



WORLD FARMERS'
ORGANISATION

FARMERS' NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS ON NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES

*Highlights from the WFO consultation
and technical workshop*

THE BIGGEST INDEPENDENT
GLOBAL FARMERS' VOICE

OVERVIEW – Consultation with the farmers

Survey

WFO has developed a farmers' consultation to explore and collect farmers' needs, constraints, and expectations around **New Improved Plant Varieties**, to make sure to promote a farmer driven approach to innovation in this field.

The consultation ran from February to April 2021

- 50 respondents
- 5 Continents
- 30 Countries around the World
- 54% under 40 years old
- 35% female farmers

Technical workshop

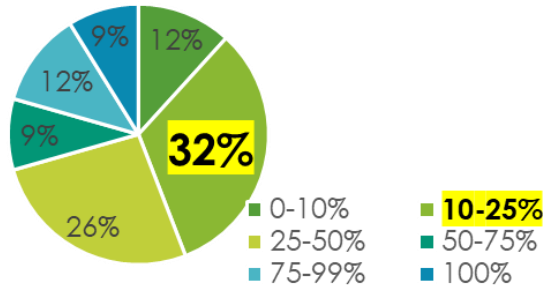
WFO, together with the **International Seed Federation (ISF)**, with the technical expertise of the **International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant (UPOV)**, held an online workshop bringing together farmers, representatives and experts, to address New Improved Plant Varieties from different angles:

- Farmers' vision, needs and expectations;
- What new improved plant varieties can offer to farmers;
- What to do to make sure that plant breeders are developing new improved plant varieties suited to farmers' needs;
- How to make New Improved Plant Varieties available and accessible to farmers of all sizes, every where.

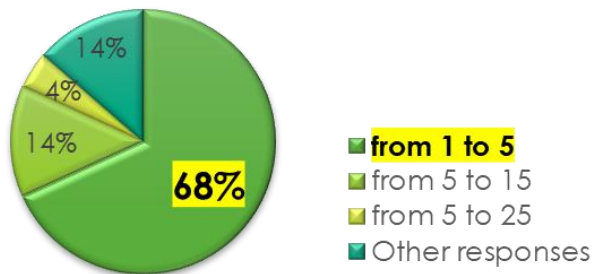


THE CONSULTATION – Do Farmers use New Improved Plant Varieties?

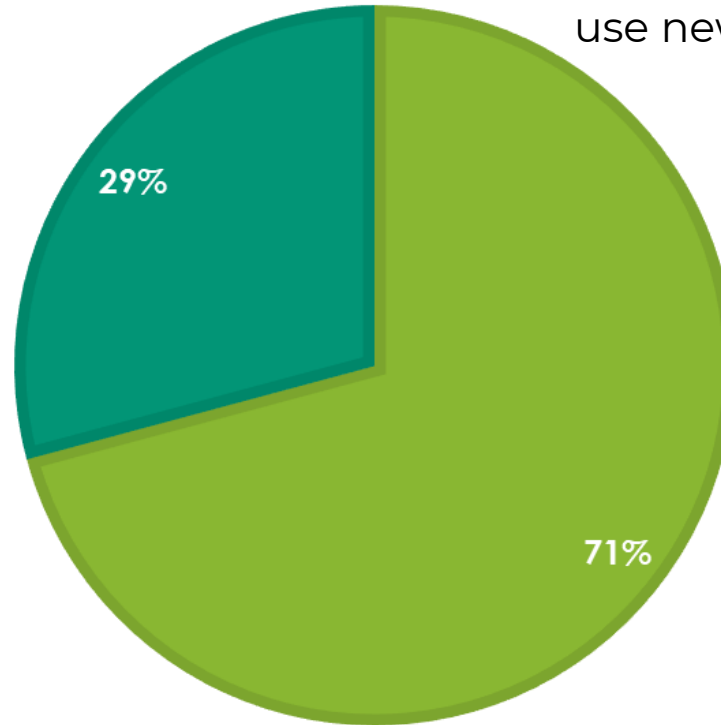
PERCENTAGE OF USE OF NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES ON TOTAL PORTFOLIO



NUMBER OF NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES USED EVERY YEAR

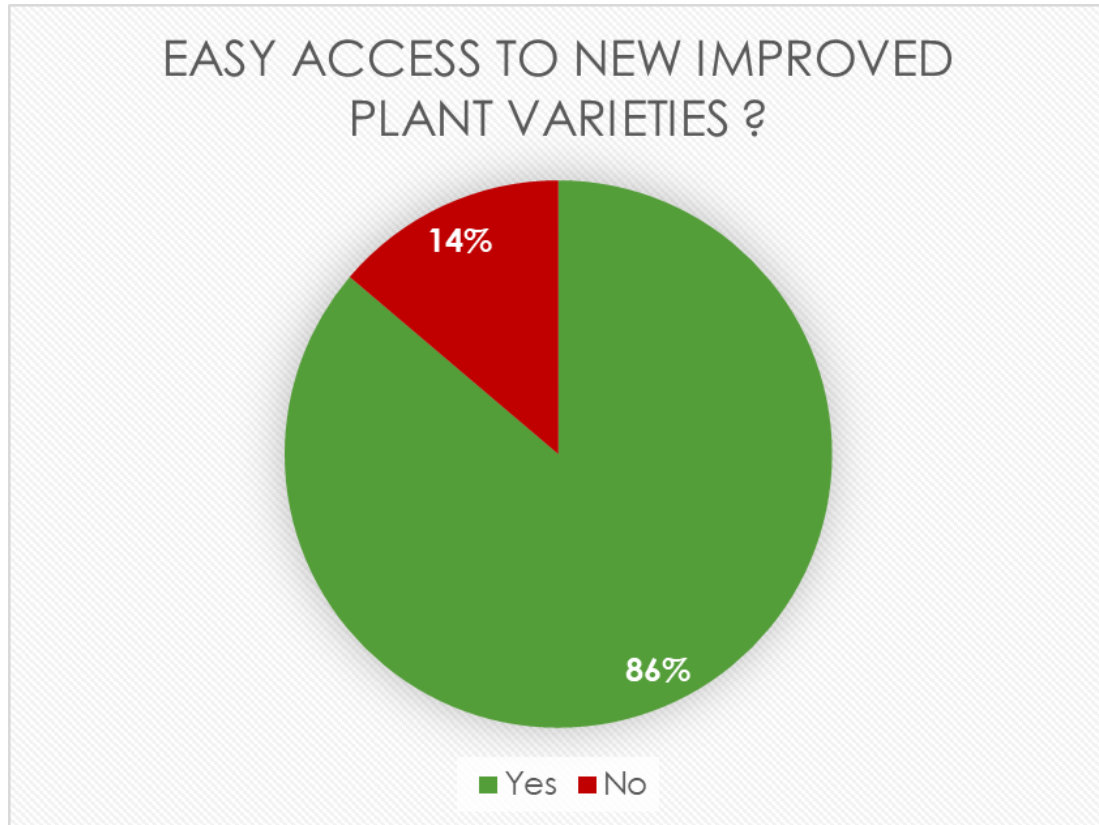


■ Yes ■ No



the 71% of respondents said that they use new improved plant varieties

THE CONSULTATION – If Respondents use New Improved Plant Varieties?

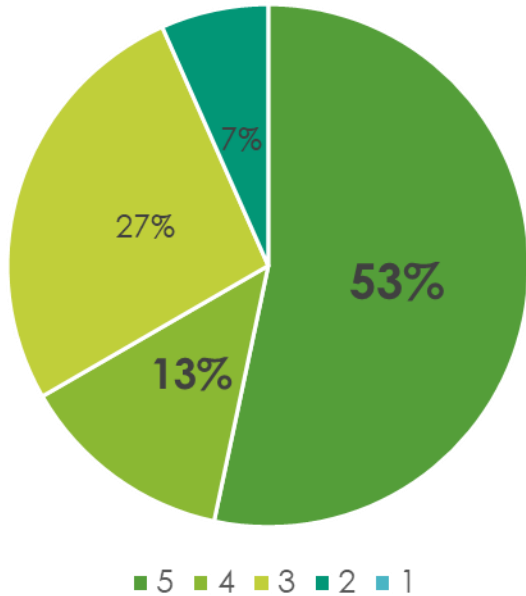


HOW DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES? (Top 3)

- Commercial seed merchants
- Seed distributors
- Other farmers

THE CONSULTATION – If Respondents use New Improved Plant Varieties?

Ranking



Importance of New Improved Plant Varieties for the success of your farm
Rank 1 (no important) to 5 (very important)

Some «reasons why» from respondents replies:

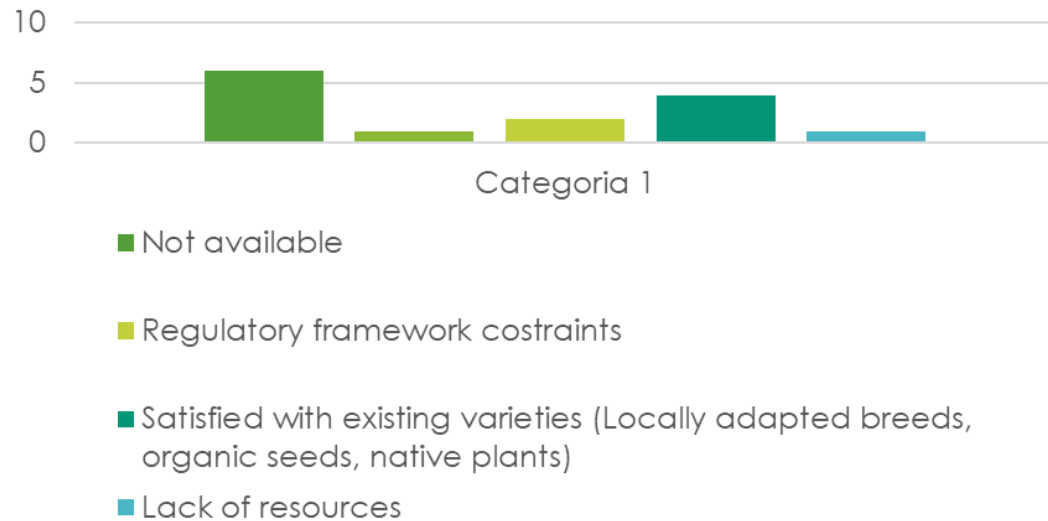
*“Personally, I find that these improvements **are not always necessary**. Sometimes a technology will improve one criterion, but decrease another”.*

VS

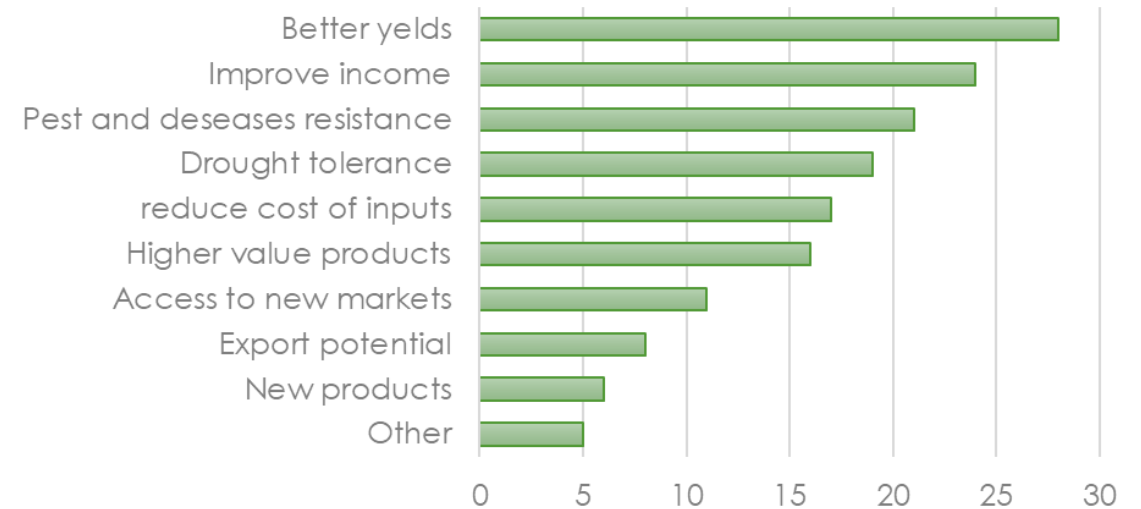
*“**Without new varieties, I would no longer progress in production** while my costs are still increasing”*

THE CONSULTATION – Comparative results USE vs NOT USE of New Improved Plant Varieties

IF RESPONDENTS **DON'T** USE NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES WHY?

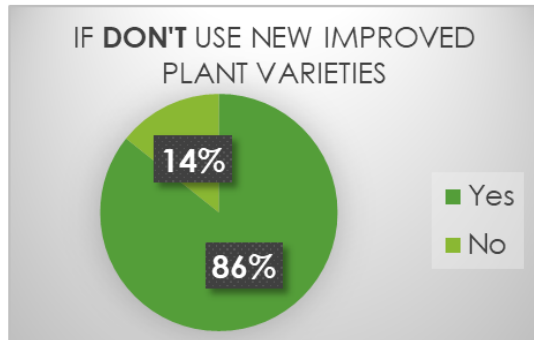


IF RESPONDENTS USE NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES WHY?

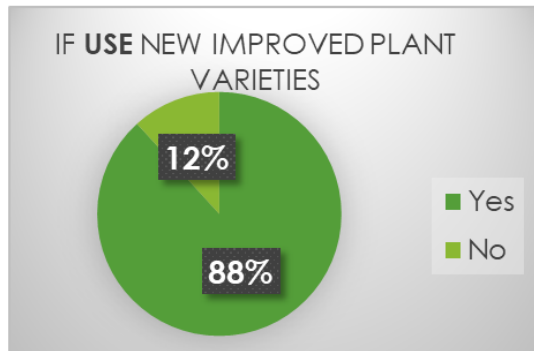


THE CONSULTATION – Comparative results USE vs NOT USE of New Improved Plant Varieties

Need for **more information**

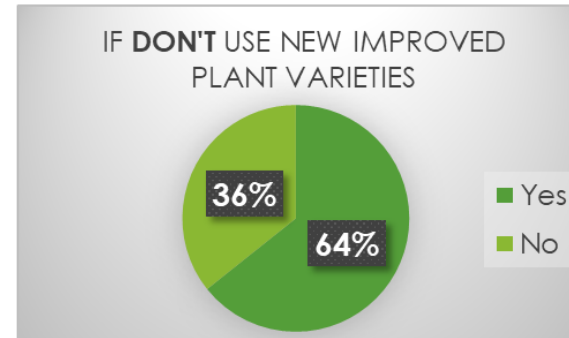


- From whom?
(top 3)
1. **Farmers' Organisations**
 2. Government
 3. Extension services

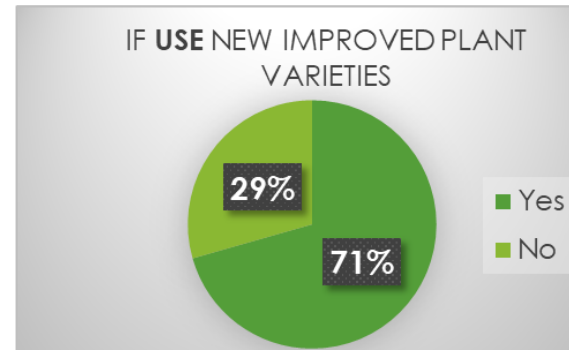


- From whom?
(top 3)
1. **Farmers' Organisations**
 2. Field plots
 3. Retailers

Need **training/technical assistance**



- From whom
(top 3)
1. **Farmers' Organisations/cooperatives**
 2. Extension services
 3. Education institutions

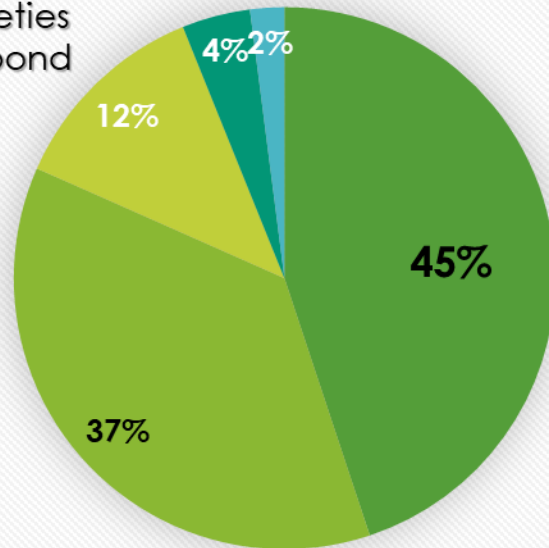


- From whom
(top 3)
1. **Farmers' Organisations/cooperatives**
 2. Extension services
 3. Seed companies

THE CONSULTATION – New Improved Plant Varieties & Climate Change

Consider New Improved Plant Varieties important to **respond to climate change**
Rank 1 (no important) to 5 (very important)

82% said that
 New Improved Plant Varieties
 are very important to respond
 to climate change!



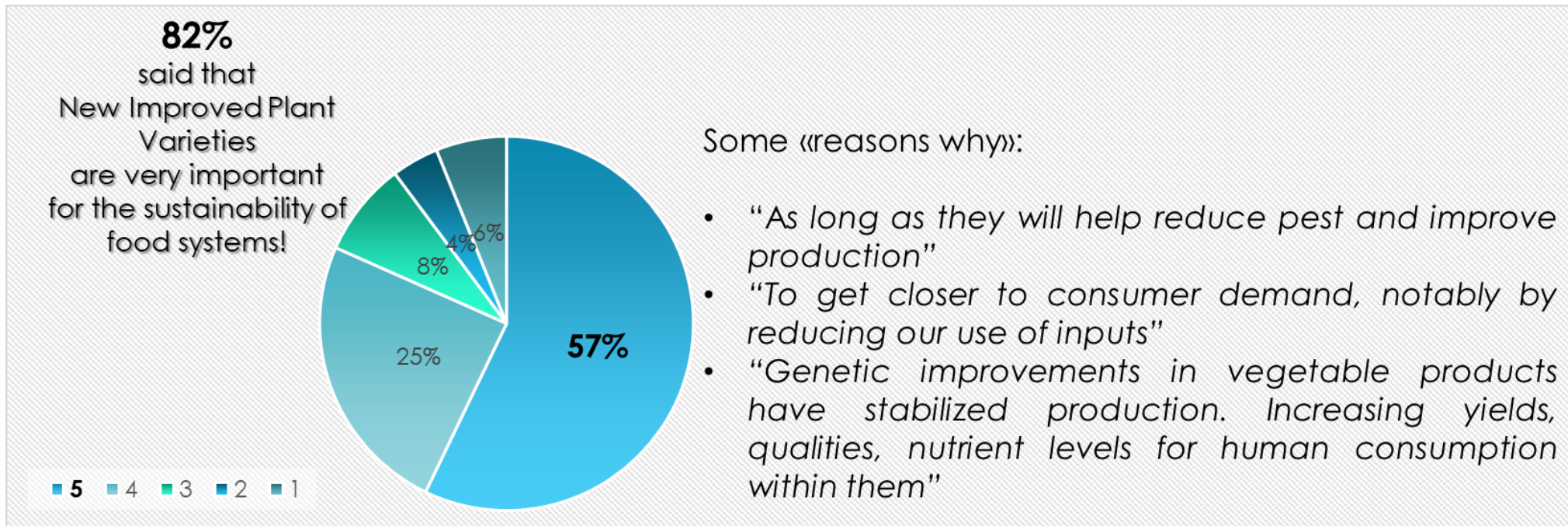
■ 5 ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1

Some «reasons why»

- “I believe they can influence the way we deal with diseases and adaptation to climate change”
- “Both in mitigation and adaptation, this will be crucial for the future”
- “With drought and rapid temperature extremes, I think we're going to have to have plants that can adapt to these realities.”

THE CONSULTATION – New Improved Plant Varieties & Sustainable Food Systems

Consider New Improved Plant Varieties important for **the sustainability of food systems**
Rank 1 (no important) to 5 (very important)





TECHNICAL WORKSHOP – 28 April 2021

The FARMERS' Perspective

REASONS AROUND THE USE NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES

- Farmers look at new improved plant varieties with an **innovation lens** to ensure **better yields, economic stability** of the farms over shocks but also **make farming easier and less labour intensive**;
- New improved plant varieties are key to tackle the challenges of **climate change**: by resistance to droughts to pest and disease better management;
- New Improved varieties are **key to build trust** around the farming activity **with financial partners**, ensuring yields and performance of plants.

KEY EXPECTATIONS AND NEEDS AROUND THE USE OF NEW IMPROVED PLANT VARIETIES

- **Access** to seeds (availability and affordability);
- Access to **training, information and knowledge** on New Improved plant varieties;
- **Enabling regulatory; innovation and scientific framework** to access new improved plant varieties;
- **Organized Agriculture**: Farmers Organisations' as key actors to ensure that farmers of all sizes and everywhere have access to the best available innovation;
- **Consumers' education** in order to build trust around new varieties thanks, among others, to traceability systems;
- **Partnership with stakeholders in the value chain** to ensure farmers' expectations and needs are met building a **cooperation framework** that benefits all the actors involved.