

Developing agroforestry around Myanmar's Inle Lake, supporting small-scale farmers and the local ecosystem

Introduction & motivations:

Development of agroforestry practices around Inle Lake's watershed area, in the Shan State of Myanmar, in collaboration with the local community-based organization PHECAD (PweHla Environment Conservation And Development)

Motivated by:

- On-going environmental degradation
- Livelihood decrease of the local small-scale farmers



Objective & methods:

Investigate whether and how agroforestry practices can benefit small-scale farmers and their households around PweHla's watershed area, and the specific biosphere of the Inle Lake



- 43 individual interviews
- 8 key informant interviews
- 6 focus group discussions
- Observations & field visits
- In-field trainings
- Farmer field schools

Participatory approach

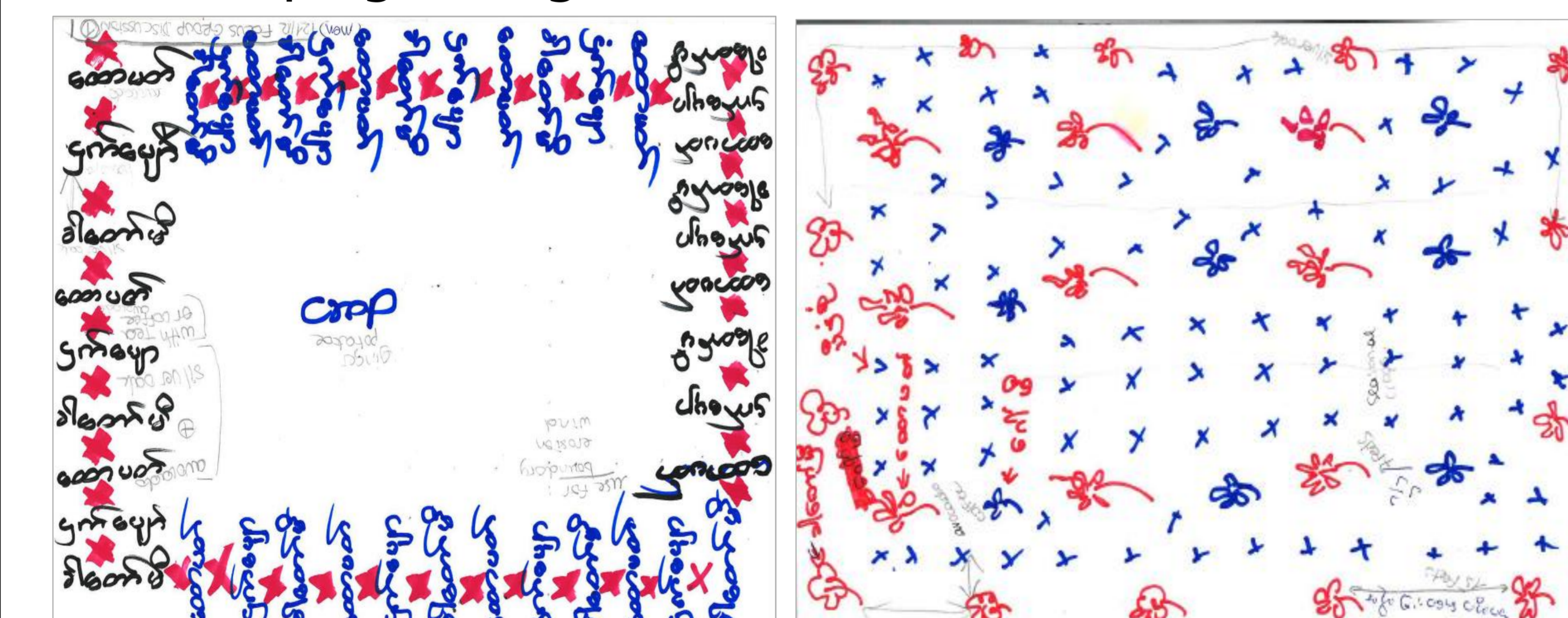
Results:

1. What are the existing agricultural/forestry practices and the challenges faced by the farmers?

- Rice, potatoes, vegetables & avocado, fruit trees, silver oak, tea, coffee
- Sole cropping (farmland) & intercropping (home-gardens)
- Income from selling the harvest on the local markets
- Challenges: climate change, deforestation, lack of money

3. Which are the best fitting tree species and agroforestry designs to the small-scale farmers?

- Avocado, silver oak, coffee, tea, jengkol, macadamia
- Trees in line inside the field (in alternance with rows of crops); trees on the external borders of the field (with the crops growing inside)

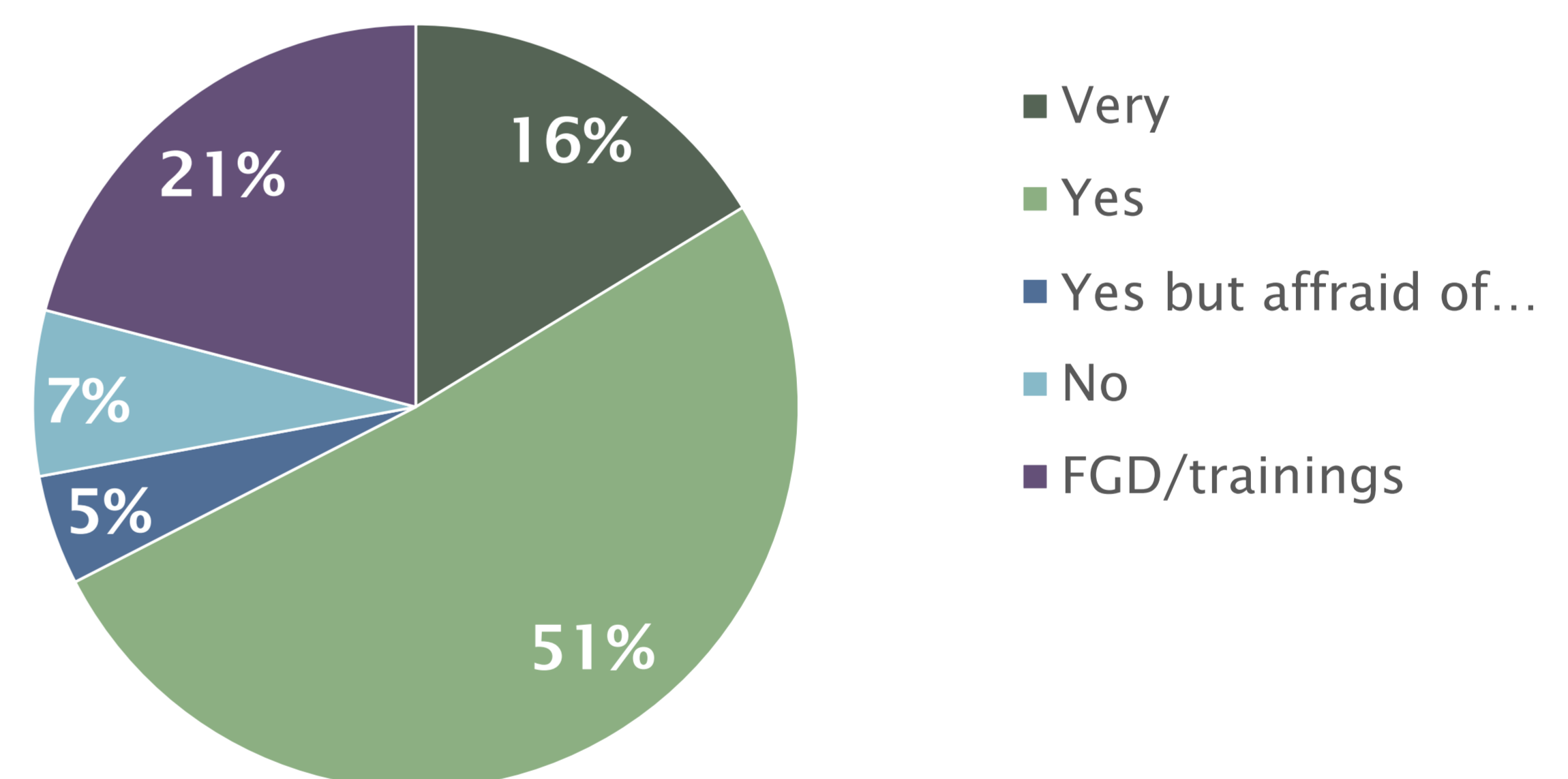


Farmers' sketches of their preferred agroforestry designs

2. What are the benefits of trees for the farmers and the environment & motivations/reluctances of farmers to start agroforestry?

- Benefits & motivations: climate regulation, increased income, a mean of overcoming farmers' challenges
- Reluctances: shadow, long time to wait to reap the benefits of trees

Percentages of farmers being interested in testing agroforestry (n=43)



4. How can the farmers be supported in turning into agroforestry?

- Further trainings with PHECAD
- In-field trainings & farmer field schools

Conclusion:



- Lack of **technical knowledge** of the farmers regarding further benefits of agroforestry
- High **enthusiasm and interest** of the farmers to overcome the challenges faced, and learn about a more **sustainable production** system
- **Environmental conditions** well adapted to implement agroforestry
- **Significant potential** of developing agroforestry in the Inle Lake watershed area