

Background

Sorghum crop is an important staple food cultivated by men and women for household consumption in Sub-Saharan African country (SSA). In Niger, the crop is mainly produced by men, but women are also growing sorghum as a cash crop.. In Niger, a rural areas where poverty is very high, there are significant disparities in terms of land ownership, field management and resources access. Women have less access to educational and economic opportunities. Nonetheless, they are playing a crucial role in crop cultivation, transformation and the processing, but they are rarely consulted on the type of crop to be grown in the different fields and also the quantity to sell, which is the reason why Nad1 hybrids failed to be adopted in Niger 1990. Farmer’s preferences studies may put in light their needs and their preferences for technology adoption. In some crop production system like cereals, vegetables, roots and tubers, men’s preferences traits are mainly focused on the shapes, the yield and the marketing values but for women, it is essentially focused on the related use of the crops and their grain yield. Women largely prioritize food security traits based on the earliness and the multiple harvesting capability. Indeed, in addition to variety and trait preference prioritization, rural farmers are faced with yield decreases which challenge them in feeding their families. One of the most damaging constraints is striga hermonthica which causes impediments to sorghum cultivation.



Figure 1: Women in Niger threshing sorghum



Figure 2: Women in Niger cooking sorghum

The main objective of this study is to examine the gendered trait preferences for new striga resistant sorghum genotypes development that will be easily adopted by the farming community (both men and women) in Konni region .

Research questions

- Major research question**
 - What are the gendered trait preferences for the new striga tolerant sorghum genotypes in Konni?
- Quantitative gender research question**
 - What sorghum varieties are preferred by men and women in Konni?
 - What particular striga tolerant sorghum traits are preferred by men and women in Konni?
- Qualitative gender research question**
 - What are the experiences of men and women in selecting the varieties they prefer?

AREA OF STUDY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



Figure 3: Map of survey areas (Bazaga and Tserassa Mangou), Birni Nkonni Niger

- Data collection methods**
 - Qualitative data collection**

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) method was used to collect qualitative data. Two focus groups per village conducted (One for the men alone and the second for the women alone).
 - Quantitative data collection**

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data. A total of **60 farmers** were inviewed in the two selected village (**29 Men ans 31 Women**).
- Analysis of qualitative results are still pending.



Figure 3: Focus group discussion for a women group at Tserassa Mangou, Niger

Results

Varieties traits preferences	Household sex					
	Men (n=29)		Women (n=31)		Total (n=60)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Early	28	96.55	30	96.77	58	96.67
Striga tolerant	29	100.00	30	96.77	59	98.33
Dry tolerant	29	100.00	31	100.00	60	100.00
Big grain	27	93.10	23	74.19	50	83.33
High plant	18	62.07	11	35.48	29	48.33
Short	9	31.03	15	48.39	24	39.71
Big panicle	26	89.66	21	67.74	47	78.33
Good taste	29	100.00	28	90.32	57	95.00
White	24	82.76	25	80.65	49	81.67
High yield	28	96.55	29	93.55	57	95.00
Easier to cook	28	96.55	31	100.00	59	98.33
Tolerant to weeds	29	100.00	30	96.77	59	98.33
Good conservation after cooking	28	96.55	30	96.77	58	96.67

Table 1: Farmers preferences sorghum trait by sex in Bazaga and Tserassa Mangou in Konni region, Niger

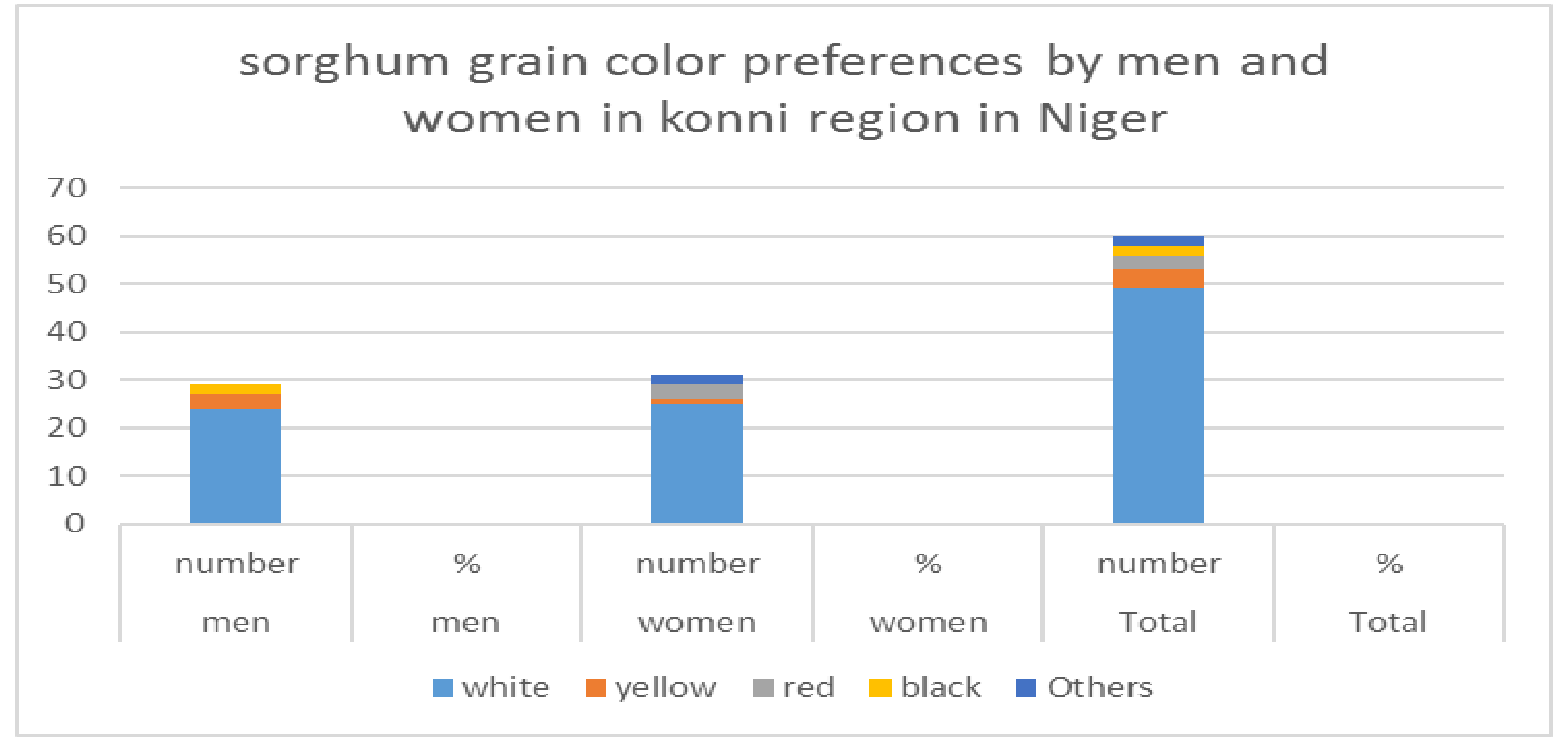


Figure 4 : Sorghum grain color preferences by Men and women in Konni region, Niger

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Conclusion and recommendations

- As a conclusion we realised that in konni women have more to say in the breeding process in terms of preferences for new variety development and adoption.
- We are looking to implement women views and traits preferences in our breeding product profiles by targeting two market segementations - for men and women.
- Opportunities for women to access credit and technologies is key for future adoption

Identified gaps

In the visited areas womens have less access to education, liberty of expression and economic priorities.

References

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