

The Road to Recovery: Smallholder Household Resilience to Food Insecurity Amidst Climate-change and Covid-19-induced Shocks

Esther Gloria Mbabazi^{1,2}, Awudu Abdulai¹, Enoch M. Kikulwe², Elisabetta Gotor²

¹Kiel University, ²The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Background & Objectives

- Most farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods.
- Climate-change is threatening food security.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and its control measures increased farmers' susceptibility to food insecurity.
- No government support to rural households in Uganda, they relied on their resilience to cope.

Objectives:

- 1) Analyze the effects of climate change and COVID-19-related shocks on the food security status of rural smallholder households.
- 2) Evaluate the determinants of their resilience to food insecurity amidst the shocks.

Material & Methods

- Utilized a panel of three waves of household surveys from Western Uganda collected before, during and after the pandemic.
- Factor analysis, structural equation modelling and probit models were used for the empirical analysis.

Results & Discussion

- 40% of the households consumed less diverse diets.
- 52% experienced a reduction in food consumption per capita during the pandemic

Pillars Contributing to Household Resilience:

- ✓ Ownership of productive & non-productive assets (facilitated consumption smoothing).
- ✓ Access to social safety nets such as remittances and belonging to associations such as farmers' and savings groups.

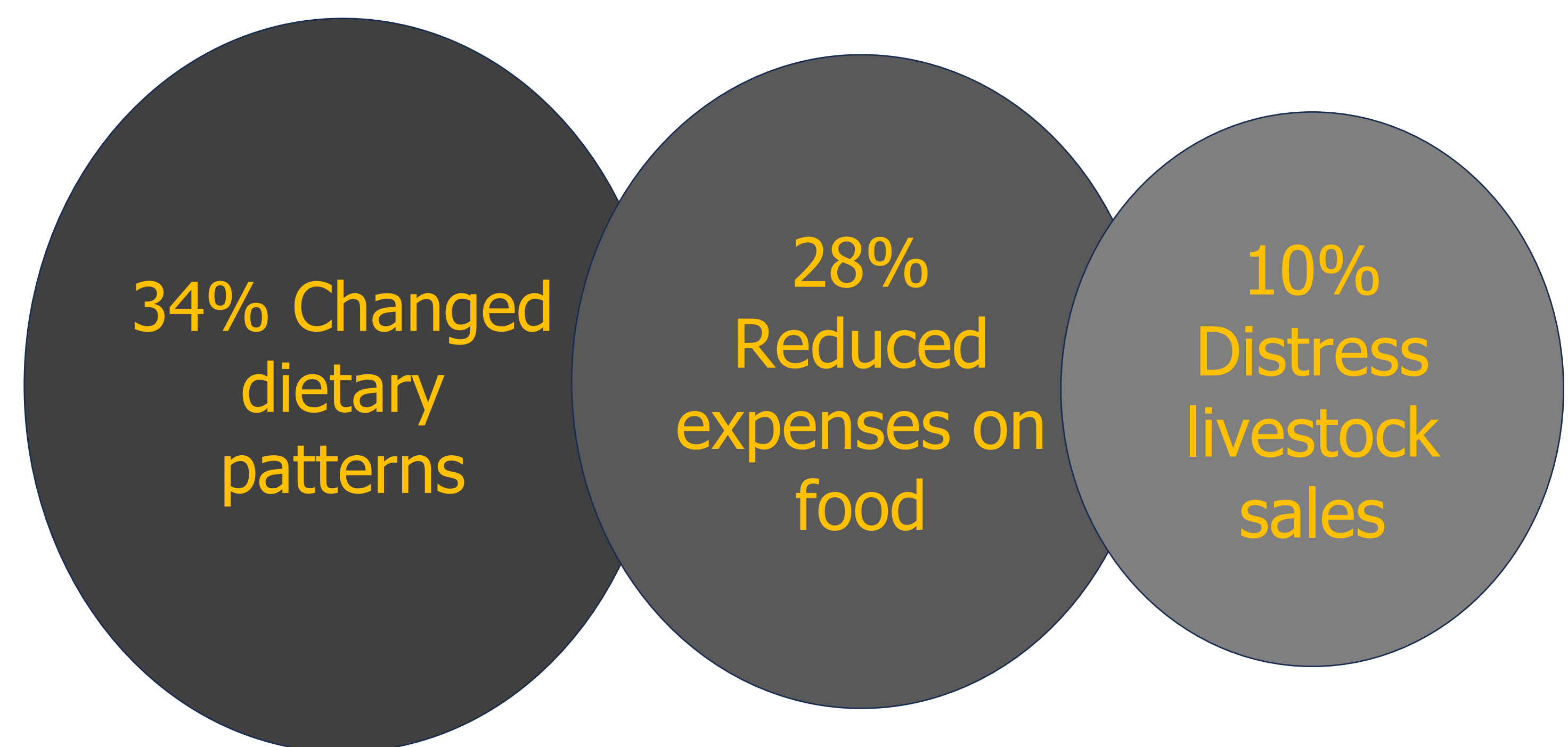


Fig. 2 Detrimental coping strategies employed by households.

Conclusions

- Asset ownership and access to social safety nets contributed greatly to household resilience.
- Households with a higher resilience capacity index were better equipped to absorb and adapt to shocks.
- Need to decentralize basic services so that they are accessible in the rural areas.

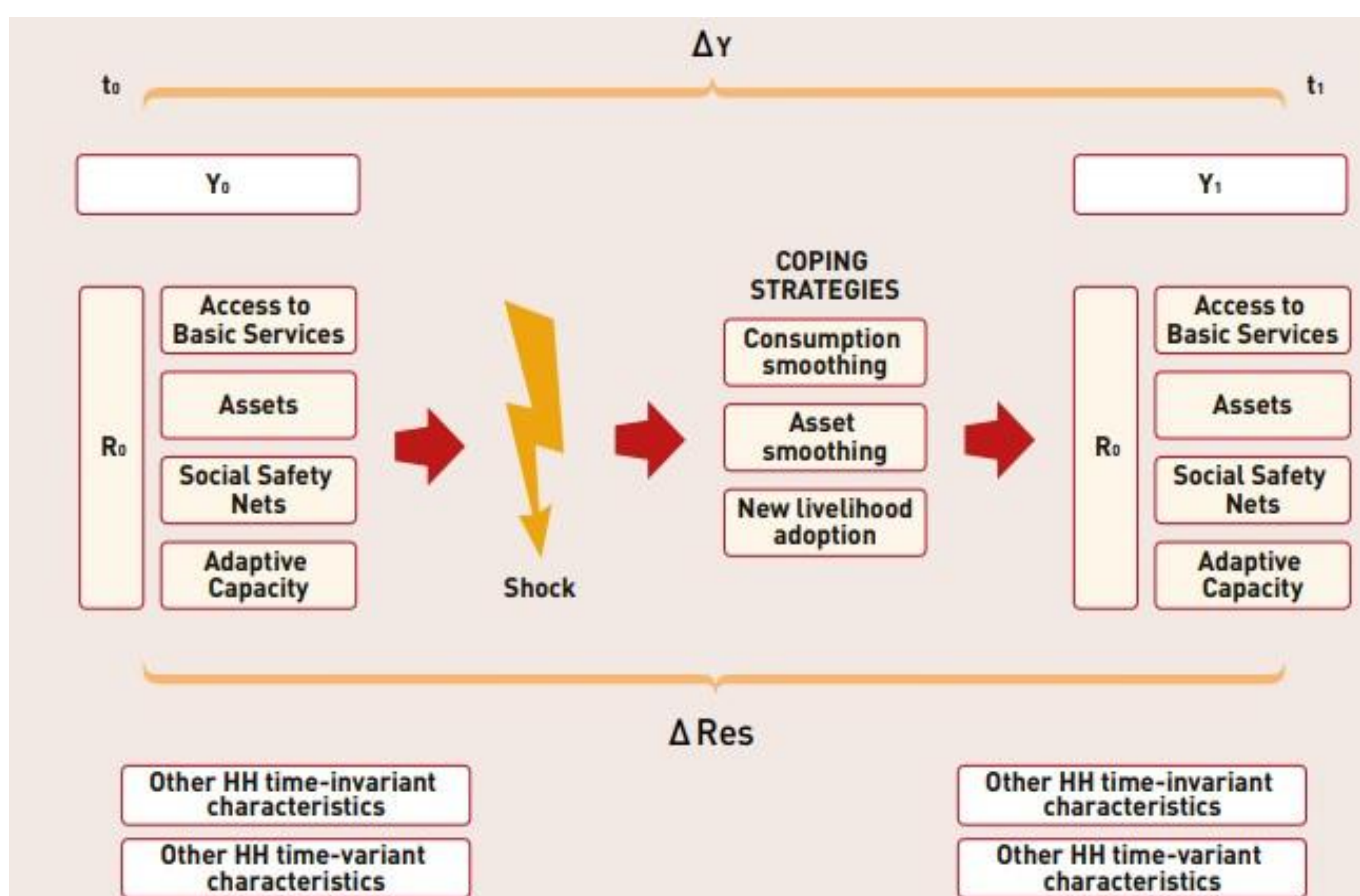


Fig. 1 Resilience Conceptual Framework (Adapted from FAO, 2016)