

Connected Networks, Unequal Support: Lessons for Agroecological Transitions in Northern Ghana.

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Why is this study important?

- Transition to agroecology requires more than adopting appropriate farming practices.
- They depend on **connections** among actors for support, **who control access to knowledge and resources**, yet these remain **poorly investigated** in the Northern Region of Ghana.
- We examine the **actor network to reveal structures that enable or constrain collaborations and inclusive** agroecological transition.

How did we study the networks?

- Case Study:** Comparative
- Two districts:** Tolon and Savelugu
- 84 actors:** 46+38
- Method:** Key informant interviews, ➔ Participatory workshop, ➔ Semi-structured interviews.
- Analysis:** Social Network Analysis
- Relationships:** knowledge, training, financial/material, and technical support

Findings

- A few actors act as the network's gateways:** Extension officers, local media, NGOs, and lead farmers. Fig 1
- Support is rarely reciprocated:** one-directional, expert-led support. Fig 1
- Most support crosses actor groups:** External flow of support dominated the network. Fig 2.
- Women provide more support but receive less.** Fig. 3

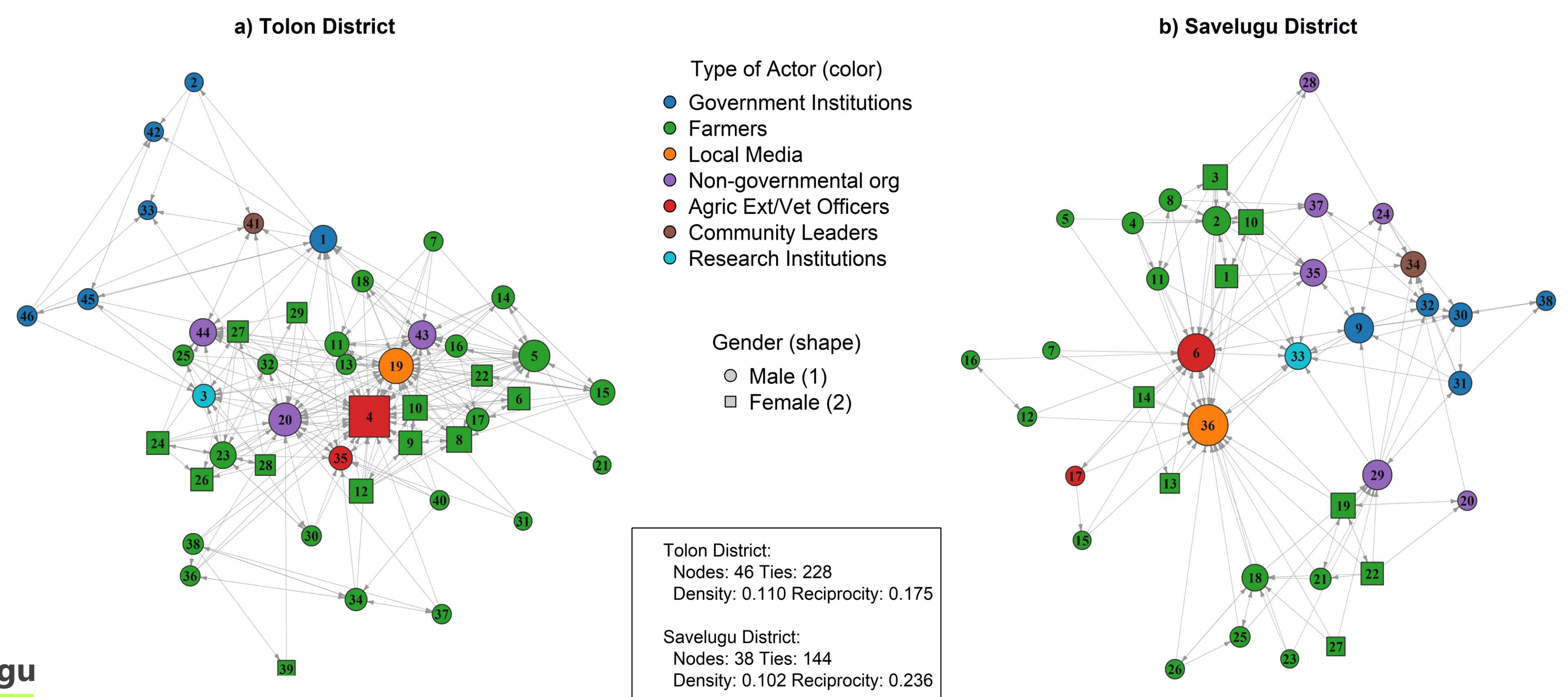


Fig. 1: Who connects the network?

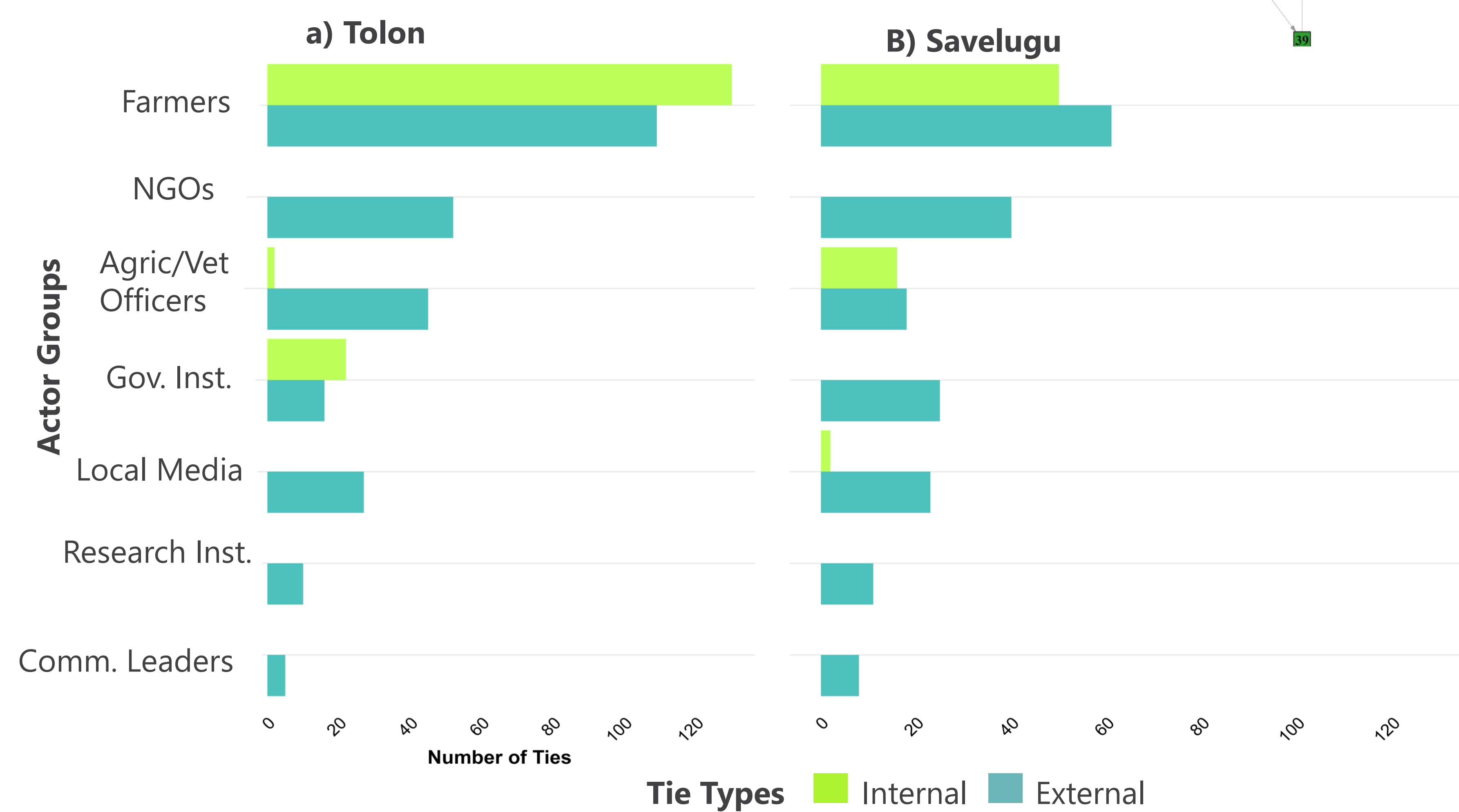


Fig. 2: Flow of internal and external support exchange in the network

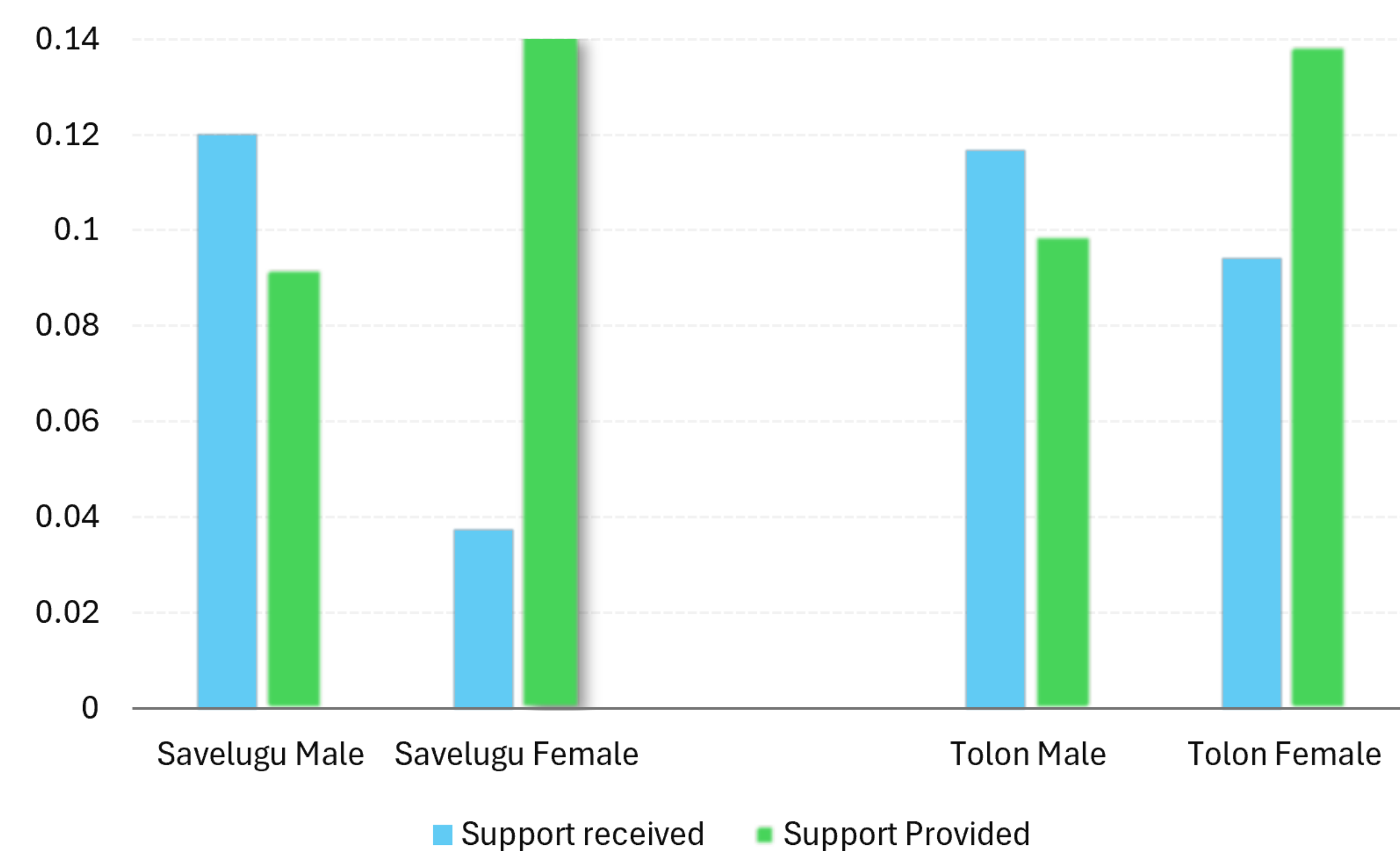
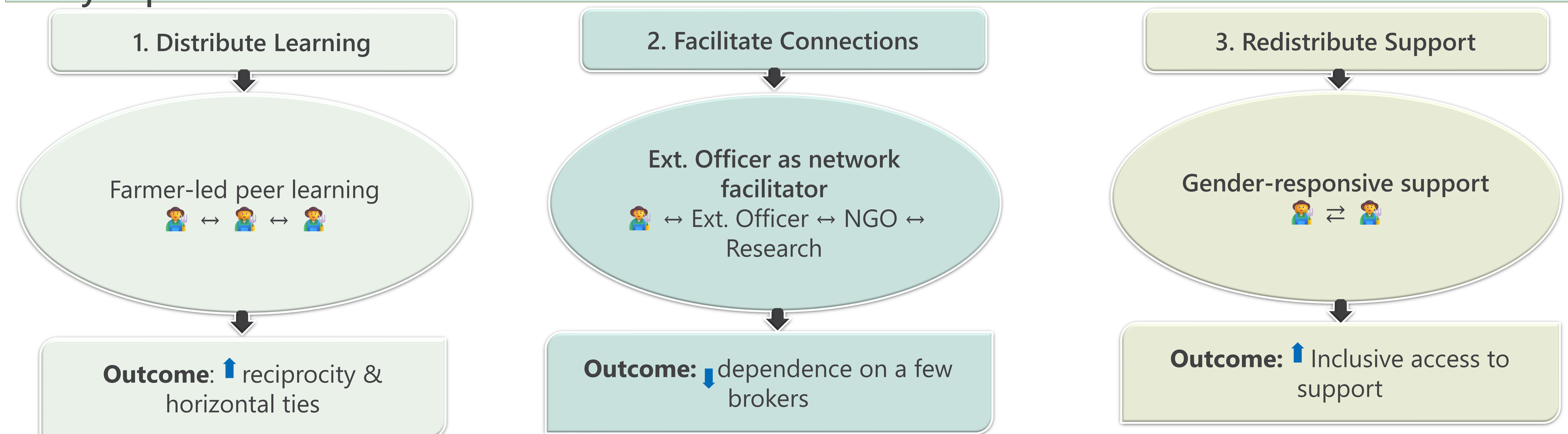


Fig. 3: Gender differences in support provision and receipt

Policy implications.



Key message:

- Agroecology** transitions do not only **depend on simply connection** between **more actors** but also on creating networks that **distribute knowledge, influence, and support more reciprocally and inclusively**.