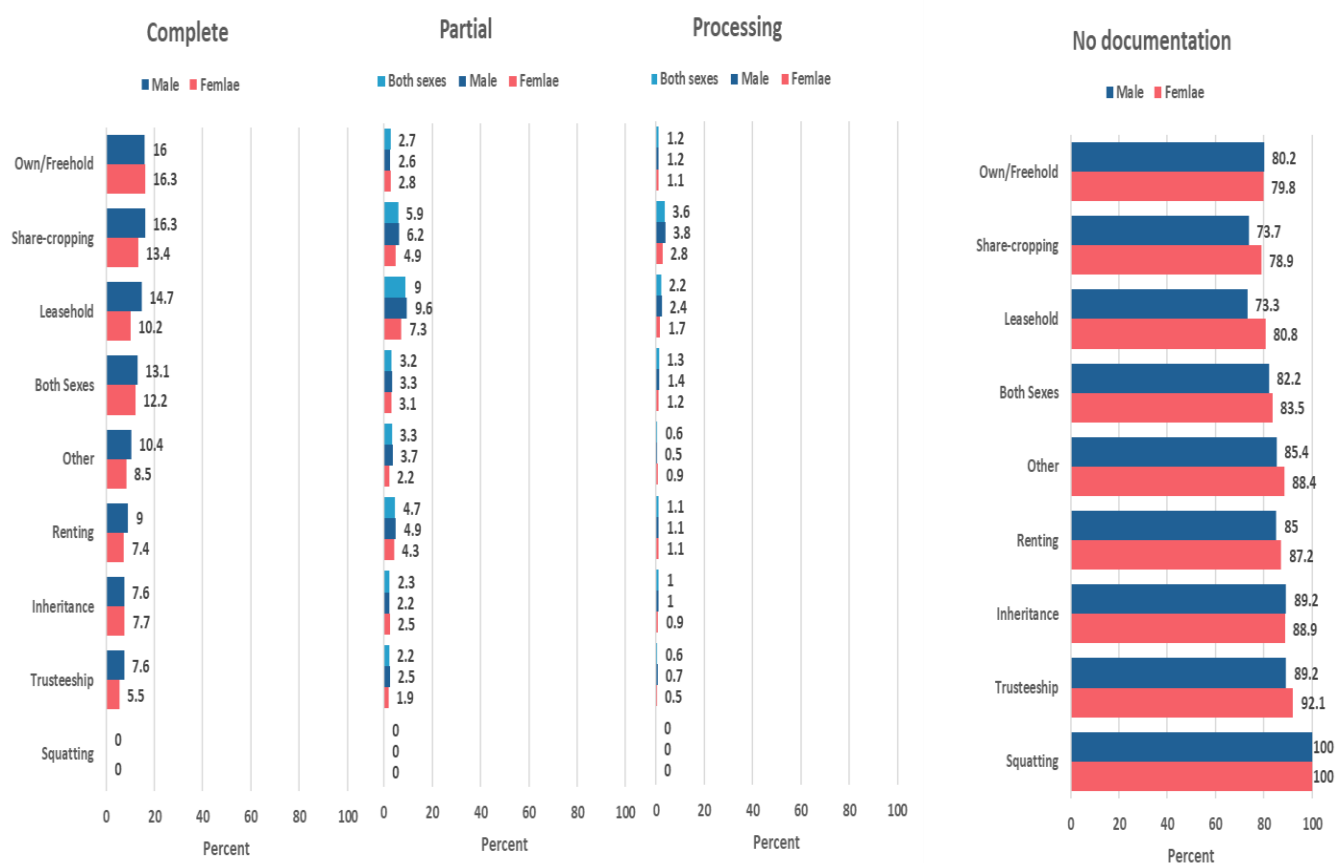
For all three types of crop holders, freehold and inheritance are the dominant land tenure arrangements. More than half of the holders engaged in arable crops, forest trees, and tree crops own their parcels through freehold. The proportion of female holders engaged in tree cropping (59.8%) who own their parcels of land is higher than that of male holders (56.2%).

Figure 24: Type of Agricultural land tenure arrangement by type of agricultural activity and sex of holder



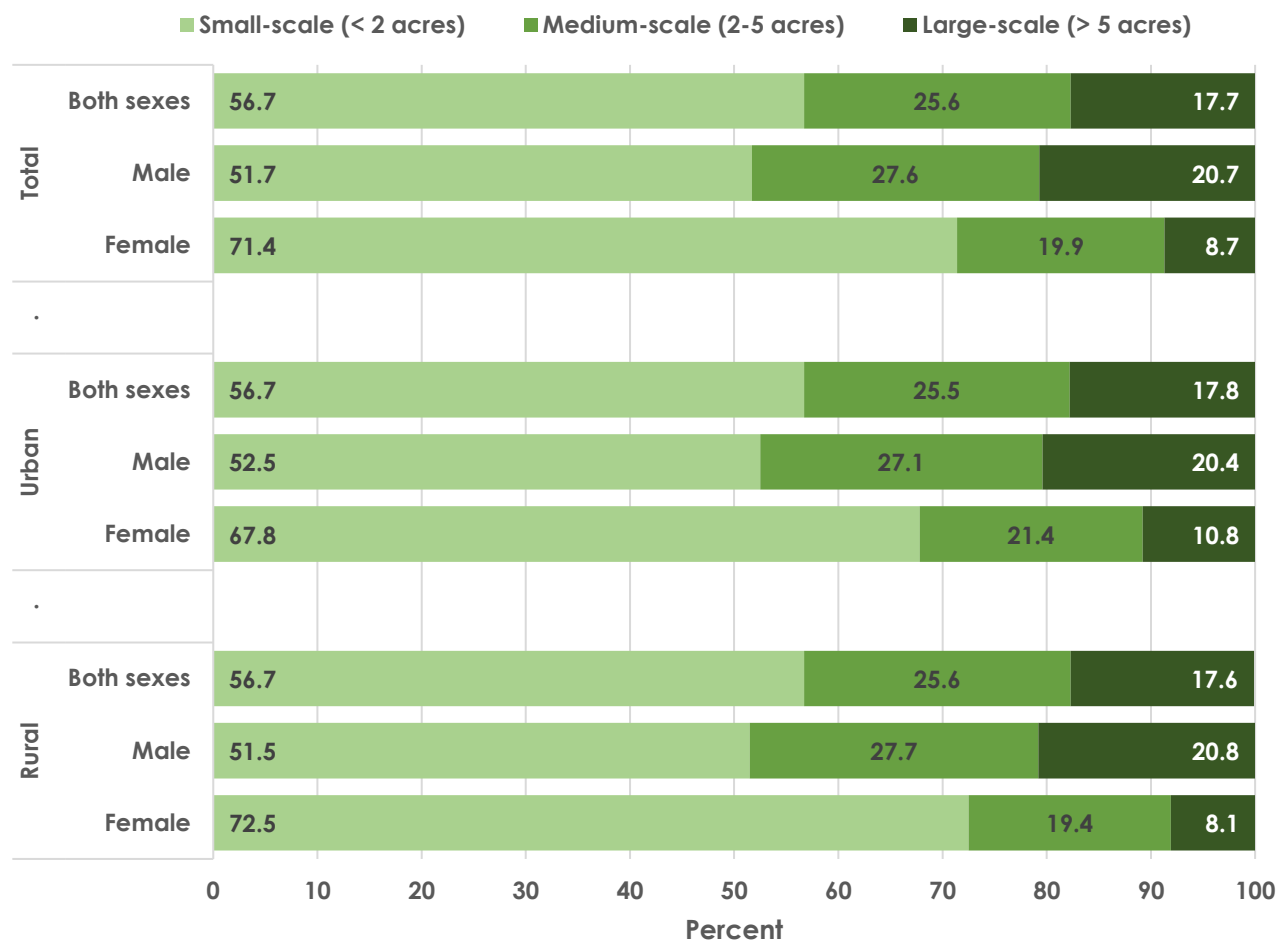
Generally, majority of the parcels used by holders is not covered by any form of documentation on the tenure arrangement. The proportion of parcels with documents used by females under leasehold (16.3%) is slightly higher than males. The proportion of documented parcels used by male and female holders under inheritance are almost the same.

Figure 25: Type of agriculture land tenure arrangement by status of documentation and sex of holder



Majority of parcels of land (56.7%) under cultivation are small-scale, with one-quarter (25.6%) being medium-scale, while 17.7 percent are large-scale. A higher proportion of females (71.4%) than males (51.7%) engage in small-scale farming in both urban and rural areas.

Figure 26: Land parcels for agriculture by size of parcel and sex of holder, and type of locality



5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief provided information on gender participation in some aspect of agriculture in both urban and rural areas of Ghana in the national and regional context. The report provided sex-disaggregated data based on the FAO core gender indicators in the Ghanaian context.

The generally observation is that participation in agriculture in Ghana is still skewed towards males. Fewer females were involved in the production of forest tree crops. Similarly, fewer females owned tree crop nurseries.

5.1 Policy Recommendation

The following recommendations are proposed for consideration to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and other gender- related institutions, NGOs, CSOs and the Ministry of Finance that:

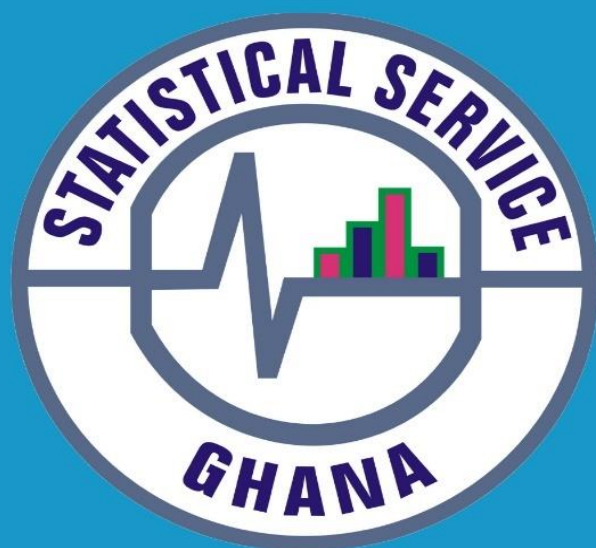
- i. There is a dire need for targeted interventions at promoting female participation in all sectors of the agricultural landscape; and
- ii. Efforts towards minimizing barriers limiting women participation in agriculture should be supported by both the private and public sector stakeholders.

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