

Assessing farmers' attitudes toward organic fertilizers in Kiambu and Kirinyaga Counties, Kenya

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Background

- The overutilization of chemical fertilizers by commercial farmers has resulted in the deterioration of soils, rendering them unproductive (Ju et al., 2007)
- The use of organic fertilizer by smallholder farmers in Kenya is limited due to a lack of standards (NASMP 2019)
- Key organisations in Kenya are manufacturing and marketing organic fertilisers to smallholder farmers in order to promote their use
- However, the attitudes of farmers on these are not known

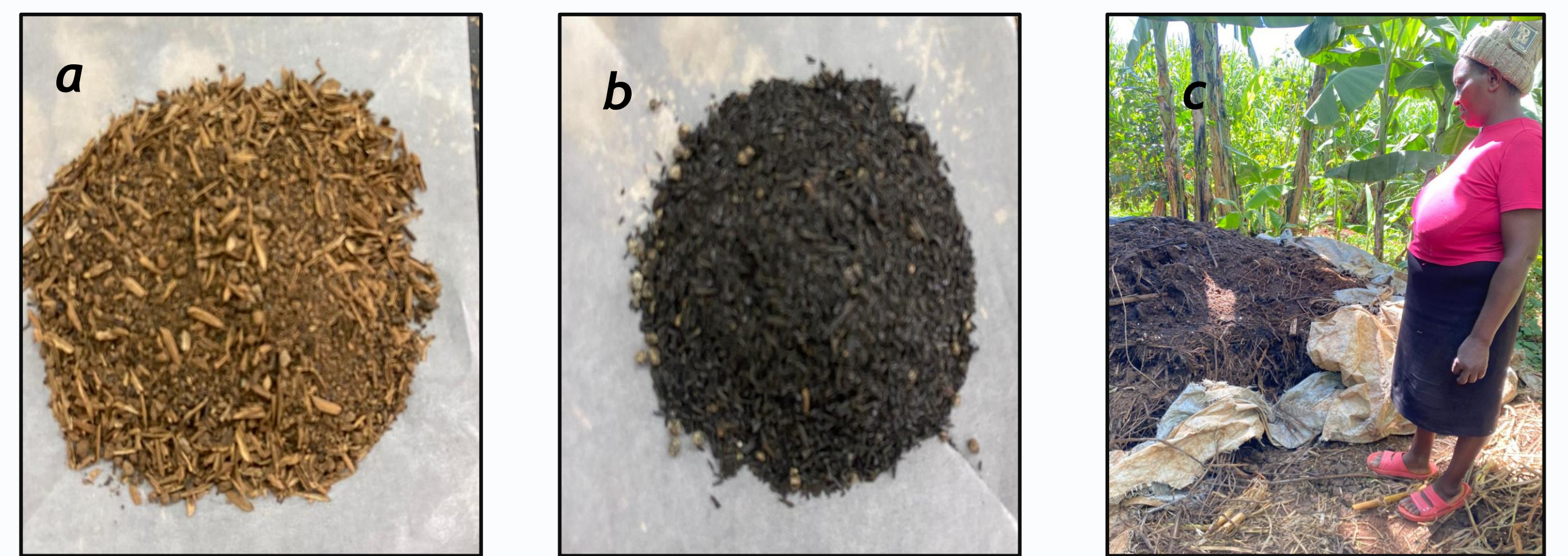


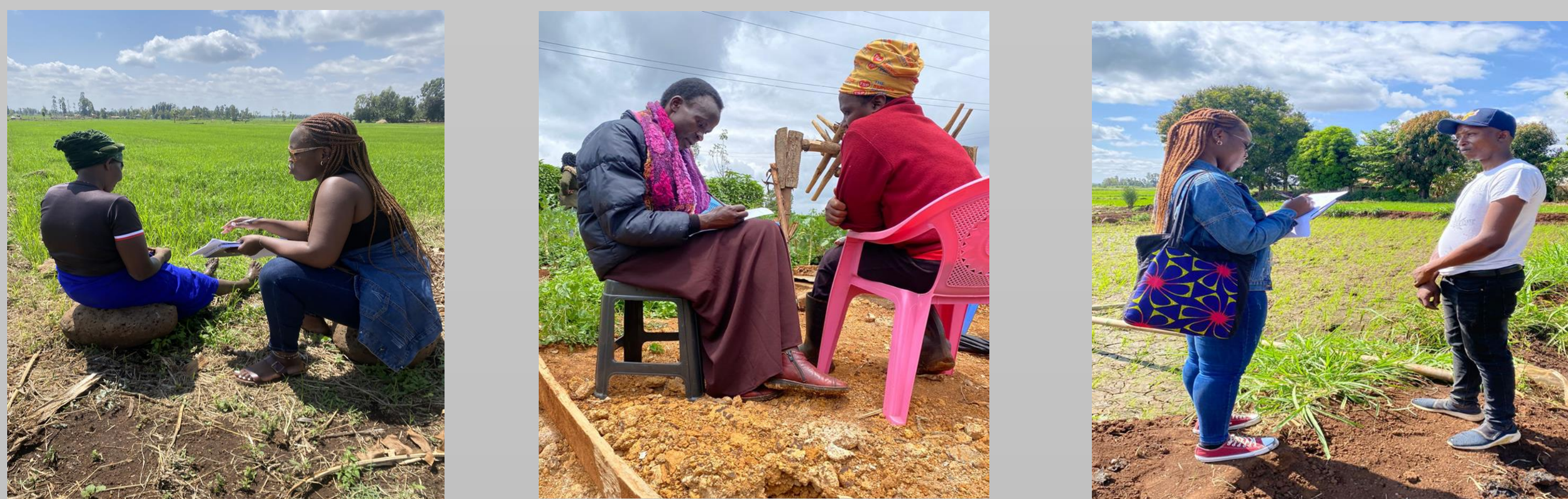
Image a: Bokashi (made from rice husk, manure, molasses, charcoal, rice bran, yeast, rock dust) b: safi sarvi (rock dust, rice husk, black soldier fly frass), and c: compost (manure, straw, topsoil, ash, plant materials)

Research aim

- The objective of this study was to evaluate the attitudes of smallholder farmers (consumers) on the using of locally-produced commercial organic fertilizers in two sub-counties of Kenya.
- Policymakers may use this information to create confidence and support for organic fertilizer policies and sustainable practices among smallholder farmers

Methods

- Face-to-face interviews with 109 smallholder farmers using a structured questionnaire in two sub-counties (Githunguri and Mwea) in September and October 2023
- Farmers' attitudes were captured using 14 statements on a 5-point Likert scale from 1-5 (strongly disagree - strongly agree)
- Descriptive statistics (SPSS23.0) to identify attitudes



Results: Farmers attitude

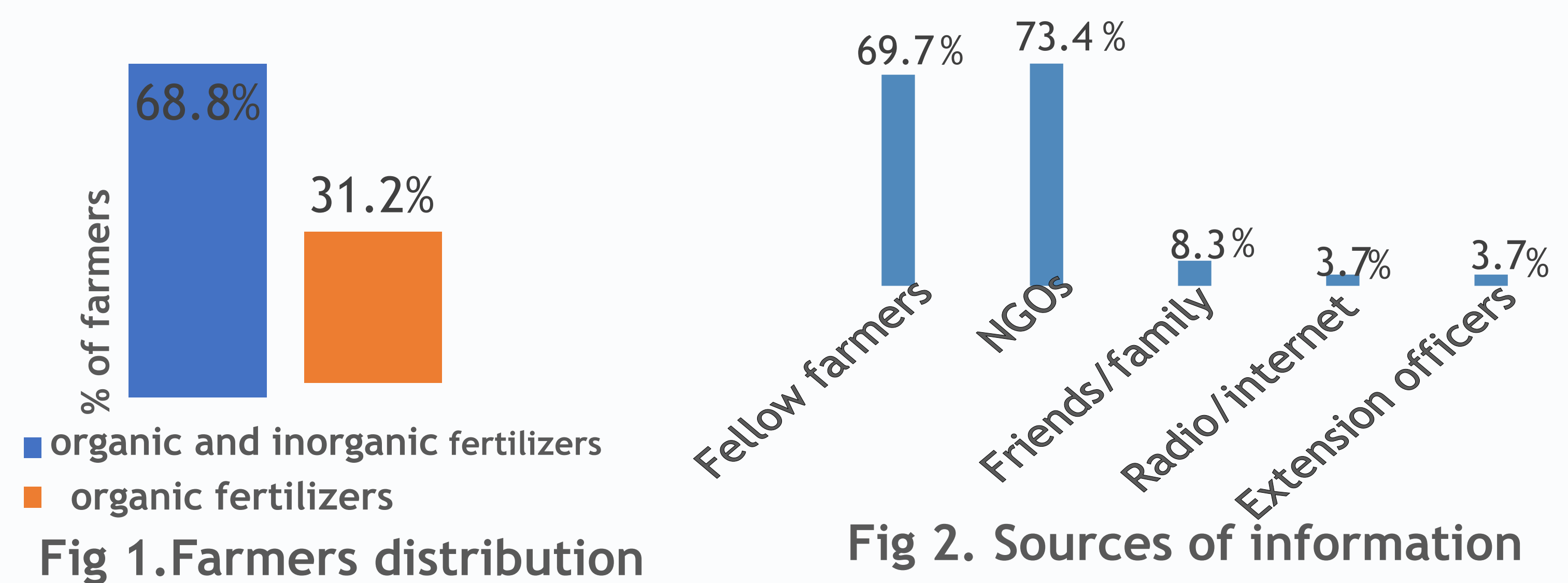


Table 1. shows how farmers rate the attitudinal statements

Attitudinal statements	SD	D	N	A	SA
I receive personal satisfaction from using organic fertilizer on my farm	0.9	0.9	1.8	22.9	73.4
I get better yield when I use Organic fertilizer on my farm	0.0	0.9	0.0	16.5	82.6
Organic fertilizer improves soil fertility	1.8	0.0	0.9	20.2	77.1

Sd=strongly disagreed, D=disagreed, N= neutral, A= agreed, SA= strongly

Conclusion

- NGOs are the primary sources of information on organic fertilizer followed by fellow farmers
- Farmers in the study areas showed positive attitudes toward locally-made organic fertilizers
- Farmers need support from the government to upscale their organic fertilizer uptake

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