Alliances Kvemo Kartli: Focus Group Survey

1. Methodology

The Focus Group Survey was carried out between 27 of April to 10 of June, in 41 communities in the three municipalities of Dmanisi, Tetritskaro and Tsalka the three municipalities covered by Alliances Kvemo Kartli (Alliances KK) in the Kvemo Kartli region. The survey sample size constituted 73% of the 56 communities in these municipalities. Communities were chosen to reflect varying results for different demographic groups. These demographic groups were organized by gender and ethnicity. Male and female Focus Groups were held at the same time by two male Alliances Staff for the male focus groups and two female Alliances Staff for the female Focus Groups. Refreshments were provided.

Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of each group comprised of the four major ethnicities in this area: Armenian, Azeri, Georgian and Greeks. Information provided from the administration of the Governor of Kvemo Kartli Region about the distribution of ethnic groups in the region, was used to define the distribution of ethnicity of the sample. Table 1 shows the ethnic distribution of the focus group survey sample:

Table 1. Sample Description by Ethnicity

		Armenian	Azeri	Georgian	Greek	Total
Dmanisi	Number of focus groups	0	11	11	0	22
	Number of interviewees	0	133	121	0	254
	% of focus groups	0%	50%	50%	0%	100%
Tetritskaro	Number of focus groups	2	0	22	0	24
	Number of interviewees	26	0	248	0	274
	% of focus groups	8%	0%	92%	0%	100%
Tsalka	Number of focus groups	12	2	21	4	39
	Number of interviewees	120	22	222	48	412
	% of focus groups	31%	5%	54%	10%	100%
Total	Number of focus groups	14	13	54	4	85
	Number of interviewees	146	155	591	48	940
	% of focus groups	16%	15%	64%	5%	100%

Gender

To provide gender disaggregated data a male and female focus group was held for each community. Gender disaggregated data allows for the tracing of divergence in answers across gender, it shows the variation in perception according to gender, allowing for a comparison of responses between men and women. In addition to gender specific questions included in the survey, male and female results are available for each question e.g. for the question "how much do you pay for hired laborers" answers are available for men and women. Table 2 shows the composition of the focus groups by gender.

Table 2 Sample Description by Gender

		Male	Female	Total
Dmanisi	Number of focus groups	11	11	22
	Number of interviewees	152	102	254
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Tetritskaro	Number of focus groups	11	11	22
	Number of interviewees	149	103	252
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Tsalka	Number of focus groups	19	19	38
	Number of interviewees	227	178	405
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%
Total	Number of focus groups	41	41	82
	Number of interviewees	213	185	398
	% of focus groups	50%	50%	100%

Male and female focus groups were evenly distributed across all communities although the number of members in groups varied by municipality and by gender. Male focus groups tended to be bigger than female focus groups, which can perhaps be ascribed to the fact that in the areas in which the survey took place i.e. remote rural locations, men traditionally lead decision making in communal fora.[1]

Summary of the questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed to obtain both: qualitative and quantitative data and was orientated to capture data pertaining to service availability, market access and farm level information pertaining to the beef, sheep and dairy value chains which form the focal points of the project interventions. The questionnaire as a whole can be found in Annex 1.

The questionnaire consists of the following ten sections:

1. Focus group background : represents the ethnic and gender composition description of the sample (the results of which are presented in Table 1 and 2)
2. Community Profile: describes the main sources of income in this area.
3. Agriculture Services and Inputs: mainly focuses on the access to agriculture services and several types of inputs e.g. labour.
4. Livestock and Dairy Marketing: provides information on availability to major livestock markets, customers and transportation.
5. Pasture Access and Management: gives data on major problems of pasturing faced by farmers.

[1] Alliances Gender Report (2011) ICCN

6. Information: focuses on access to and the availability of information.
7. Wealth and Poverty: description of the wealth and poverty in our sample based on the definition and perceptions of the focus group.
8. Gender: information about the division of labour and allocation of role according to gender in agricultural activities.
9. Government :examines government in the context of the agricultural sector and farmers contact with them.
10. Community priorities: sums up the main priorities of communities regarding development in the agricultural sector.

2. Community Profile

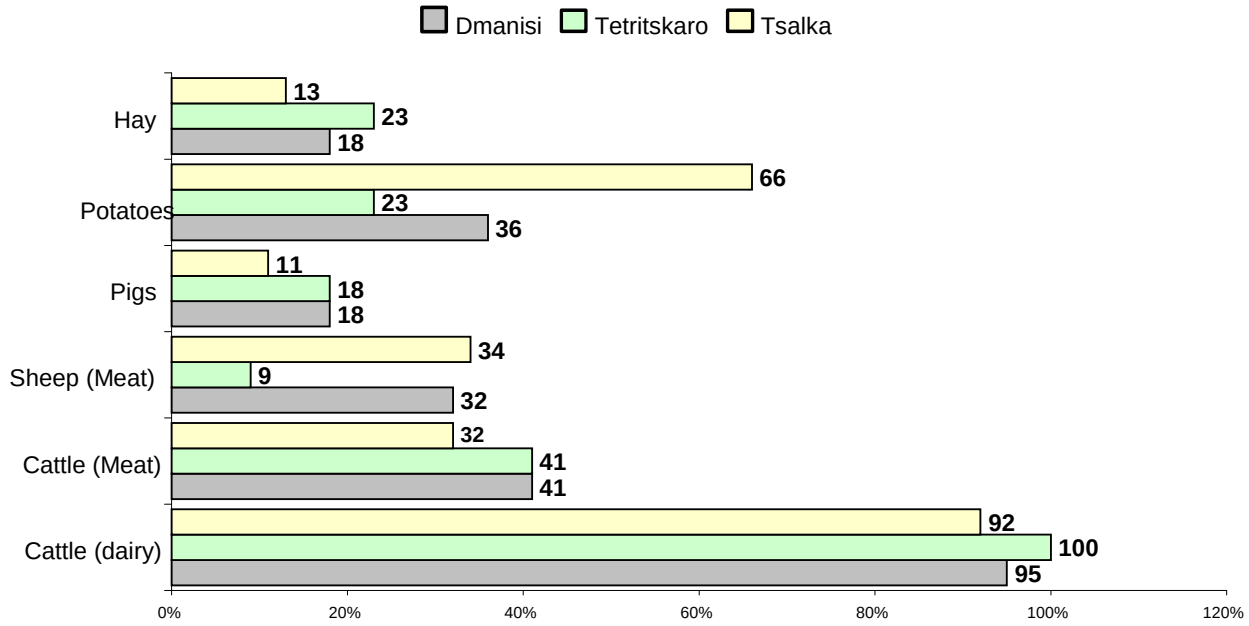
The major agricultural income generating methods in this region are dairy and meat, and for Tsalka potatoes. Not all of the villages have access to essential services and enterprises. The following section is focused on these topics, and presents a detailed picture.

2.1: What are the main income generating activities in this community?
(Please rank in order of importance:
0= not in this community
1= very low importance
2= low importance (i.e. to a few households)
3= important (to many households)
4= very important (to most/all households))

Dairy, meat and potatoes are the most significant income sources of the agricultural sector in the Kvemo Kartli Region. This fact remains true while looking at the outcomes of each municipality. The answers of men and women slightly differ, although the major variation is still due to location. Some of the methods of income generation, like sheep for meat, sheep dairy, tree fruits, collecting wild fruits and nuts, forestry, medical herbs, handicraft, vegetables, beekeeping poultry and fish farming are regarded to be of lesser priority in the region.[2] A more detailed description of the importance of different significant income generating sources is illustrated in Figure 2.1 below:

[2] Only an extremely low percentage of the focus groups consider them to be important income generating sources, because of this figures for them are not displayed.

Figure 2.1 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Following Sources of Income to be Important or Very Important (%)



2.2: Are the following enterprises present in your community? (Any functioning economic unit/entity)
2.3: Are the following services present in your village?

The other significant issue in building a community profile is the availability of access to essential enterprises and services, such as shops, banks, ambulances and so on. The data shows that many types of basic services are not very common in the communities. Farmers need to travel either to town centers or to other villages quite often in order to access the following services and enterprises: saw mills, tailors, informal lenders and pay points. Also existing enterprises and services are often shared by 3 or 4 villages, so on average their number is less than one per village. (In such cases, zero is displayed as an average number, in Table 3 below). Outcomes differ much across the municipalities, and Tsalka seems to have the most poorly served. Table 3 illustrates access to enterprises in detail, by showing the average number of services per village:

Table 3 Average Number of Enterprises and Services per Village

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Shops	9	7	4
Bakeries	1	1	0
Bank/Microfinance	1	1	0
Mechanic	10	9	9
Blacksmith (metal worker)	1	0	0
Doctor	3	3	2
Ambulance	1	1	0
Kindergarten	0	1	0
Primary School	2	1	0
Secondary school	1	1	1

2.4: What are the main non-agricultural employments or income generating activities in this community?

The importance of income generating methods in non-agricultural sector varies more across gender than across municipalities. Men say that the most common profession is teaching. Whilst, women say that working abroad is the most frequent method for income generation. This trend does not change while looking at municipalities separately. Table 4 below presents relevant percentages for the importance of the major activities:

Table 4 Main Non-Agricultural Income Generating Activities (%)

	Dmansi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Male focus groups, which believe teaching is the most common non-agricultural activity	58	72	77
Female focus groups, which believe working abroad is the most common non-agricultural activity	50	75	90

Other significant non-agricultural activities are: trading and shop ownership, jobs in the public sector, driving, working in banks, mechanics, working in ambulance and security. Their ranking according to importance, for all three municipalities and gender is presented in the Table 5 below:

Table 5 Ranking of Main Non-Agricultural Income Generating Activities According to Their Relative Importance

	Ranking	Dmansi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Men	1	Public sector activities	Public sector activities	School teaching
	2	Car driving	Market ownership/ Selling goods	Drivers
	3	Building	Drivers	Banking
	4		Mechanics, car make-up	Mechanics, car make-up
	5		Medicine	Medicine
	6		Bakery	Security service
	7		Hired work	Police
Women	1	Public sector activities	Public sector activities	Doctors
	2	Market ownership/ Selling goods	Renting houses small businesses	shop ownership/Selling goods
	3	School worker	Working in ambulance	Public sector activities
	4	Trading	Trading	Building
	5		Building	

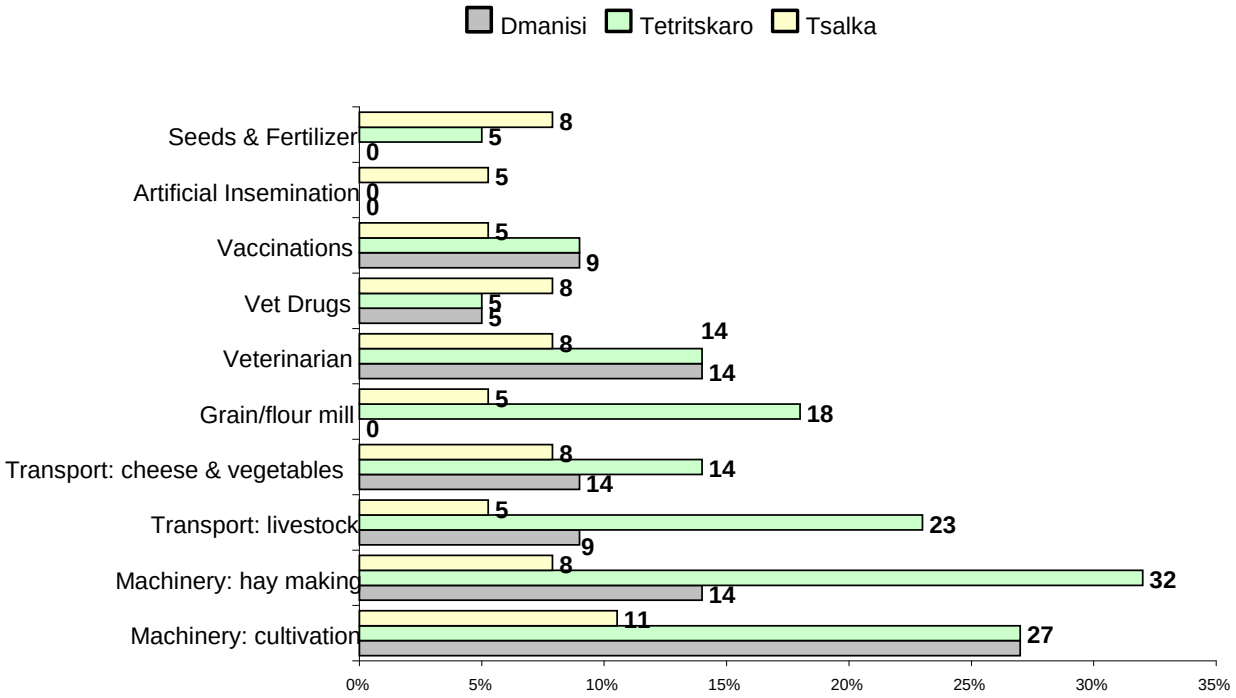
3. Agricultural Services and Inputs

Lack of access to credit and lack of machinery are the main drawbacks for farmers to access basic agricultural inputs. There are only a few services available to farmers in their villages, and they have to travel to town centers or other villages in order to find basic agricultural services such as vets, vaccination services and so on. This section mainly focuses on the availability of access to major agricultural services and inputs, and also shows where farmers can find these services. It also concentrates on human resources as inputs, and describes tendencies for hiring or not hiring labor for various tasks, the subsequent comparison across gender and tendencies for hiring from local or non-local regions.

3.1: Where do you access the following products and services? (Two most important providers & their locations)

Machinery cultivation and hay making are the most available agricultural services for farmers in their villages. In other words, a fewer number of farmers had to travel to look for services in other places for machinery than vets, vaccinations, seed and other input services. There is a big variation in outcomes across the municipalities. For example: 23% of Tetritskaro focus groups has access to livestock transportation trucks while only 9% and 5% have such access in Dmanisi and Tsalka respectively (See Figure 3.1). Figure 3.1 below gives a more detailed picture:

Figure 3.1 Focus Groups, Which have Access Following Services in Their Own Village (%)



3.2: How important are the following in this community?

Farmers think that draft animal usage (horses and donkeys) for cultivation, herding and transportation is essential. However draft oxen are not used in the project area. In addition, more women think that draft animals are important than men. The results also differ by municipality.

Representatives of Tetritskaro, consider usage of draft animals less important compared to the other two municipalities. Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3 below show this information in more detail.

Figure 3.2 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Following Activities are Important or Very Important in Their Communities - Comparison across Gender (%)

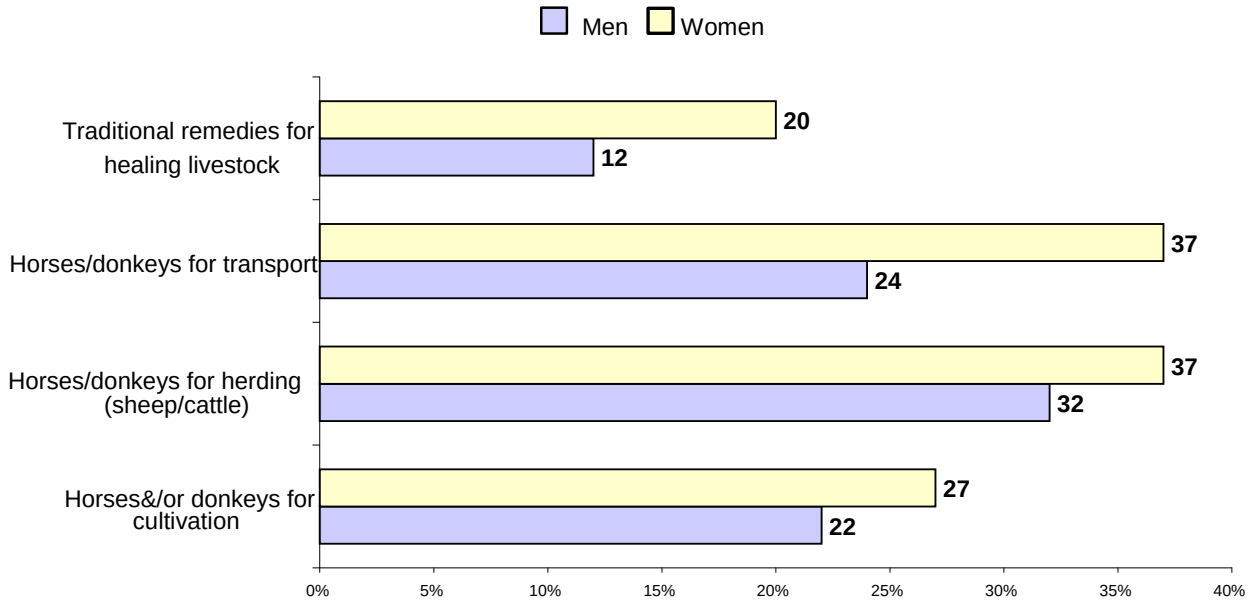
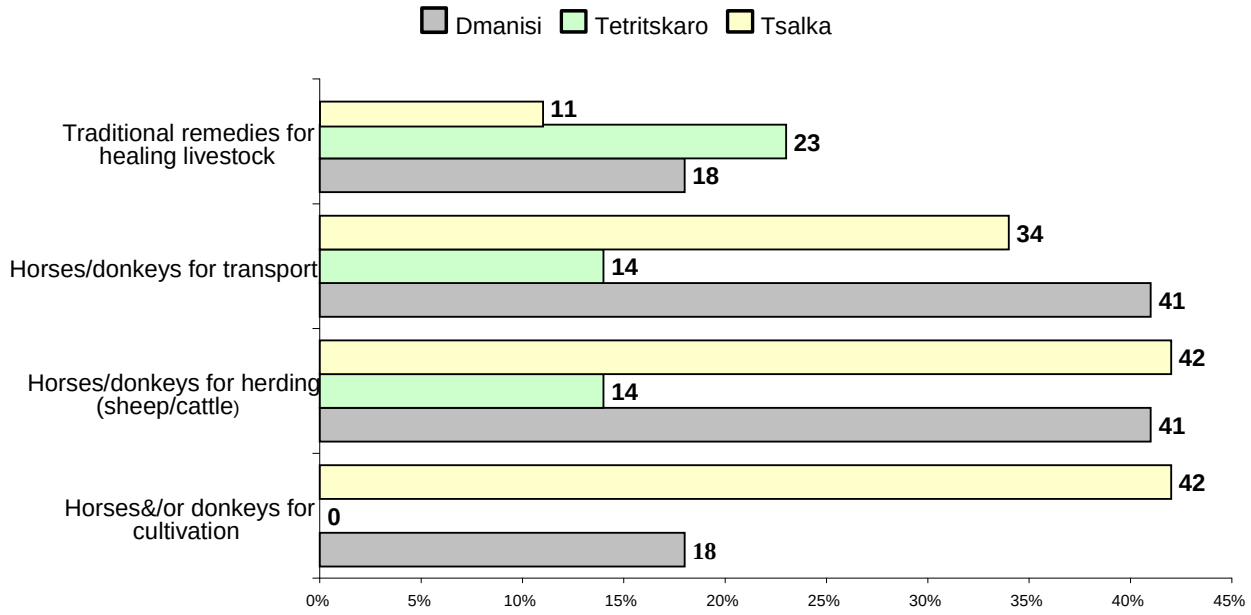


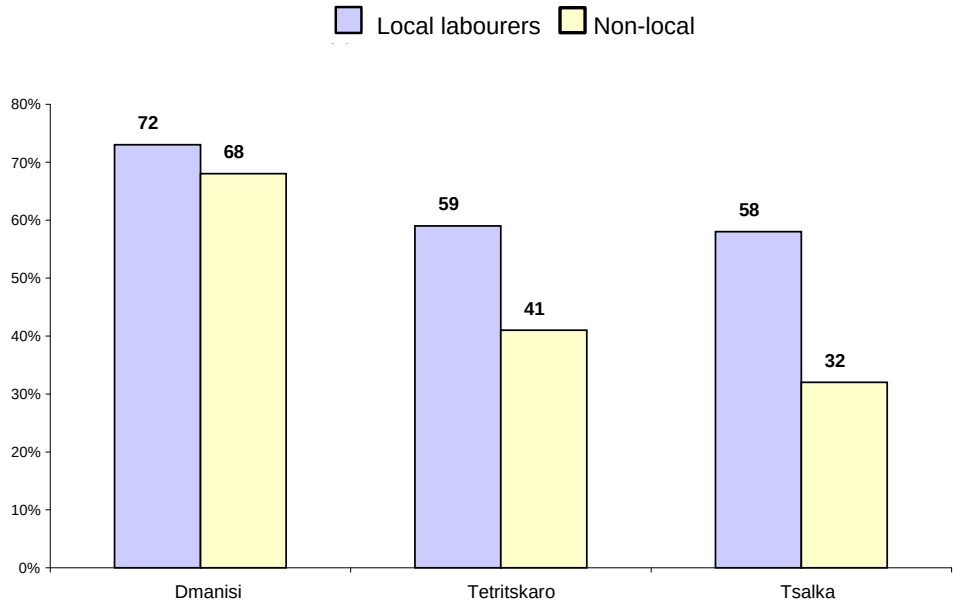
Figure 3.3 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Following Activities are Important or Very Important in Their Communities - Comparison across Municipalities (%)



3.3: Do you hire labourers on your farms?

The majority of farmers from this region have to hire laborers for various farm jobs. Generally, they tend to hire local laborers, although a percentage also hires non-local laborers. The contrast between male and female focus groups' responses was not large, however the comparison of results across municipalities is informative. Farmers from Dmanisi Municipality tend to hire both, local and non-local laborers more than farmers from other municipalities. Figure 3.3 below displays focus groups which hire local and non-local laborers respectively:

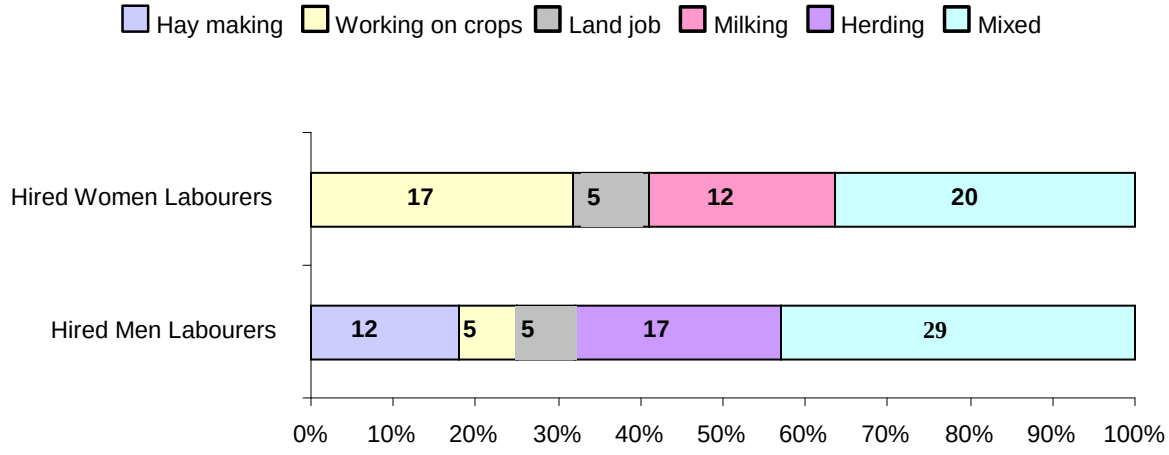
Figure 3.4 Focus Groups, Which Hire Local and Non-local Laborers **(%)**



3.4: What jobs do hired labourers do?

These hired laborers work on hay making, land cultivation, harvesting, herding and milking. Men frequently work on hay and on herding, while women do milking, cultivation and harvesting. Figures 3.4 below shows the distinction of tendencies for jobs across gender, among hired laborers:

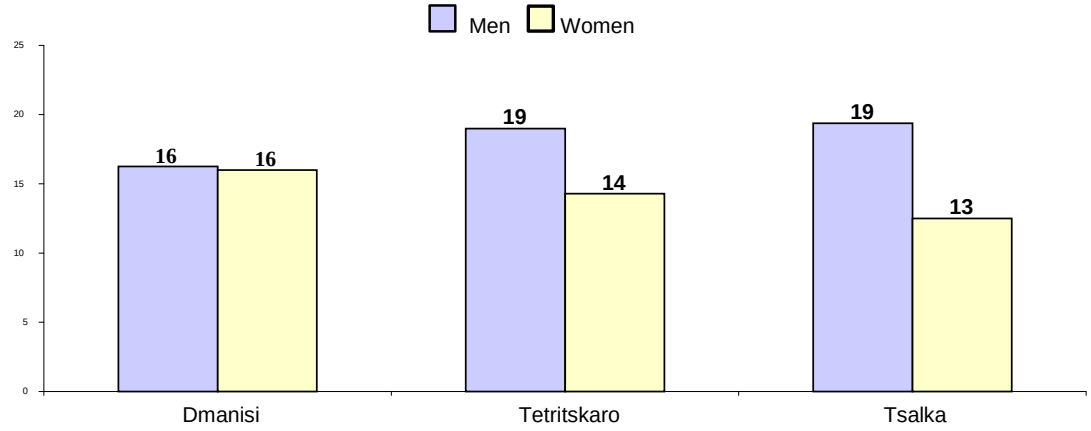
Figure 3.5 Jobs Done by Hired Men and Hired Women (Distribution of %)



3.5: How much do you pay them (money or in-kind)? Is this for a daily rate or for a completed task?

These hired laborers receive daily payments, or per fulfilled task. Men receive higher payments than women and this gap in payments is quite big, for the whole region. This fact remains true while looking outcomes from Tetritskaro and Tsalka separately, although in Dmanisi municipality men and women receive on average the same amount of money. Figure 3.6 demonstrates this difference by showing the average payment per day, for both genders:

Figure 3.6.Average Payment per Day (Gel)



3.6: Are there any formal or informal farmers groups, associations, cooperatives in your community?

Farmer groups and associations, even informal ones are not very common in the region. On average, only 25% of focus groups say that there are any in their community. Gender and location cause some differences in outcomes. Table 6 below displays numbers of focus groups which said that there are any types of farmer associations in their communities: Table 6 also shows the reported existence of groups according to Gender. Table 7 the shows the location, sector and names of those mentioned.

Table 6 Average Number of Focus Groups Reporting That There are Some Formal or Informal Farmers Groups in Their Community (%)

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Men	36	27	26
Women	18	36	16

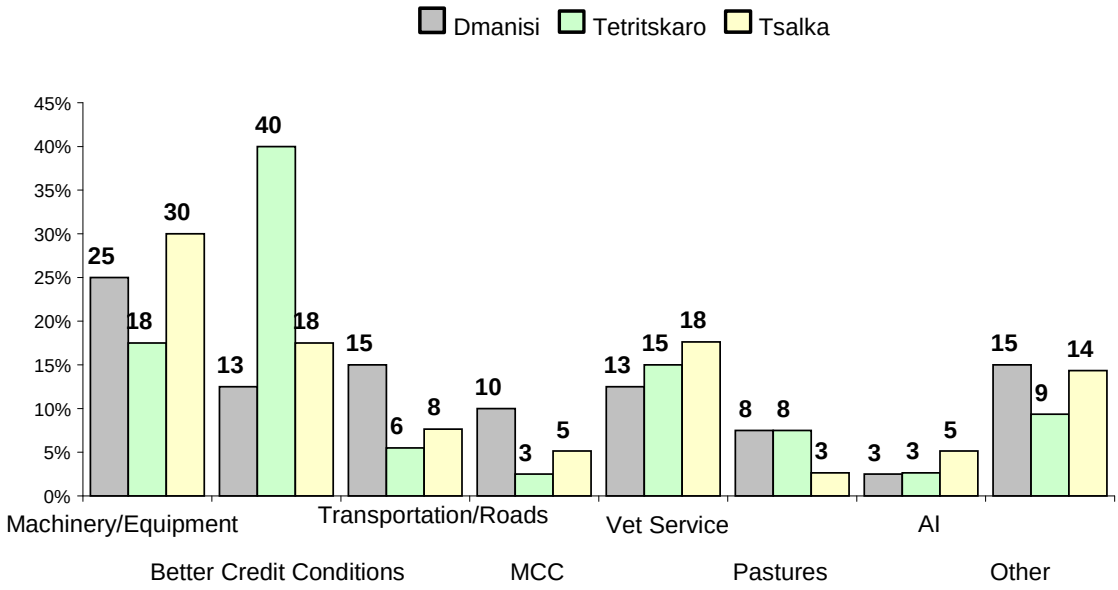
Table 7 Location, Sector and Names of Groups Mentioned

Location	Sector	Groups/associations/ cooperatives
Dmanisi	Sheep-breeding, machinery	3 focus groups named 1 cooperative and 1 LTD
Tetritskaro (for MCC locations see Map, Annex 1)	Milk Collection Centre, machinery, husbandry, and beef.	7 focus groups named 1 small enterprise, 3 cooperative and 1 centers.
Tsalka	Milk Collection Centers, dairy, information, livestock, sheep-breeding, machinery, NGO.	10 focus groups named 4 cooperatives, 2 centers, 2 informal farmers groups, 2 NGOs.

3.7: What makes it difficult for you to access the inputs, services and finance you need for your farm enterprises? How does this affect you?

Poor access to credit and the lack of machinery for farming, in particular for hay making seems to be the biggest drawback for obtaining access to agricultural inputs and services in the region. The focus groups also mentioned transportation and roads, pasture availability, milk collection and all types of vet services, as other significant factors which would improve their farm enterprises. The outcomes do not differ much across gender; more informative is a comparison across municipalities. In Tetritskaro better credit conditions are the most important need, while in both, Dmanisi and Tsalka machinery for hay making and for other cultivation activities are named. Figure 3.7 below gives the picture of what is most needed by farmers in this region for obtaining access to agricultural inputs and improving farming conditions.

Figure 3.7 Focus Groups, Who Consider That The Following Are Required in Their Communities, In Order to Improve Access to Services and Inputs (%)



4. Livestock and Dairy Marketing

The main livestock products for sale, like calves, yearlings, adult females and bulls, are mostly bought by non local Georgian and sometimes Azeri traders. These are most frequently sold from farmers' houses. A lack of collectors/traders, transportation and low prices were given as major drawbacks for livestock marketing. The problems are very similar for the marketing of dairy products. This section gives a detailed picture of livestock and dairy product markets in the region.

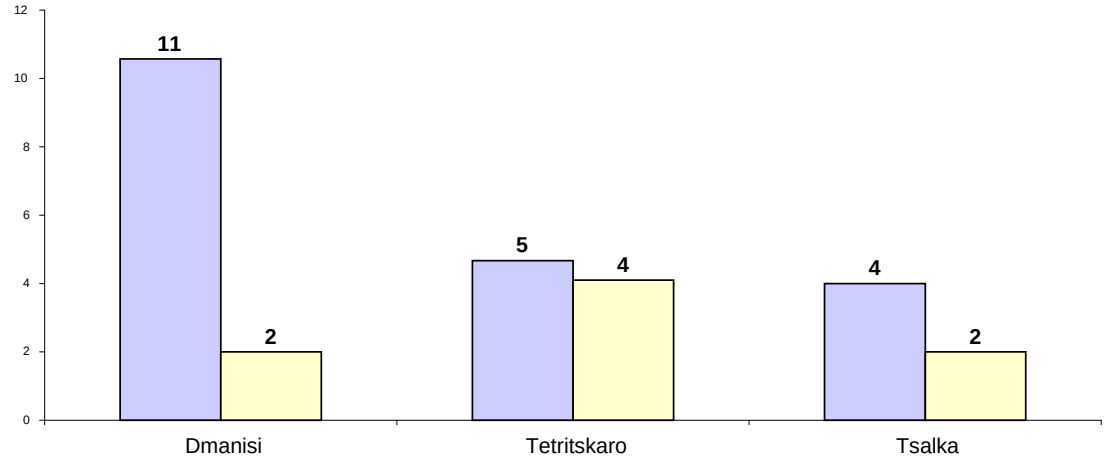
4.1 Where are your most important markets?
(places where you sell products from your farm at any time)
(Rank importance 1lesst important & 5 most important in terms of the value/volume)
(Frequency, daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, yearly)

The majority of focus groups from Dmansi Municipality name Dmanisi and Marneuli as the most important places for livestock product marketing. Tetritskaro Municipality residents name Tbilisi and Manglisi and farmers from Tsalka Municipality, Tsalka town itself. Some focus groups say that they have markets for livestock products in their own villages. The percentages of these focus groups out of relevant municipalities are displayed in Figure 4.1:

Figure 4.1 Focus Groups, Which are Able to Sell Livestock Products in Their Own Villages (%)

In all three regions, men visit agricultural markets more frequently than women. In addition, there is a difference across municipalities. In particular, men from Dmanisi municipality visit markets on average 11 times per month, while the same figure for women is only 2. This gap is not so large for other municipalities, although it still remains. Figure 4.2 demonstrates these differences, by displaying figures for frequency of visits per month:

Figure 4.2 Frequencies of Visits to Market for Sale of Livestock Products per Month



4.2 How do most people transport items/ products to market (tick boxes)

Transporting goods on foot or by public transport are the most common means of transport. Hence, it is easier to take cheese and potatoes to market than livestock, meat and other products. The types of transport used for marketing goods differ from product to product. However, there is not a significant dissimilarity across municipalities or gender. Table 8 shows what types of transport farmers use for different goods, by displaying relevant percentages of focus groups out of the whole region:

Table 8 Transportation Sources for Different Types of Products (%)

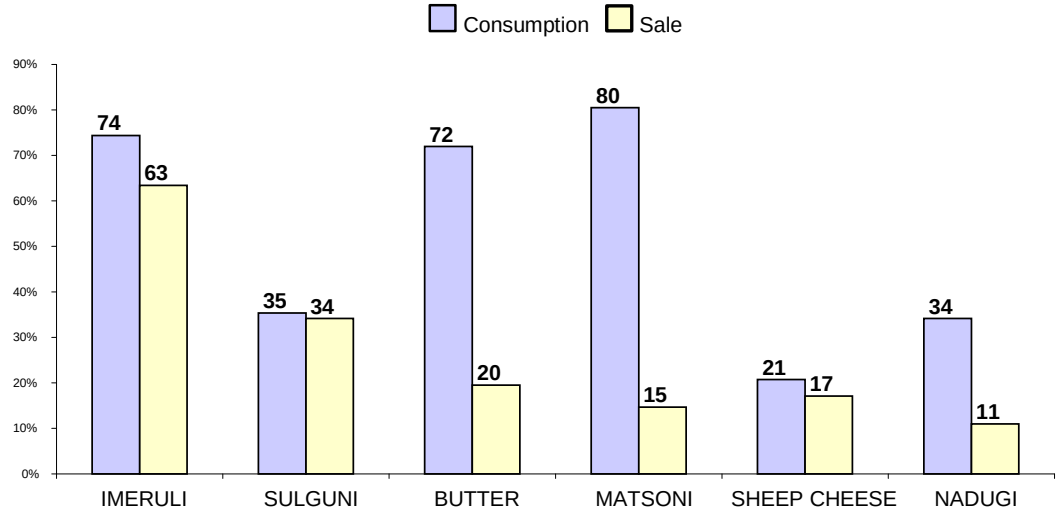
	Focus Groups Transporting on Foot	Focus Groups Transporting by their own Transport	Focus Groups Transporting by Hired Transport	Focus Groups Transporting by Public Transport	Focus Groups Not Using Any of These Types of Transport/Not Selling
Adult cattle	15	4	20	0	62
Calves	13	5	16	0	65
Sheep and Goats	10	4	10	1	75
Cheese	4	10	15	45	26
Potato	0	7	27	18	47
Vegetables	0	4	5	6	85
Meat	1	6	5	1	86
Cereals	0	2	2	0	95
Honey	2	7	2	2	85

4.3 What dairy products are made in this community? (if there are any unique products write them down)

Matsoni is the most significant product for consumption among dairy products, while Imeruli Cheese and butter are primary products for sale. Also, Sulguni cheese is significant product for sale in the region. The lowest priority product is goat cheese among dairy products, none of the

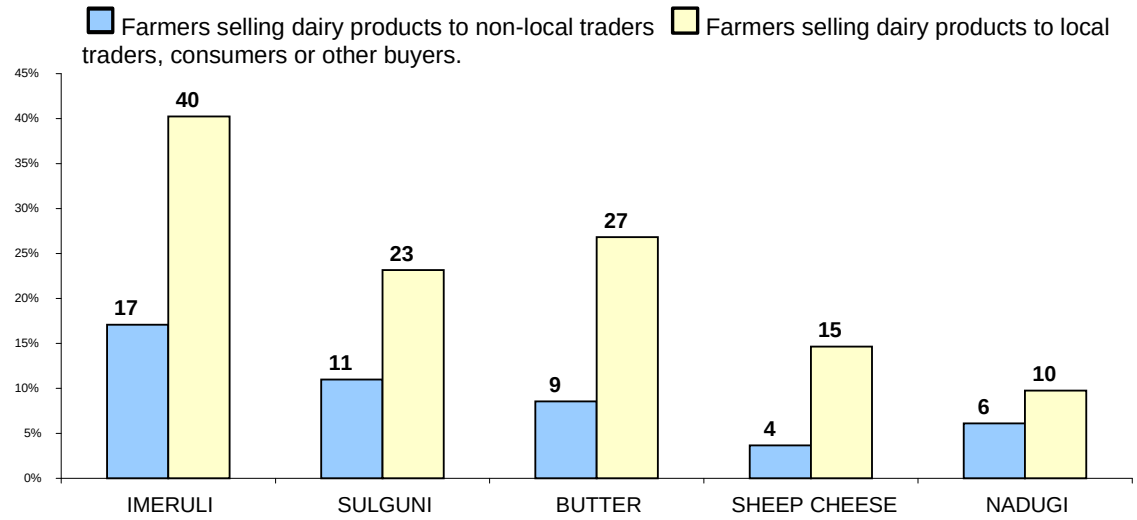
focus groups named it to be important. These trends with slight differences remain true for all three municipalities. Below, in Figure 4.3, are displayed the percentages of focus groups out of the whole region who regards following types of dairy products important for both, consumption and sale:

Figure 4.3 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Following Dairy products to be Important (%)



The farmers, who sell these dairy products, name non local traders and consumers to be the most frequent clients. This remains true while looking at municipalities separately. Figure 4.4 displays percentages of focus groups whose main clients are non- local traders, together with percentages of focus groups who sell these products to local traders, consumers and other buyers:

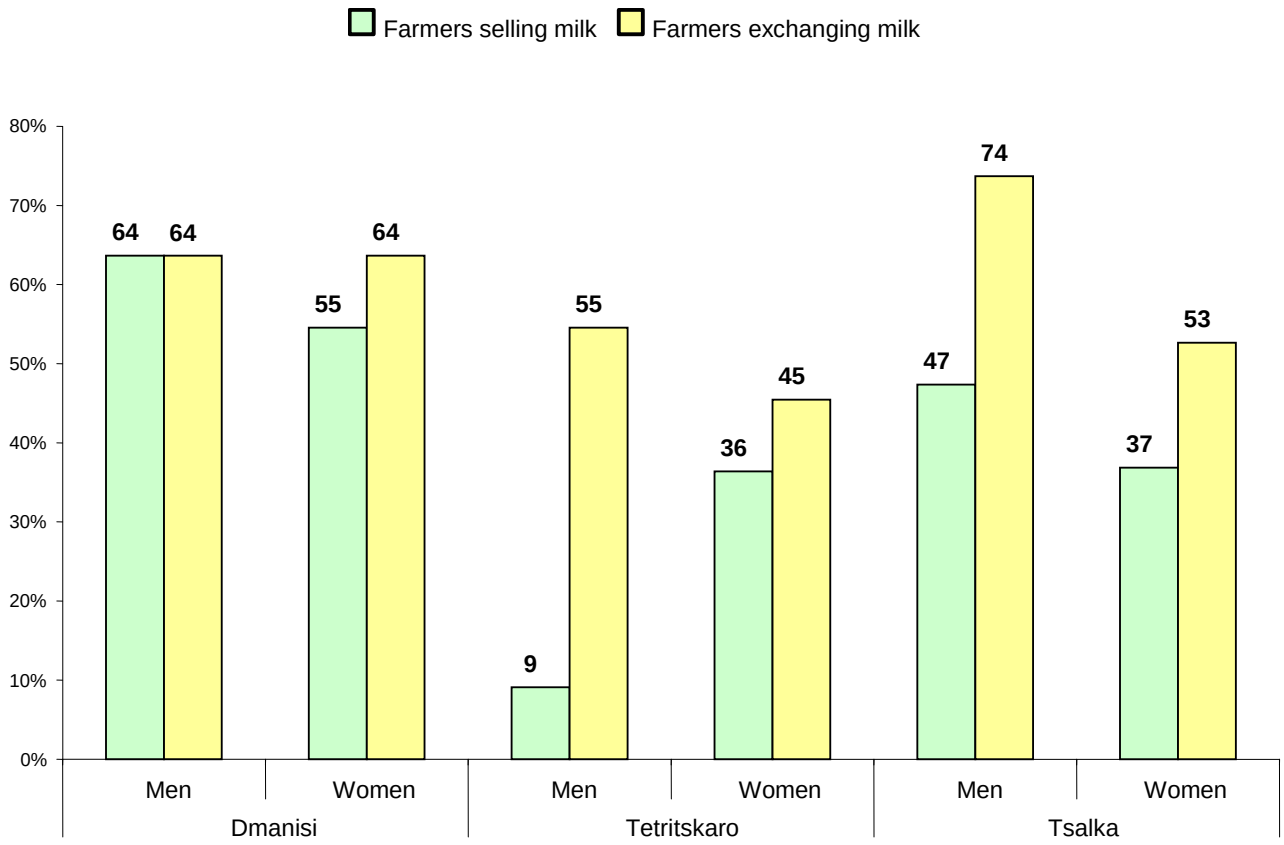
Figure 4.4 Farmers Selling Dairy Products to Non-Local Traders and Compared to Farmers Selling in General (%)



4.4: Do people exchange / combine raw milk with each other for household processing?
For this question the survey found:
In Dmanisi in spite of fact that milk processing is mainly done by women, on the above mentioned question 72% of male focus groups responded compared to 27% of female focus groups. However male and female focus groups did provide the same answer: that they exchange raw milk in order to make butter and cheese.
In Tetritskaro 36% of male and female focus groups answered that they exchange raw milk in order to increase their volume of milk so they can make more butter, cheese and "Matsoni".
In Tsalka 60% of male and female focus groups said that they exchange raw milk in order to increase their volume of milk so they can make butter, cheese and sour-cream.

4.5: Do people sell raw milk?
In the project area 40% of the respondents said that raw milk is sold and they noted that raw milk is sold to independent traders or to MCCs, the remaining 60 % of the respondents answered that raw milk is not sold at all and listed following reasons: lack of MCC's, traders not coming to villages, no access to public transport and low supply of milk.

Figure 4.5 Focus Groups That Exchange or Sell Raw Milk (%)



4.6 To whom and where is raw milk sold?

- *In Dmanisi* 70% of male and female respondents answered that they sell raw milk from home and the rest of the respondents said that they do not sell it. 50% of female and male focus groups named "Sante" as the most important buyer. The rest of the male and female focus groups mentioned the "Ratevani Milk Collection centre" and Independent traders.
- The survey found that *in Tsalka* 70% of male and female focus groups answered that they sell raw milk directly from home and rest of focus groups noted that they do not sell raw milk at all. According the survey one of the most important buyers of raw milk in Tsalka is "Sante". And rest of respondents named Ecofood, Wimm-Bill-Dann and independent traders.
- *In Tetritskaro* 50% of male and female respondents noted that they sell raw milk from home and at Tbilisi markets or in Tbilisi - door to door. However 50% of respondents believe that they do not sell raw milk at all. Most respondents in Tetritskaro, said that the most important buyers of raw milk are independent traders, the rest said private consumers were buyers, and a very small number of them mentioned tourists as buyers.

4.7 What milk products are processed locally?

Table 9 below describes local facilities for milk processing. Please see the *Cheese Producing Centre(CPC)* Map in Annex 1 for more detailed information.

Table 9 Local Companies for Milk Processing, Their Location and Products

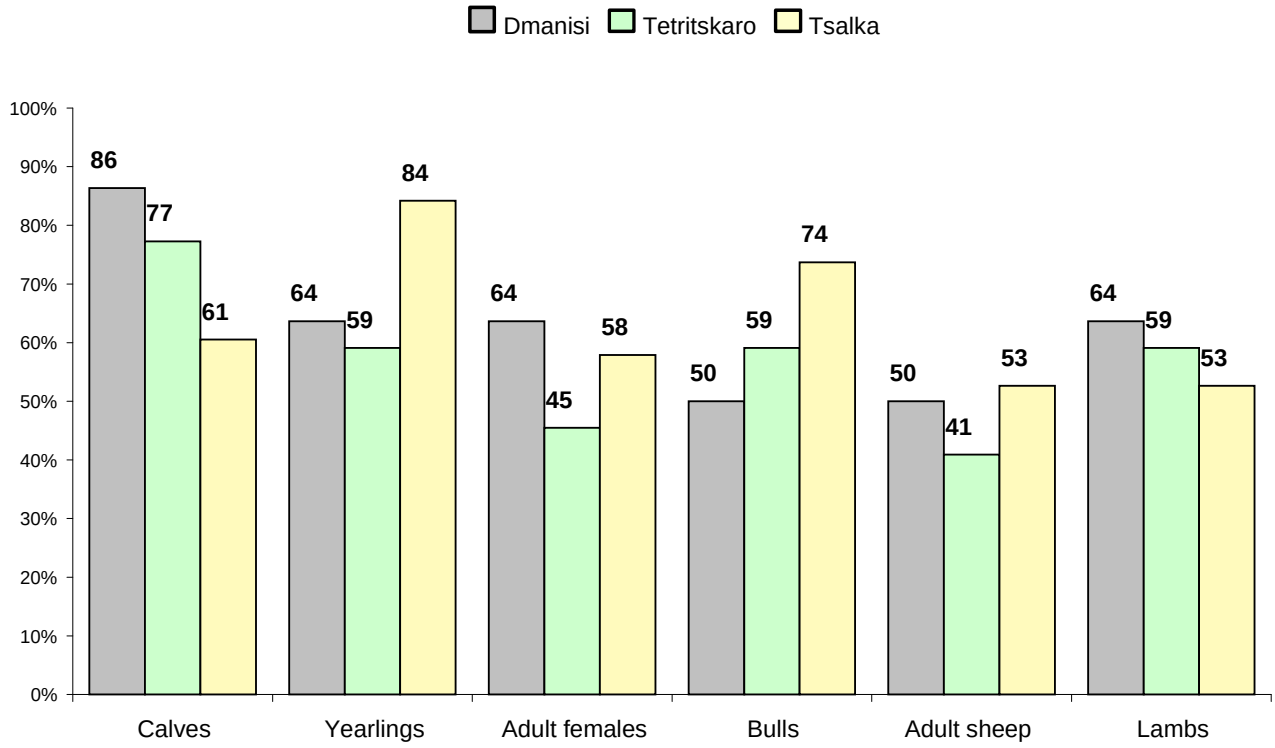
	Products	Location	Company name
Dmanisi	1.Sulguni[3], Nadugi[4], butter	Gomareti	Private market
	2.Sulguni	Dmanisi	Gogi Tcikhelashvili
Tsalka	1.Smoked Chechili cheese[5]	Trialeti	LTD,,Karchkhali
	2.Farmers Cheese[6]	Tsalka	Private farmer
	3.Sulguni	Tsintskaro	Taski
	4.Chechili cheese	Trialeti	Cezar
	5.Imeruli[7], Sulguni	Tsalka	
Tetritskaro	1. Cheese, butter, sour-cream.	Algeti	LTD Loma
	2.Farmers Cheese	Samgereti	P/I ,Adjara 2008

[3] Cheese with specific consistency made at home or as an enterprise.
[4] Homemade cottage cheese.
[5] Smoked cheese made at home or as an enterprise.
[6] Farmers' cheese is produced for home consumption with a harder consistency.
[7] Specific cheese with soft consistency made at home or as an enterprise.

4.8: What are the most important livestock sales from the house (0= never, 4= very common) (who to, e.g. trader, butcher etc) (where, e.g Marneuli, village etc)

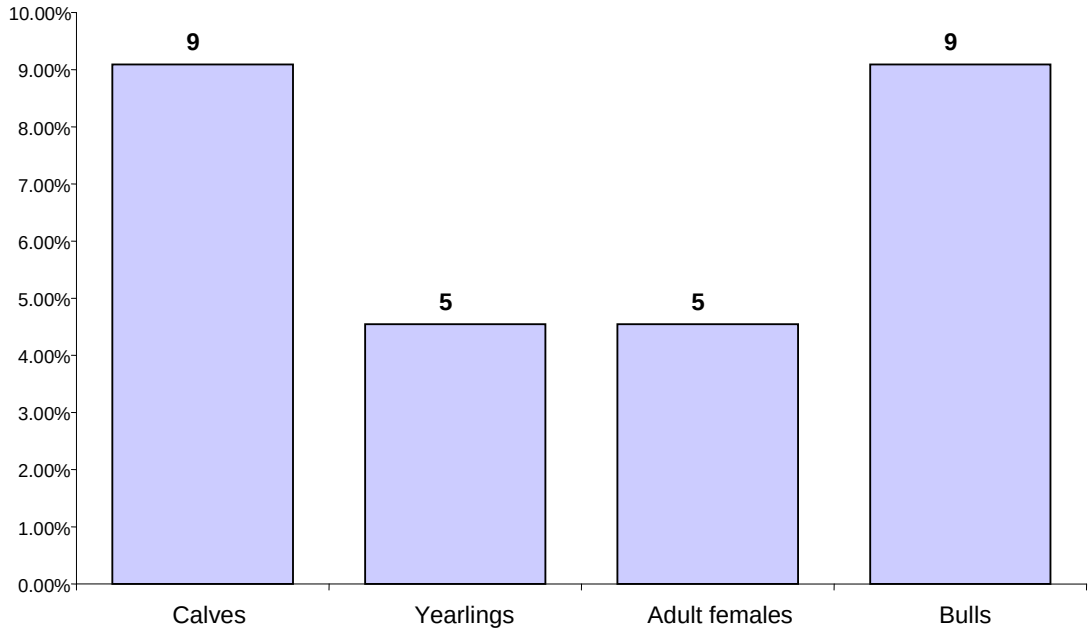
Calves, yearlings and bulls are the key livestock products for sale. Figures vary across municipalities. The sale of calves is named to be the most significant in Dmanisi, and Tetritskaro, while farmers from Tsalka tend to sell yearlings and bulls. The main variation is due to location, the difference in responses between male and female focus groups, was not large. However, for all of them selling castrated males, kids and adult goats are lowest priority and none of the focus groups named selling castrated males to be important. Figure 4.6 below shows the main trends.

Figure 4.6 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Livestock Sales to be Important or Very Important (%)



Buyers of livestock are usually non-local traders. About 73% of calves, 72% of yearlings and 68% of adult cows are bought by non-local traders, across the three municipalities. Other buyers are local traders who do not exceed 2%, local customers and non- local Azeri traders. Non local Azeri traders do not make many purchases and were only named by focus groups in Dmanisi. Figure 4.7 below shows the livestock sales to Azeri traders from the focus groups for Dmanisi Municipality:

Figure 4.7 Number of Focus Groups, Which Name Non-Local Azeri Traders as Buyers for Different Livestock in Dmanisi



There is a clear trend among farmers for selling livestock from the home. Livestock is also sold in local and non-local markets. Focus groups name traders' transportation as the most frequent form of transportation for livestock. A few named hired transport as an alternative. This data remained true across gender and location. The only significant difference was observed in Tetritskaro where the lowest number of farmers named their house to be the place of sale. Figure 4.8 and Figure 4.9 below present the data concerning the place of sale and transportation. Information about local livestock processing companies including butchers, for beef is displayed in Table 10.

4.9: What livestock product processing facilities exist in this area?

Table 10 Local Companies for Meat Processing and Their Products

Location	Sector	Facility name
Dmanisi	Beef	2 focus groups named 2 private butchers
Tsalka	Beef	3 focus groups named 2 private butchers and 1 meat shop
Tetritskaro	Beef	4 focus groups named 1 LTD, 8 private butchers.

Figure 4.8 Place for Livestock Marketing, Named by Focus Groups (%)

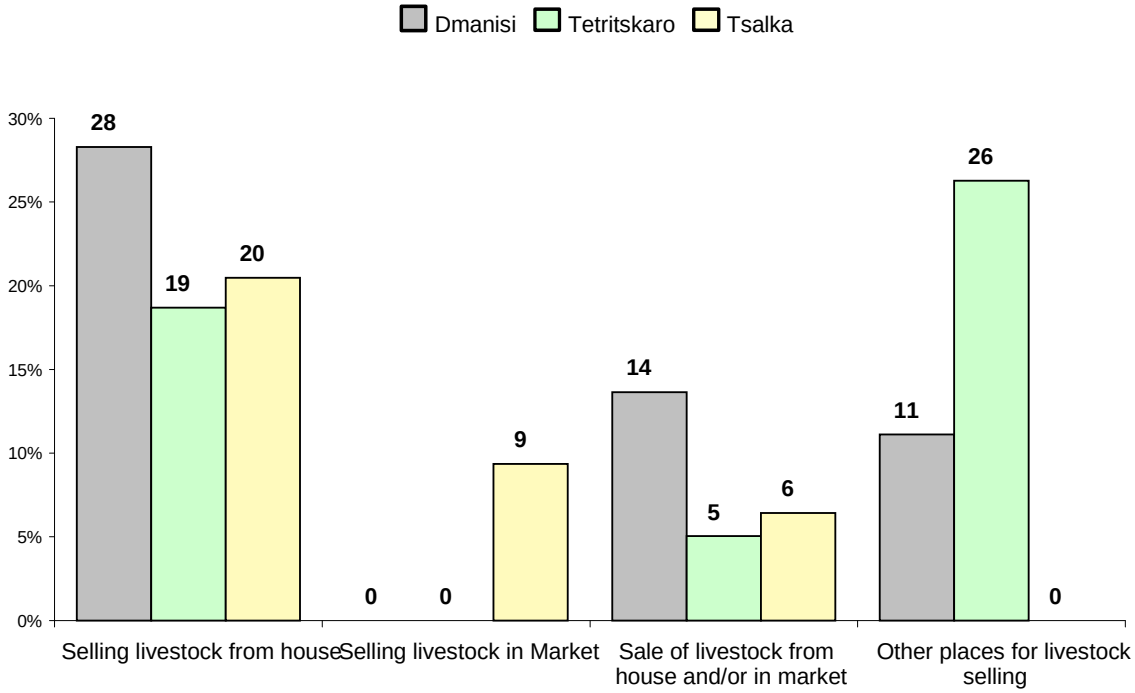
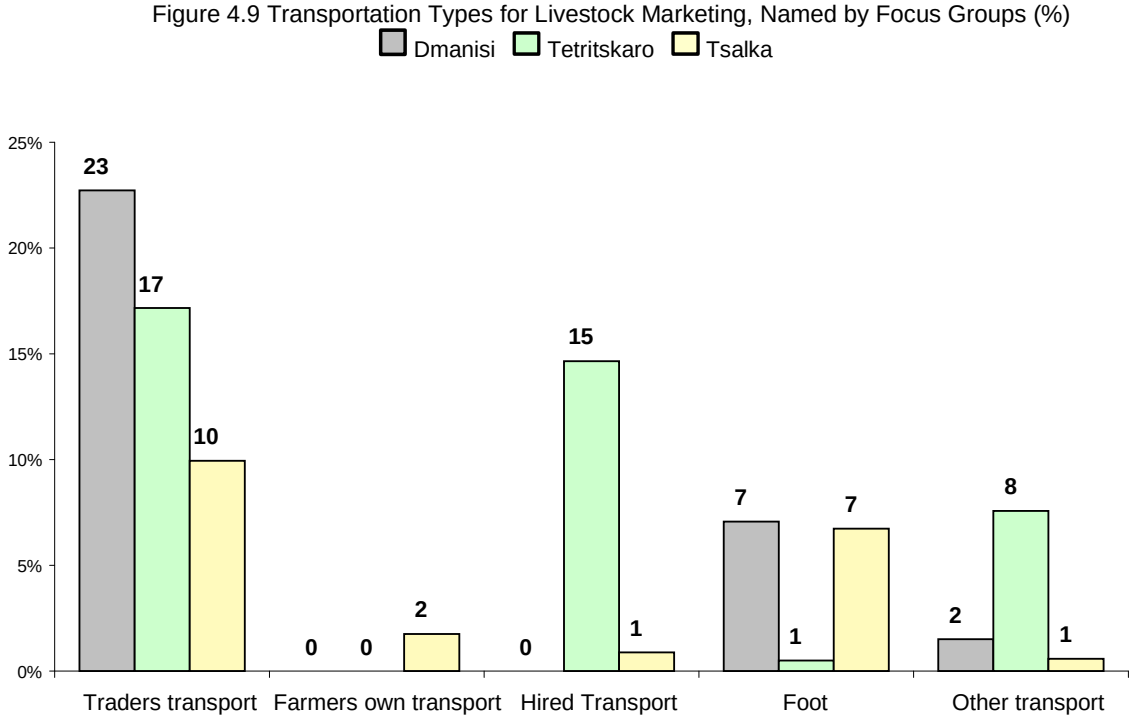


Figure 4.9 Transportation Types for Livestock Marketing, Named by Focus Groups (%)



4.10: What makes it difficult for you to sell your livestock and dairy products?
A lack of collectors/traders, a lack of transparency in pricing and low prices are the biggest drawbacks for farmers in Kvemo Kartli region for the sale of products. Table 11 describes the situation in detail along with other problems, disaggregated by gender and location:

Table 11 the Major Problems Named by Focus Groups for Livestock Product Marketing

	Male	Female
Dmanisi	40% of respondents think that the main difficulties in selling livestock and dairy products are: - low prices. The rest believe that a: - lack of MCCs, - bad roads - and transportation are the most important difficulties for them to sell products.	30% of respondents argue that the main problems are low prices for dairy products. An equal number thought that lack of meat, milk, and cheese markets, and lack of clients were the main problem, with the rest (20%) believing that the main problems area lack of public transport and bad road surface. Unlike the male group women named pasture availability as an important problem (20%).
Tetritskaro	Of male respondents (50%) think that the main problems in selling livestock and dairy products are: low prices for dairy. - 40% of males believe that due to lack of transportation there is a need for an MCC. - a small number (10%) of the respondents said that lack of slaughterhouses is a big problem.	50% of female respondents think that the main problem is the transportation of dairy products. - 20% of respondents mentioned low prices for dairy. - 20%-mentioned the lack of an MCC, a lack of clients and markets for selling meat, - and 10% mentioned bad roads.
Tsalka	85% of the male focus groups noted that the main problems are low prices for milk and unstable dairy prices, transportation and traders not paying for milk on time.	50% of female respondents think that difficulties in selling livestock and dairy products are low prices for dairy and cattle. 30% of respondents mentioned that a lack of clients, MCC, transportation, bad roads, products exchange and firewood for processing cheese are problems.

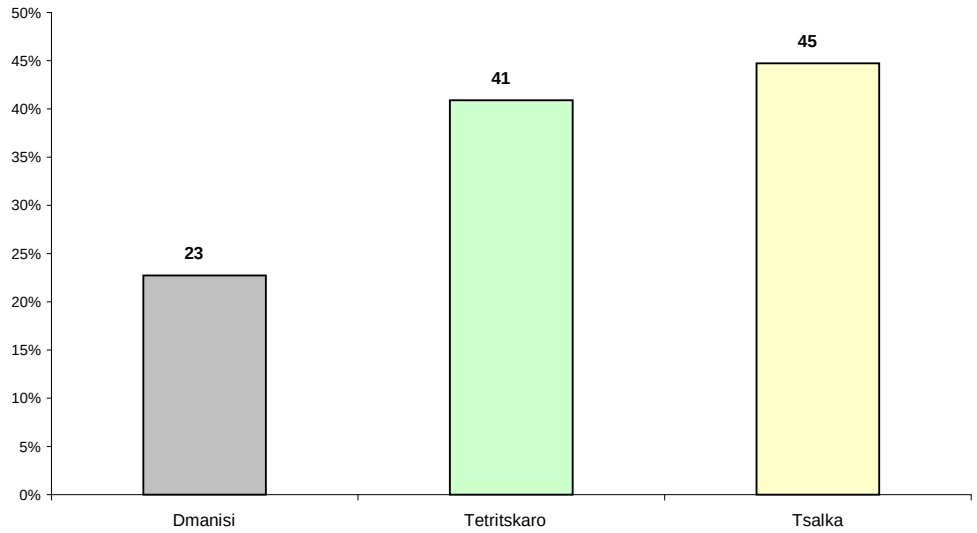
5. Access to Pasture

Lack of access to pasture, low quality pasture and overgrazing seem to be a problem in the region, and the main reason causing those difficulties is considered to be the fact that lands are sold into private ownership. The following section illustrates problems connected with pasture in the three municipalities of the project area.

5.1: What grazing do you use at different times of year?
Almost half the farmers have pasture in their villages or near them in Tetritskaro and Tsalka municipalities. Farmers travelling to pasture mentioned specific locations for each municipality.: focus groups from Dmanisi Municipality named Guguti (9%) and Dmanisi (9%). 9% of focus groups in Tetritskaro noted pastures in Orbeti, Iraga, and Jorjiashvili and 5% of focus groups in Tsalka named Tsintskaro, Kushi, Bashkoi, Rekha and Jinisi. Farmers from Dmanisi cover on

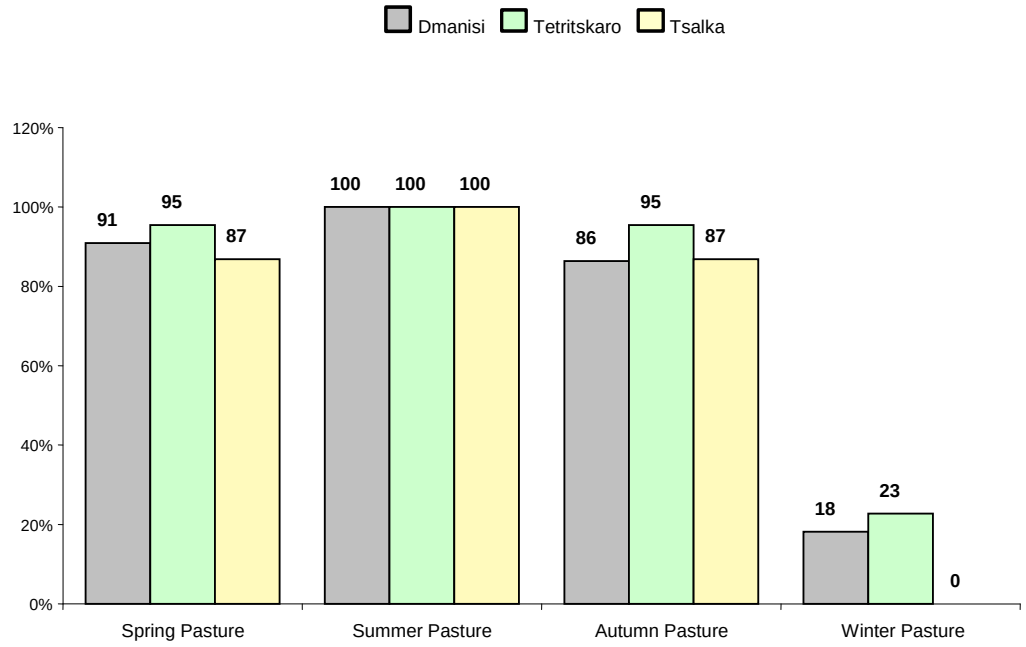
average slightly more than others -6.68 km on average, with 5.7km and 5.8km for farmers in Tetritskaro and Tsalka respectively. Figure 5.1 below displays percentages of focus groups who have pasture in their own village per municipality:

Figure 5.1 Focus Groups, Having Pasture in/near Their Own Village (%)



Availability of pasture varies substantially for different seasons. Figure 5.2 below shows a comparison across different seasons and municipalities, by displaying percentages of focus groups which have access to pastures (these figures do not indicate that they have these pastures near villages, but give a percentage of focus groups which use these pastures):

Figure 5.2 Focus Groups, Using Pasture for Different Seasons (%)



5.2: What transport is used to access summer pasture? (foot, tractor, truck etc)

Table 12 Transportation Sources for Summer Pasture (for the % of Focus Groups Who Uses Summer Pasture)

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Farmers transporting livestock by foot	92	100	100
Farmers transporting livestock in summer by hired or own transport	8	0	0

5.3: What percentage of families move to the summer pasture?
20% from Dmanisi municipality, and 5% from Tsalka and Tetritskaro, move to summer pasture.

5.4: Describe the people who can't/don't move to or access summer pasture? (e.g. they have jobs, or they are too old)
In Dmanisi and Tetritskaro most respondents believe that due to owning enough pastures locally they do not have to move to summer pastures. However in Tsalka respondents think that use of summer pastures is restricted by the sale of land to private owners. A small number of respondents in Dmanisi think that they do not use summer pastures because they only have small number of cattle (1-5 cows) and a small number of focus groups in Tsalka believe that they do not use summer pastures due to high rent prices.

5.5: Describe the people who can/do move to or access summer pasture?
In Dmanisi the majority of respondents believe that summer pastures are used by people who own more than 5 cows. A smaller number of respondents think that summer pastures are used by people who have money and who own them. *In Tetritskaro* most respondents think that summer pastures are used by people who are herders. *In Tsalka* a large number of respondents believe that summer pastures are used by people who do not have enough local pastures.

5.6: What issues do you face in accessing summer pasture?
In the project area the majority of respondents answered that they have problems in accessing summer pasture because they are sold to private owners. The rest of the respondents believe that access problems are due to expensive transport and bad roads. Local farmers believe that pasture conditions have worsened during the last ten years. In particular, they think that pasture availability and quality has decreased, and that overgrazing has become a more serious problem. Figure 5.3 and Figure 5.4 below describe the changes in pasture availability and quality for last 10 years.

5.7: In the last 10 years what has happened to the availability of pasture?
(-2 = significant decrease, 0= no change, 2= Significant Increase)

Figure 5.3 Focus Groups, Who Consider That Pasture Availability Has Changed in Following, During the Last 10 Years (%)

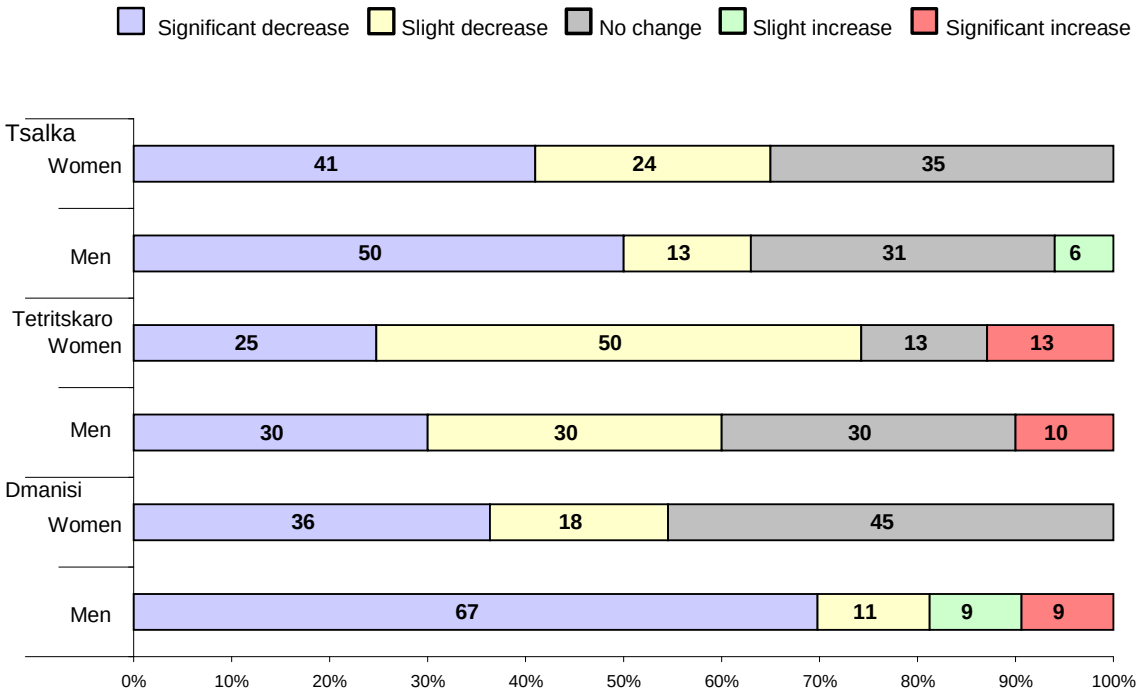


Table 13 The Reasons for Slight and Significant Decrease of Pasture Availability, During Last 10 Years

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
-2 Significant decrease	The majority (90%) of FG's note that the main reasons for significant decrease in the availability of pastures are that they were sold and the owners have increased the prices of rent. Only 10% stated that local pasture reduction is caused by erosion.	100% of them note that the main reason of significant decrease of availability of pastures is that they were sold	90% say that the main reasons of significant decrease of availability of pastures are that they were sold, a large number of lands leased or privatized, and owners increasing the price of rent.10% of focus groups state that pastures became have become stony.
-1 Slight decrease	Some of the respondents note the above mentioned reasons, but they also add that these pastures are rented out to other municipalities.	90% of them note the above mentioned reasons, 10% also add that another reason of decrease is that number of cattle has increased.	90% say the above mentioned reasons, 10% also add that another reason is that number of households are increasing and that they need more agricultural lands

Note:
Slight Increase
In Dmanisi a small number of focus groups think that pasture is sufficient and their availability is still same as before. Two focus groups in Dmanisi and Tsalka said that the availability of pasture

has slightly increased because the population no longer cultivates land and so there is more space available.

Significant Increase
In Tetritskaro two focus groups said that the availability of pastures has significantly increased, because pastures are not fully used and accordingly they have become more available.One focus group in Dmanisi said that the availability is significantly increased due to using agricultural lands as pasture.

5.8: In the last 10 years what has happened to the quality of grazing & hay land?

Figure 5. Change in Quality of Pasture Over the Last 10 Years (%)

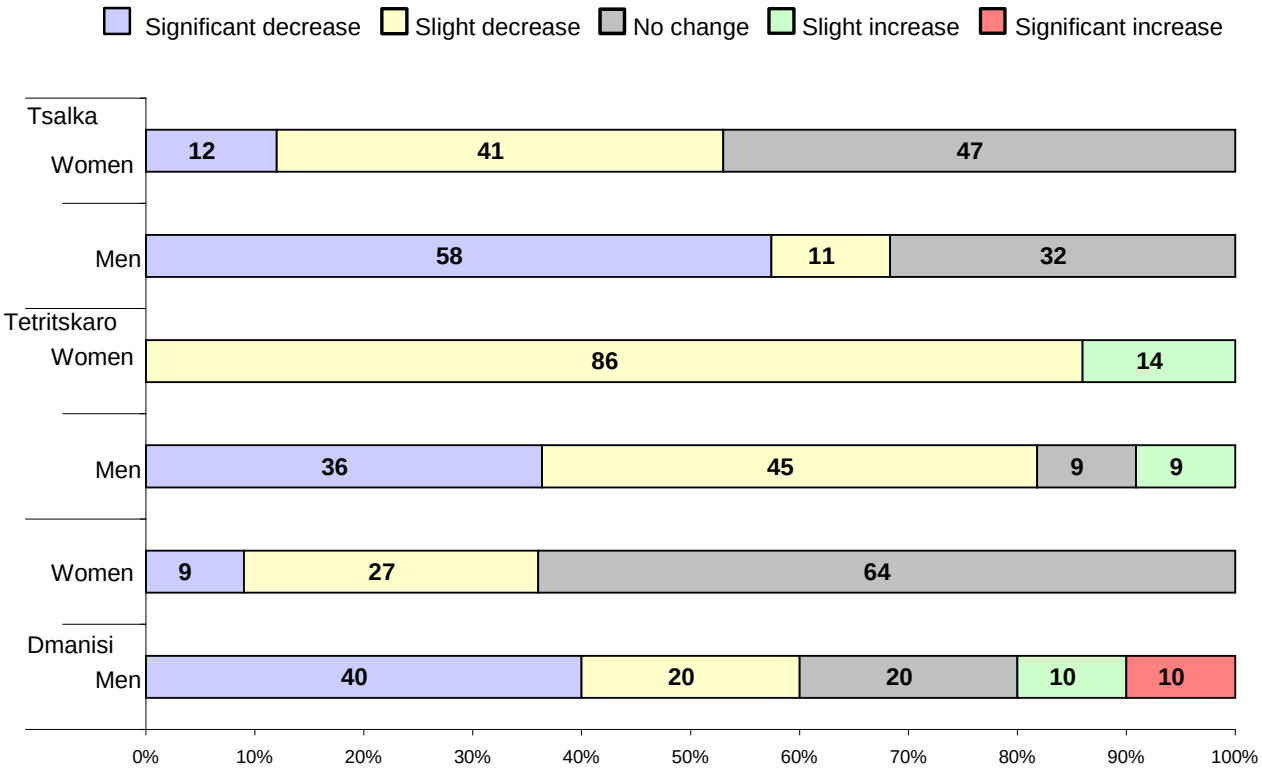


Table 14 The Reasons for Slight and Significant Decrease of Pasture Quality, During Last 10 Years

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
-2 significant decrease	90% - overgrazing problem; grass was pressed into soil by sheep and cattle and so the quality of grass has decreased. 10% of them say that the main reasons for the significant decrease of quality of pasture is the absence of fertilizer.	90 % of them say that the main reason in the significant decrease of quality of pasture is over-grazing, 10% think that it is reduced because of absence of fertilizer	80 % of respondents think that the high number of cattle and nomadic cattle, erosion and stony land, ants and rats; are responsible a few mentioned that overgrazing by sheep is a problem.
-1 slight decrease	40 % say that there has been a slight decrease in the quality of pastures because there is a problem of overgrazing and say that there is not enough pasture. 30% of respondents said that the natural environment is not good. 30% have large number of cattle and there are too many weeds.	60% of respondents noted that natural conditions aren't good, there is a drought and too many weeds. 40% think that land needs fertilization and watering.	50% of respondents think that there is a slight decrease due to: drought, climate change and stony land. Meanwhile 50% of respondents say that their pastures are small. Only one of them mentioned anthills.

Note:

Slightly Increased

In Tetritskaro 2 focus groups answered that the quality of pasture is slightly increased because people don't cultivate lands and a grass quality become better.

Significantly Increased

In Dmanisi only one focus group thought that the quality of pastures is significantly increased, but they did not mention any reason.

5.9: Is over-grazing a problem in your community? (1= no problem; 2=slight problem; 3= severe problem, 4 =catastrophe)

Figure 5.5 below describes the overgrazing problems across municipalities. It displays the relevant percentages of focus groups for describing their estimation on overgrazing.

Figure 5.5 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Overgrazing is a Problem in Their Community (%)

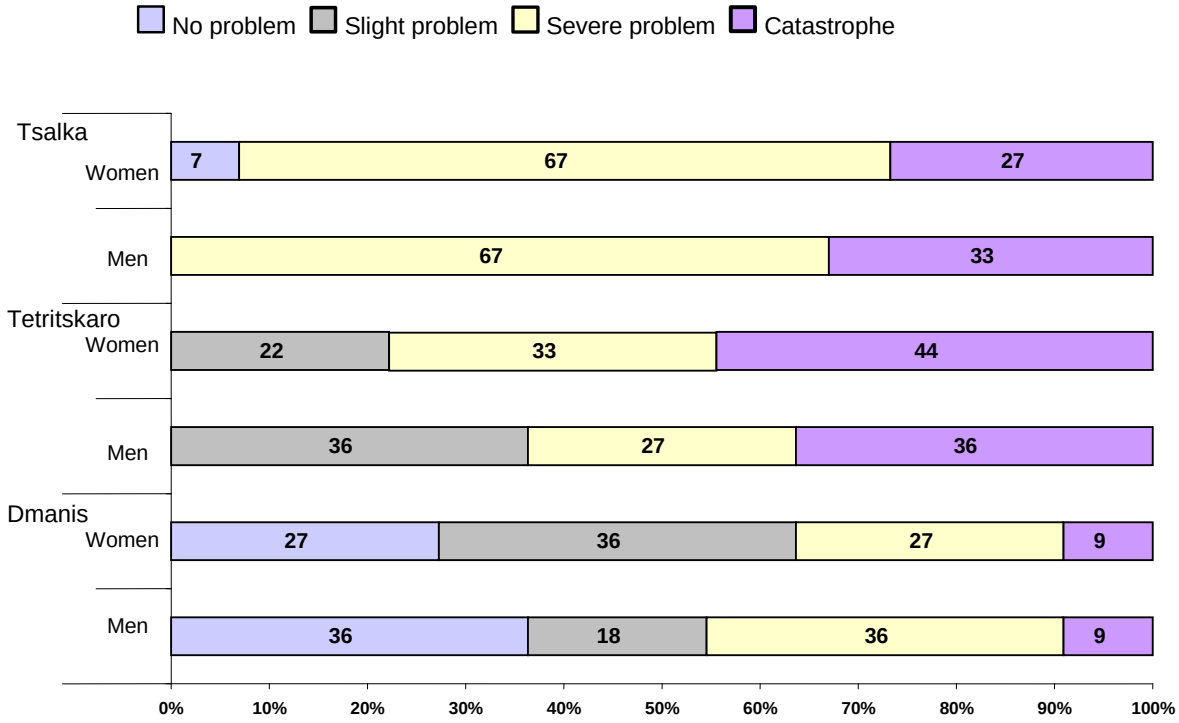


Table 15 Reasons for Pasture Overgrazing

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
2 Slight problem	One focus group noted that there is a slight problem and this problem is caused by lack of pasture	2 focus groups noted that there is a slight problem. One thinks that it is basically caused by sheep and other say that it is caused by lack of land	3 focus groups noted that there is a slight problem of cattle coming in from other villages and a lack of pasture area. One adds that there is a lack of grass and another one say that land is stony.
3 Severe problem	One focus group noted that there is a severe problem but didn't specify.	One focus group stated that there is a severe problem because of overgrazing of large number of cattle	One group noted that there is a severe problem because of overgrazing by a large number of cattle and a lack of pasture.
4 Catastrophe	One focus group noted that there is a catastrophic problem because current pastures are too busy.		

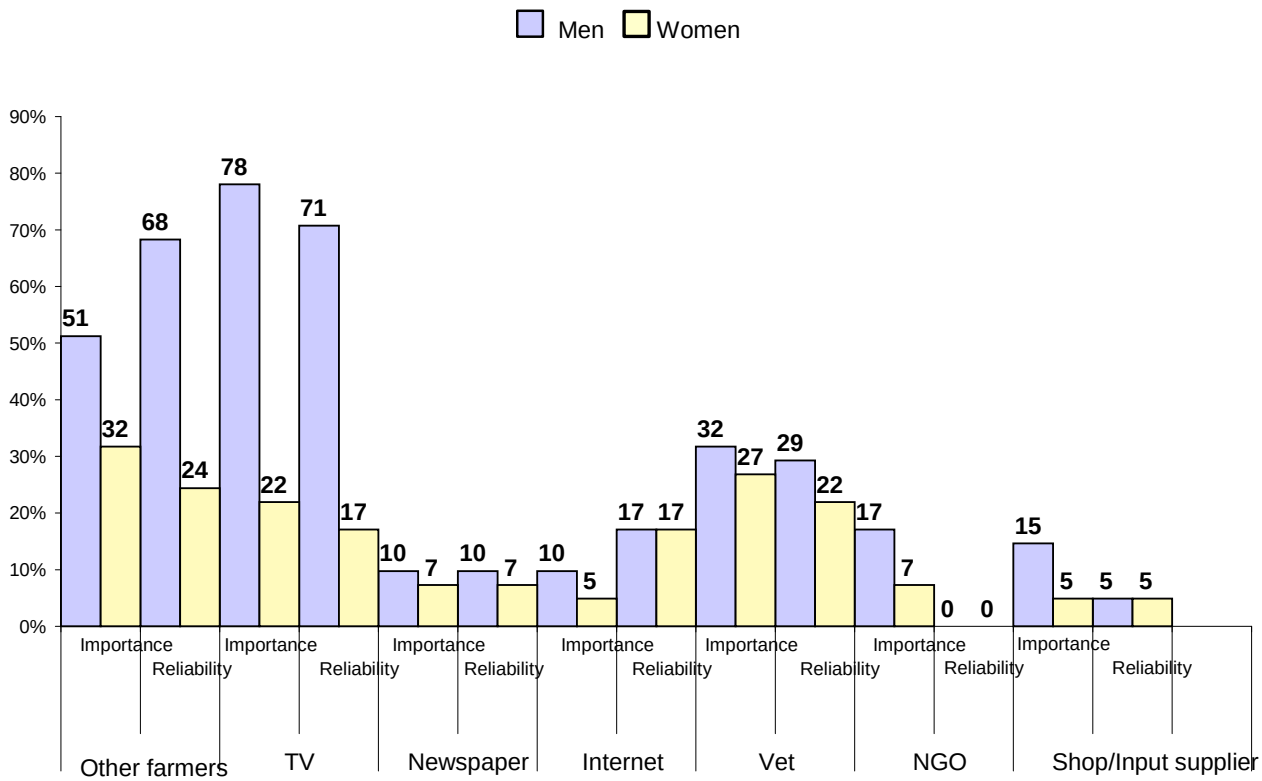
5.10: Does pasture access cause problems or conflicts? How are these resolved?
The survey found that in Dmanisi and Tsalka 54% of the respondents believe that there are no conflicts between villages; however in Tetritskaro 68% of the respondents think that some conflict exists between villages. 50% of the respondents in Tsalka believe that they have unresolved problems, however in Dmanisi and Tetritskaro 46% of the respondents thought that problems and conflicts are solved by negotiations, verbally and by village representatives.

6. Information

Farmers in Kvemo Kartly region do not consider themselves to have highly reliable information sources. This section describes farmers' attitude to different sources of information. It describes the importance and reliability of information, and shows comparison across gender.

6.1: How do you receive information and advice about new farming techniques etc? (0 = never, 3 = always)(1 unreliable 4= very trustworthy)
Information obtained from other farmers and the TV are considered to be the most important information sources for farming techniques. However, the reliability of these sources is not rated highly by farmers. Figure 6.1 below shows percentages for reliability and importance.

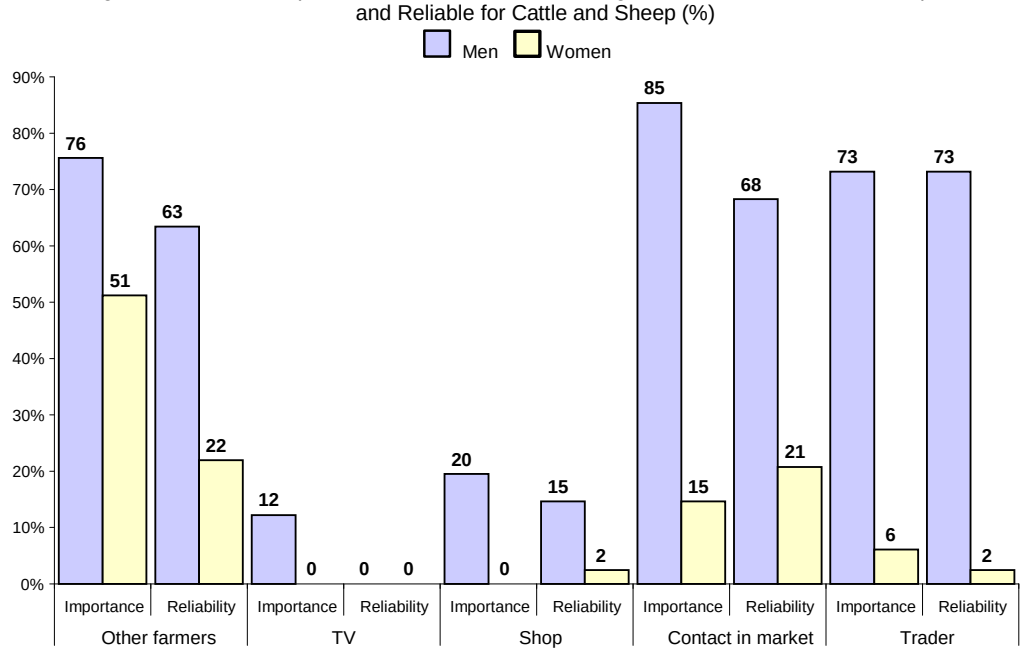
Figure 6.1 Focus Groups, Who Consider the Following Sources of Information, as Important and Reliable for Information on Farming Techniques (%)



Figures 6.2 and 6.3 below, display relevant percentages for reliability and importance.for information about cattle, sheep and dairy products in Figure 6.2 and figure 6.3 respectively. Here sources such as newspapers, NGO, Internet and veterinary services are absent. Due to extremely low percentages of focus groups naming them as important sources of information.

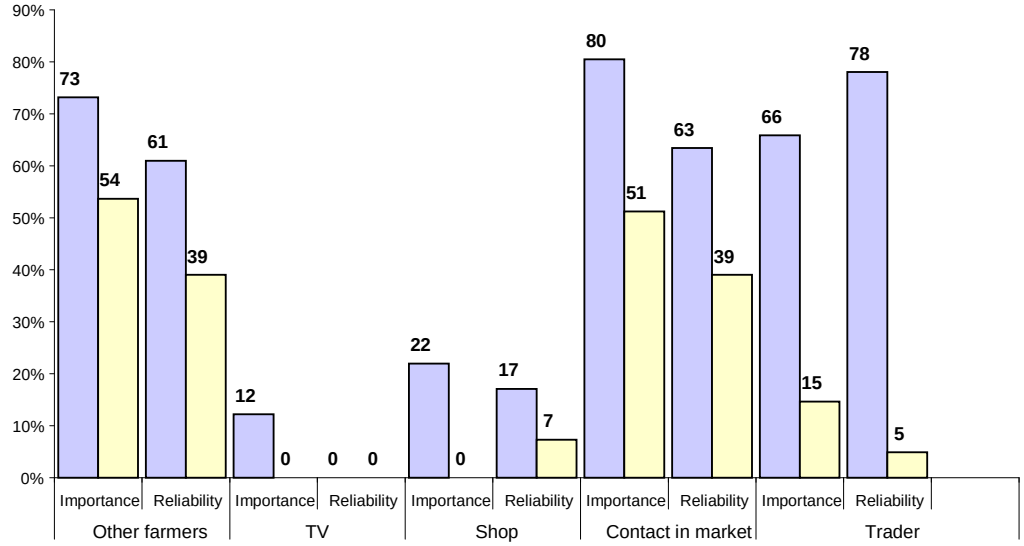
6.2: Where do you get information on market prices for Cattle?

Figure 6.2 Focus Groups, Which Consider That Following Sources of Information, are Important and Reliable for Cattle and Sheep (%)



6.3: Where do you get information on market prices for Cheese & Dairy products?

Figure 6.3 Focus Groups Regarding Following Sources of Information, are Important and Reliable for Cattle and Sheep, for Cheese and Dairy Products (%)



6.4: Are there any specific people who are known to be the best farmers and who are visited more frequently for advice and information?
In Dmanisi 24 names of specific people were given. However in 16 % of communities nobody was mentioned.
In Tetritskaro 33 names of specific people were given. However in 14% of communities nobody was mentioned.
In Tsalka 49 names of specific people were given. However in 16% of communities nobody was mentioned.

6.5: How do you find out about who wants to buy livestock and dairy products?
In Dmanisi, Tsalka and Tetritskaro the majority (60%) of male and female focus groups agreed that traders come to their home, to the village, and have a signal to let people know that they are in the village. In contrast in Dmanisi and Tetritskaro a smaller number (20%) of male and female respondents think that the best place in the village where they can to find out who wants to buy livestock and dairy is: the "*birja*", a place where local people are gathering, the 'birja' was not however mentioned in Tsalka. In Tetritskaro and Tsalka a small number (10%) of female respondents said that traders call people by mobile phone and have a signal to tell people that they are in the village.

6.6: What makes it difficult to access the information you need for you to produce, sell and buy goods, products and services for your livestock and dairy farming activities?
Dmanisi

- In Dmanisi 40% of male respondents say that people have no access to the internet and another 40% that there is a lack of local newspapers and lack of information on TV regarding farmers activities, 20% of the respondents mentioned lack of information from local farmers service and vet service centers.
- 50% of female respondents think that the main difficulties in getting information are: a lack of local media and brokers, lack of agricultural newspapers and a lack of useful information from mechanization centers.

Tetritskaro

- In Tetritskaro 70% of male respondents agreed that the main difficulties in getting information are: a lack of internet access, newspapers, timely information regarding agricultural issues and a lack of special offices for vet and agricultural issues.
- 80% of female respondents think that the lack of any source of information and any consultants regarding agricultural issues are the most important problems in accessing information.

Tsalka

- In Tsalka 50% of male respondents agreed that main problems in accessing information are: a lack of newspapers and information bulletins. 20% think that problems are: lack of useful TV channel regarding agricultural issues, a lack of books with agricultural issues and a lack of qualified vets, who can provide helpful information on livestock issues as well as a lack of NGOs.

  In contrast 30% of females agreed that the main problems in accessing information are: the lack of any source of timely information and a lack of newspapers.

7. Wealth and Poverty

The following section concentrates on wealth and poverty and describes the focus groups' perceptions concerning this.

From a summary of the Focus Groups data an average farmer possess from 8 to 12 cows, from 48 to 100 sheep and 25-33 ha of land, in Kvemo Kartli region. Farmers from Dmanisi municipality are in the best position in considering sheep and land ownership, while farmers from Tetritskaro have largest number of cows on average. Tsalka seems to be in the poorest position whilst looking at these variables. Figure 7.1, Figure 7.2 and Figure 7.3 describe the focus groups perceptions of small, medium and large farmers. Figure 7.4 their distribution.

7.1 How would you describe small, medium and large farmers in this community?

Figure 7.1 Average Number of Cattle per Farmer

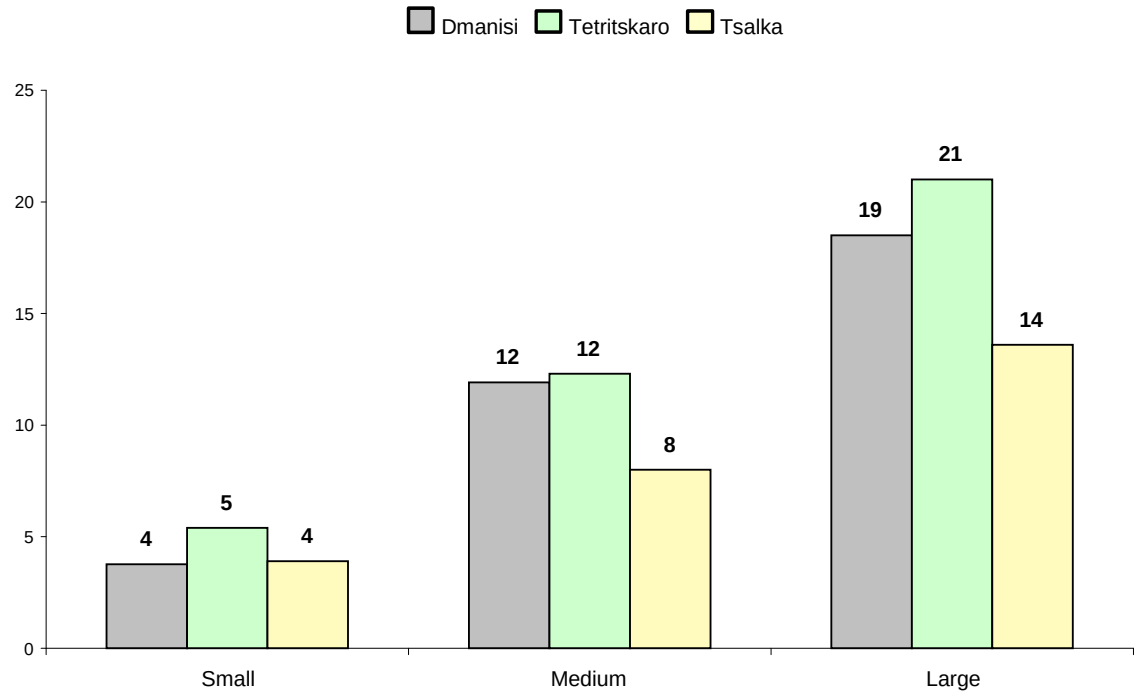


Figure 7.2 Average Number of Sheep per Farmer

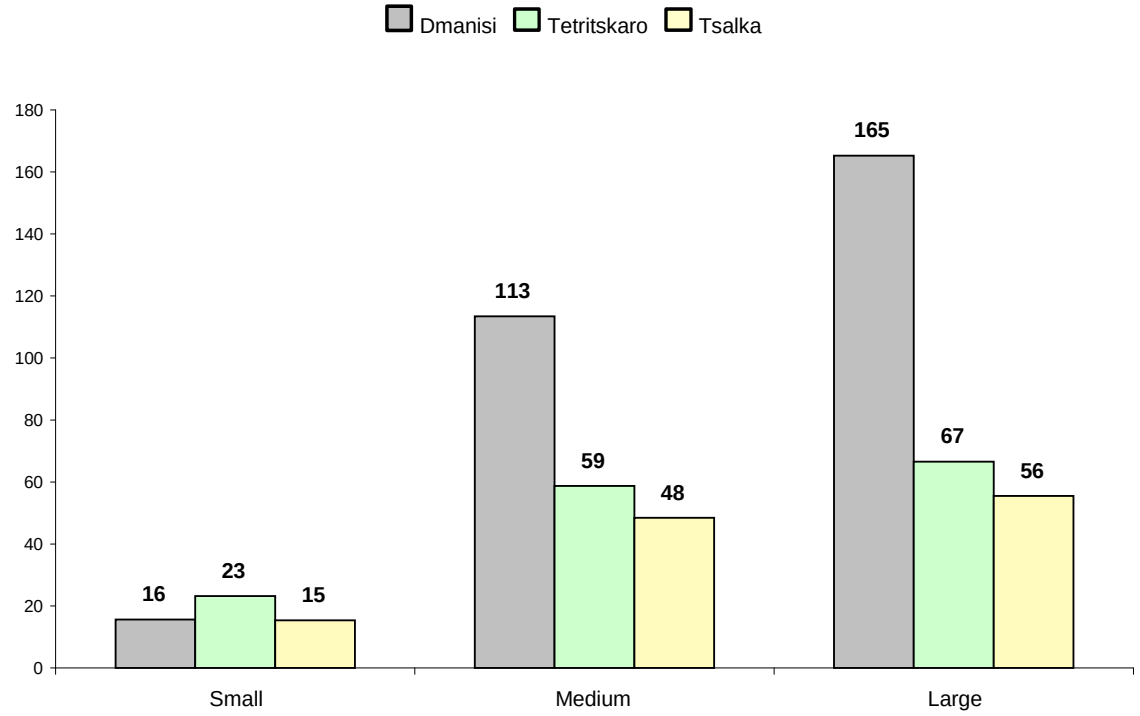
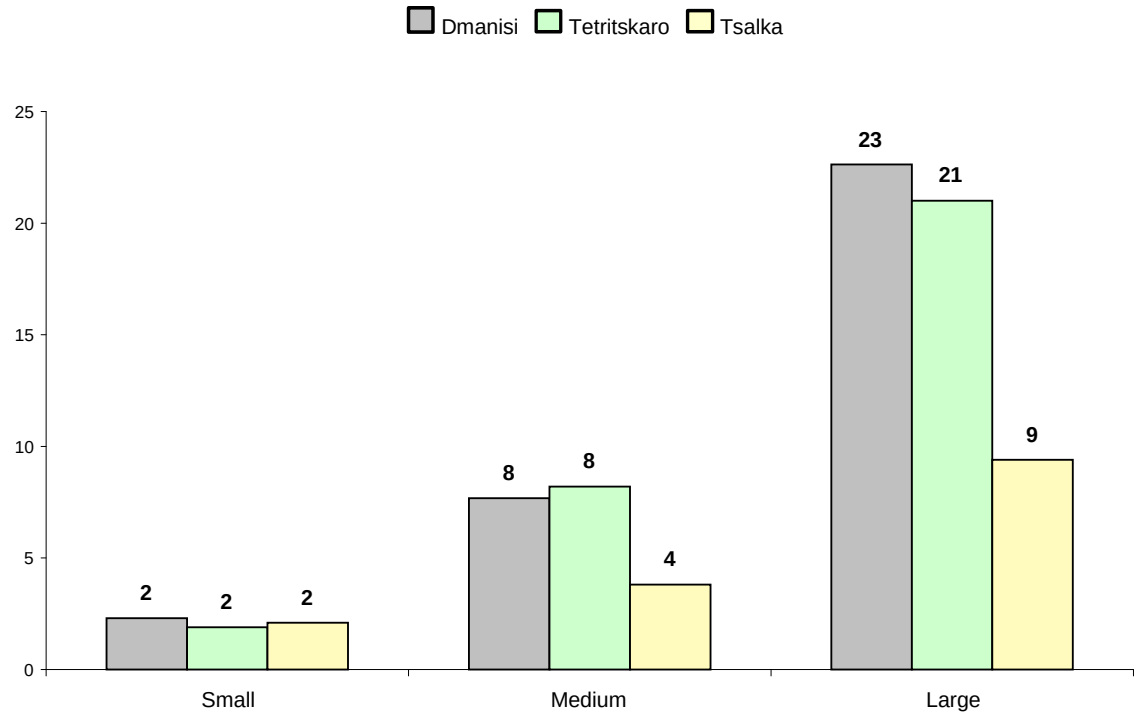
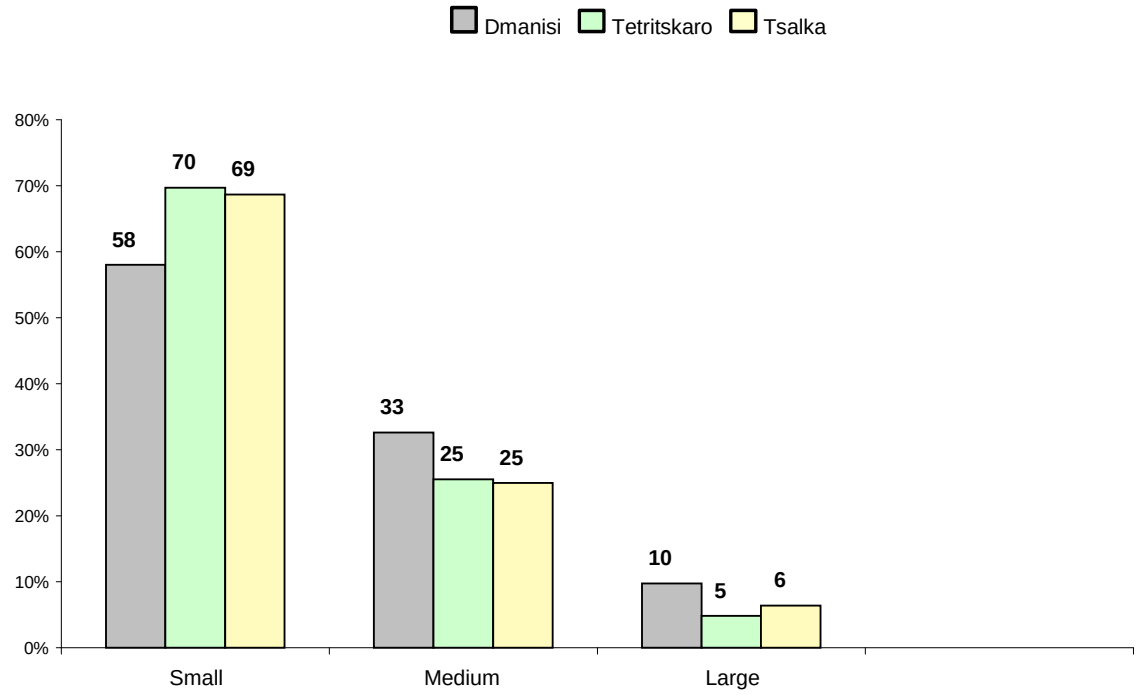


Figure 7.3 Average Number of Hectare per Farmer



7.2 Approximately what % of households in this community fall into each category?

Figure 7.4 Average Percentages of Small, Medium and Large Scale Farmers



8. Gender

8.1: What are the main income generating activities in your families; list for men and women. (e.g. livestock husbandry, processing, selling, cultivation)

The women in Kvemo Kartly region share most of the duties and everyday jobs with men. The responses of the focus groups also showed that the division of labour according to gender, in the region is often based on the physical strength needed for the task in question. The distribution of jobs and duties for men and women is displayed in Table 16 below:

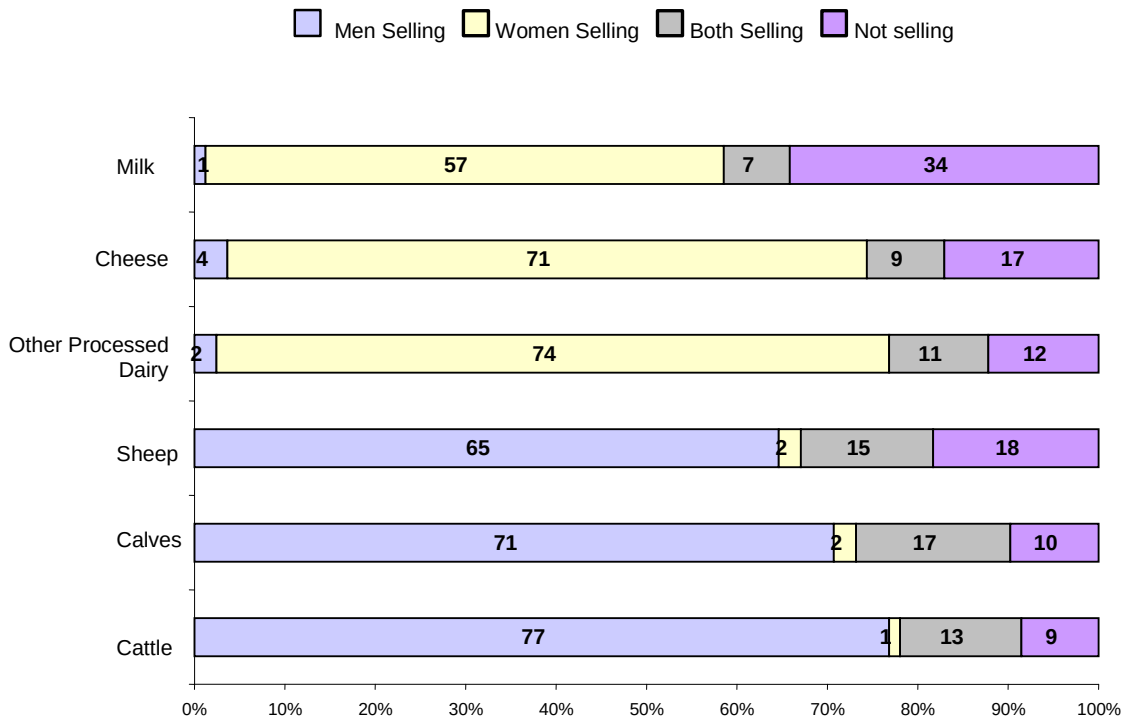
Table 16 Work Distribution according to Gender (%)

	Dmanisi		Tetritskaro		Tsalka	
	Man	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Working on land/crops	0	27	41	145	68	97
Harvesting	27	50	0	0	11	16
Herding and livestock care	64	23	73	23	55	16
Nutrition for livestock	36	9	64	0	79	3
Livestock/Cattle breeding	27	45	23	5	26	24
Milking & milk processing	5	86	5	64	8	58
Production and selling	55	91	45	100	29	71
Other	23	14	0	5	8	5

8.2: Selling Products:

Women are mostly responsible for selling milk and other dairy products, whilst the sale of livestock is mostly done by men. This stays true while looking at all three municipalities separately. Figure 8.1` gives a detailed picture on the distribution of selling across gender.

Figure 8.1 The Sale Dairy and Livestock Products (%) Male and Female



Notes:

The majority of respondents agreed that men are responsible for selling livestock. The reason given for this was as follows:

50%: more physical strength is required
30%: men are more aware of prices and cattle weight
10 %: it is man's job because he is the head of the family
10%: traders are men

A few groups said that if women and men are both strong, both sell it and they also say that men and women agree on the details of a sale.

For dairy products most of the respondents agreed that women are responsible for selling it. The reasons given for this was as follows:

25 %: it is woman's job
20%: women know the prices better,
10 %: the job is easy, and it doesn't need physical strength.
15%: they do the milking and make cheese;
10%: women have the skill of selling them.

10%: sometimes they exchange cheese for other products and women know more about what is needed at home.
10%: it is shameful for men to sell dairy products.

9. Government

Contact with government representatives is not very common or easily accessible for farmers, especially for women. The following section mainly concentrates on farmers' attitudes towards government, their contact with government and their awareness of official representatives.

9.1: What specific activities does the government carry out to support agriculture in your community?
In the project area half the respondents were unwilling to say what activities have done by government due to the attendance of the survey by the head of the Sakrebulo[8]. Only a small number of respondents think that local government basically does a mediators role. In a small number of focus groups no information was given at all.

9.2: Are you aware of any local or national government plans for agricultural development?
In the project area most male and female respondents agreed that they have no information about national government plans for agricultural development except the national government plan for hybrid maize.

9.3: Are you aware of any changes in the law which may affect you directly or your markets?
In the project area most male and female respondents think that the population does not know anything regarding changes in law which may affect them directly. However a small number of male and female respondents knew about some changes in law and the main source of information in the project area is TV. They specifically mentioned increased land prices, beef issues, hygiene and changes in meat processing.

9.4: Who do you approach if there is a problem relating to agriculture in your community?
In the project area the majority (70%) of male and female focus groups believe that everybody can approach the village representative in the case of any problems with agriculture. The rest of the female and male focus groups (30%) said that they do not approach anybody in the instance of any problems with agriculture.

9.5: Do you have regular contact with government officials? (1 = never; 3 = frequently)
More men have regular contacts with government representatives than women in all three regions. Farmers tend more to be in touch with the village representative than with the Sakrebulo or other government representatives. Table 17 and Table 18 describe the frequency of visits and contact with government representatives, across municipalities and gender respectively:

[8] Head of the Municipal Council

Table 17 Percentages of Focus Groups Having Contact with Following Government Officials Regularly- Comparison across Municipalities (%)

	Dmanisi	Tetritskaro	Tsalka
Village rep	91	86	97
Sakrebulo	32	27	24
Other	0	0	8

Table 18 Percentages of Focus Groups Having Contact with Following Government Officials Regularly - Comparison across Gender (%)

	Man	Woman
Village rep	100	85
Sakrebulo	34	20
Other	2	5

10. Community Priorities

10.1: What are the main priorities for agricultural development in your community?
The survey found that:

In *Dmanisi* the 3 main priorities in order of importance are:

1. Cattle breeding
2. Vet services
3. Potato growing.

Other priorities are ranked as follows:

1. Animal nutrition;
2. Potato growing;
3. Livestock, AI service, Beekeeping;
4. Milk collection centers;
5. Pasture access, financial support;
6. Cereals, vine-growing, vet drugs and fertilizer.

In *Tetritskaro* 3 main priorities in order of importance are:

1. Cattle breeding improvement
2. Vet services
3. Machinery

Other priorities are as follows:

1. Livestock nutrition;
2. Potato growing and beekeeping;
3. Milk and wool collection centers;
4. Cereals and sheep breeding;
5. Pastures.

In *Tsalka* the 3 main priorities for agriculture development in order of importance are:

1. Vet services
2. Cattle breeding
3. Machinery

Other priorities for agriculture development are follows:

1. Milk collection centers;
2. Potato growing
3. Livestock
4. AI services
5. Pastures
6. Beekeeping