

Disease case studies and their impacts

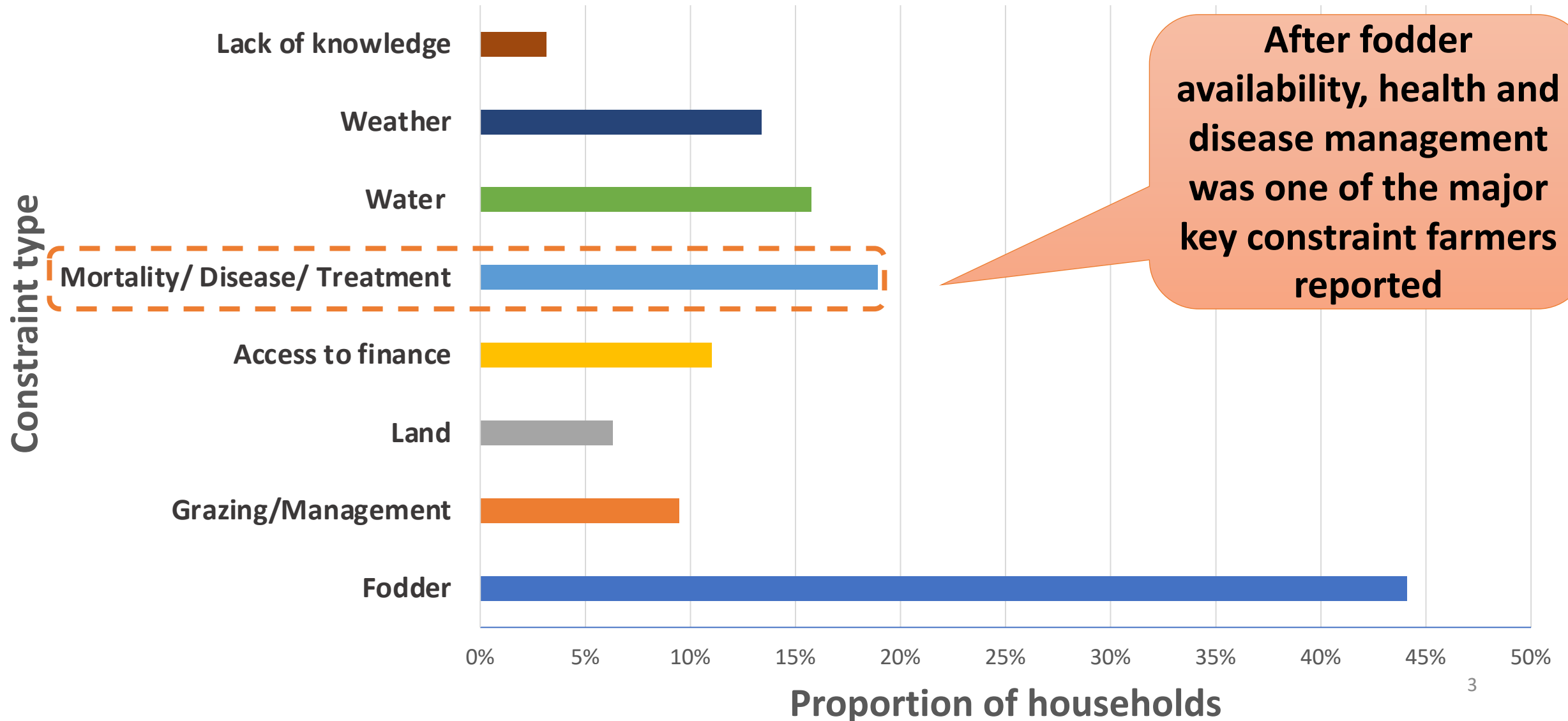
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Why address the issues???



Preventable diseases have major impacts on goat and sheep farmers!

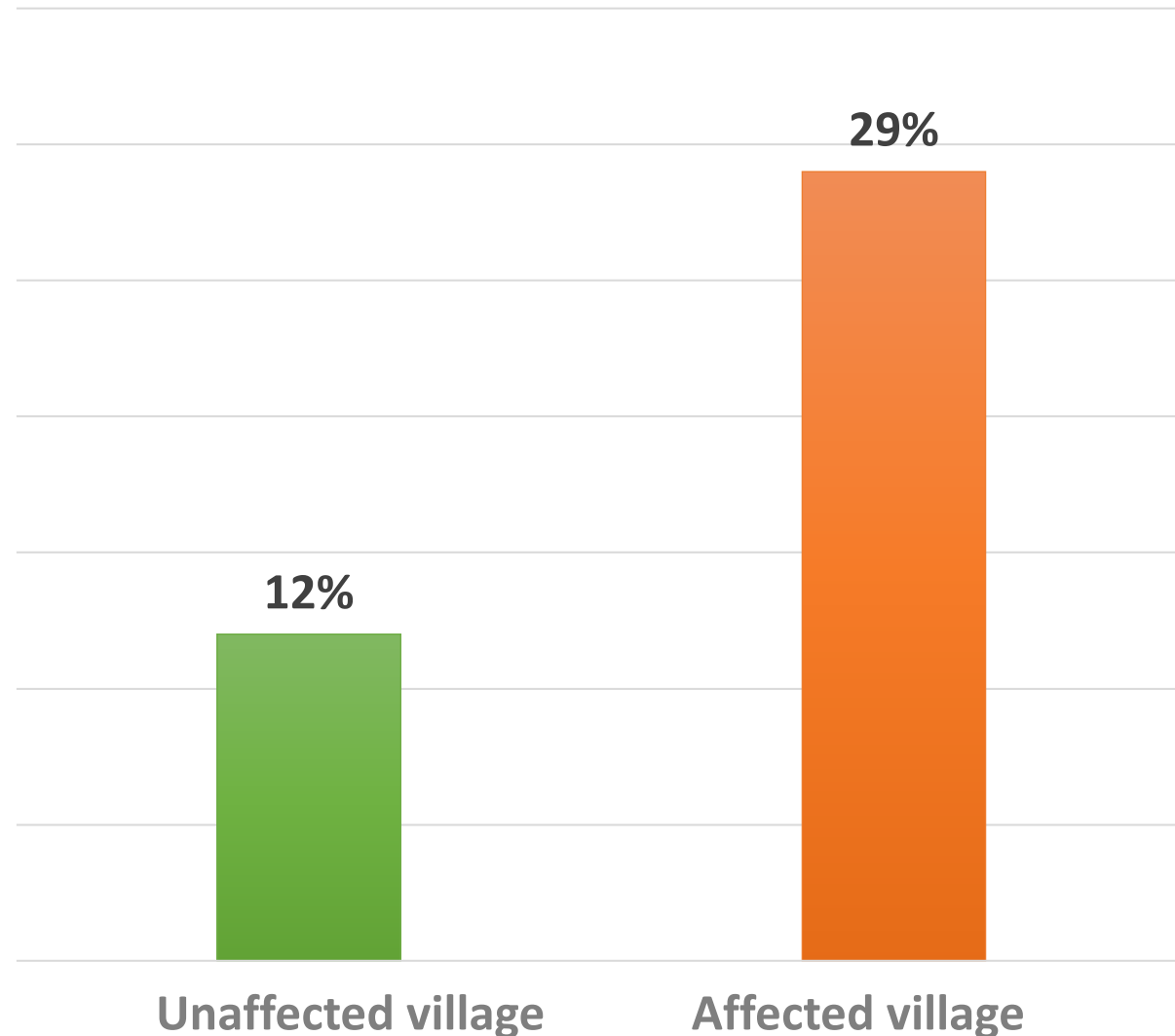
- Case examples of disease and mortality outbreaks and their impacts
- Reflections and recommendations on way forward



1. Suspected Coccidiosis Outbreak in 2019

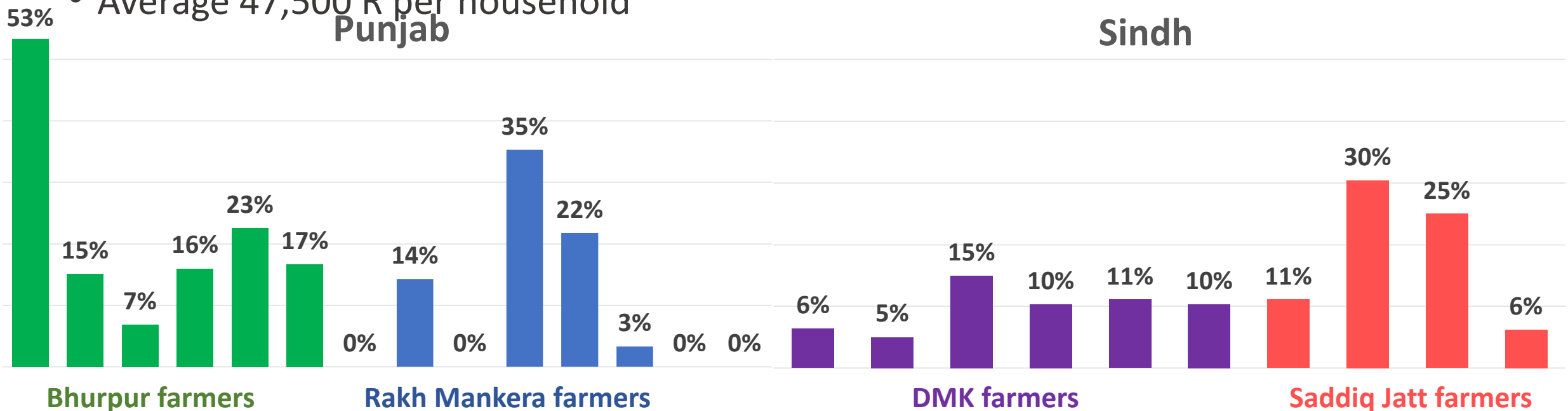
- A common, endemic disease
- Caused significant mortality and lost production
- Disrupted other management strategies like supplementary creep feeding
- Highlights
 - Gaps between farmers & services
 - Need for better capacity to respond to common problems (farmers and/or support services)

Mortality in animals



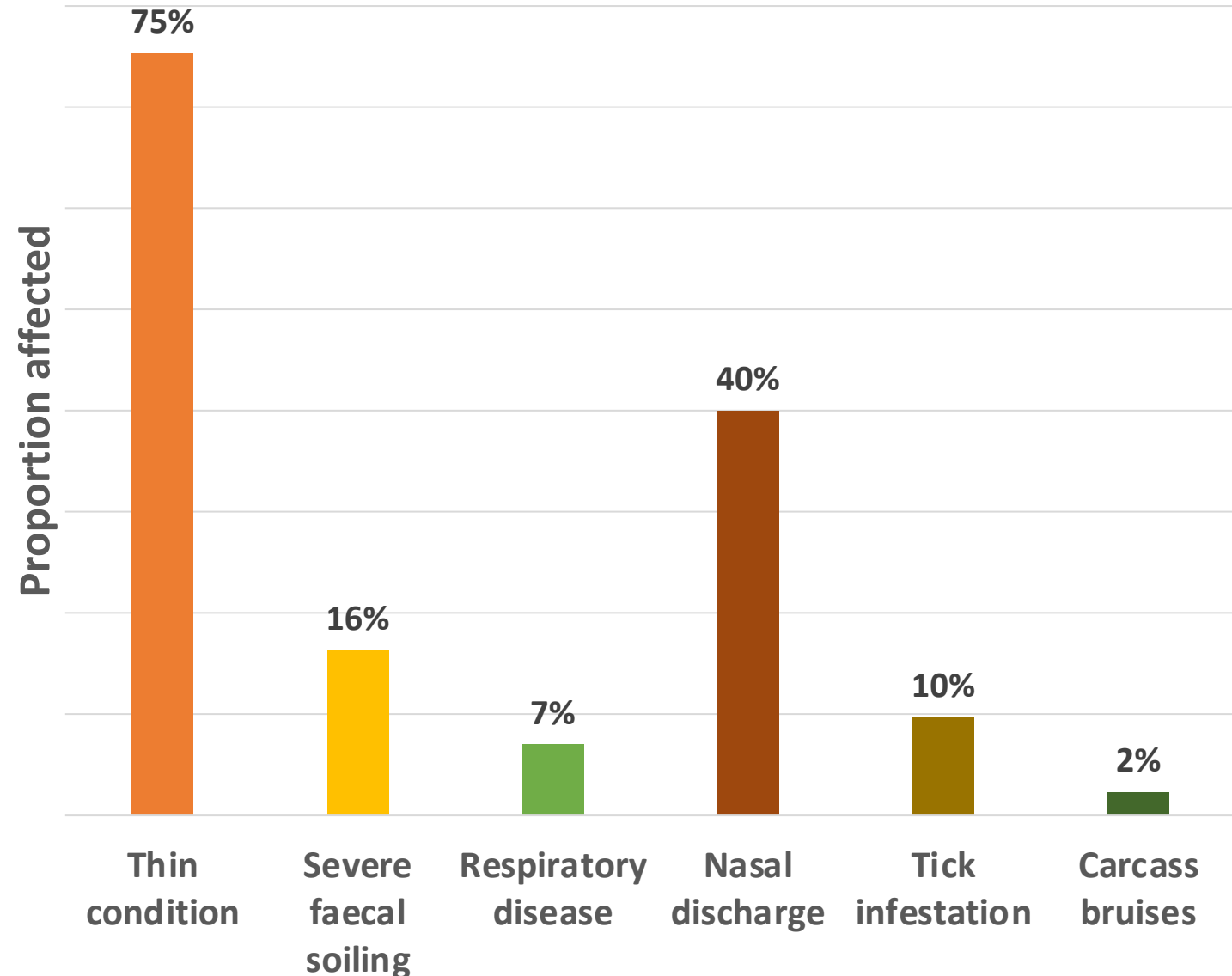
2. High mortality outbreaks in 2020

- 40-75% reported having goats and sheep die in last 3 months
- Average mortality 8% in just 3 months – equivalent to annual mortality of 30%
- Various causes (diarrhoea, respiratory, sudden death) - most diagnoses confirmed
- Economic loss
 - 1,140,000 R total
 - Average 47,500 R per household




3. Health issues observed in abattoir animals

- 300 goats submitted to major metropolitan abattoir
- Range of issues
 - Significant proportion affected for some issues
- This suggests problems are widespread and affect:
 - Farmer incomes
 - Food safety
 - Animal welfare

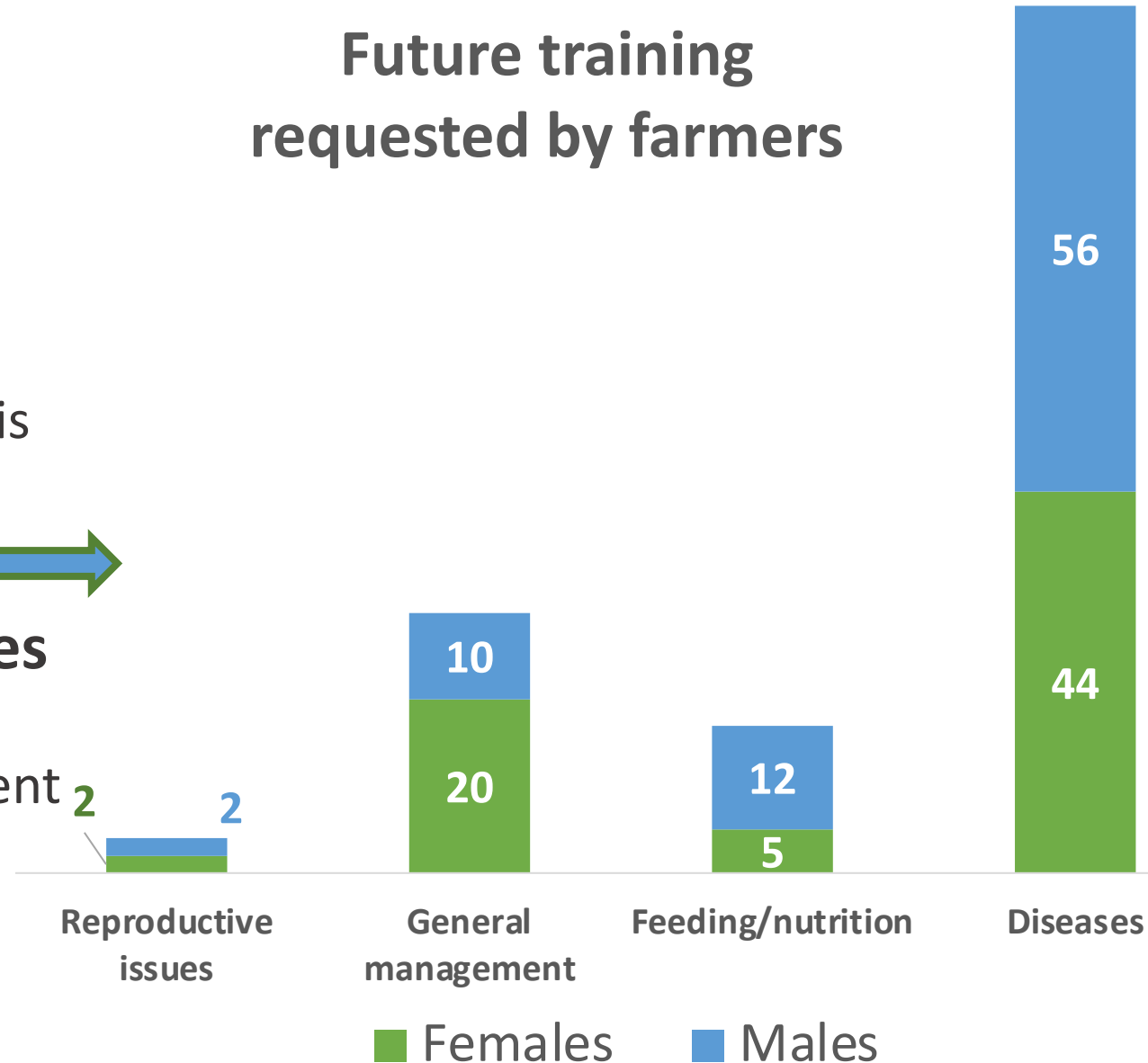


Source: A. Sakhawat, MPhil study 2020-21

Common themes

- **There is a gap between SR farmers & services**
 - Farmers don't know who to seek advice/support from
 - Unaware about importance of seeking advice promptly when a disease occurs
 - Availability of prevention and treatments is patchy/inconsistent
- **Farmers want more knowledge** 
- **There are examples of good approaches**
e.g.
 - Farmers purchasing own vaccines to prevent known issues
 - [Example of farmer](#)
 - Good connections between e.g. LDs and farmers

Future training requested by farmers



Recommendations... Way Forward

- Raise farmer knowledge about
 - how to respond to outbreaks in general i.e., Seek prompt advice
 - More farmer & service provider training on practical treatment and prevention of common diseases
- Try to improve diagnosis of causes of disease to focus treatment and prevention
- Ongoing improved engagement and connections between farmers and service providers – a two-way relationship

Thank You!



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