

ADOPTION OF RICE PARBOILING IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES AND POVERTY DYNAMICS IN BENIN: THE LADDER OF LIFE APPROACH

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Improving rice quality is one of the key issues to increase rice competitiveness and reduce imports in Africa
- ❖ By improving rice quality, reducing postharvest losses, reducing drudgery and improving safety for processors, improved parboiling technologies and practices contribute not only to improving competitiveness of local rice and reduction of rice import, but also to improve food and nutrition security, income and livelihoods of rural parboiling households and communities.



- ❖ During the last decade, different types of improved parboiling kits and practices were introduced and disseminated in Benin

Research question: What are the poverty dynamics in communities where improved parboiling technology has been adopted in Benin?

METHODOLOGY



- 24 communities in Central & Northern Benin
- 48 FGD
- 480 male and female individual interviews

Ladder of Life tool is used to assess poverty dynamics with wellbeing groups in communities



- ❖ 54% of participants were female
- ❖ Female participants were mostly producers and parboilers while male participants were rice producers
- ❖ 2 ladders of life in each community: Men & Women separately

Factors contributing to moving up the Ladder

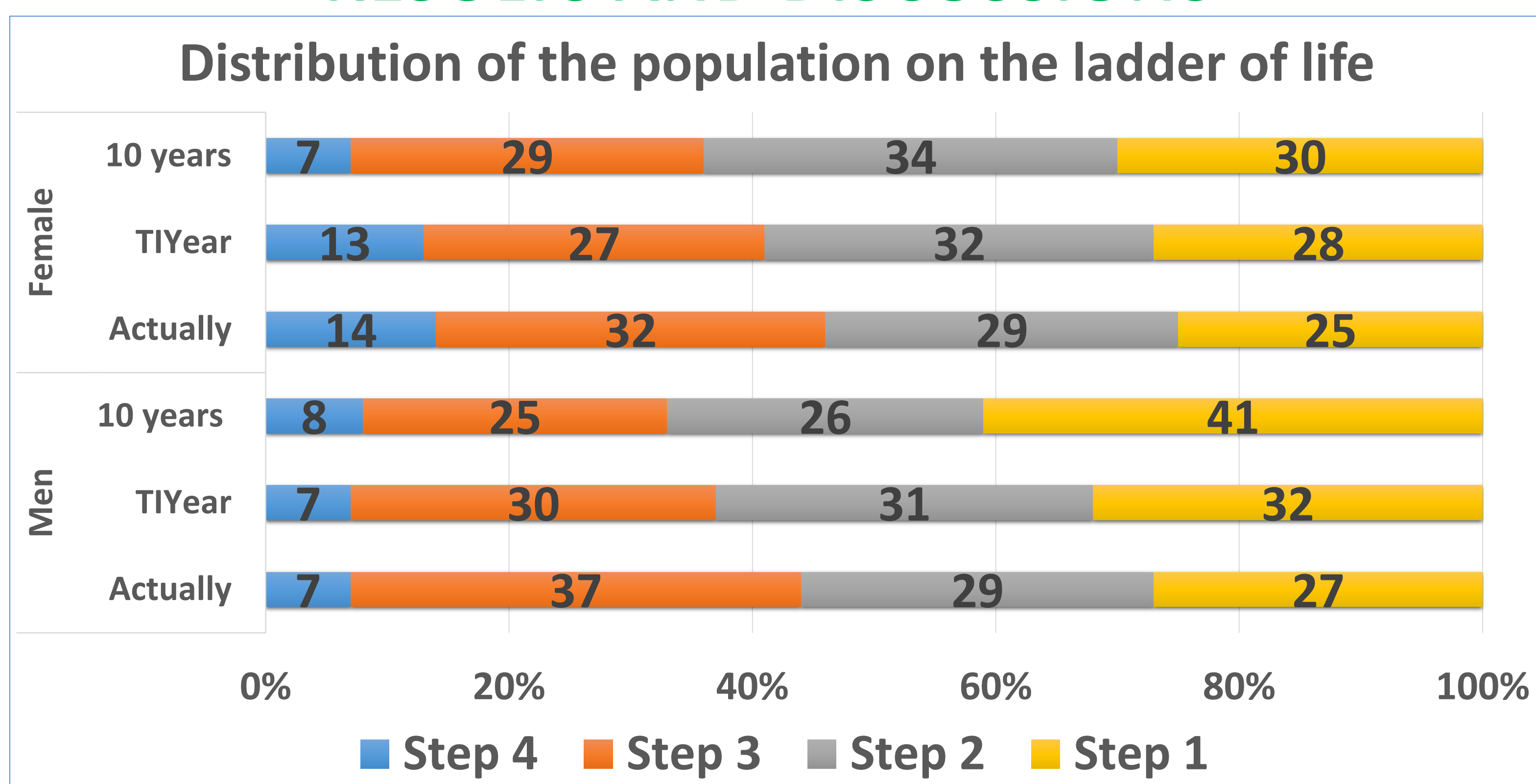
- ✓ Access to and use of improved agricultural technologies including high yield varieties and good agricultural practices
- ✓ **Access and use of improved rice parboiling technologies and practices**
- ✓ Access to and timely use of credit and finance
- ✓ Diversification of income sources including non-agricultural activities (e.g. animal rearing, agri-food processing, trading, etc.)
- ✓ Good relationship with people of the upper ladder steps for support
- ✓ Proper planning and management of resources
- ✓ Hard working and good networking

Factors contributing to the stagnation or moving down the Ladder

- ✓ Lack of financial resources /no access to credit /late access to credit or insufficient credit
- ✓ Non access to / no adoption of improved agricultural technologies and practices
- ✓ **Non-use of improved parboiling technologies**
- ✓ Climate changes / drought, flood, high temperature, proliferation of rodents
- ✓ Unexpected sickness

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Distribution of the population on the ladder of life



- ✓ Rice parboiling is essentially women activity in the investigated region
- ✓ Four steps on the ladder of life are noted for both men and women in the investigated communities
- ✓ Step 1 and 2 are under poverty line
- ✓ Compared to 10 years ago and to when the technology was introduced, there are actually more male farmers (56%) than female farmers (52%) under poverty line: slightly more women are out of poverty than men in the investigated communities
- ✓ Eleven percent of male and 10% of female improved their livelihoods and moved out of poverty during the last decade
- ✓ On average 6% male and 5% female participants moved out of poverty since the introduction of improved rice parboiling technologies and practices

Improved parboiling equipment and practices really improved women's livelihood and contributed to move them out from poverty

- ✓ Women rice parboilers used more and more improved and larger parboiling equipment from the bottom step to the upper level: Level of rice parboiling technology used by women is a key factor in improving their livelihoods
- ✓ It was commonly recognized by both men and women that the use of improved rice parboiling equipment and practices by women has significantly contributed to bring them out of poverty during the last decade
- ✓ Almost all the women who adopted the improved technologies and practices moved up on the ladder of life
- ✓ In communities where most of women used improved rice parboiling equipment and practices, the shares of female poor were significantly lower than those of communities where most of women used traditional parboiling equipment and practices

CONCLUSION

- ✓ The Ladder of Life tool is a good tool to assess the qualitative effect of a technology on poverty dynamics in communities
- ✓ Four steps ladders of life were obtained for both men and women with the poverty line between step 2 and step 3
- ✓ Eleven percent of male and 10% of female improved their livelihoods and moved out from poverty during the last decade
- ✓ Access to suitable and timely credit and improved technology are key factors for both male and female actors to improve their livelihood and move out of poverty
- ✓ Improved parboiling equipment and practices really improved women's livelihood and contributed to move them out from poverty