

# EVALUATION OF FEED RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN LAO PDR: THE CASE OF NONGHET AND PHONXAY DISTRICTS

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## Introduction

- ▶ Regional increase in demand for livestock and products<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ Sustainable feed production a major challenge to livestock production in Lao PDR<sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ Improved animal nutrition would improve livestock productivity and livelihoods in Lao PDR.
- ▶ Context-specific assessment of local feed resources, opportunities and challenges will inform design of strategies for sustainable forage and feed options.

## Methodology



Figure 1. Map of the study area

Gendered Feed Assessment Tool (G-FEAST)<sup>3</sup>.

2 villages each in Phonxay and Nonghet Districts, Lao PDR (Fig. 1).

8 FGDs (4 men and 4 women) (Fig. 2)

48 Individual Interviews (IIs) (24 men and 24 Women) (Fig. 2)



Figure 2. Group Female (A) & Male (B) Discussions and Individual Female (C) and Male (D) Interviews during the study

## Results

- ▶ Livestock (cattle) and crop production are the major HH income sources (Figs. 3 & 4).
- ▶ Livestock Feed mainly by free grazing, cut-and-carry to a limited extent.
- ▶ Main forages grown include *Urochloa ruziziensis* (Ruzi) and *Cenchrus purpureus* (Napier) and of low nutritional quality (Figs. 5 & 6).
- ▶ Major livestock-related activities and decision making are taken by men than women (Figs. 7 & 8).

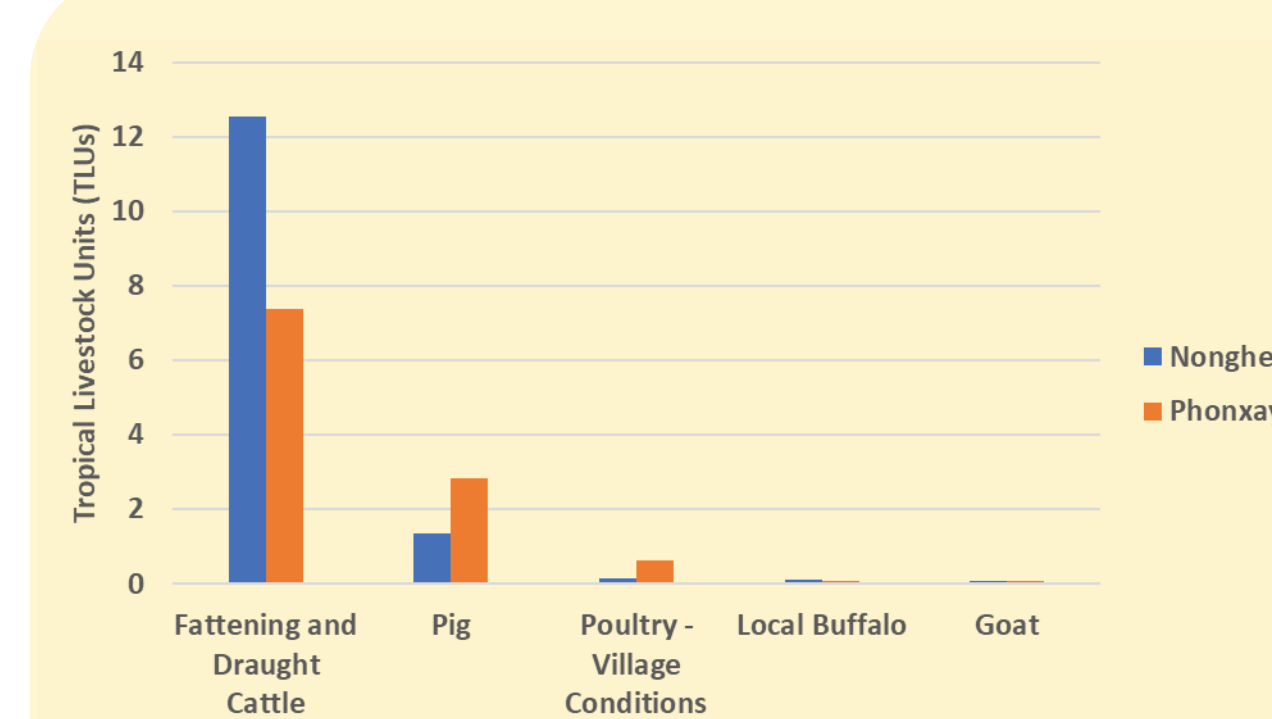


Figure 3. Average livestock holdings per household (TLU)

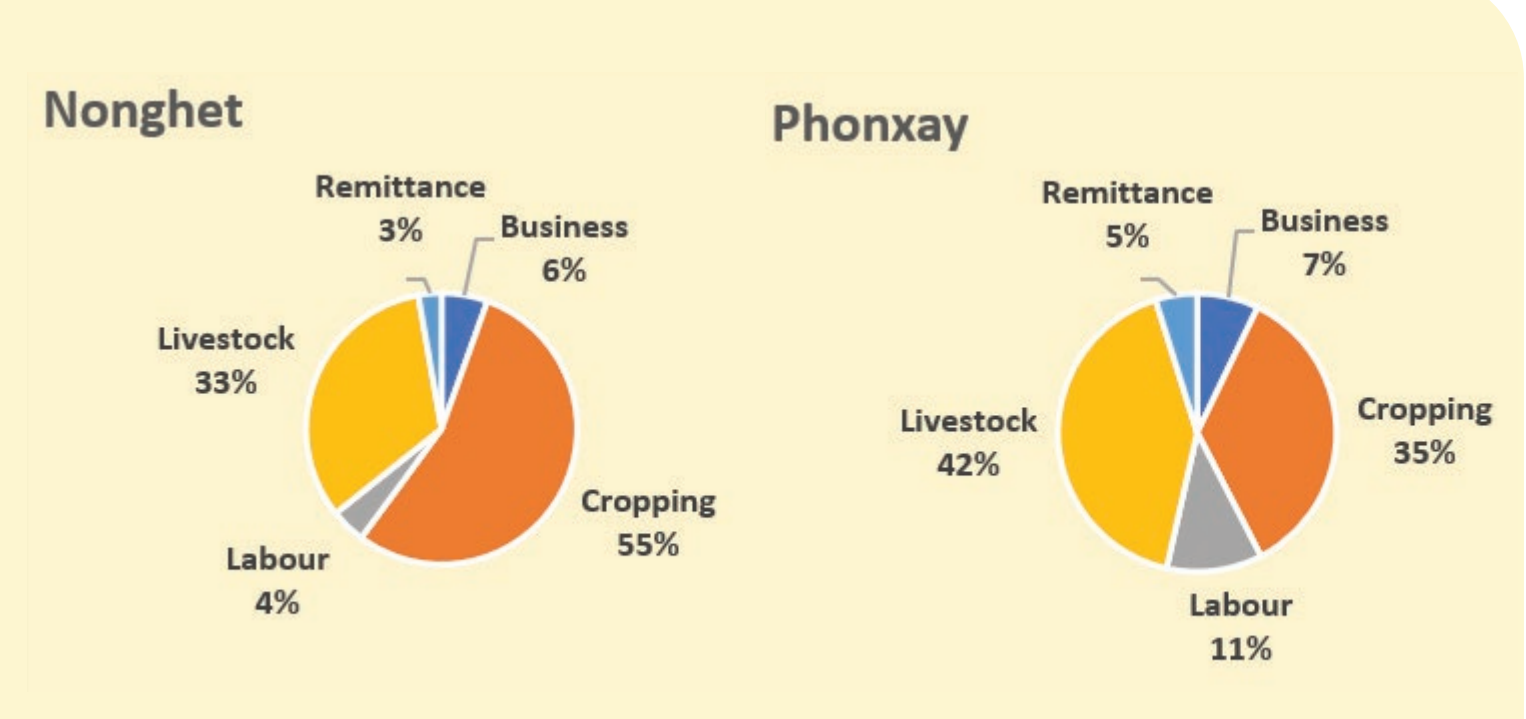


Figure 4. Major sources of household income

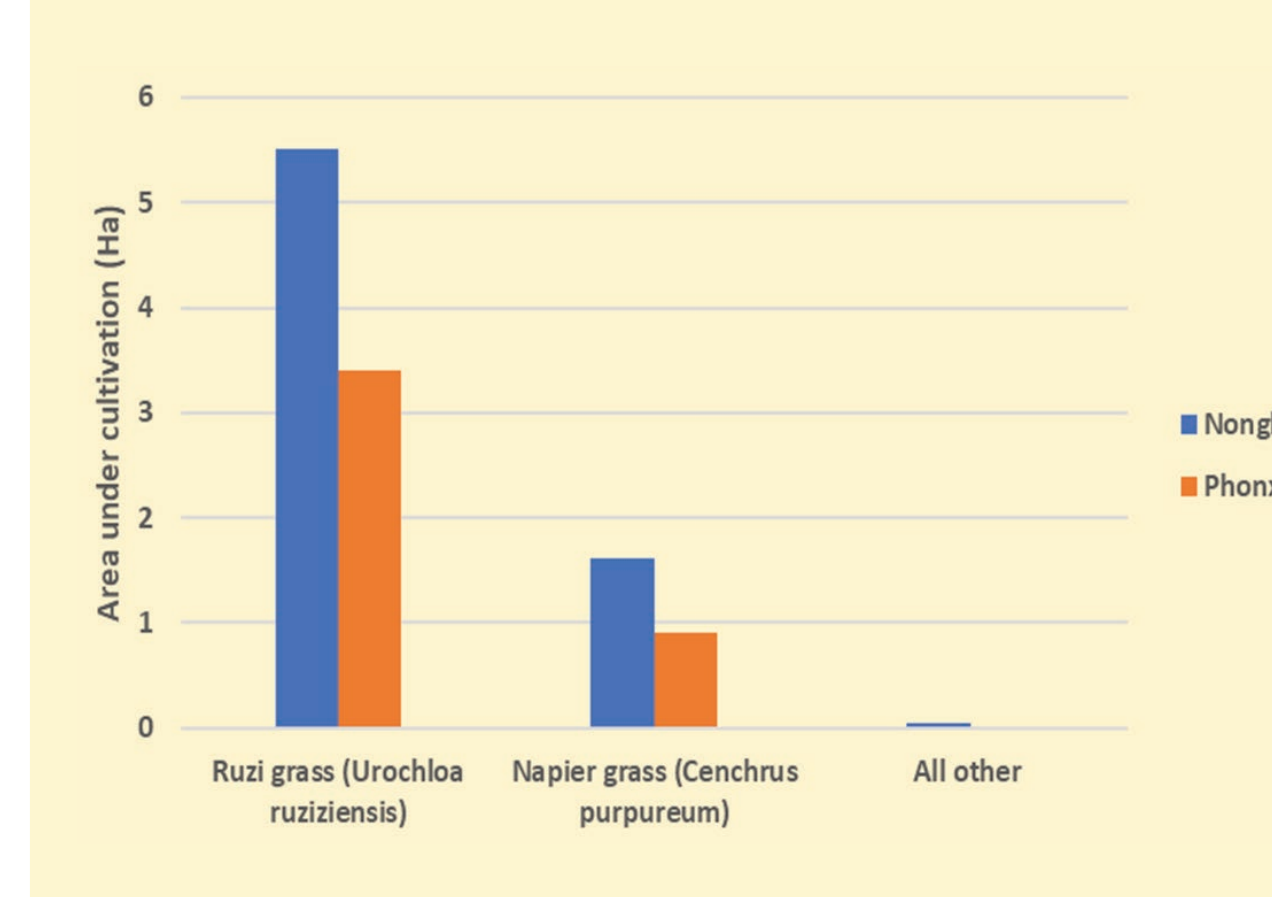


Figure 5. Main cultivated forages per household

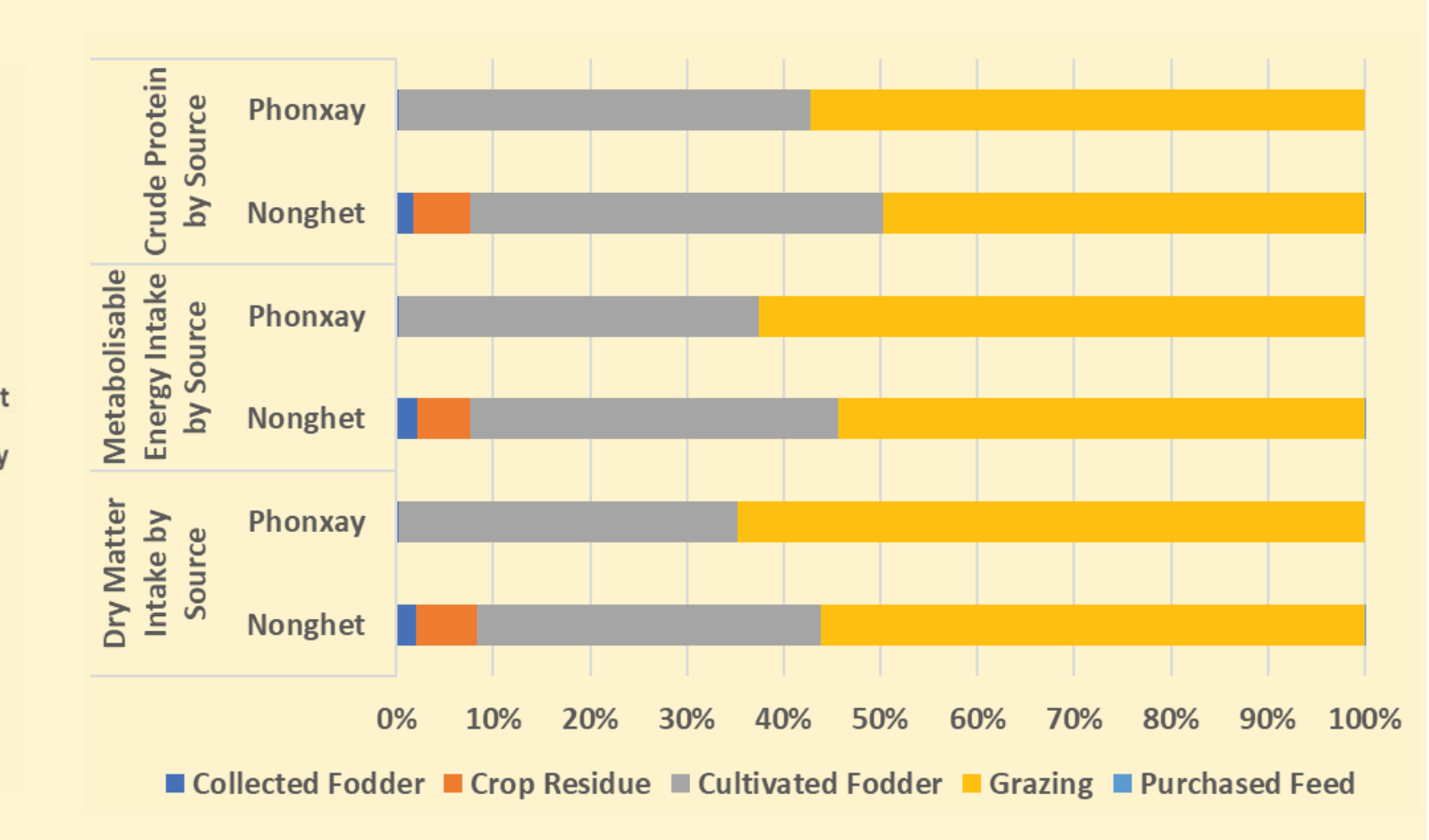


Figure 6. Contribution of available feed resources to livestock dietary requirements

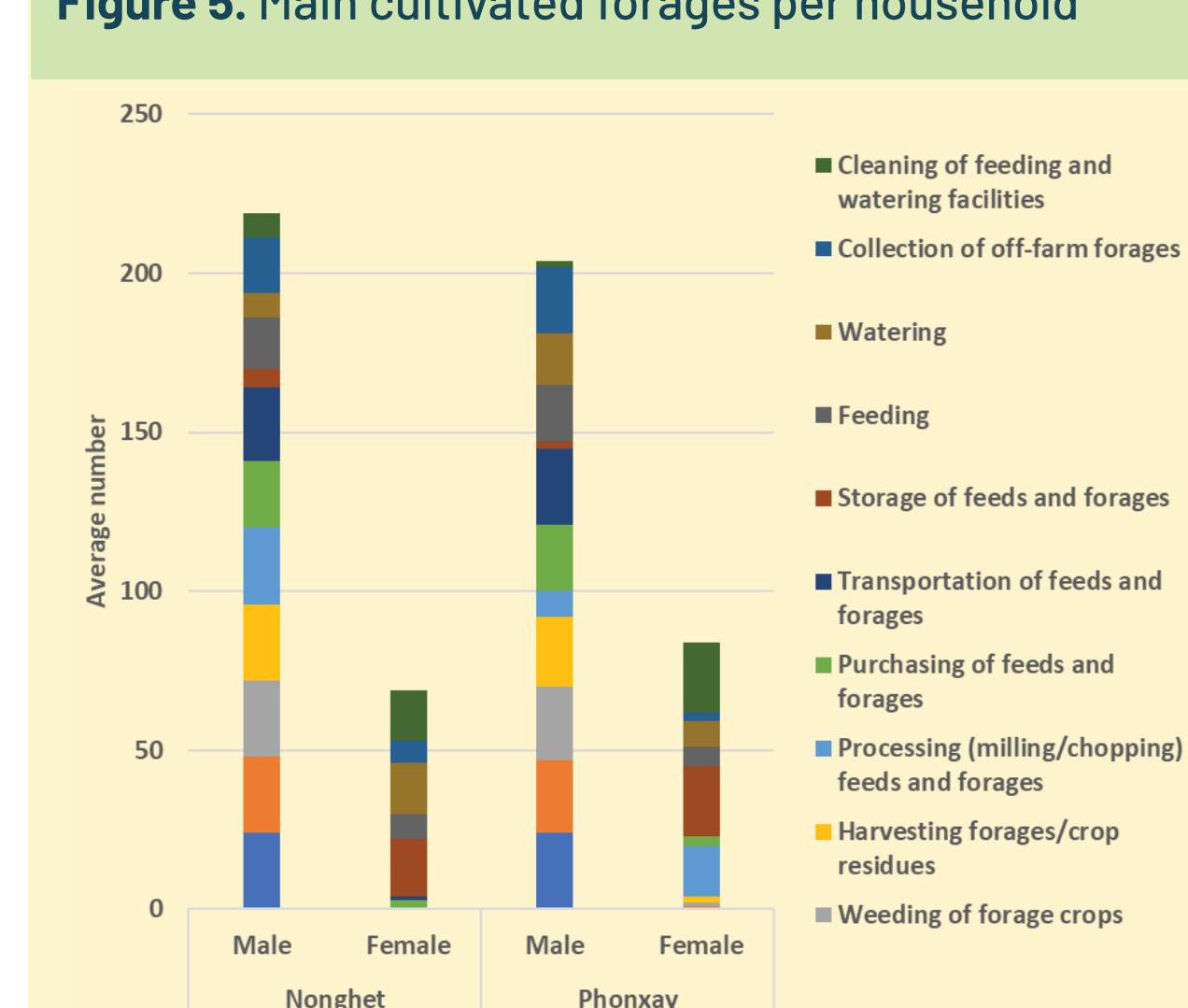


Figure 7. Gender division of labor in livestock production

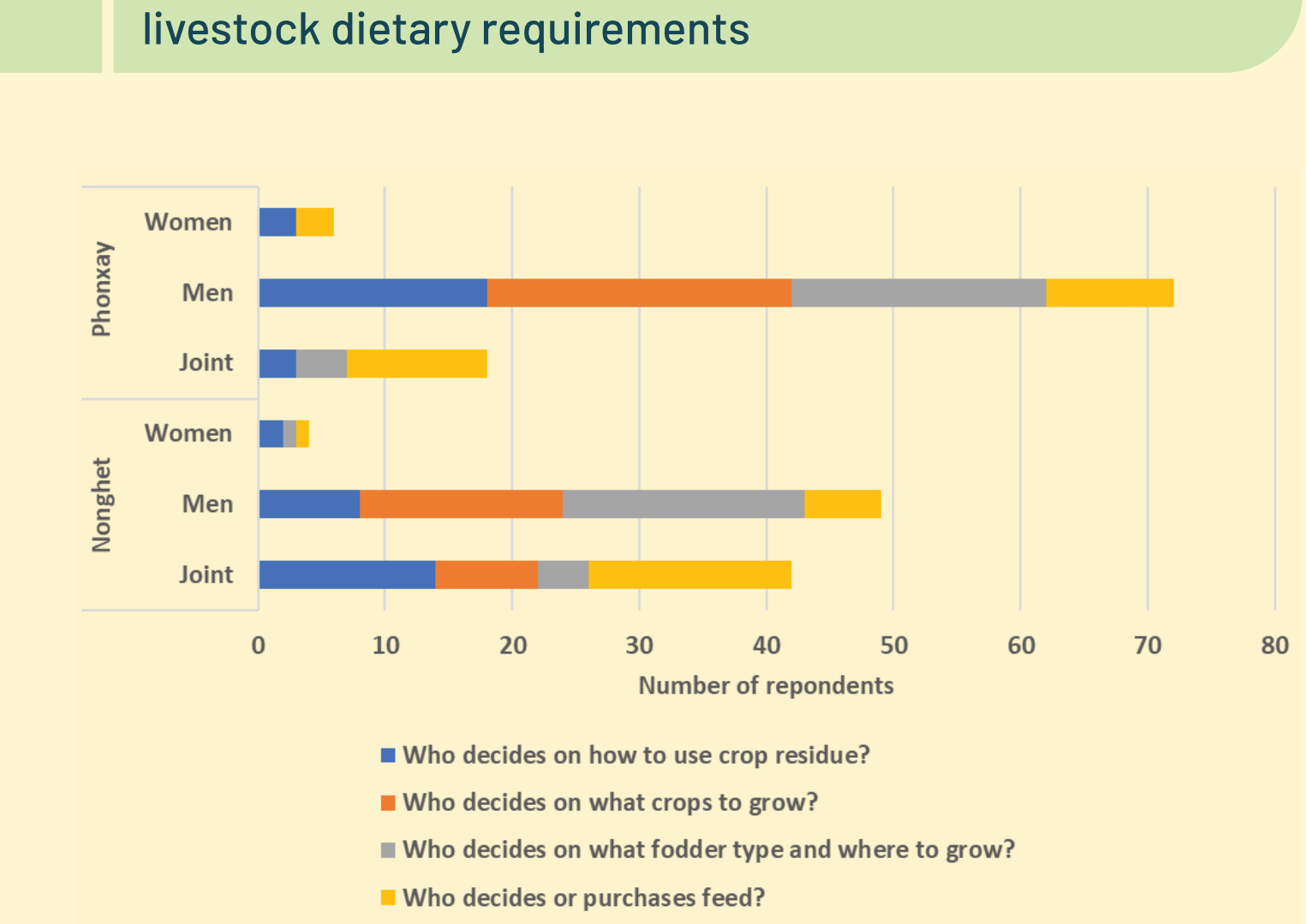


Figure 8. Gender decision on cropping and feeding in livestock production

## Conclusions

Acute feed shortage is a major challenge especially during the dry season, as well as over-reliance on low-quality feed resources such as grazing on rice fields after harvest and low-quality forages. There is a need to promote locally-suited and gender sensitive intervention strategies such as promoting improved forage varieties, feed and forage utilization practices and capacity building on feed technologies e.g., diet formulations and feeding regimes.

## References

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- <sup>3</sup>Duncan, A., York, L., Lukuyu, B., Samaddar, A., Stür, W. (2012). Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST): A systematic method for assessing local feed resource availability and use with a view to designing intervention strategies aimed at optimizing feed utilization. Questionnaire for Facilitators (Version 5.3); updated: 15 June 2012. ILRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Available from: <https://www.ilri.org/feast>

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