



Perception of COVID-19 and coping strategies by pastoralists in northern Benin



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INTRODUCTION

- Pastoral communities in Benin have been exposed in recent decades to several socio-economic, political and environmental changes.
- COVID-19 pandemic appeared in this context as an additional uncertainty challenging pastoralist livelihoods and future.
- This study aims at analyzing COVID-19 perception and coping strategies by pastoralists, known to be resilient in the face of uncertainties.



The future ?



- How do pastoralists perceive COVID-19 ?
- What are their coping strategies ?

METHODS

- Quantitative data collected from 126 informants (84 men & 42 women) from 42 pastoralist households purposively selected in two districts in Northern Benin (N'Dali and Tchaourou)
- Digitized questionnaire used and data processed and analyzed through descriptive statistics with SPSS software.

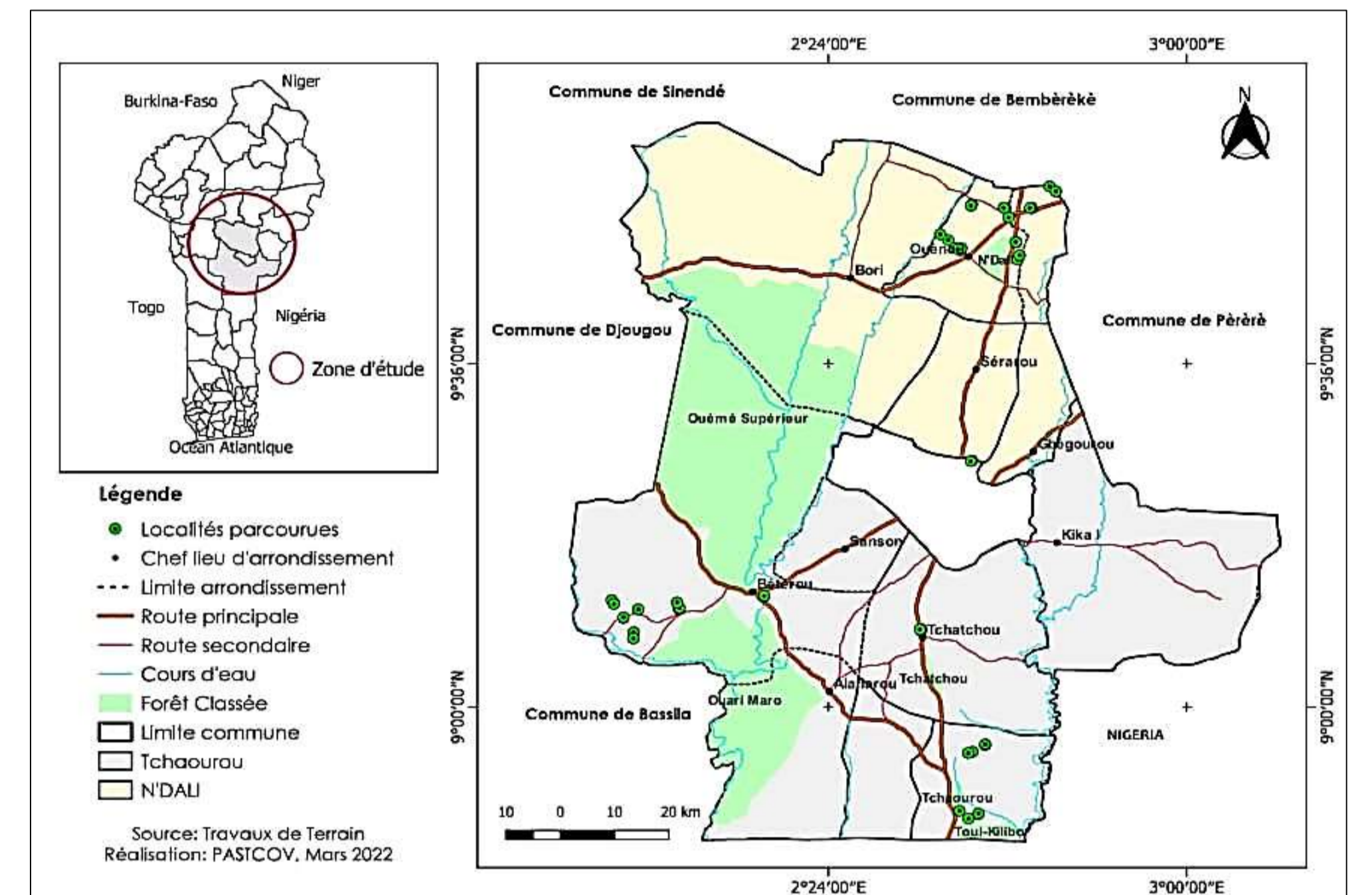
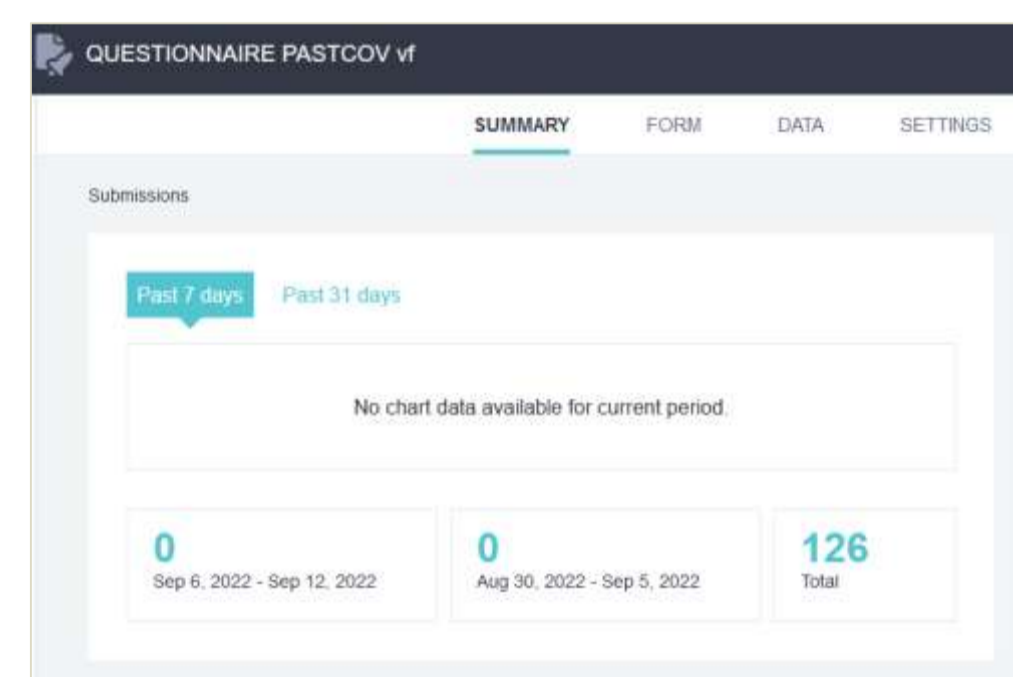


Fig.1. Study area

RESULTS

COVID-19 is not a priority issue for pastoralists

Priority issues for pastoralists include (Fig. 2) :

- Lack of grazing (100%)
- Difficult access to water resources (96%)
- Restricted and insecure mobility (94%)
- Increased land conflicts (76%)

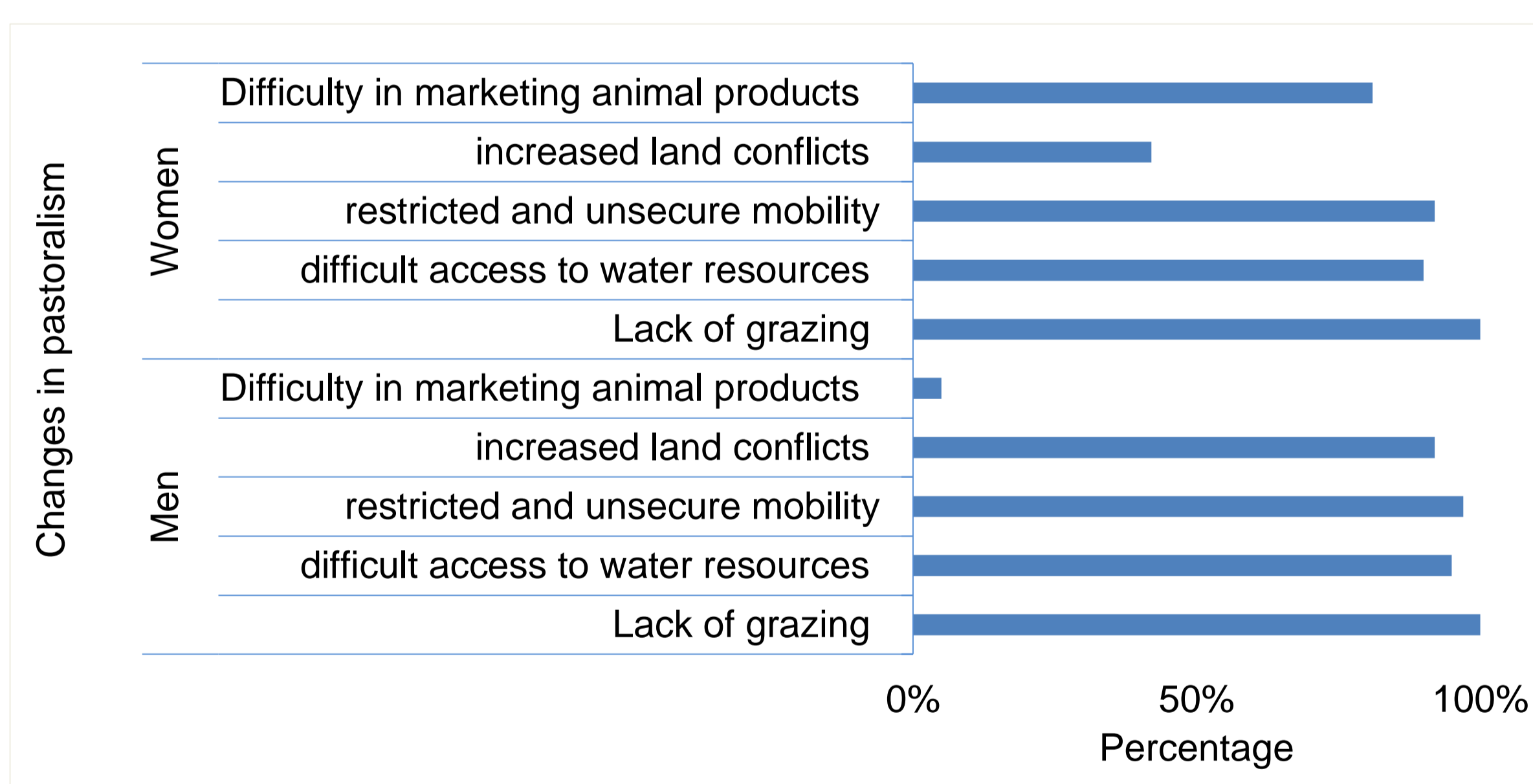


Fig. 2. Pastoralist main issues

COVID-19 exists for the majority (72%) of pastoralists

Who express various feelings about it (Fig. 3) :

- Anxiety (95%)
- Sadness (97%)
- Fear (97%)

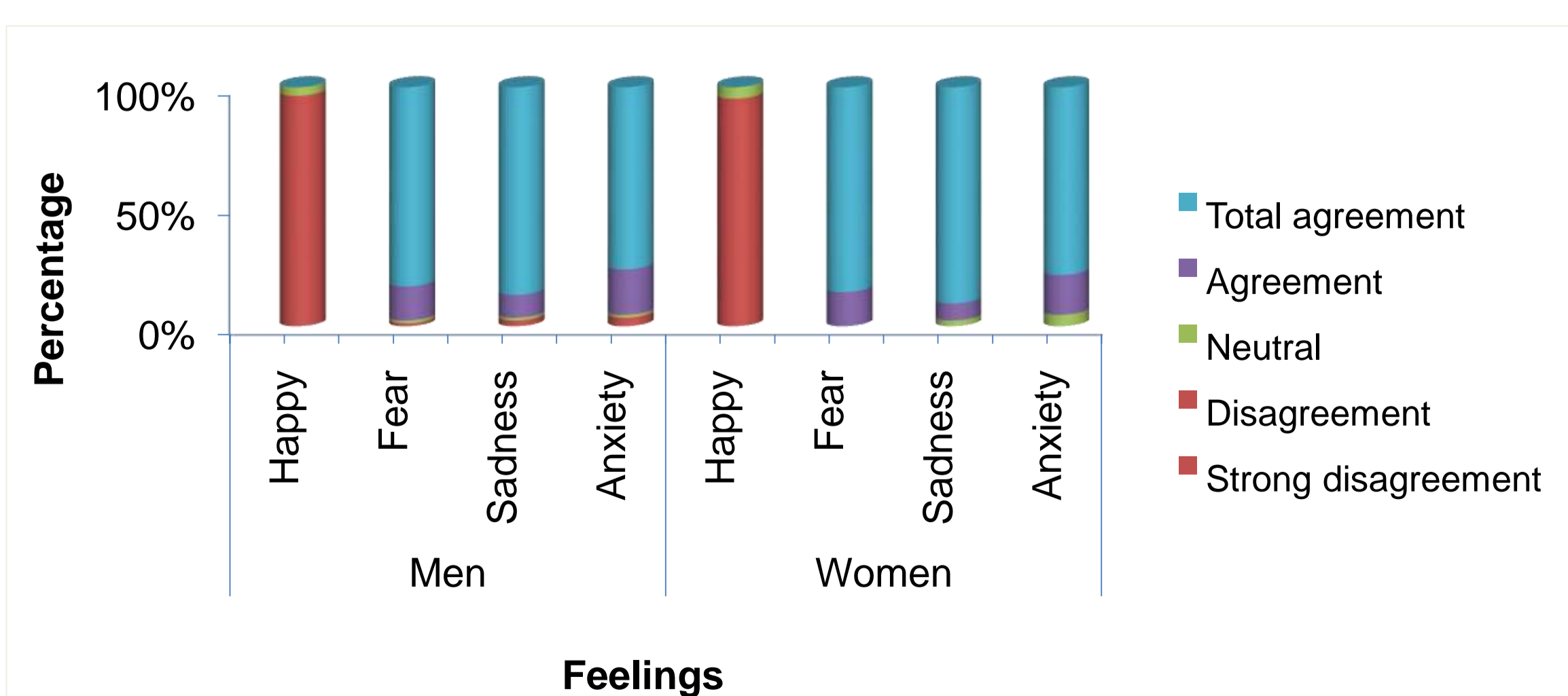


Fig. 3. Feelings of pastoralists about COVID-19

Pastoralists have experienced more of the side effects of COVID-19, due to the countermeasures implemented by policymakers

The most experienced side effects include (Fig. 4) :

- Decrease in income (97%), and
- Weakening of social relationships (95%)

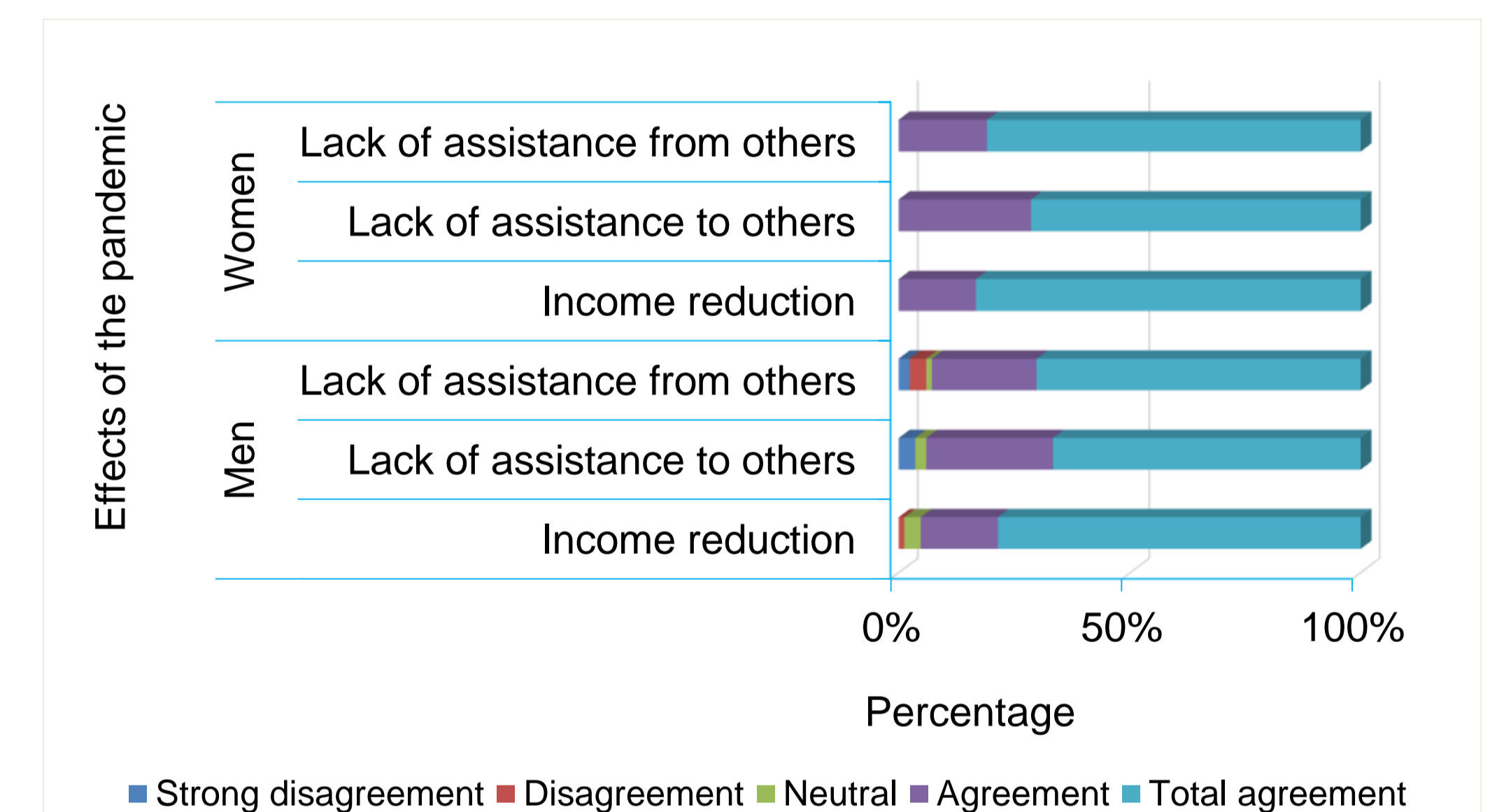


Fig. 4. COVID-19 side effects on pastoralists

Pastoralists used a variety of strategies to cope with the pandemic

The most important strategies involve (Fig. 5) :

- Changing livestock practices (79%),
- Using formal or informal financial mechanisms (24%), and
- Adopting new livelihoods (17%).

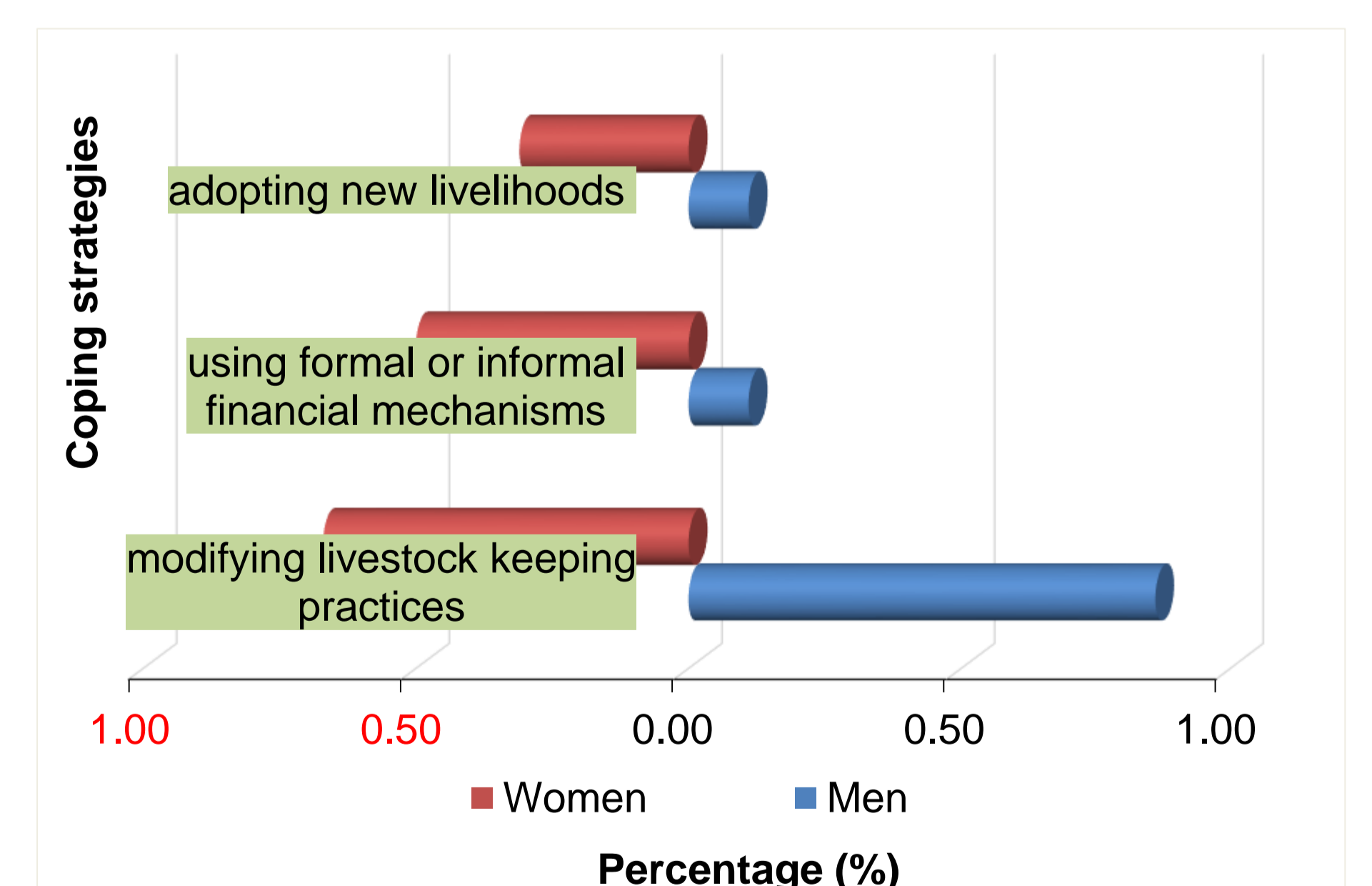


Fig. 5. Coping strategies

CONCLUSION

- Pastoralists did not feel direct effects of COVID-19, as they did not record any COVID-related contamination cases or deaths in their neighborhood.
- Nevertheless, they have indirectly felt the effects of COVID-19, which is more noticeable through their income.
- In addition, there are other more worrisome situations for these pastoralists, such as land insecurity.

Acknowledgement

