

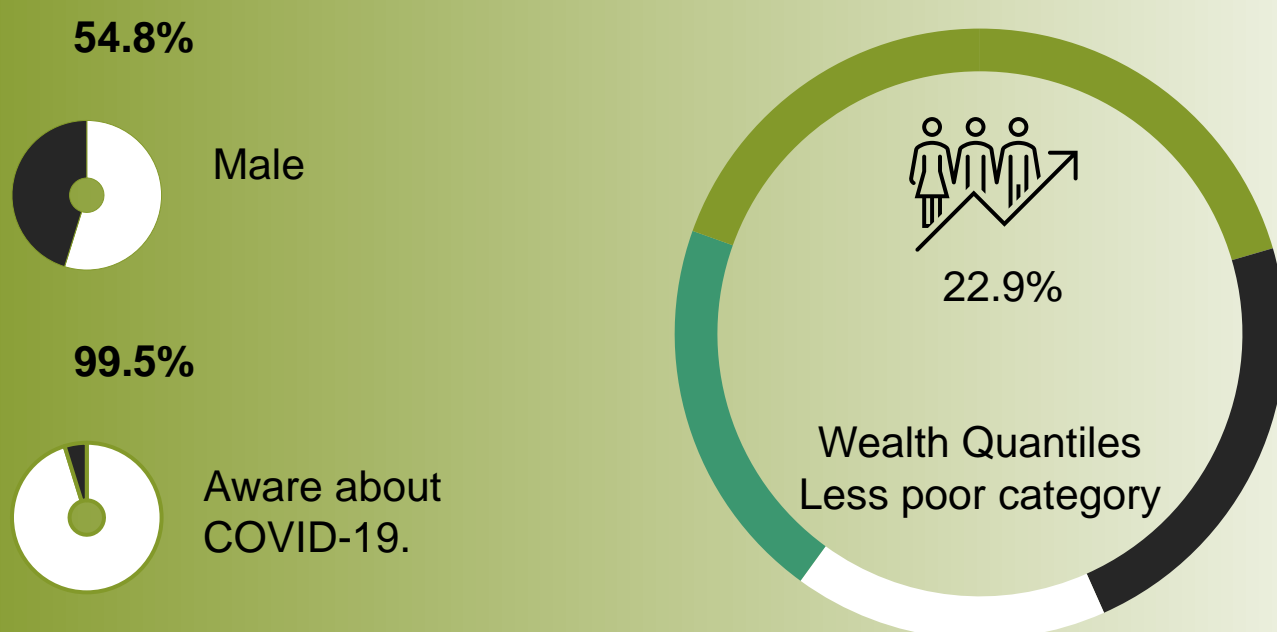
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' HOUSEHOLDS IN BUDUDA DISTRICT, UGANDA

Background: Bududa district in Eastern Uganda is recovering from recent landslides and the stringent COVID-19 preventive measures, which has exacerbated economic vulnerability of its communities.

Methods: Through a systematic sampling, in May 2021, we cross sectionally enrolled households from three conveniently selected villages, Bukalasi, Bushiyi, and Bushika, in Bududa District, Uganda. Pretested standardised semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect data on the social and economic effects of COVID-19 pandemic on households.

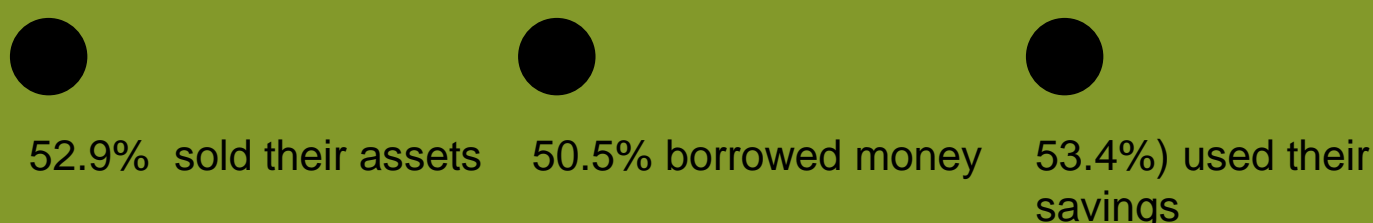
Results

- Median age of 37 (IQR: 29- 51) years.
- 153 (72.4%) were married
- 197 (93.8%) were living in rural areas.
- 90.1% practised farming as the primary occupation.
- 188 (90.0%) got information from radios
- 190 (90.9%) got their information from rumours.



- 65 (30.9%) of the 210 participants reported a change in treatment from their partners.
- Worsened emotions were the most reported change.
- 22 (66.7%) of those who reported a change in intimacy, recorded increased levels of intimacy.

Coping strategies:



Conclusion

- COVID-19 awareness was universal.
 - Significant negative socioeconomic impact .
 - Loss of land and farm produce
- Recommendation:**
strengthen rehabilitation programs to fasten recovery