Improving opportunities for women in the value chains of underutilized species in Oyo State, Nigeria

Olubukola Victoria OYERINDE
Department of Forestry and Wood Technology,
Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria

voyerinde@gmail.com

Outline

Introduction

Methods

Results

Conclusion/Policy Implications

Introduction

- Resurgence of interest in **value added** agriculture
- Motivation to enhance or stabilize farm-household incomes, creating rural employment and economic development
- NUS has the potential to contribute significantly to the livelihood of rural residents, migrants, urban residents, as well as national and global economies
- NUS of interest in the study are *Parkia biglobosa* and *Vitellaria paradoxa*

Why *Parkia biglobosa* and *Vitellaria paradoxa*?

- recognition of contribution to fulfill basic needs of people, household economics, food security and conservation of natural resources (Joshi and Joshi, 2009).

- common species of the parkland agroforestry system

- provide essential dietary supplements especially during lean agricultural production periods or times of emergency.

Parkia biglobosa

- **Taxonomy**
  - Family: Leguminoseae
  - Common name: African locust bean
- **Habitat**
  - Semi-arid
  - 0-600 m altitude
  - 500-1400 mm mean annual rainfall
  - 26°C mean annual temperature

Parkia biglobosa: Importance

- roots, barks, leaves, stems, flowers, fruits and seeds are all used medicinally to treat a range of ailments (Sacande and Clethero, 2007)
- pulp contains higher cellulose and sucrose but less ascorbic acid than the cotyledons and also contains simple sugars except maltose (Alabi et.al. 2005)
- sweet yellow pulp contains 60% sugar when ripe

Parkia biglobosa: Importance

- seeds contain 30% protein as well as vitamins and minerals (Sacande and Clethero, 2007)
- fermented seeds for cooking stew and soup
- fruit pods are used to produce an insecticide powder for treating crops
- provide income and employment opportunities to rural and urban households (Tee et. al. 2009).

Vitellaria paradoxa

- **Taxonomy**
  - Family: Sapotaceae
  - Common name: Shea tree
- **Habitat**
  - Semi-arid
  - 0-600 m altitude
  - 400-1800 mm rainfall mm mean annual rainfall
  - 26°C mean annual temperature

Vitellaria paradoxa: Importance

- almost all parts of the tree have some practical use
  - fleshy pulp is sweet when matured
  - edible fruit can be eaten raw when over-ripe
  - bark, leaves and roots are for medicinal use
  - kernel is whitish and rich in fats (45-55%) from which is produced shea butter
  - vegetable oil is used in soap-making, cooking and skin and hair care
- prospects in maintaining the ecological balance and soil fertility for agricultural system

Vitellaria paradoxa: Importance

- wood is heavy, strong and termite resistant.
- shell of the nuts can repel mosquitoes
- considerably contribute to wealth
- provides good fuel wood for household energy use

Why women in NUS value chain?

- Women are the primary users of forests
- Women constitute 70% of the poor worldwide (FAO 2007)
- Involvement of women will help them to:
  - **achieve social responsibility aims**
  - **deliver commercial benefits by improving productivity and quality**
  - **future viability of key NUS**

Objective of the study

To assess roles played by women and the benefits they obtain from their involvement and challenges faced in the value chains of *Parkia biglobosa* and *Vitellaria paradoxa*

Parkia biglobosa (Fermented locust bean)

Vitellaria paradoxa (shea butter)

Study Area: Derived savanna zone, Oyo State, Nigeria

Longitude 2.5° E and 5° E
Latitude 7° N and 19° N
Land Area : 27,107.5 km^2
Population: Approx. 5.6million
Gross State Product (GSP): Approx. $1.7b

Sampling Procedure

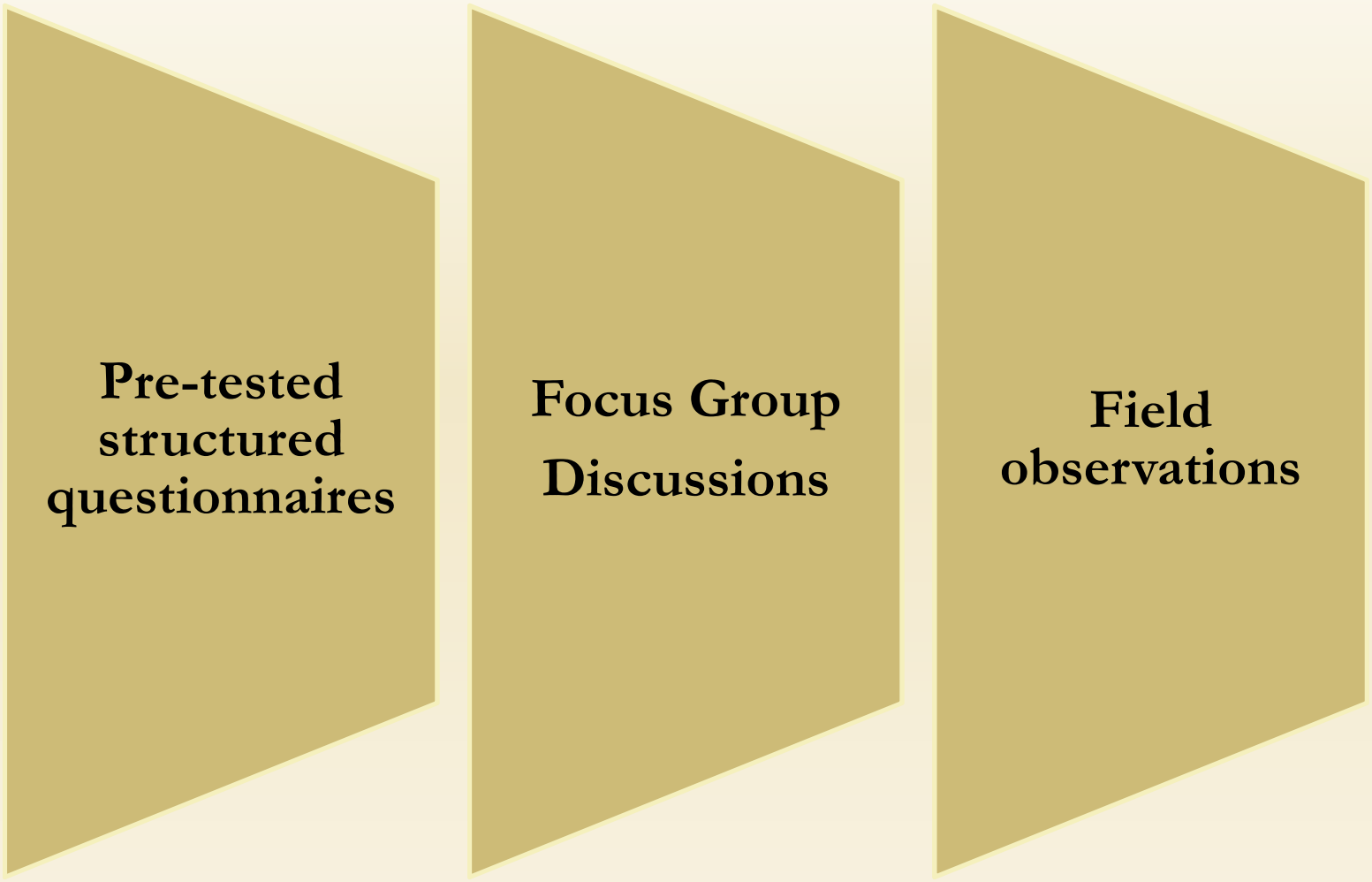
Derived savanna zone of Oyo State, Nigeria

3 LGAs were purposively selected from the study area

5 Communities/LGA were purposively selected

10 women that are involved in value chain of the selected NUS were selected and interviewed in each community

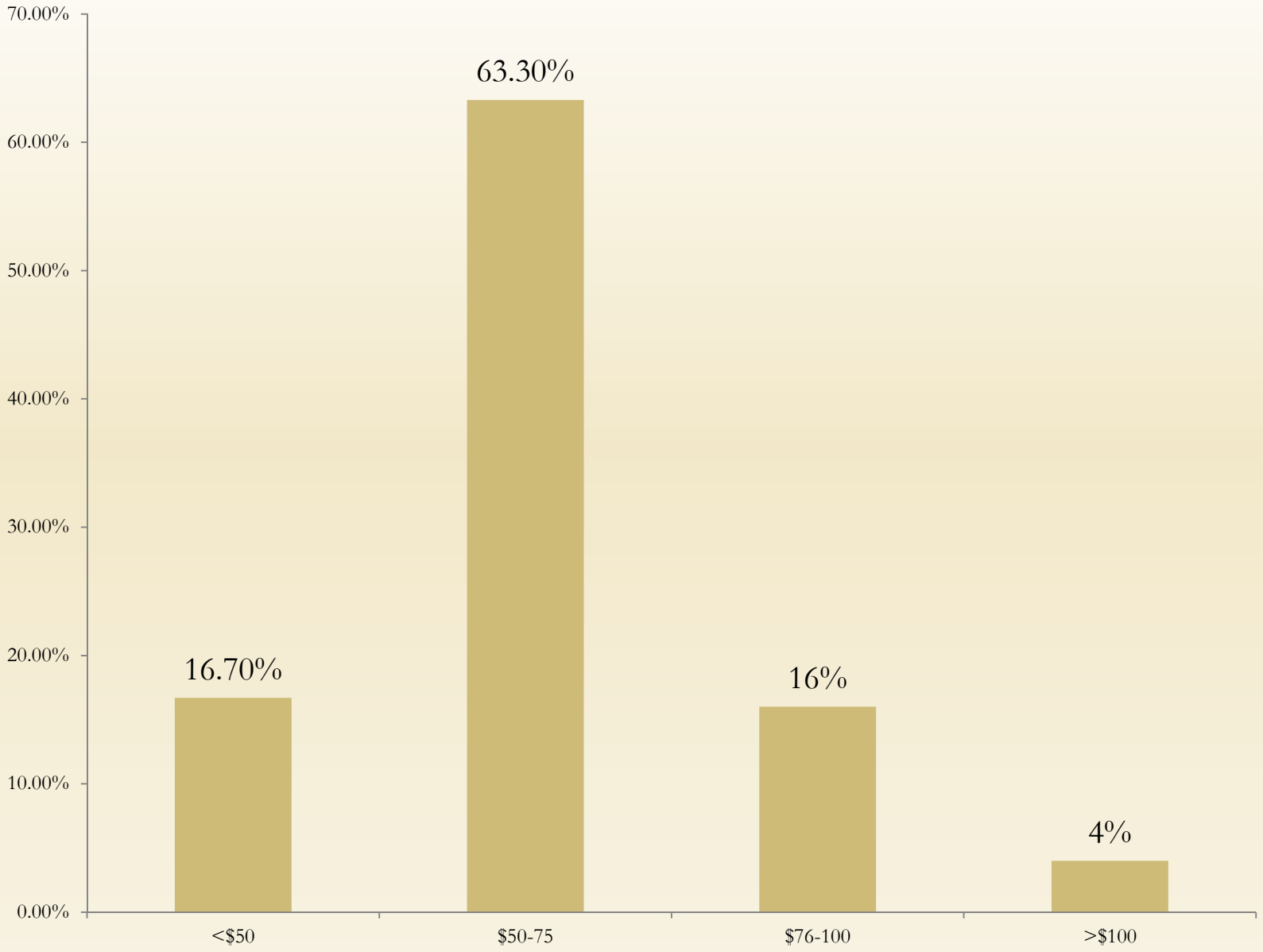
Methods of data collection



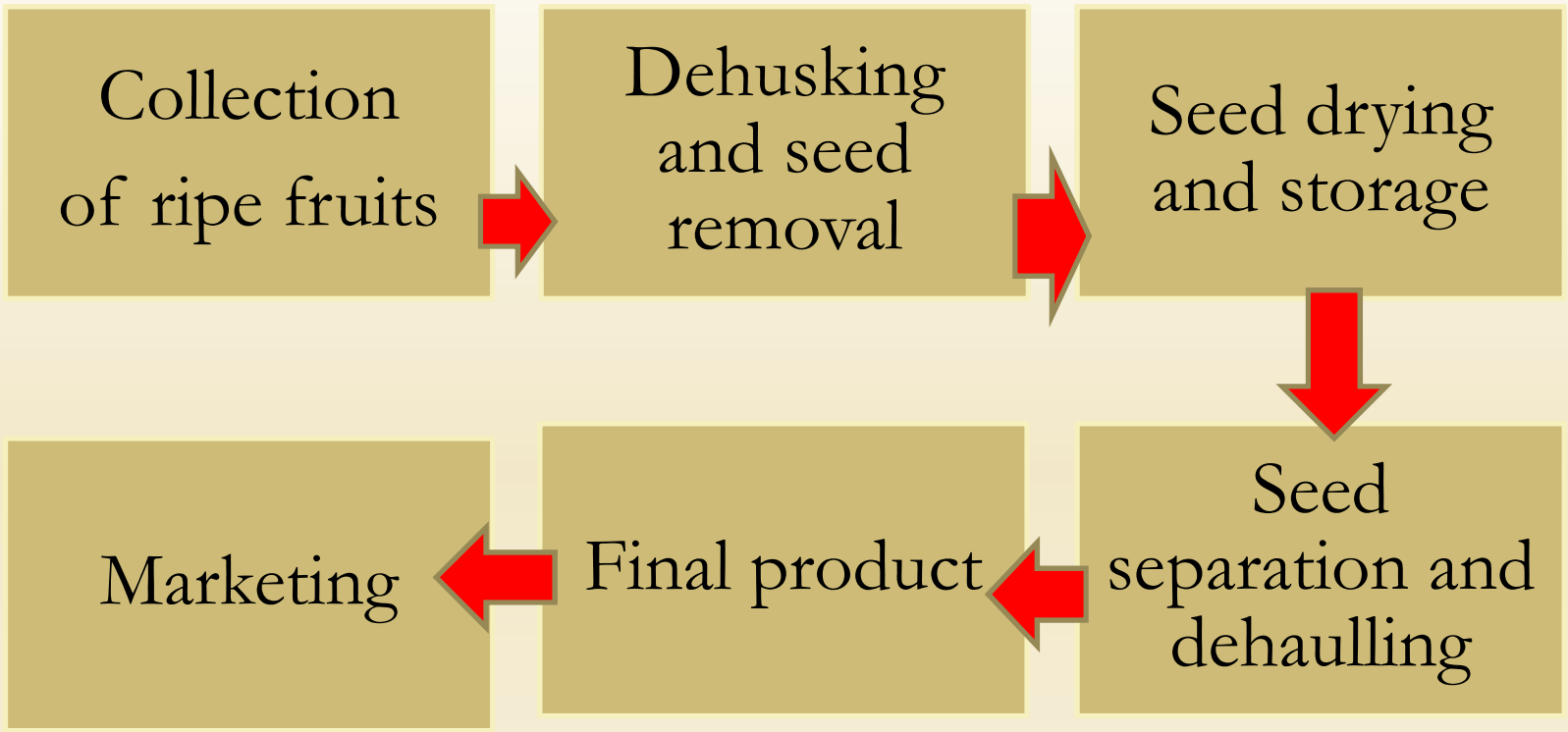
Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency (N= 150)	Relative Frequency (%)	Mode
Age distribution (years)			
<20	0	0	
20-30	11	7.3	
31-40	34	22.7	
41-50	81	54.0	54
50-60	14	9.3	
>61	10	6.7	
Marital status			
Single	0	0	
Married	142	94.7	94.7
Divorced	0	0.0	
Widowed	8	5.3	
Major occupation			
Farming	18	12	
NUS value chain activities	132	88	88
Civil Servant	0	0	
Others	0	0	
Highest Educational status			
No formal education	128	85.3	85.3
Primary	15	10.0	
Secondary	7	4.7	
Nativity of the respondents			
Native	134	89.3	89.3
Migrants	16	10.7	
Household size			
1-4 members	45	30	
5-10 members	87	58	58
>10 members	18	12	
Experience			
1-5 years	10	6.7	
6-10 years	25	16.7	
11-15 years	95	63.3	63.3
>15 years	20	13.3	

Monthly income from NUS

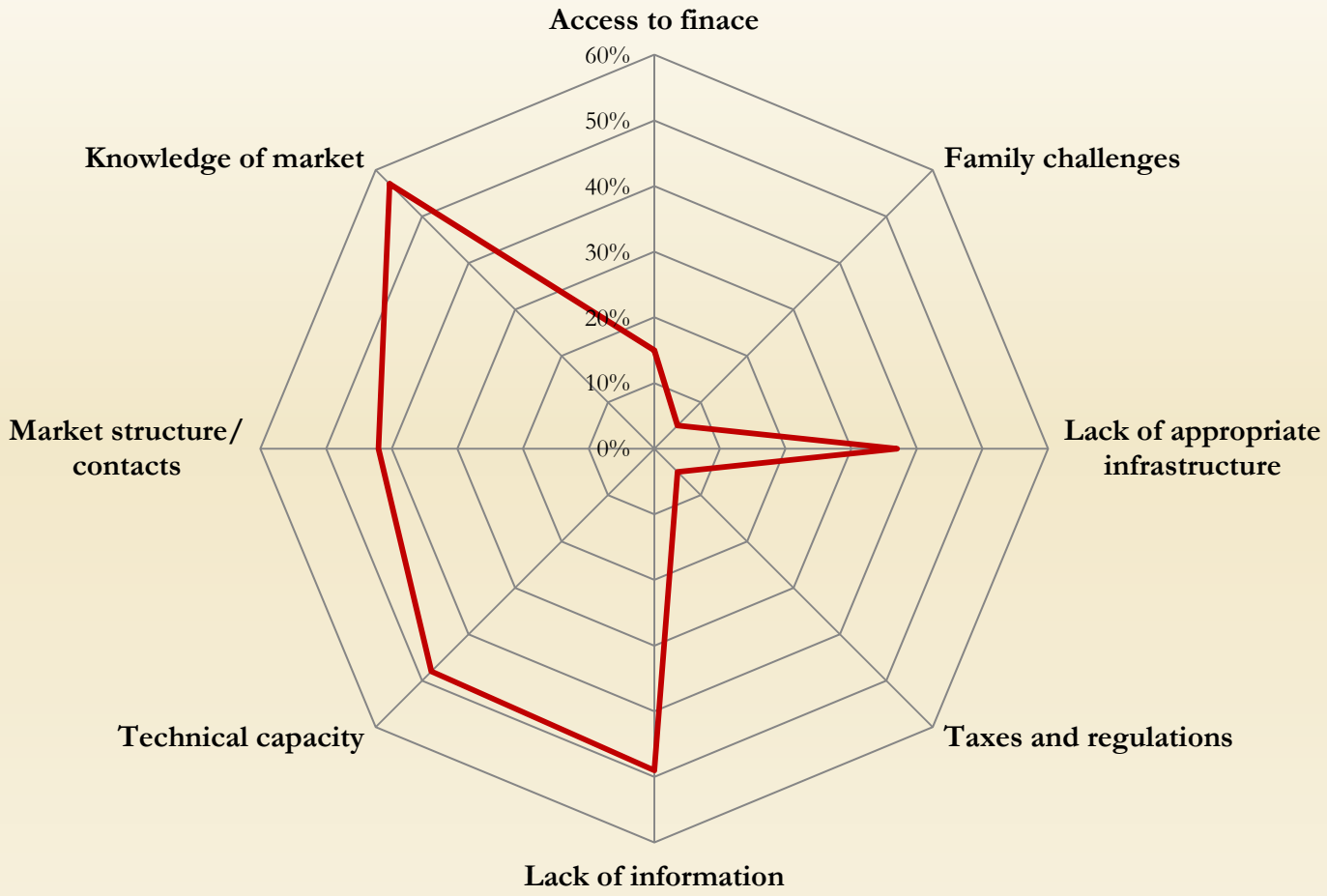


Processing stages of *Parkia biglobosa*

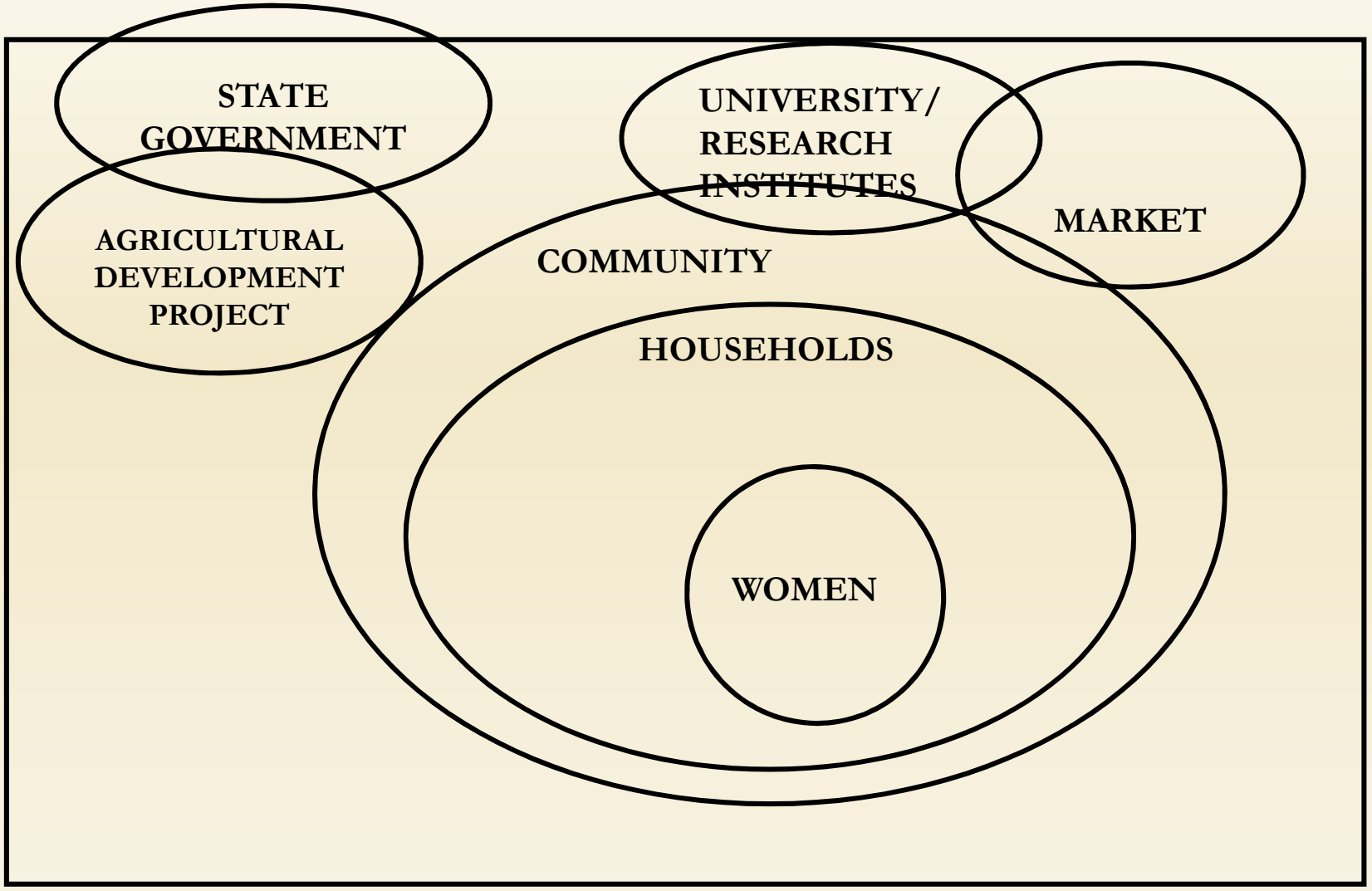


Women are the main actors along the value chain but men and children assist in collection of fruits and gathering of firewood.

Constraints encountered in NUS value chain



Venn diagram of Stakeholders analysis in-situ management of NUS



SWOT analysis of in-situ management of *NUS*

	POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)
Internal:	**Strengths** **- low-input management** **-off-season cash crop** **-- livelihood for women** **- ecological benefit**	**Weakness** **- Lack of government policy to encourage conservation and use of the species**
External:	**Opportunities** **- Seeds can be processed into secondary product that have high commercial value**	**Threats** **- Urbanisation** **-insect attack** **- Deforestation**

Conclusion

- *P. biglobosa* and *V. paradoxa* has very high socio-economic importance
- Low level of education among the respondents
- Processing and marketing is still at the local level and weakly organized
- Little or no utilisation of the *P. biglobosa* pulp while the processing of the seeds is largely unhygienic
- In-situ management of *P. biglobosa* is self motivated

Policy Implications

- There should be more policy thrust and emphasis on developing and promoting NUS through;
  - raising the effectiveness of public participation
  - inter-sectoral coordination
  - multidisciplinary collaboration and
  - strategic partnership among the affected stakeholders
- Simple and easy to use technology that will facilitate good hygiene practices should be developed
- There is need to document the genetic constitution and production capacity of *P. biglobosa* and *V. paradoxa* populations within the entire area of distribution
- There is the need for in-situ-conservation and domestication of the NUS


Thank You