

Beyond pastoralism: survival-led livelihood diversification among Bedouin households in rural Lebanon

Nour El Houda Amhez, Eva Schlecht

Animal Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics, Universities of Kassel and Göttingen, Germany



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN
IN PUBLICA COMMODO
SEIT 1737

organicagriculturalsciences
UNI KASSEL

SCAN ME



Introduction

- Bedouin livelihoods in Lebanon have shifted beyond pastoralism due to restricted access to land and productive resources.
- Lebanon's 2019 crisis intensified the pressure through inflation and falling purchasing power.
- Income diversification may be opportunity-led, or survival-led.

Study aim

To examine whether combining agrarian and non-agrarian activities with social support and debt reflects economic opportunity or survival under pressure.



Methods

Study design: Cross-sectional

Study period , location: May–October 2024 in North and East Lebanon (Fig. 1)

Sample: 361 HH

Analysis: R software

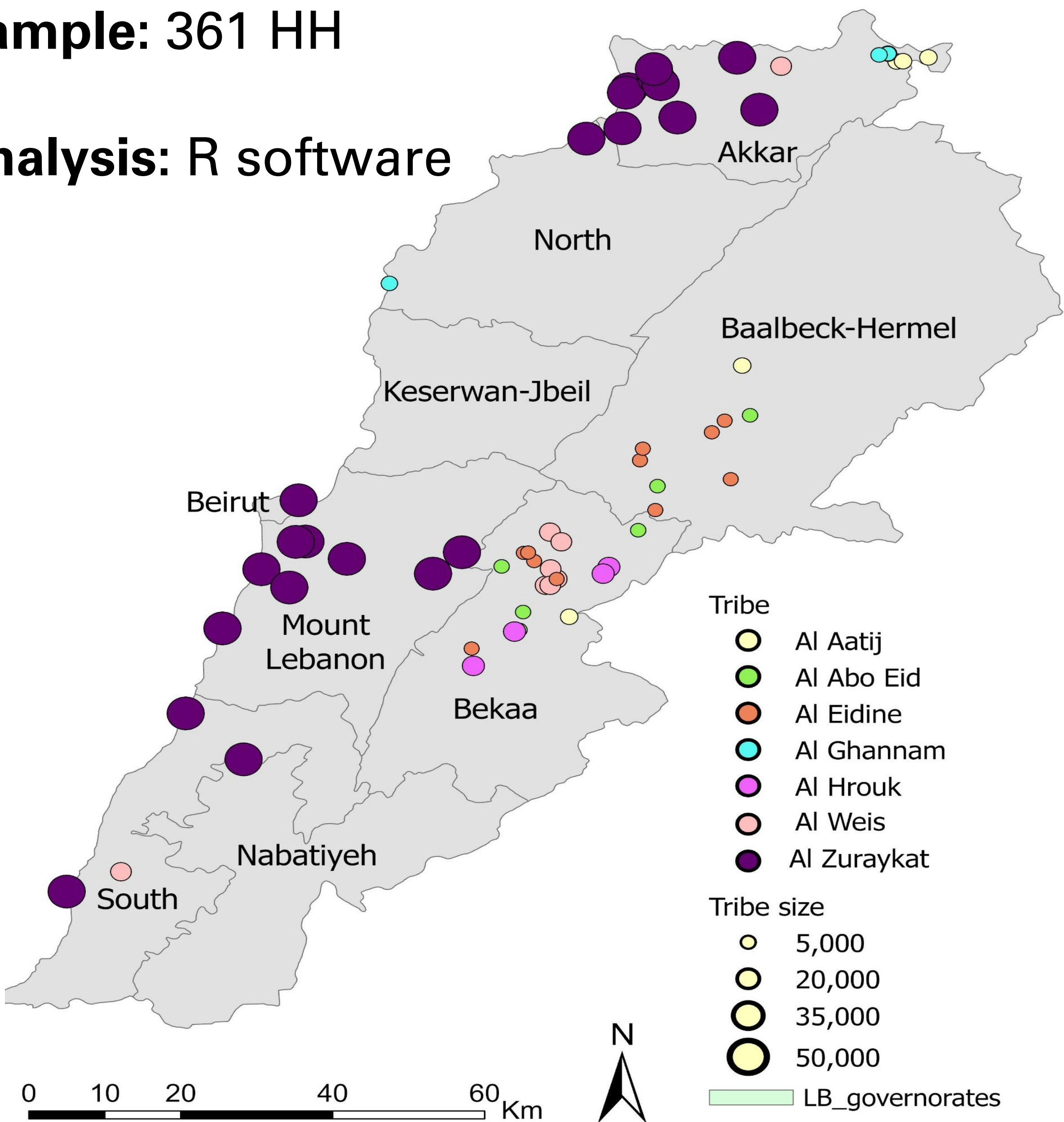


Fig 1. Map of surveyed Bedouin tribes

Conclusion

- Bedouin households are neither simply abandoning pastoralism nor transitioning to secure alternatives.
- Income diversification among Bedouins is predominantly **survival-led**, combining several low-level income sources.
- Widespread debt exposes the fragility of their livelihoods under crisis.

Results

- **Pasture access was mainly rental-based** (Fig. 2).

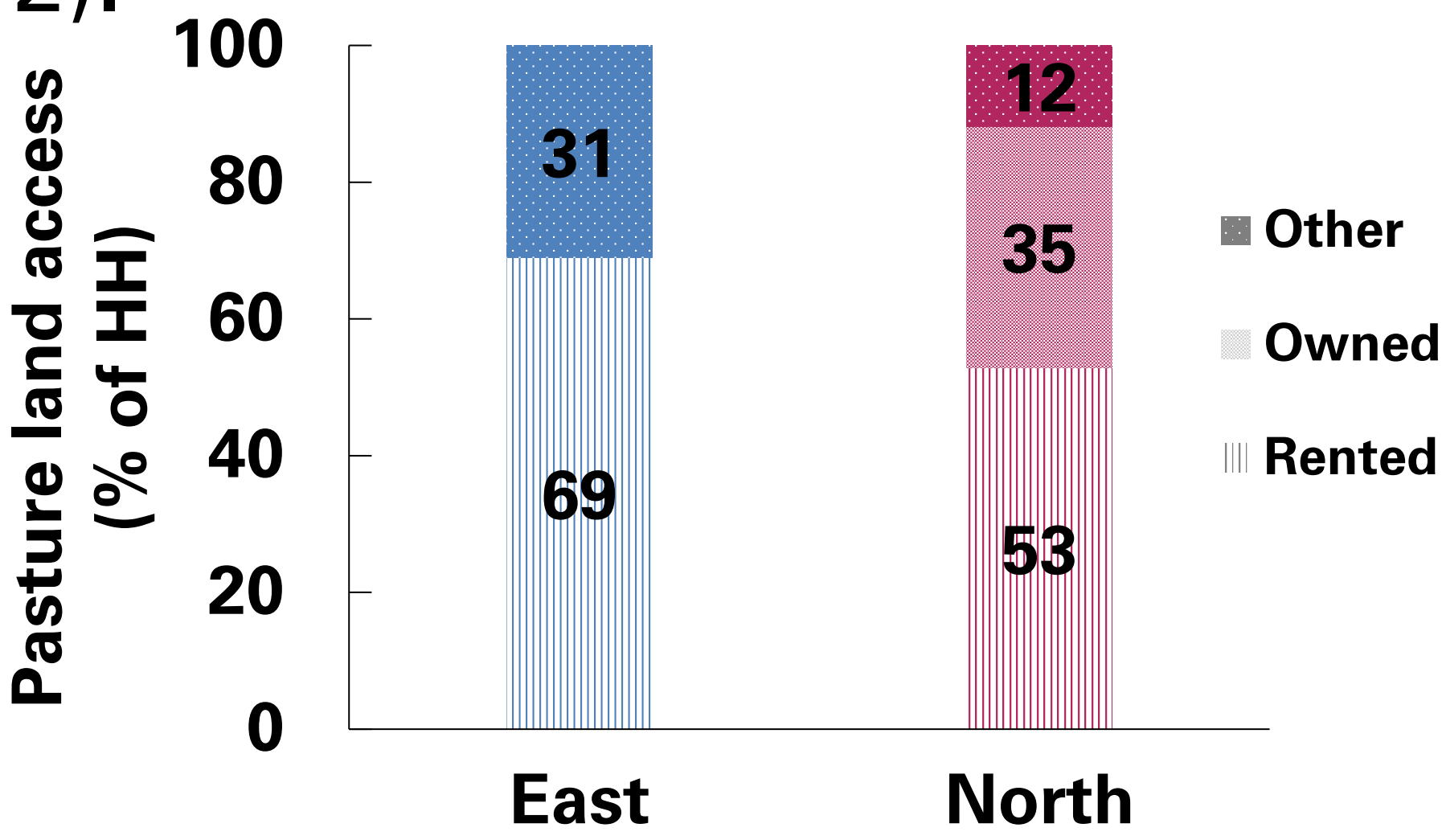


Fig 2. Pasture land access among HHs with small ruminants (East n = 42; North n = 17)

- Direct **engagement** in herding and crop farming was **limited** (Fig. 3).

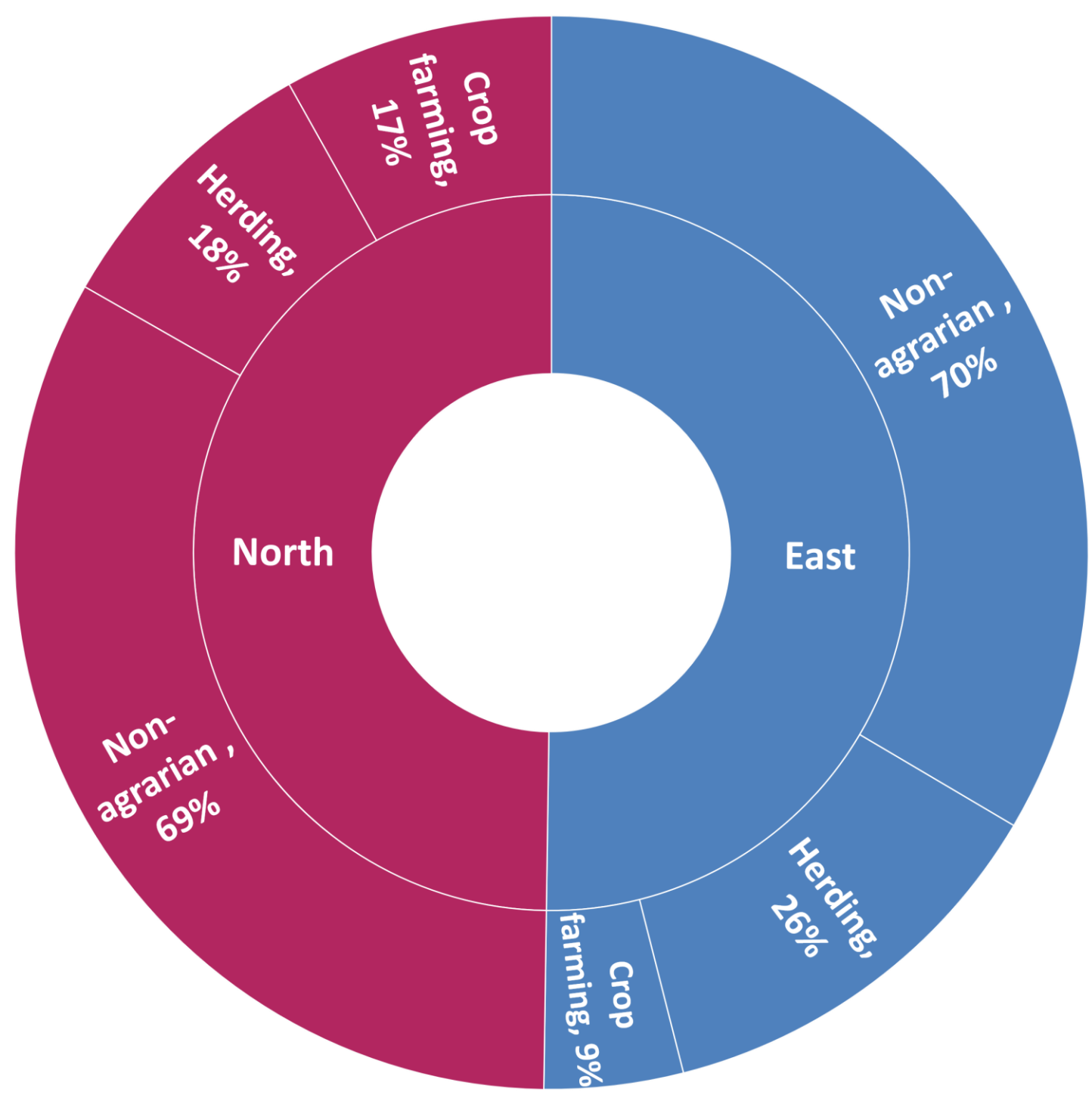


Fig 3. Livelihood strategies

- **Income sources were diverse** across the 361 households (Fig. 4).

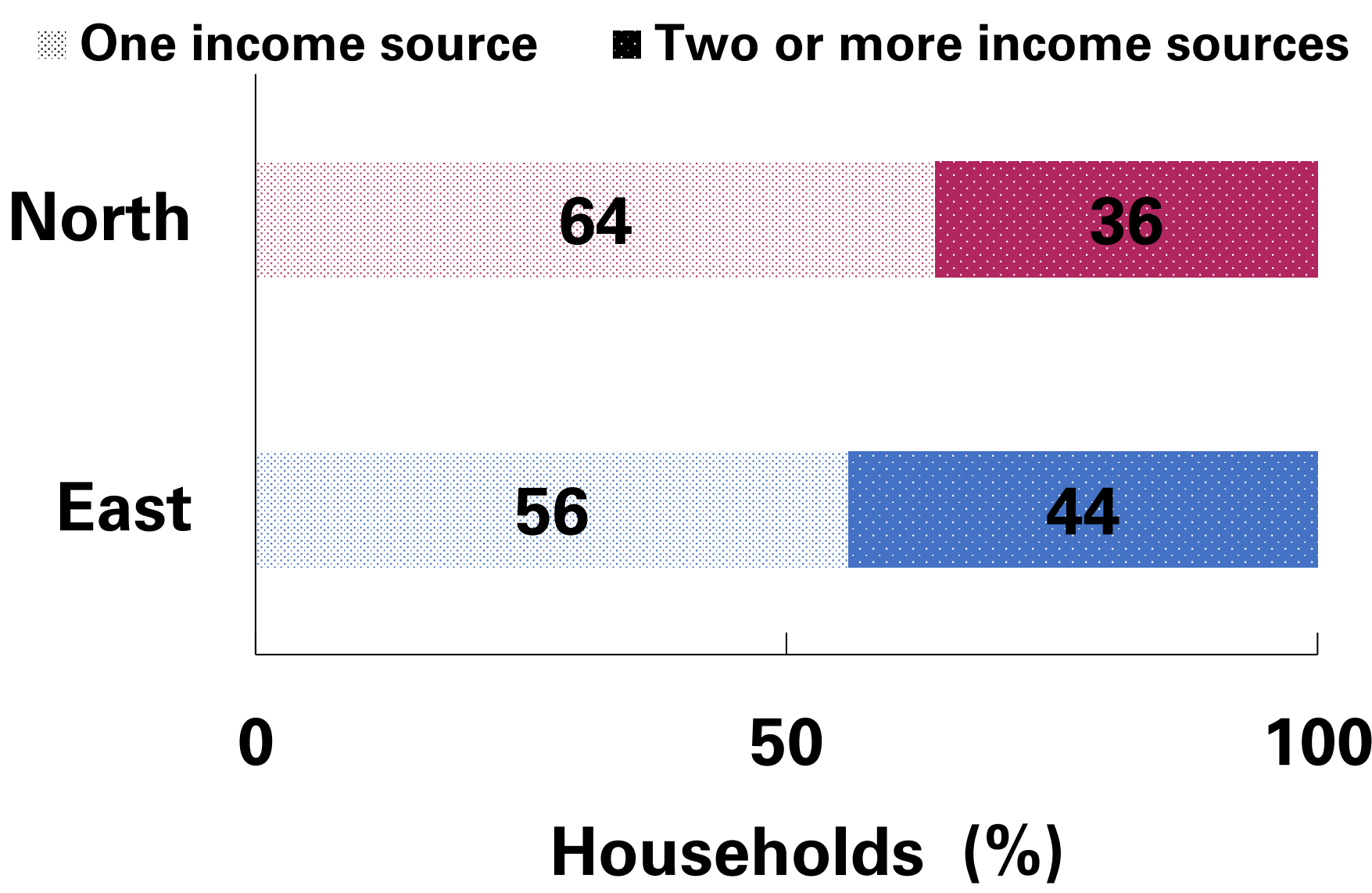


Fig 4. Income diversification

- **Debt was widespread** (69% in East and 89% in North) 33% of these HH owed amounts equal to ≥ 12 months of household income.