



GHANA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

THEMATIC BRIEF



FORESTRY

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GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
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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 presents analysis on the characteristics of holders who grow forest trees, the number and type of forest trees grown, classification of forest trees, production and sales of forest trees, purpose for growing and the tenure arrangement on parcels used for growing forest trees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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.

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PROF. SAMUEL KOBINA ANNIM

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ACRONYMS

GCA	Ghana Census of Agriculture
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement

1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of forests for the well-being of people and the planet have long been established. Forests play a role in reducing the risk of natural disasters, including floods, droughts, landslides and other extreme events.

According to the Global Forests Goals Report (2021) of the United Nations, about 1.6 billion people worldwide depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy, medicines and income. Forests provide clean air and fresh water and help to avert desertification. They are home to 80 per cent of all known terrestrial species, and they regulate our climate, absorbing one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Forests protect watersheds, which supply 75% of freshwater worldwide. Moreover, investing in forests and forestry represents an investment in people and their livelihoods, especially the rural poor, youth and women.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15) aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. The future of forests and forestry in sustainable development at all levels was therefore at the core of the XIV World Forestry in 2015, where the Durban Declaration called for new partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors, as well as the engagement with indigenous people and local community.

The need for specific government guidance and control of forestry activities in Ghana has become necessary due to changes which occurred in Ghana's forests since the adoption of the 1948 Forest Policy. This need also underpins our sensitivity to the reduction in the forest land area and the increasing local and international outcry over environmental issues relating to the forest.

In 1994, Ghana enunciated a Forest and Wildlife Policy to replace the 1st formal Forest Policy of 1948, which was formulated for the conservation and protection of the forest reserve estates. The main thrusts of the 1994 Policy were environmental protection, sustainable production and use of forest and wildlife resources, involvement of local people in management and benefit sharing, institutional restructuring and promotion of research and human resource development.

Implementation of the 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy brought several strategic initiatives and sector reforms, which sought to improve and develop the forest resource base and integrate good governance, transparency, equity and poverty reduction into the forest and wildlife sector. Despite the significant transformation certain challenges inhibited the full attainment of the policy

objectives. The reforms implemented through the policy failed to halt the degradation of the forest resource base (2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy, Ghana). For instance, illegal chainsaw and mining (galamsey) operations in forest areas were thriving despite national efforts to curb the situation. In addition, wood fuel production, especially in fragile areas of the savanna regions also remained unsustainable whilst wildfires remained an occurrence in all the ecosystems. Apart from the inhibiting factors to attaining the policy objectives, the forestry sector at that time was confronted with emerging global issues such as Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), Forest Certification, Climate Change and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). These issues were of serious policy concerns given the far-reaching implications for forests, wildlife and local livelihoods.

A revised Forest and Wildlife Policy became necessary therefore, not only to address the weaknesses in the 1994 policy but to tackle the emerging issues as well as make use of new opportunities such as well-organized local people and Civil Society Organizations who could be mainstreamed into the forestry sector decision making and resource management; and the sustainable forest financing, especially, through Carbon Credit schemes which the country needed to take advantage of to develop the forestry sector. The revised 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy aims at the conservation and sustainable development of forest and wildlife resources for the maintenance of environmental stability and the continuous flow of optimum benefits from the socio-cultural and economic goods and services that the forest environment provides to the present and future generations whilst fulfilling Ghana's commitments under international agreements and conventions. Specific objectives of the policy are to:

1. Manage and enhance the ecological integrity of Ghana's forest, savannah, wetlands and other ecosystems for the preservation of vital soil and water resources, conservation of biological diversity, and enhancing carbon stocks for sustainable production of domestic and commercial produce;
2. Promote the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded landscapes through forest plantation development, enrichment planting, and community forestry informed by appropriate land-use practices to enhance environmental quality and sustain the supply of raw materials for domestic and industrial consumption and environmental protection;
3. Promote the development of viable forest and wildlife-based industries and livelihoods, particularly in the value-added processing of forest and wildlife resources that satisfy domestic and international demand for competitively-priced quality products; and

4. Promote and develop mechanisms for transparent governance, equity sharing and citizen participation in forest and wildlife resource management.

The Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) 2017/2018 National Report indicates that there are 29 forest tree species mainly cultivated for the market. Species like the Nim tree, Kapok, Eucalyptus and others are largely cultivated for medicinal or other purposes. There are 11,660 forest tree holders; 9,831, representing 84.3 per cent, are males and 1,829, representing 15.7 per cent, are females. Youth holders (15-35 years) in forest tree cultivation are 1,819. There are 82 male holders for protected, 459 for promoted and 862 for common species. There are 56 females in the cultivation of protected species and another 112 females engaged in common species.

Holdings classified as market-oriented and for export only constitute 43 while holdings for domestic consumption only is 3,639. Forest trees for export and domestic together constitute 7,541. Market-oriented forest tree cultivation engages a large proportion of the population; both males and females. There are 9,451 male holdings in market-oriented forest trees, compared to 1,773 for females. The number of holdings in large-scale forest tree cultivation is 10,913.

About, 329 institutions are involved in forest trees cultivation, of which 266 are in activities meant for only export purposes. Also, 249 institutions deal in common species with only four cultivating protected species. In generally, institutions that produce forest trees are into three main species, namely, wawa (1042830), Teak (325160) and Ofram (239766) nurseries. A majority of Forest tree-institutions by type of market-oriented and policy-oriented forest tree classifications and by the land size of fewer than 20 acres are dominant in rural areas (159) as against urban (78). Institutions classified into market-oriented and policy-oriented forest trees and by land size 50+ acres number 27 in the country

As a follow-up on GCA findings on forest trees, this report seeks to examine the state of our forests. In particular, the report examines existing efforts and interventions for forest tree holders and institutions and their outcomes at the regional level for all 16 regions. Furthermore, the report would examine the patterns and correlates in forest tree holdings and forest tree institutions as well as explores ways in which the identified correlates could help address national policy agendas for the forestry sector.

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, fibre 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.

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.

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.

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 data Regional Thematic Table on Forestry.

This report contains the findings on forest trees, an aspect of the core module.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF CORRELATES OF FOREST TREES

3.1 Sex

Agriculture is generally perceived as a domain for males. Probably because,, biologically and even physically, men have more strength relative to females that enables them to engage in more vigorous activities like farming than females do. Female farmers produce much less than their male counterparts not because they are less efficient in farming, but largely because they lack equal access to resources such as credit facilities, land and other farm inputs.

3.2 Age

The point is often made that young people in Ghana are generally disinterested in farming (Solidaridad, 2020)¹. The situation is attributed to a lack of enabling environment, including easy access to affordable credit, land and other inputs that will make farming attractive and profitable to the youth. It is estimated that over half of Ghanaian farmers are between 50 to 60 years old. This report, therefore, presents yet another opportunity to examine how the “age” factor interrelates specifically with forest tree holdings and would help us understand whether those earlier assertions are equally correct for forest tree farming. For sustainable forest tree farming to be realized, the youth, in particular, must be encouraged to be at the forefront, therefore, all efforts should be made to get them involved, if they are not already.

3.3 Locality of Residence

Locality or place of residence has a significant bearing on farming in Ghana. Farming activities are often concentrated in the rural areas and an attestation to agriculture providing employment to majority of rural dwellers unlike the case in the urban areas.

3.4 Educational Attainment

Educational attainment provides 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.

¹ <https://www.solidaridadnetwork.org/news/spotlighting-youth-in-agriculture-in-ghana/>

Yet a casual observation reveals that there is a negative correlation between levels of educational attainment and agriculture activities in Ghana. Once individuals acquire high levels of education, farming becomes less attractive to them, hence the level of participation in agricultural activity consequently declines with higher education. Literacy Status

3.5 Literacy

In times past, the discourse on literacy was mainly about language. In recent times, however, several other dimensions of literacy have evolved, including financial, digital, statistics, numeracy and environmental literacy. Even though it might make sense to assume that language literacy influences the other dimensions of literacy, the question of how these dimensions are interrelated has not been adequately addressed through empirical studies. The need to examine if, for instance, language literacy has some effects on environmental literacy and consequent actions such as forest tree farming would be of interest to this study. The specific question to answer is, "Is one to expect many more literates who have forest tree holdings than their illiterate counterparts, possibly, because literates are more likely to understand the positive effects of these forest tree holdings on health and environment, among other benefits?"

3.6 Disability Status

Persons with some form of disabilities usually face the challenges of discrimination, stigmatisation and even exclusion from life-sustaining opportunities in society, a situation which renders them vulnerable. Unless the government makes targeted policies to support people with disabilities, they are unable to participate or compete for the limited social and economic opportunities available in society. Persons with disabilities are often disadvantaged in terms of ownership and access to land and other properties; a challenge that can limit their chances of engaging in forest tree farming, unlike persons without disabilities.

3.7 Scale of Production

The production capacity of forest can differ from small, medium to large scale depending on the size of the forest holding. Before one engages in production, one is required to make an initial capital investment in the form of land, labour and machinery. How large or small the size of this initial investment will determine whether the holder can either be in a large, medium or small scale production. Large scale production requires a large capital investment and the availability

and access to capital, especially land for agriculture, is often identified as a major limiting factor for investment in many parts of this country. Persons or institutions that have access to capital are more likely to have forest plantations that are into large scale production.

3.8 Land Tenure Arrangement

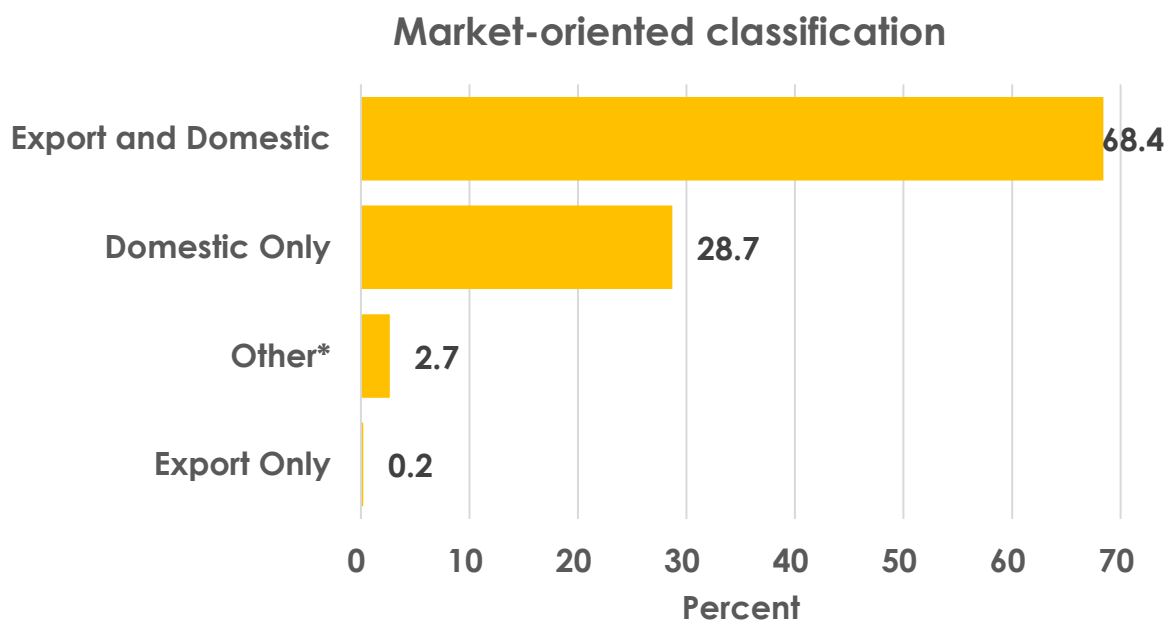
The land tenure system to some extent may inform the decision on what you can use the land for. Some tenure arrangements may be more favourable for long term investment than others. For instance, it may be deemed more risky to use land accessed through trusteeship, renting and squatting for forest plantation which is a long time investment, compared to freehold or inheritance among others. An assessment of the various tenure arrangements will help determine which form of arrangements are suitable and commonly used for forest plantation.

4. KEY FINDINGS

4.1 Patterns

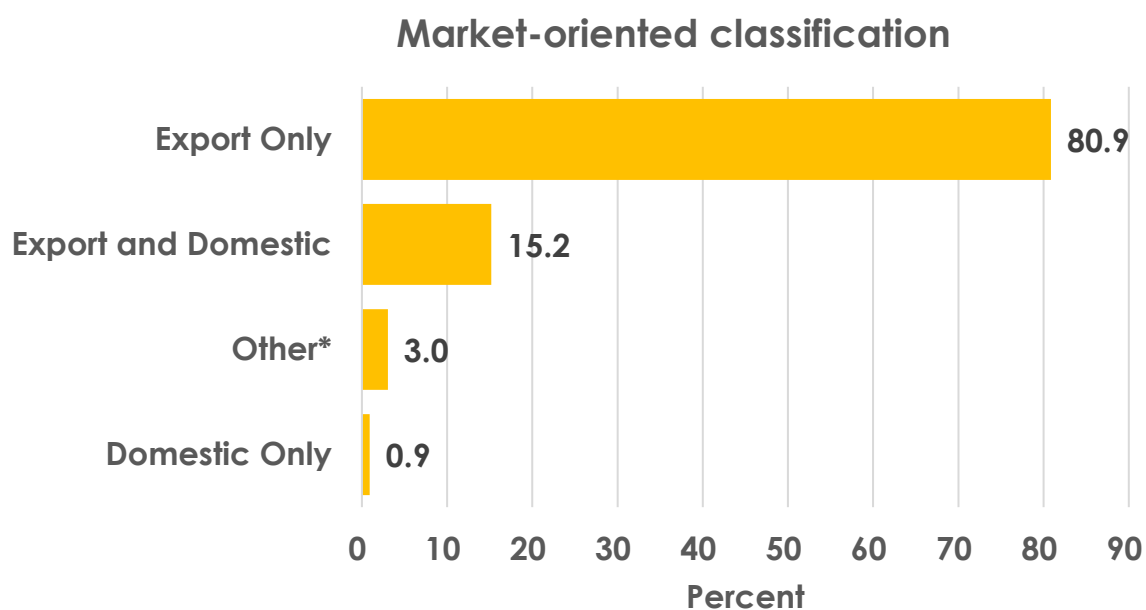
More than two-thirds (68.4%) of forest tree holders keep their holdings for purposes of export and domestic use.

Figure 1: Forest Tree holders (household) 15 years and holder by type of market-oriented forest trees classification



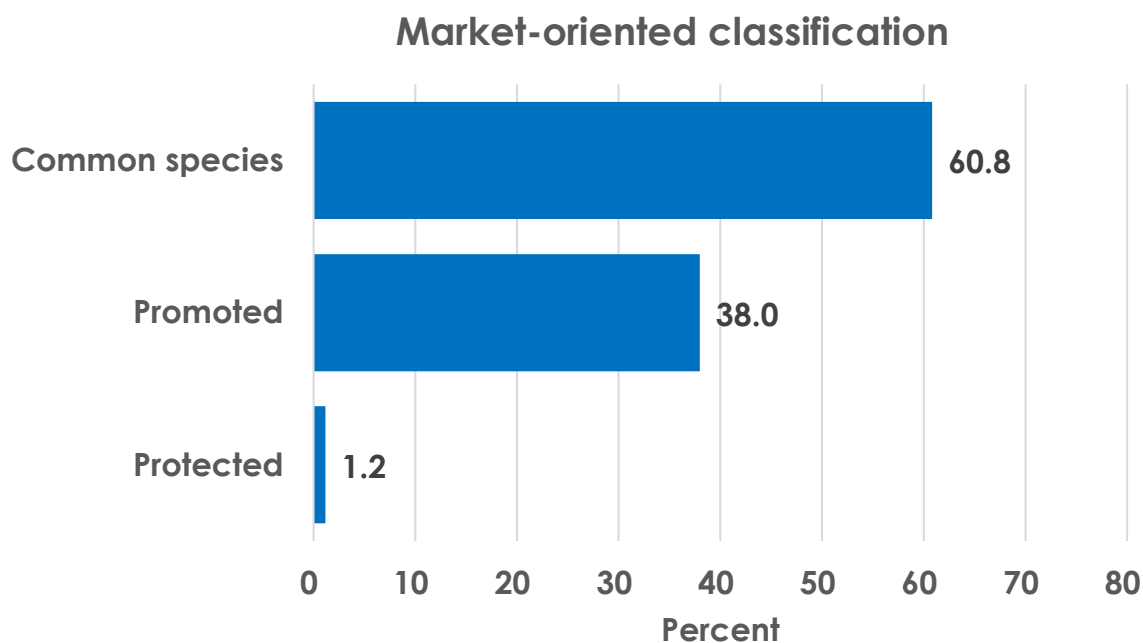
Majority (81%) of forest tree institutions, keep their holdings mainly for export.
One out of 10, (15.2%) of the forest tree holding institutions do so for both export and domestic use.

Figure 2: Forest Tree holders (Institution) by type of market-oriented forest trees classification



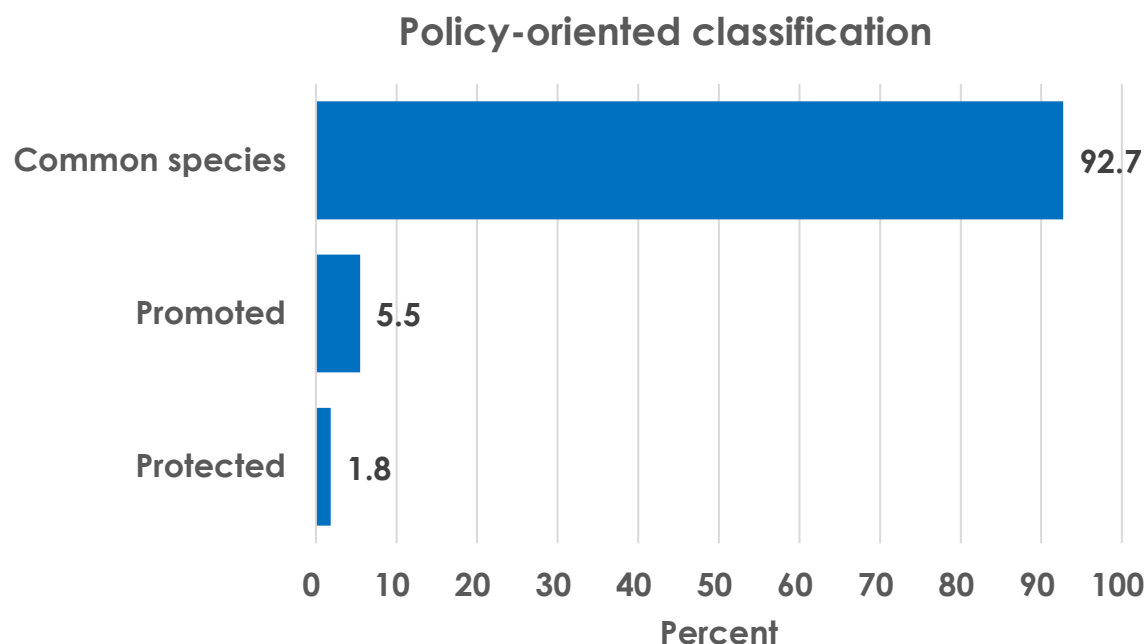
Generally, 60.8 per cent of forest tree holders (households) in Ghana produce common species forest type, compared to about 38 per cent of holders (households) who produce promoted species.

Figure 3: Forest tree holders (household) 15 years and older by type of policy-oriented forest tree classification



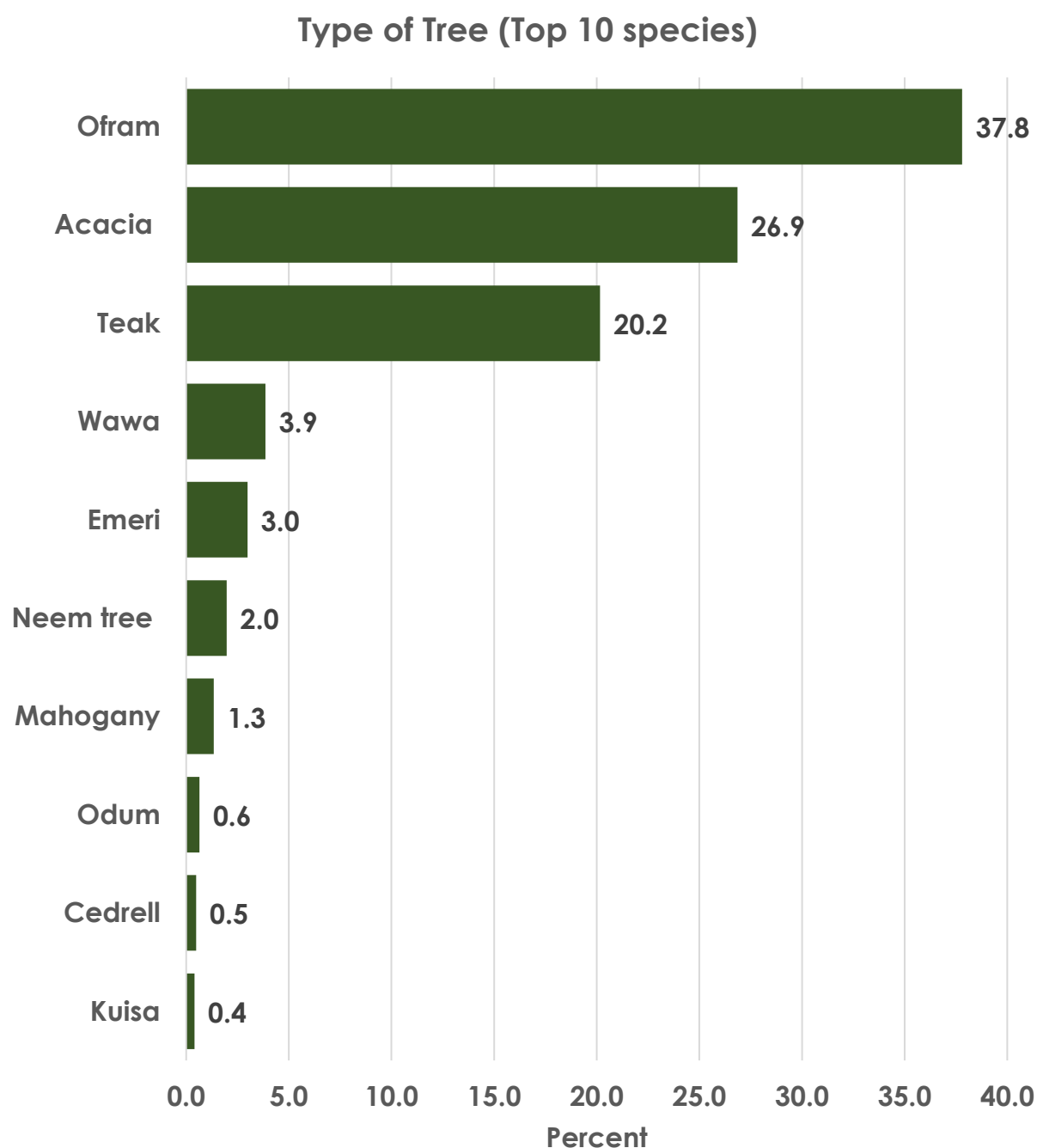
Nine out of ten (92.7%) institutional forest tree holders engage in common species forest trees. The remaining institutions are into promoted (5.5%) or protected (1.8%) species.

Figure 4: Forest tree holders (institution) by type of policy-oriented forest tree classification



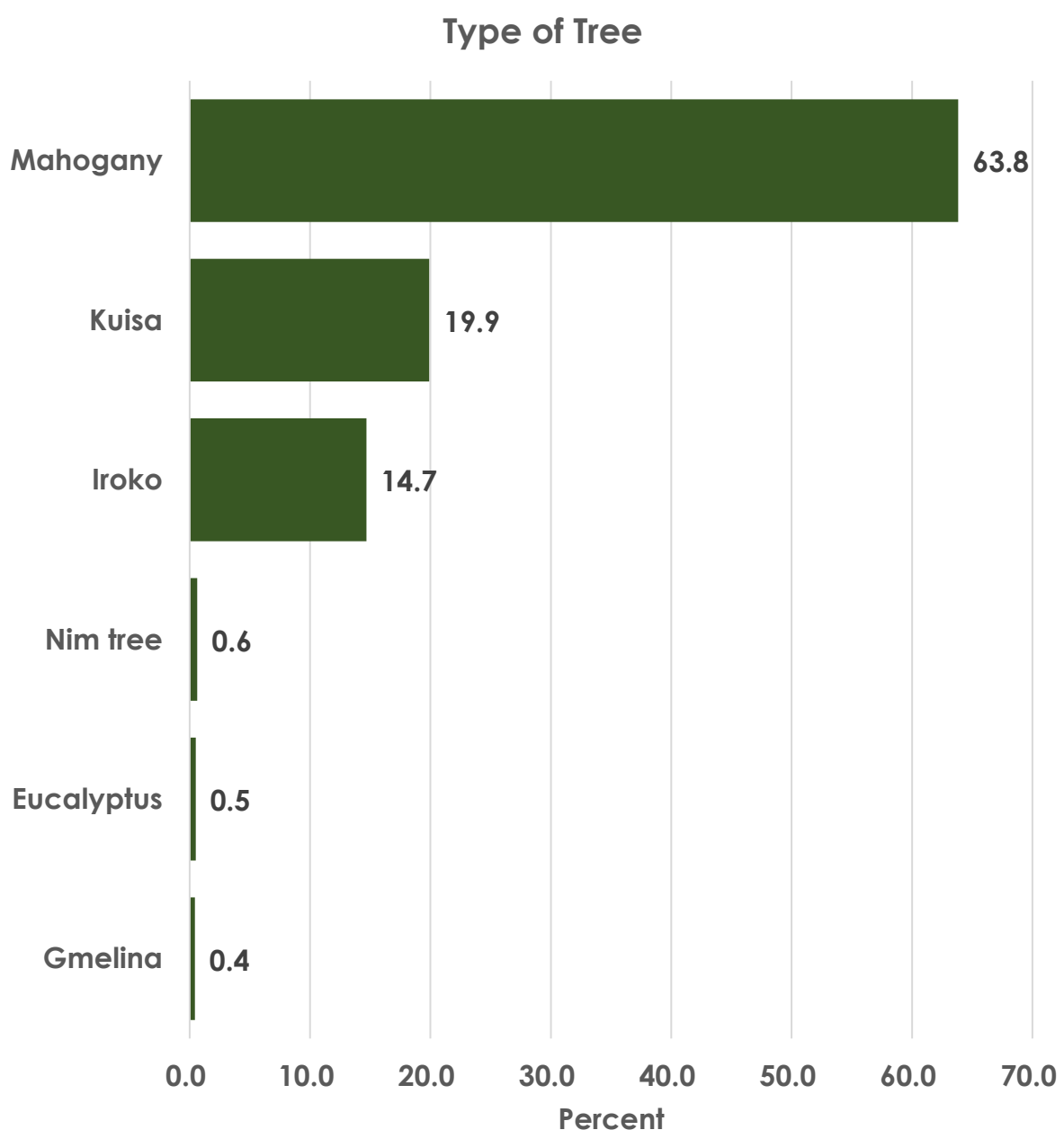
One in every three (37.8%) of forest tree holders grow the Ofram Species, followed by holders of Acacia (26.9%) and teak (20.2%).

Figure 5: Forest tree holder (household) 15 years and older by type of species



More than six out of ten (63.8%) institutional forest trees holders grow the Mahogany Species, followed by holders of Kuisa (19.9%) and Iroko (14.7%).

Figure 6: Forest tree holder (institution) by type of species



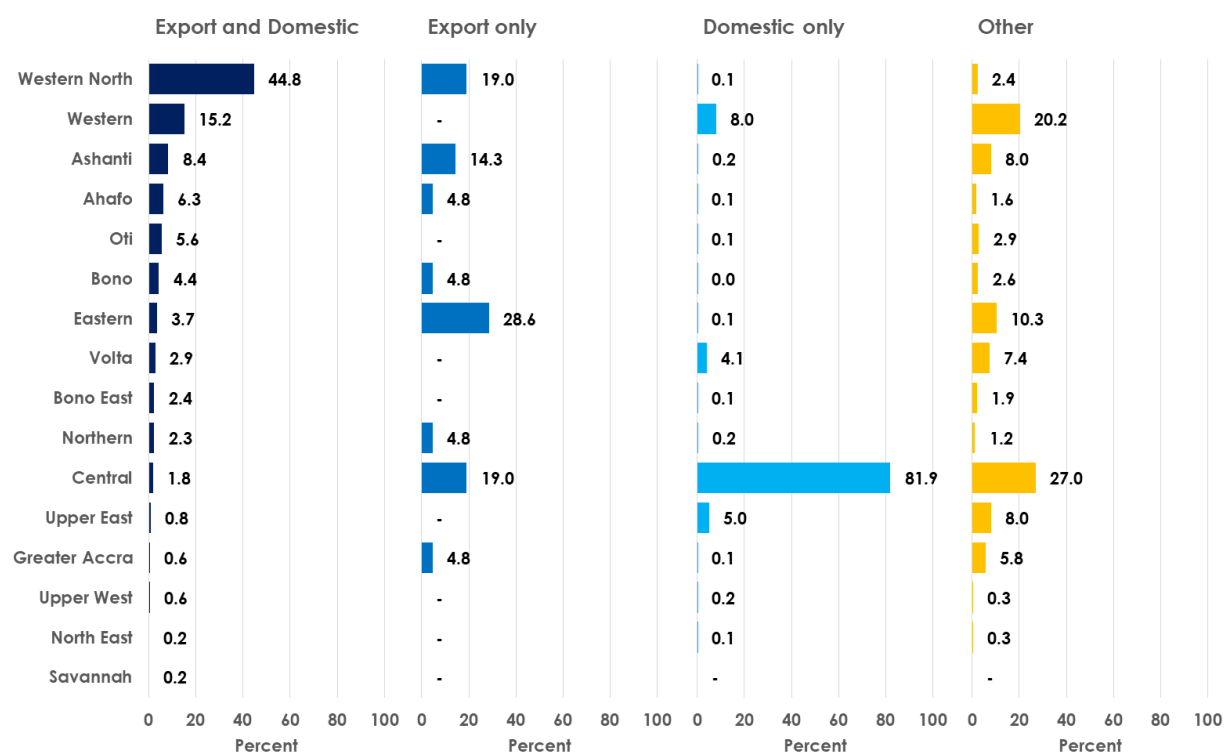
4.2 Regional Variations in forest trees production

Geographic location can impact forest tree production. Factors such as climate, soil type and elevation affect the production of forest trees. These factors are significantly different from one region to another. This section seeks to explore the regional variations in the production of forest trees in the country.

Western North Region dominates all other regions in the production of Export and Domestic Forest tree species in the country, accounting for 44.8 percent. For export only forest tree species, Eastern Region has the highest proportion of 28.6 percent.

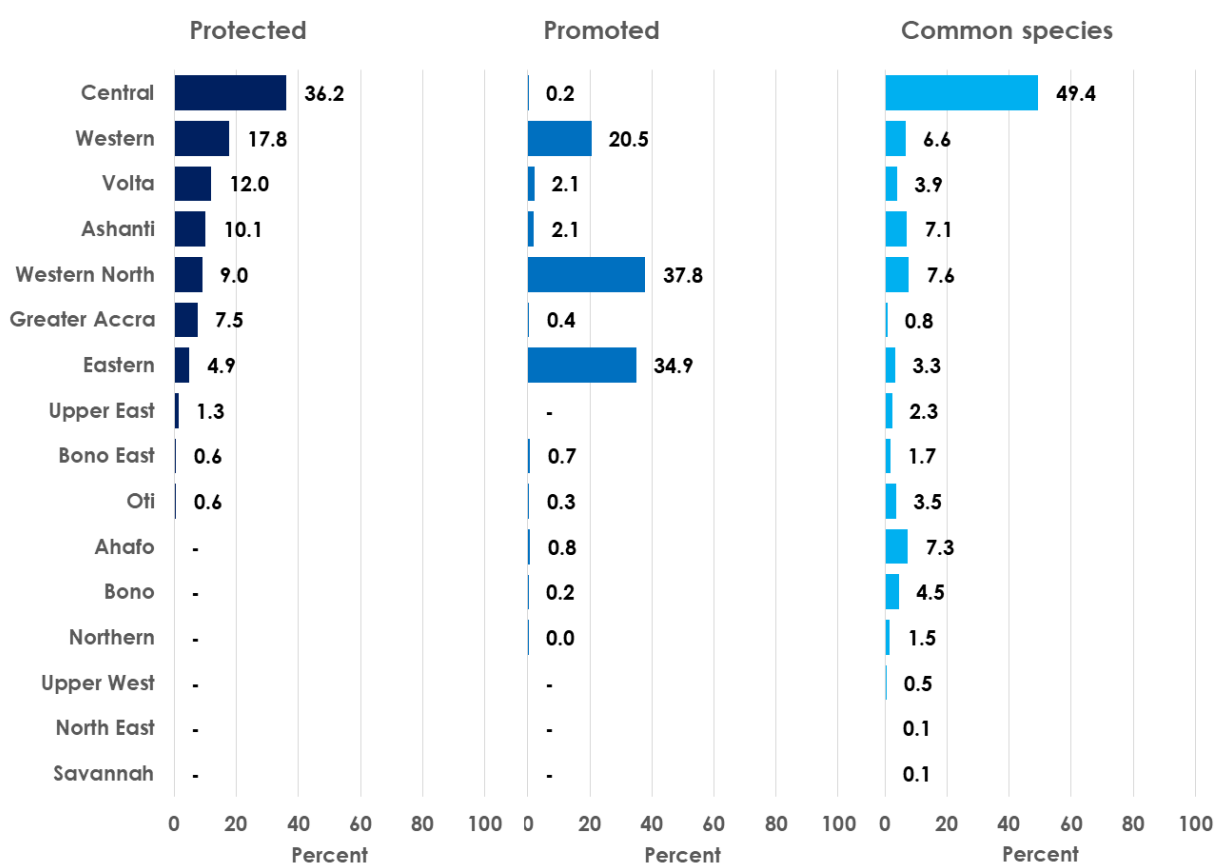
Over 80.0 percent (81.9%) of tree species meant for domestic use only is produced in Central Region and 27.0 per cent of all other forest tree species are produced in the region. As many as eight out of 16 regions do not produce forest tree species for export purposes only.

Figure 7: Forest Tree holders by type of market-oriented forest trees classification, and by region



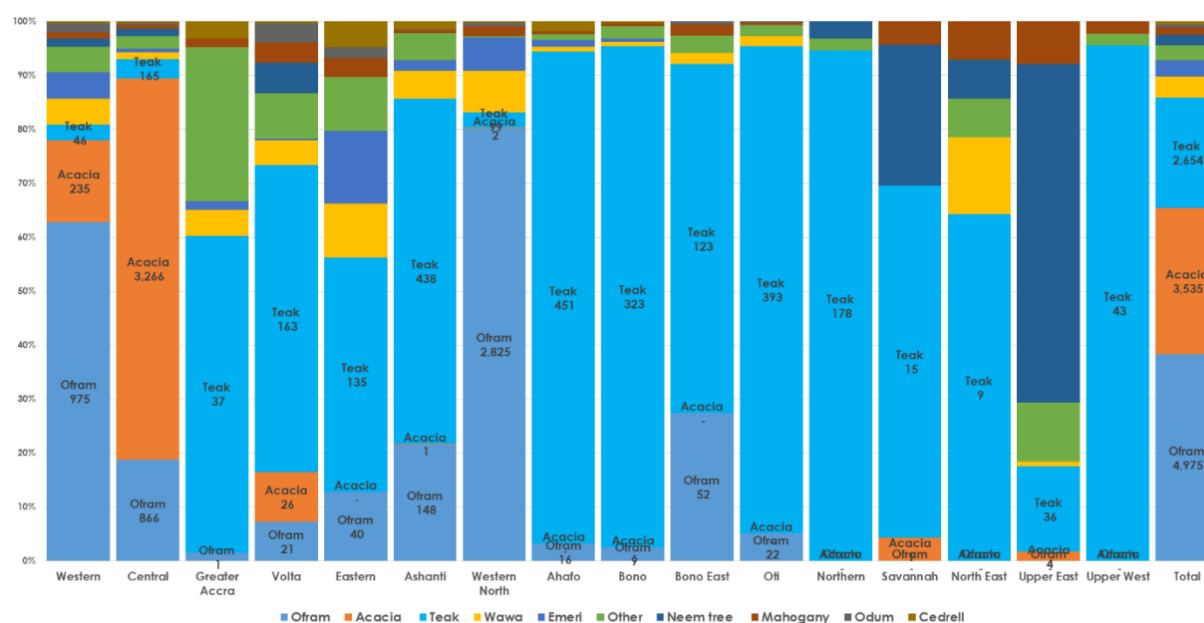
Central Region accounts for the highest proportion of protected forest tree species (36.2%) compared with other regions. Two other regions, Western North and Eastern Regions dominate in the production of promoted species, accounting for 37.8 per cent and 34.9 per cent respectively. Close to half (49.4%) of all common species (49.4%) are produced in the Central Region alone, while as many as six regions do not produce any protected tree species.

Figure 8: Forest Tree holders by type of policy-oriented forest trees classification, and by region



Ofram, Acacia and Teak are the most significant forest tree species in the country in terms of their numbers, recording a total of 4,975, 3,535 and 2,654 species respectively. Whereas Acacia and Ofram, on one hand, are produced in only a limited number of regions, Teak, on the other hand, is produced in all 16 regions of the country.

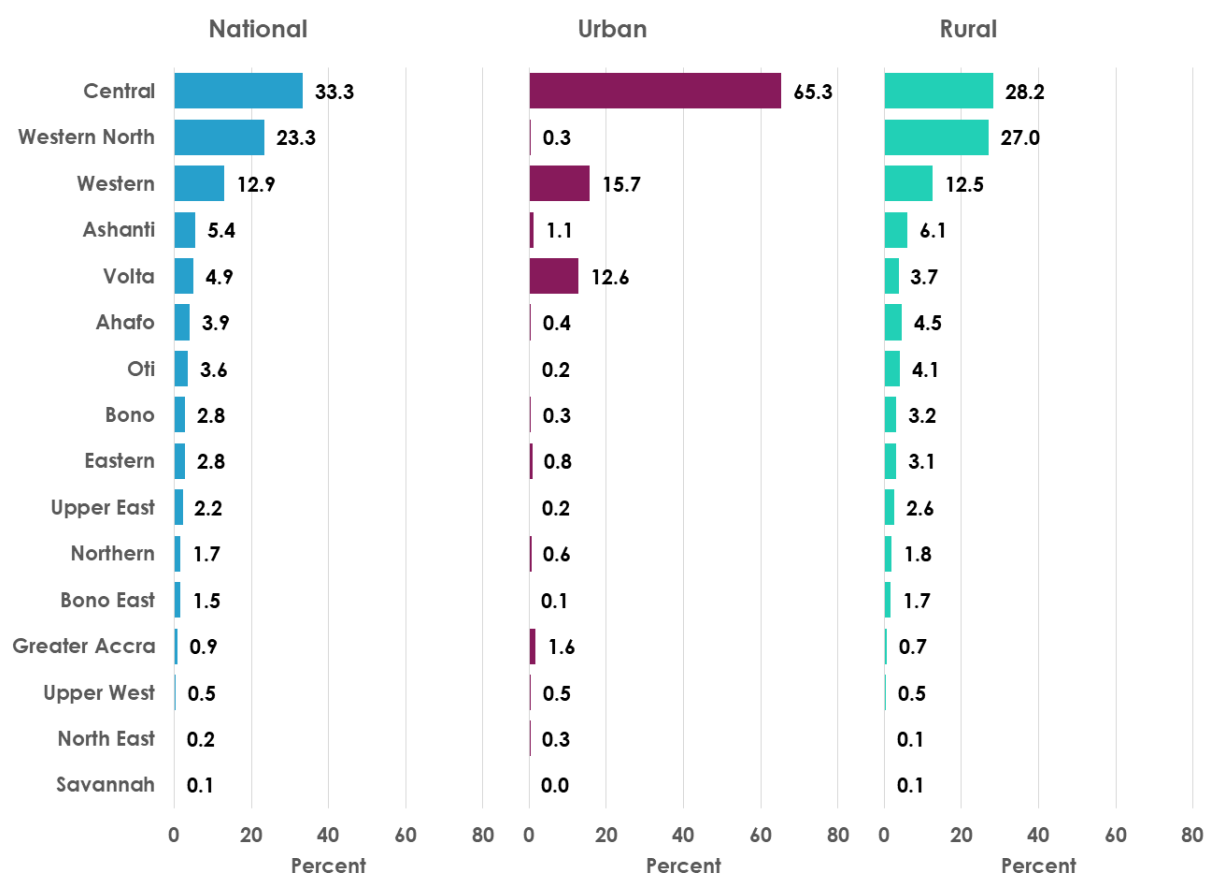
Figure 9: Forest tree holder by type of species and market-oriented forest trees classification, and by region



4.3 Correlates

Central Region accounts for one in every three (33.3%) of forest tree holders in Ghana. About two-thirds (65.3%) of urban forest tree holders in the country are in the Central Region.

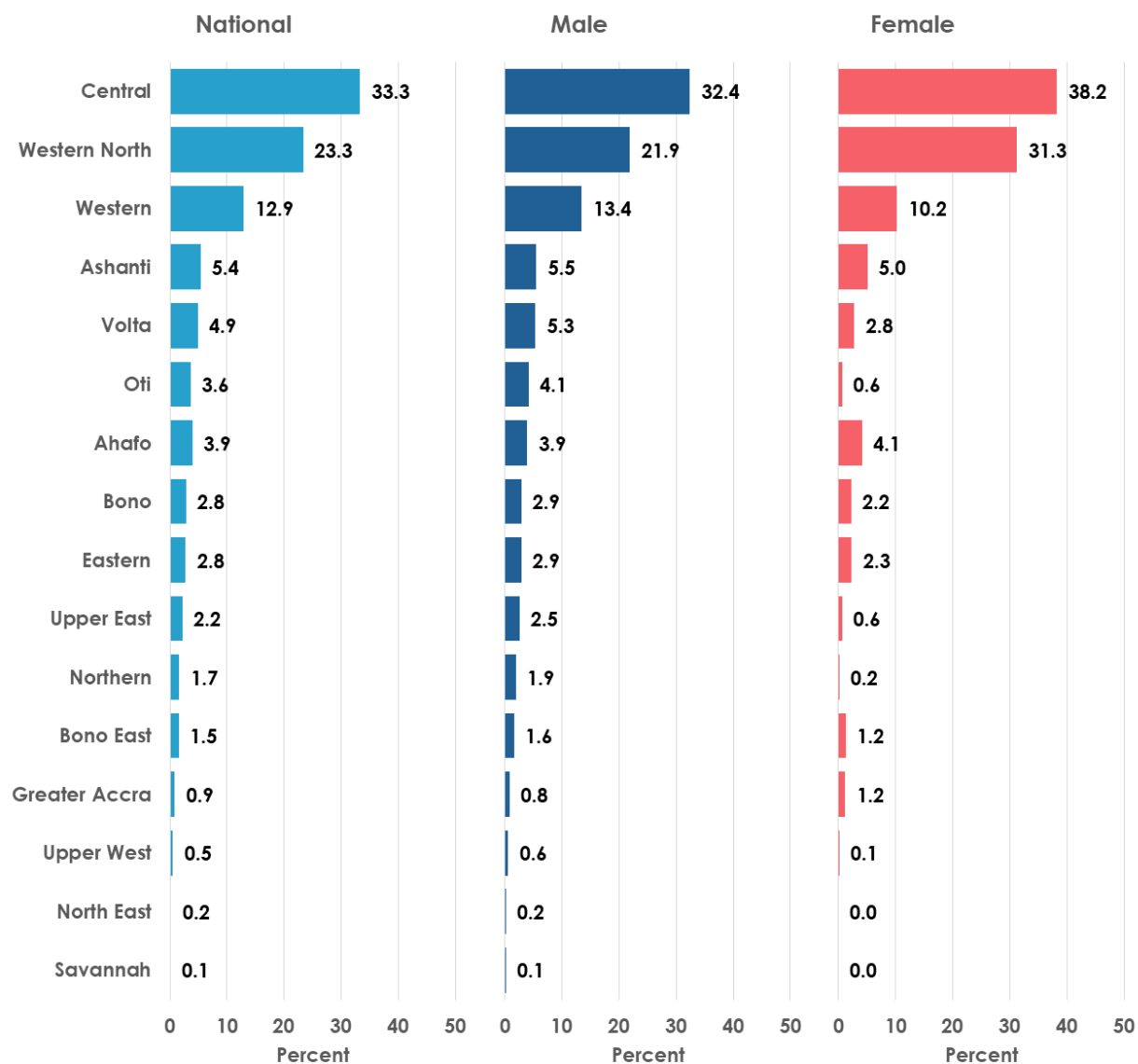
Figure 10: Forest tree holders by locality of residence, and by region



Central region has the highest proportion of male forest tree holders (32.4%), followed by Western North region (21.9%), and Western region (13.4%)

More than a third (38.2%) of female forest trees holders are in the Central region, followed by Western North region (31.3%). Savannah and North East regions have no female forest holders.

Figure 11: Forest tree holders by sex, and by region

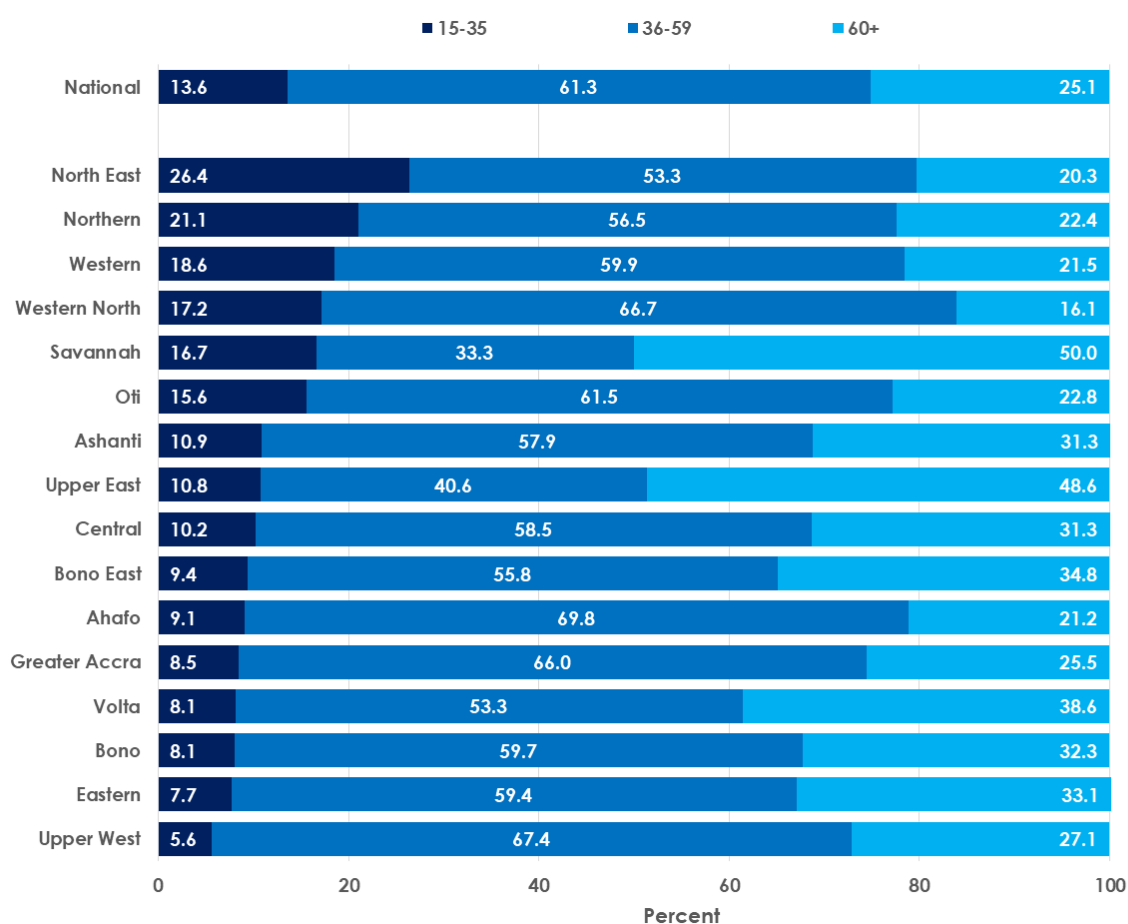


In all regions, more than half the number of holders of forest trees fall between the ages of 36-59 years, except in Savannah and Upper East Regions where only 33.3 per cent and 40.6 per cent of holders respectively fall within that age group.

The North East Region has the highest proportion (26.6%) of forest tree holders aged 15-35 while the Upper West Region has the least, constituting 5.6 percent.

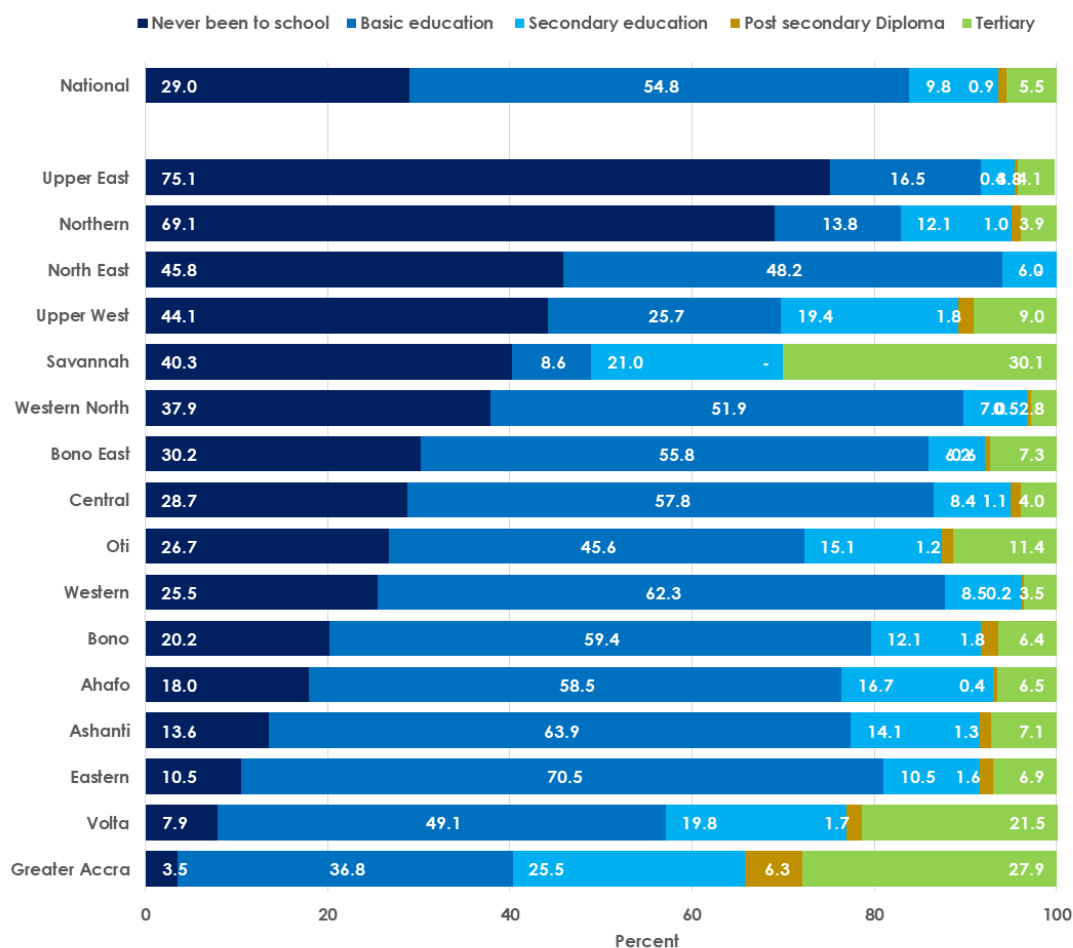
For ages 36-59, Ahafo (69.8%), Western North (66.7%) and Greater Accra (66.0%) regions have higher proportions of forest trees hold greater than the national average (61.3%). About half of forest trees holders in Savannah (50.0%) and Upper West (48.6%) are aged 60 years and older.

Figure 12: Forest tree holders by age, and by region



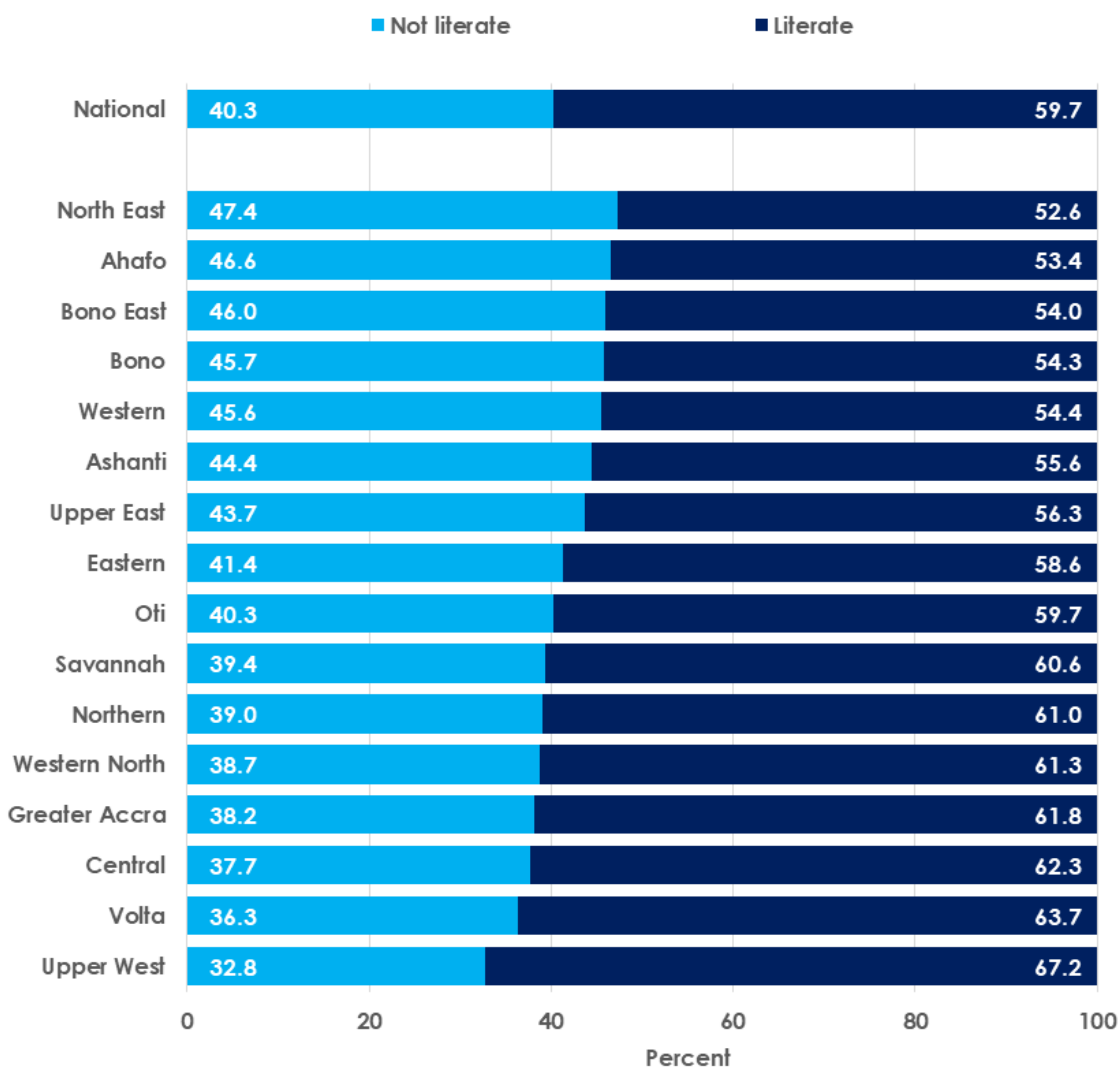
Nationally, the proportion of forest tree holders with basic education is 54.0 per cent. Upper East Region has the highest proportion (75.1%) of forest tree holders who have never been to school, followed by Northern region with 69.1 per cent. Greater Accra region has the lowest proportion of 3.5 percent.

Figure 13: Forest tree holders by educational attainment, and by region



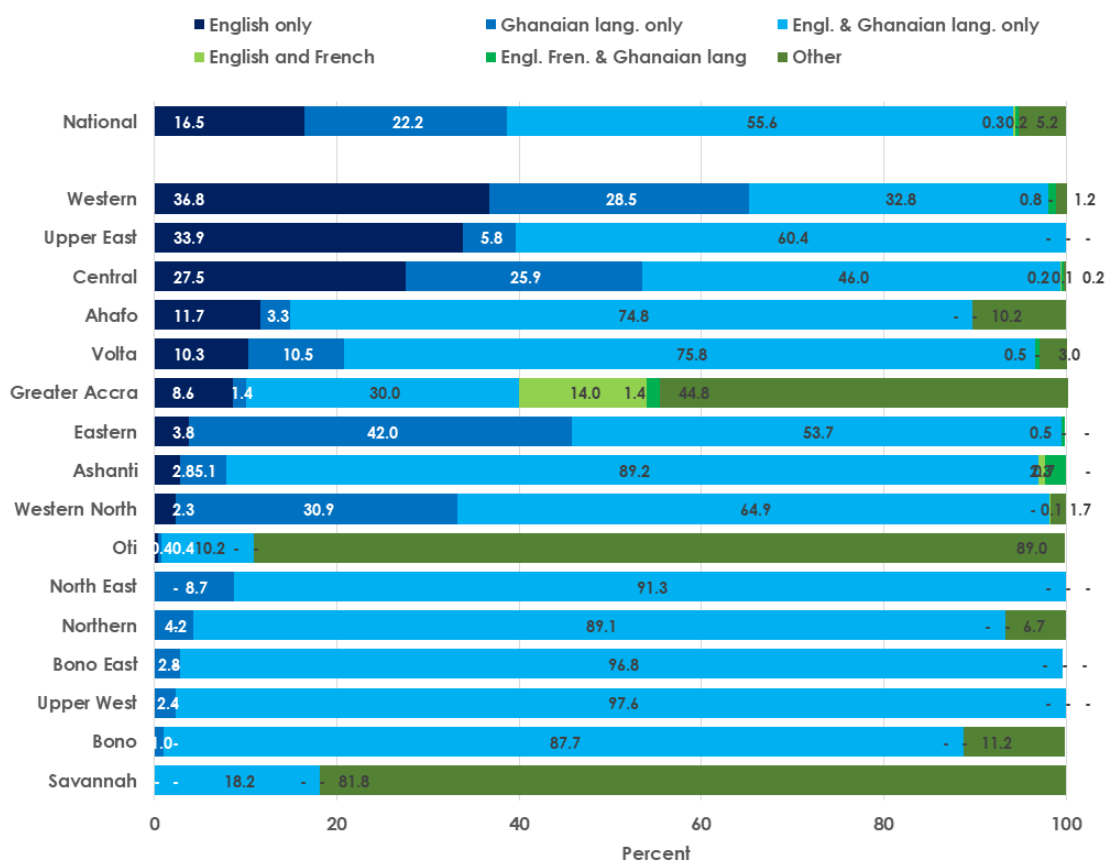
The majority (59.7%) of Forest tree holders in Ghana are literate. Upper West Region has the highest proportion (67.2%) of literate forest trees holders and the least (52.6%) is in North East region.

Figure 14: Forest tree holders by literacy status, and by region



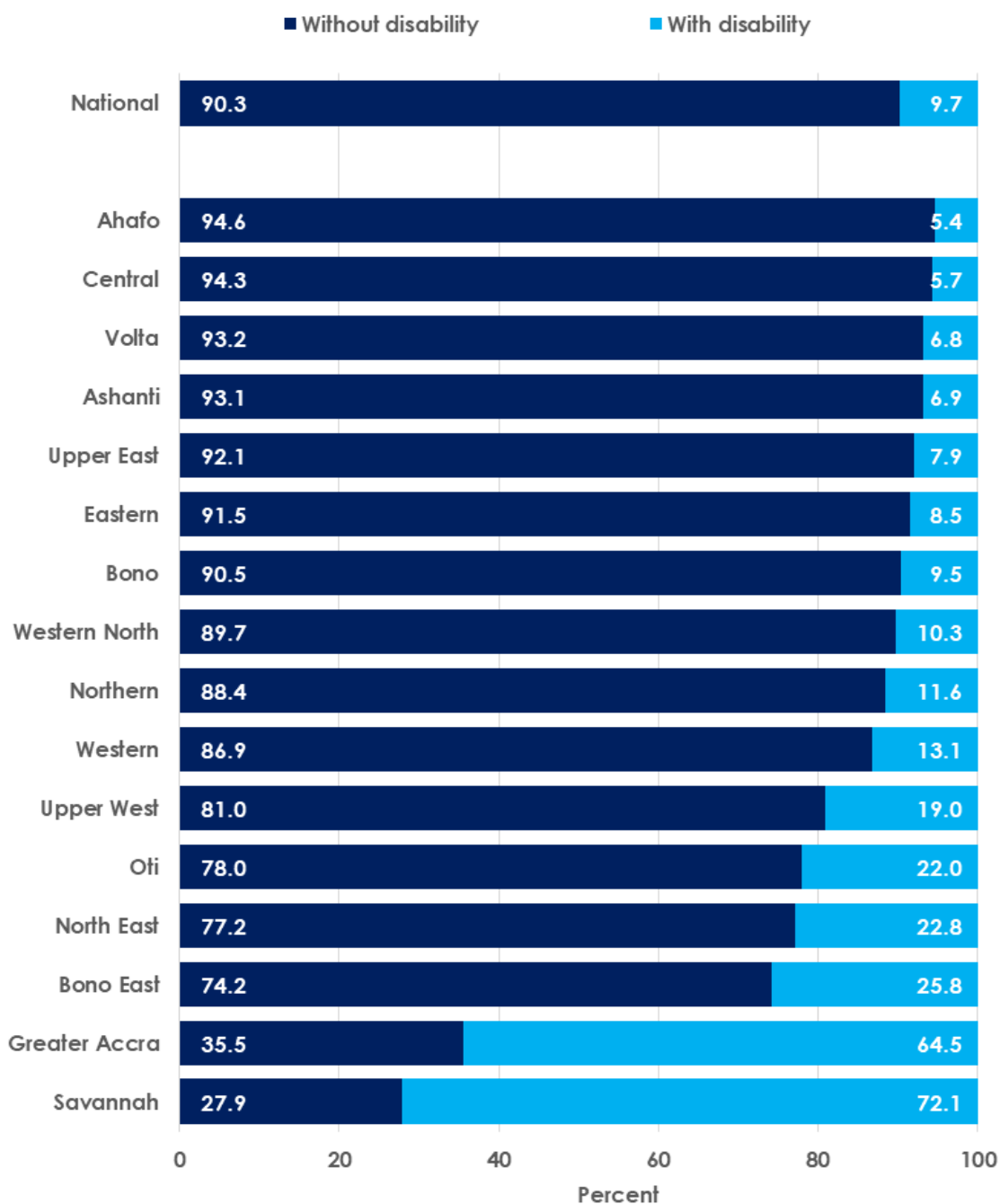
Over half (55.6%) of forest tree holders speak English and Ghanaian language only. The proportion of forest tree holders who speak other languages is highest (89.0%) in Oti than in the other Regions,

Figure 15: Forest tree holders by language, and by region



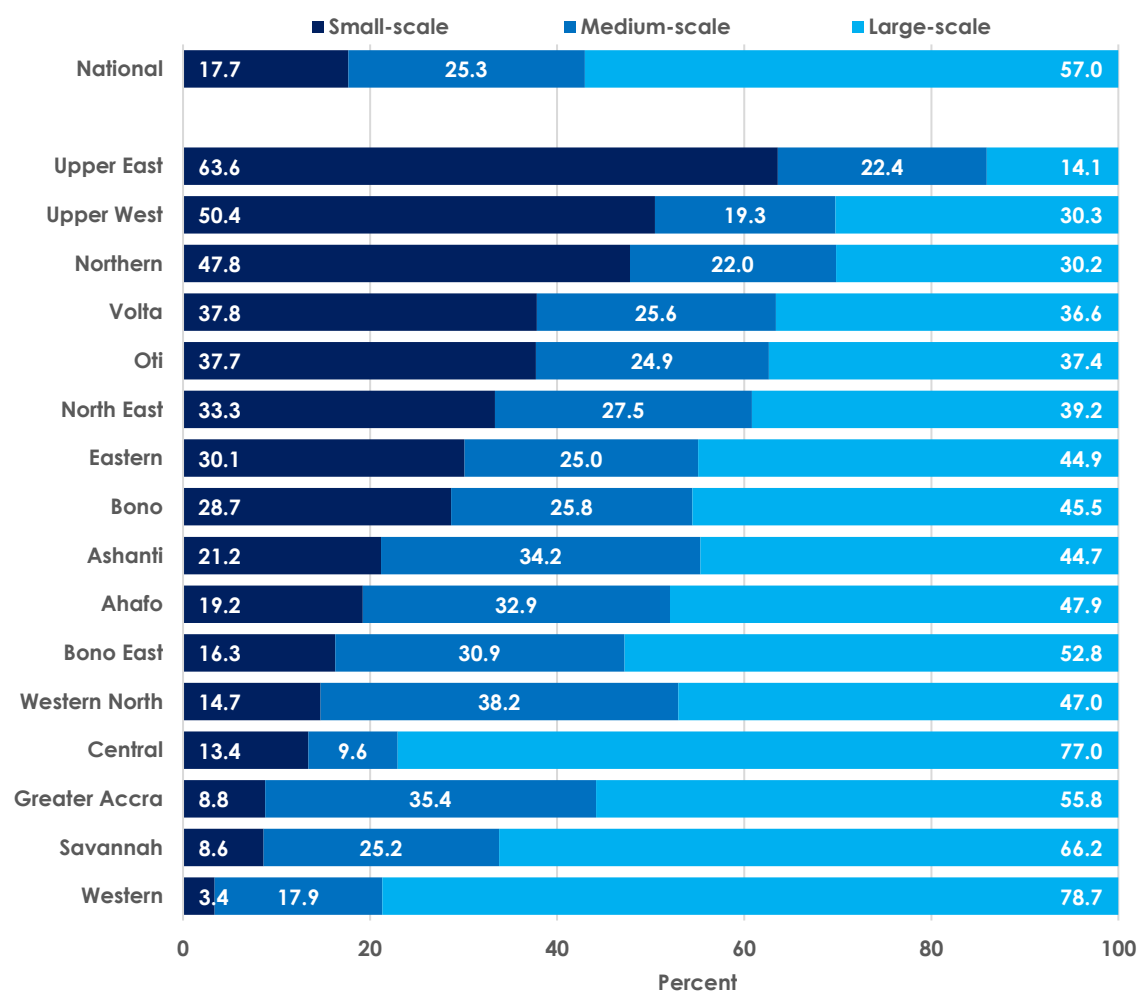
Nine in every ten (90.3%) forest tree holders in the country are without disability. The regions with the highest proportions of forest trees holders with disability are Savannah Region (72.1%) and Greater Accra Region (64.5%)

Figure 16: Forest tree holders by disability status, and by region



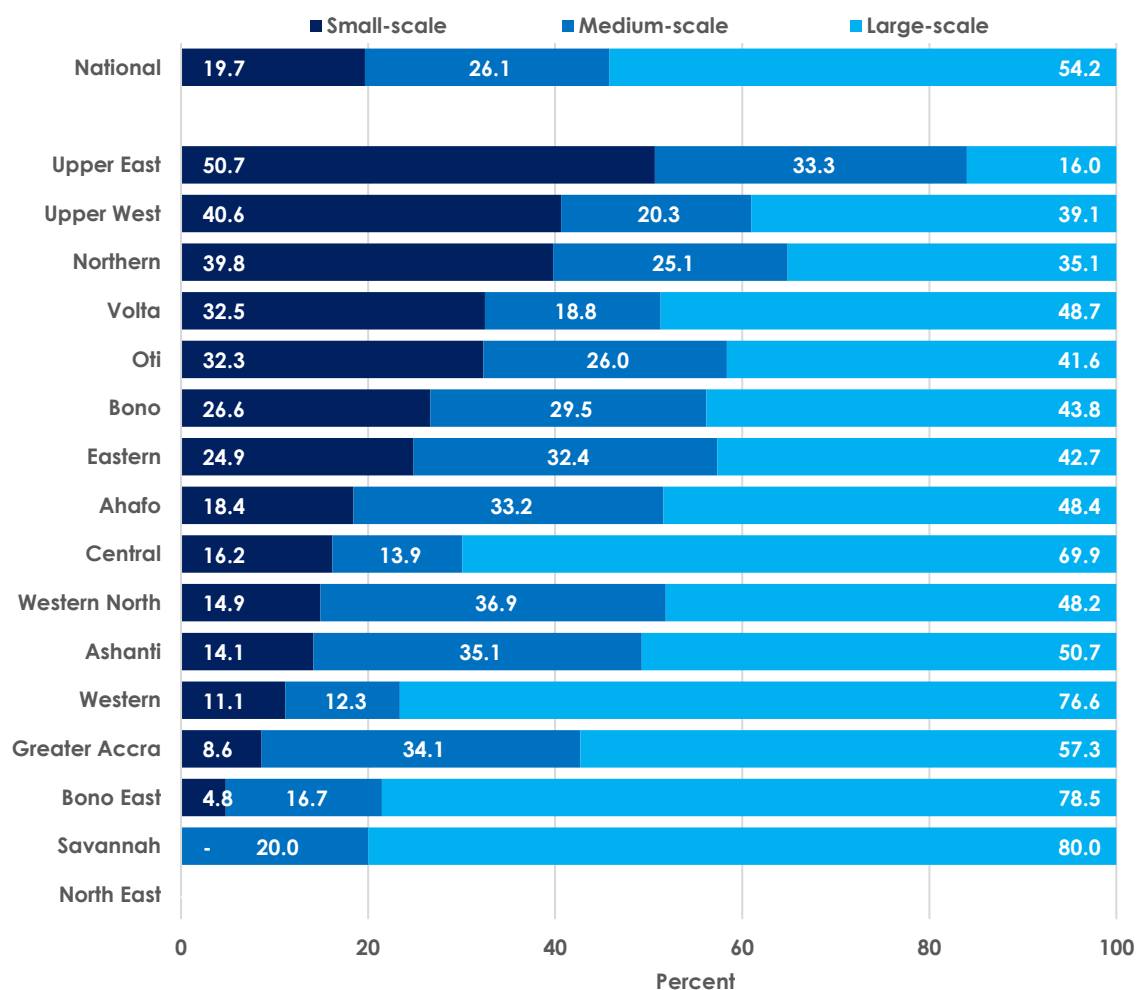
A high proportion of forest tree holders are into large scale cultivation. However, over 50.0 percent of holders in Upper East and Upper West Regions are small scale holders.

Figure 17: Forest tree holders by scale of production, and by region



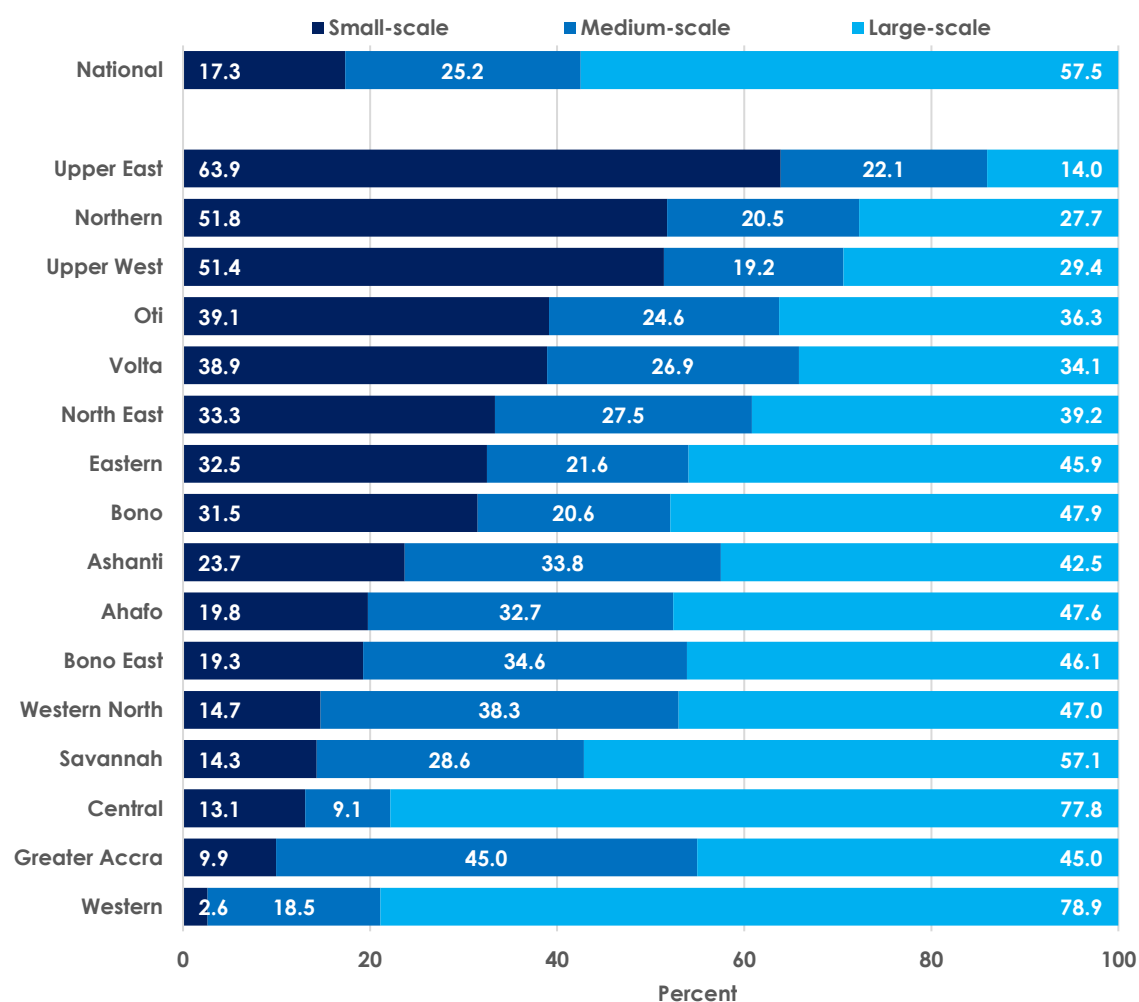
More than half of urban forest tree holders are into large-scale cultivation. The highest proportions of urban forest tree holders operate from the Western and Central Regions.

Figure 18: Urban forest tree holders by scale of production, and by region



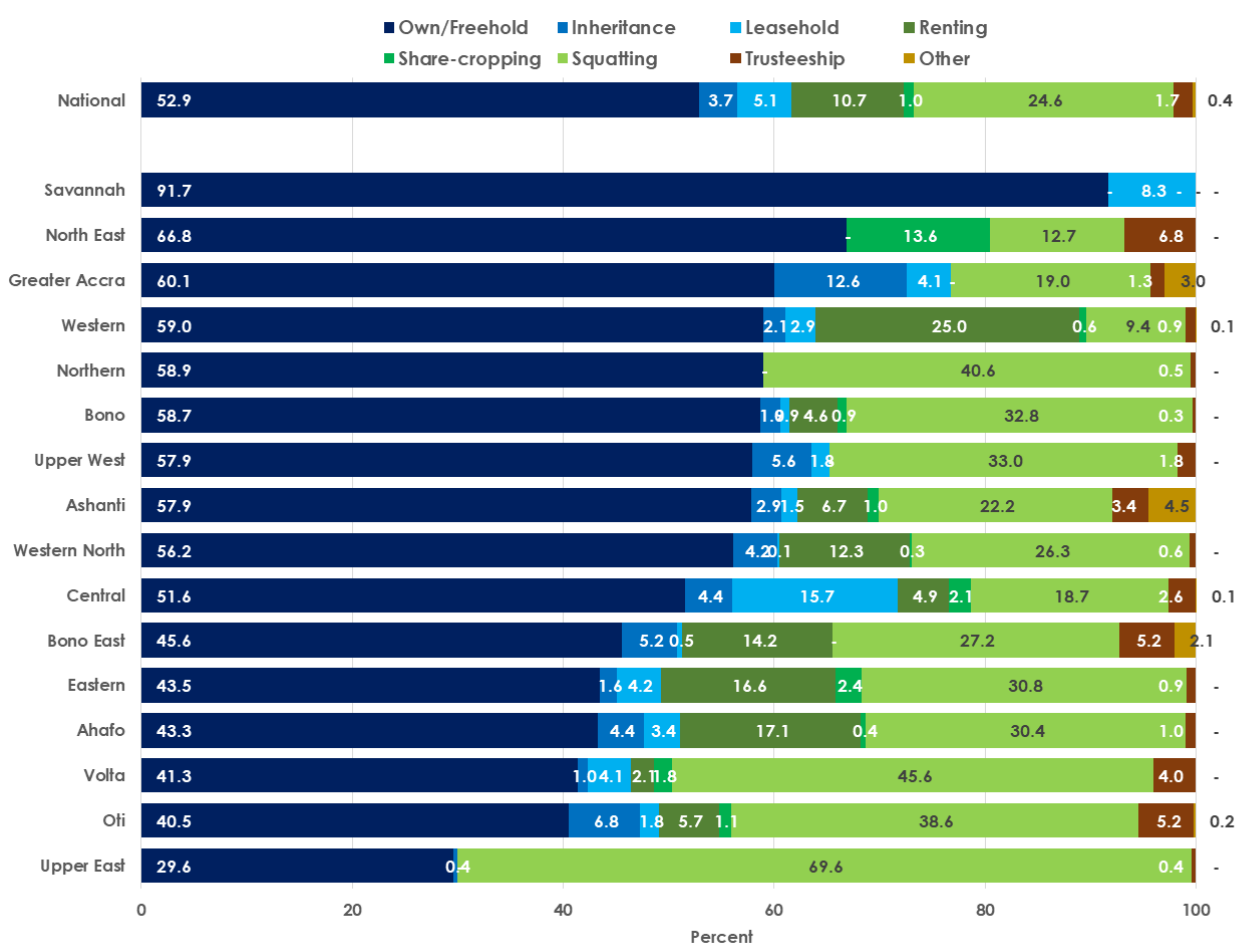
The proportion of rural large-scale forest tree holders is higher than that of urban large-scale forest tree holders in the country. While Central Region has the highest proportion rural large-scale forest, Upper East Region on the other hand has the largest proportion of small- scale forest tree holders.

Figure 19: Rural Forest tree holders by scale of production, and by region



More than half (52.9%) of forest tree holders in Ghana have freehold or own the land they use for forest tree cultivation. Own/freehold is also the most dominant land tenure arrangement for forest tree holders in all the regions, except in Upper East and Volta regions which have the highest of 69.6 per cent and 45.6 per cent of holders being squatters on the land used for cultivation.

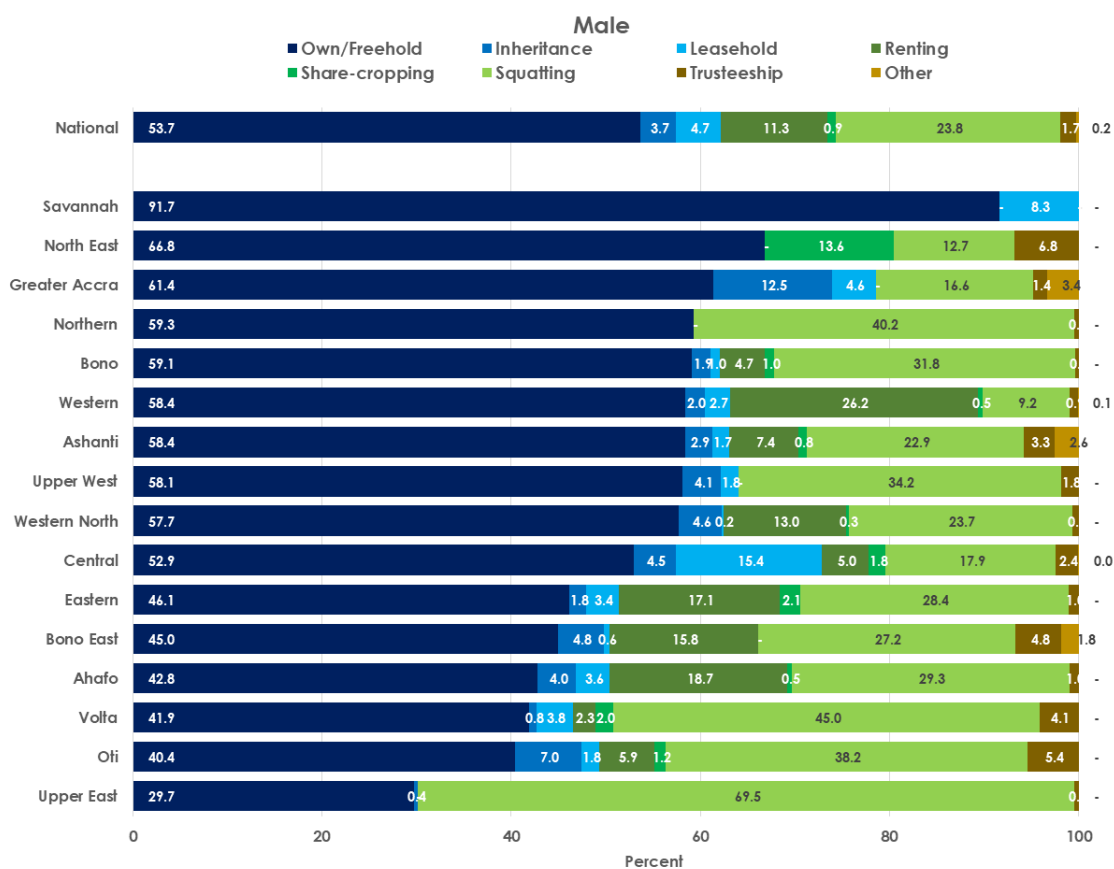
Figure 20: Forest tree holders by type of land tenure arrangement, and by region



More than half (53.7%) of males who have forest trees holdings own or have freehold to the land they use for cultivation.

In all regions except Upper East and Volta Regions, majority of male forest tree holders have freehold or own the land used for cultivation. Squatting is the most predominant land tenure arrangement among forest tree holders in Upper East and Volta Regions, constituting 69.5 per cent and 45.0 per cent respectively.

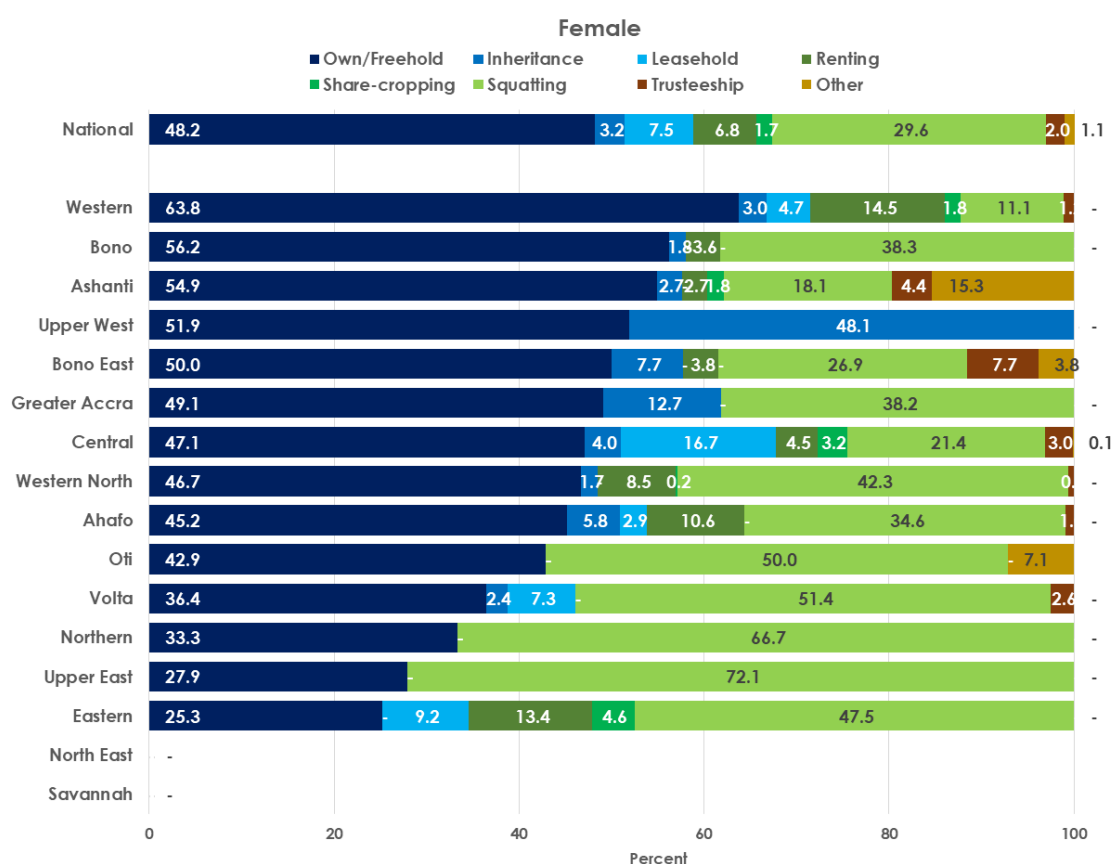
Figure 21: Male forest tree holders by type of land tenure arrangement, and by region



Own/freehold land tenure arrangement for forest tree holders is most common (48%) among female holders in the country. Squatting is most common for female forest tree holders in five regions: Upper East (72.1%), Northern (66.7%), Volta (51.4%), Oti (50%) and Eastern (47.5%).

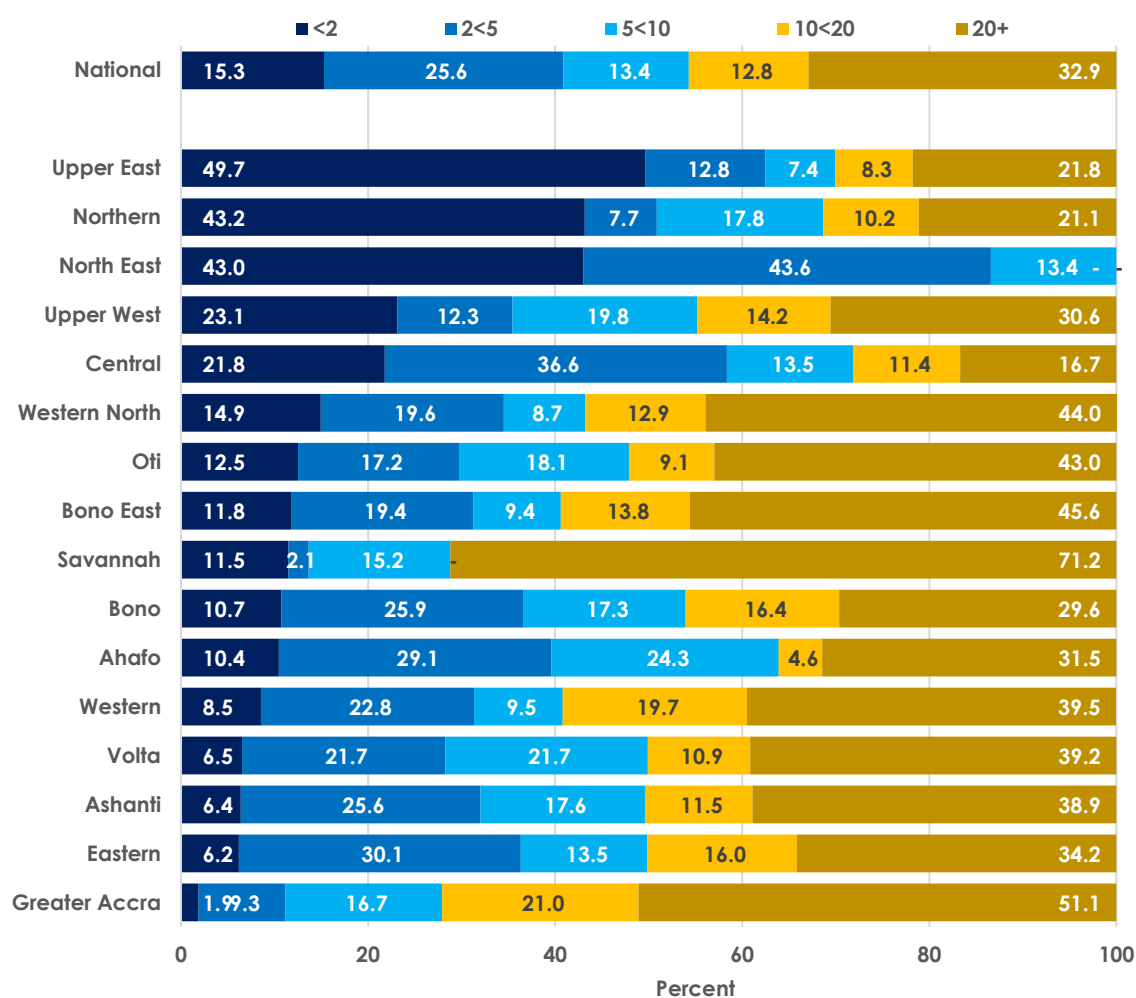
There are no female forest tree holders in Savannah and North East regions.

Figure 22: Female Forest tree holders by type of land tenure arrangement and by region



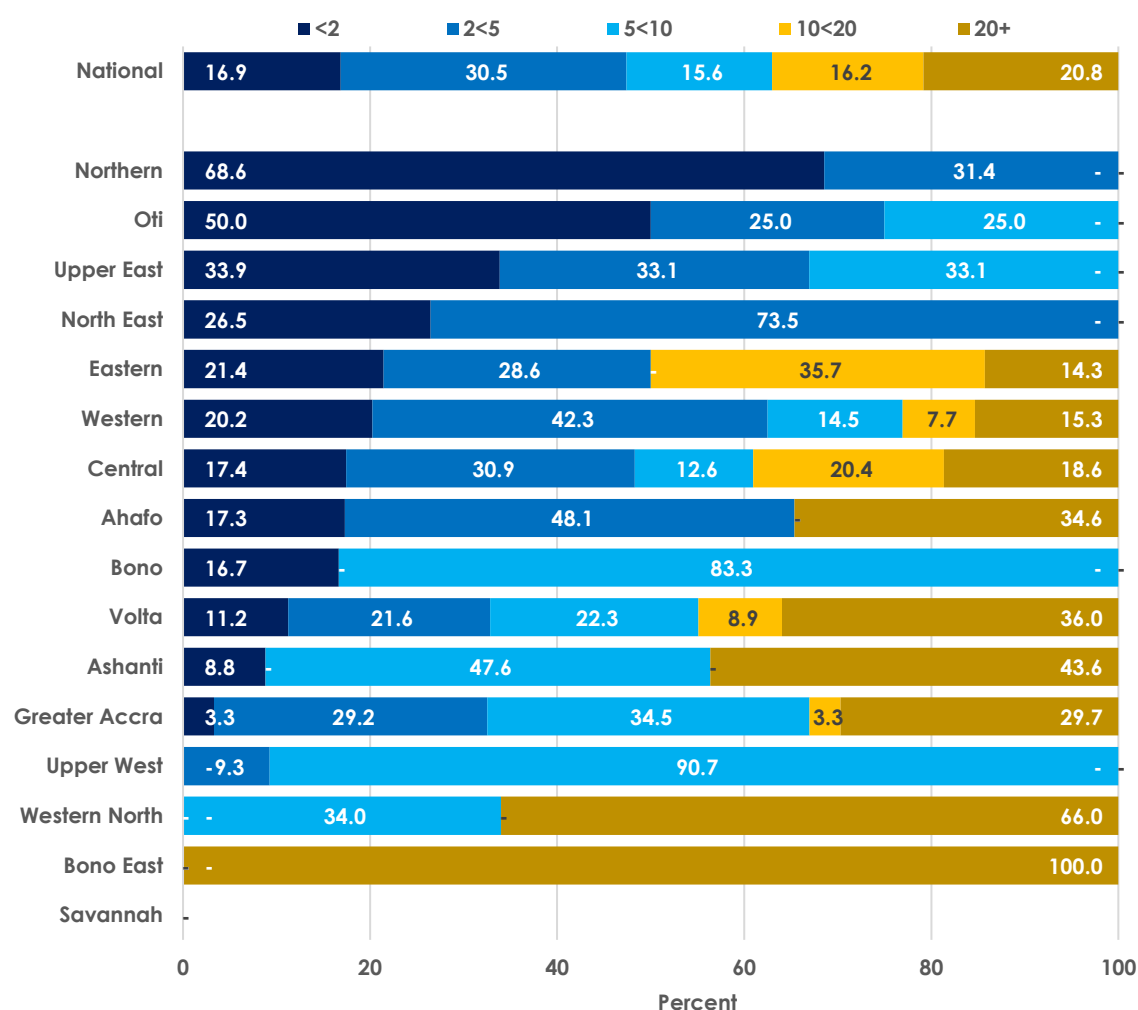
Holders with Land parcel sizes, 20 acres or more constitute the highest (32.9%) of forest tree holders in Ghana. About 15.3 percent of forest tree holders in Ghana cultivate on land parcel sizes that are less than two acres per holding. Almost half (49.7%) of holders cultivate on land parcels that are less than two acres. However, 71.2 percent of holders in Savannah Region cultivate on land parcel sizes that are 20 acres or more.

Figure 23: Forest trees holders' land parcels by size (acres), and by region



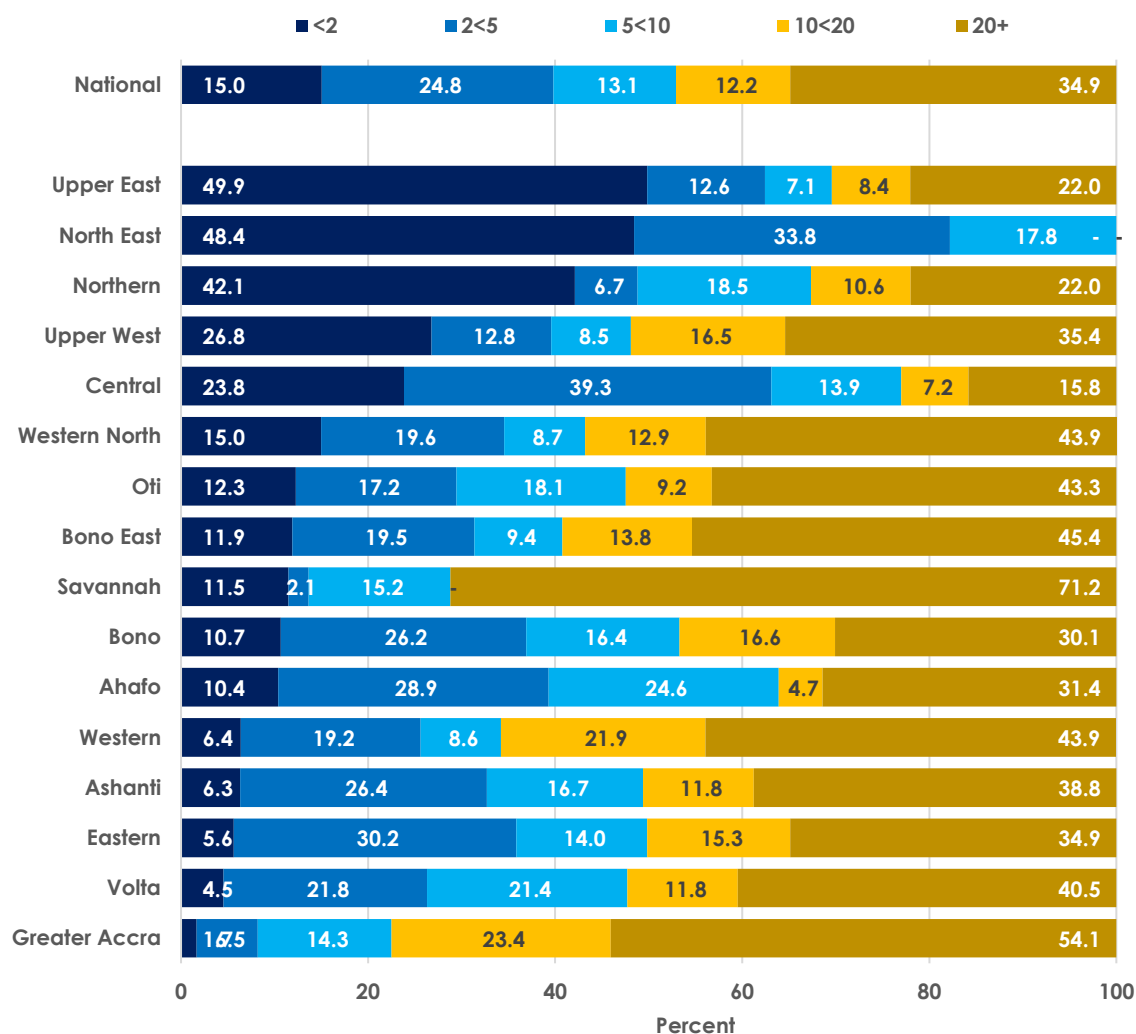
A higher proportion of urban forest tree holders in Ghana (30.5%) cultivate on land parcel greater than two acres but less than five. A little over 20 percent of them however, cultivate on parcel sizes up to 20 acres or more. Northern region has the highest proportion of urban holders (68.6%) whose forest tree holdings are less than two acres. Urban holders in Upper West and Bono Regions have very high proportions of those whose parcels of land are less than 10 but more than five acres, constituting 90.7 per cent and 83.3 per cent respectively. All forest tree parcels of land in Bono East Region, although more than 10, are less than 20 acres.

Figure 24: Urban Forest tree holders' land parcels by size (acres), and by region



The highest proportion (34.9%) of rural forest holders in Ghana cultivate on land parcel sizes that are up to 20 acres or more. In Upper East Region, however, almost half of holders (49.9%) cultivate on parcels that are less than two acres per holding. The savannah Region has the highest proportion of rural holders whose land parcels are at least 20 acres, followed by Greater Accra with 54.1 percent holders.

Figure 25: Rural Forest tree holders' land parcels by size (acres), and by region



5. CONCLUSIONS

This section provides conclusions on forest tree holdings in Ghana as contained in the 2017/18 Census of Agriculture findings.

Forest tree holders at the individual household levels produce for both the domestic and export market. However, majority of forest tree institutions produce for export purposes only.

A large proportion of institutional holders are into the production of Common Tree Species. Very few holders produce protected species. Hence, the need for targeted interventions to boost the production of both Protected and Promoted species in the country.

Ofram, Acacia and Teak dominate in the proportions of forest trees cultivated. However, while the cultivation of all other species is often limited to particular regions, Teak is cultivated in every region of the country. Its potential may be leveraged upon to meet both domestic and export targets.

At the national level, Central Region dominates forest tree production and also leads the locality distribution with regards to rural and urban holders.

In all regions, more than half the number of holders of forest trees fall within the 36-59-year age group. Also, there are more males than females who are into forest tree production in all regions except Central and Upper East Regions. Forest tree cultivation must be made more attractive to the youth and also encourage female participation in the industry.

The highest level of education for majority of forest tree-holders is basic education while a significant proportion of holders have never been to school. Again, very few people with tertiary education are into forest tree cultivation. There is the need for targeted policy interventions to improve literacy levels among holders. This is even more urgent for Upper East and Northern Regions where approximately 70.0% to 75.0% of holders have never been to school. There is also a pressing need to encourage forest tree cultivation among the elite population.

A significant proportion of holders have one form of disability or the other. The trend is more entrenched in Savannah and Greater Accra Regions which have the highest proportions of holders with various forms of disability.

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Name	Email	Institution	Role
Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim	samuel.annim@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Government Statistician
Dr. Faustina Frempong-Ainguah	faustina.frempong-anguah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Deputy Government Statistician
Prof. Simon Mariwah	smariwah@ucc.edu.gh	University of Cape Coast	Reviewer
Mr. Edward Asuo Afram	asuo.afram@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Director of Economic Statistics Directorate
Dr. Bernice Serwah Ofosu-Baadu	bernice.ofosubaadu@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Head, Agriculture & Environment Statistics; and Reviewer
Dr. Ebenezer Ocran	ebenezer.ocran@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Supervisor
Mr. Jeremiah Sixtus Dery	jeremiah.dery@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Regional Statistician, Upper West Region and report writer
Mr. Amatus Nobabumah	amatus.nobabumah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Regional Statistician, Bono Region and report writer
Mr. Felix Geli	felix.geli@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Regional Statistician, Upper East

			Region, and report writer
Mr. Richard Gyimah Sasu	richard.sasu@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Report writer
Mrs. Vivian Ashantey	Vivian.asantey@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Typesetter
Mr. Selaseh Akaho	selaseh.akaho@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Data Visualization
Mr. Felix Adjei	felix.adjei@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Graphic design



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