

Profile of Tanzanian Farming Households in Five Sub-Regions

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Research Question

What are the traits of Tanzanian farmers living in five different farming system-based sub-regions?

The Data

The Tanzania National Panel Survey (TNPS) is part of the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS – ISA) funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The LSMS – ISA covers 7 Sub-Saharan African countries and interviews the same households multiple times to produce panel data. The surveys collect detailed information about agriculture and socio-economic indicators. The TNPS is implemented by the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The sample design was constructed to produce nationally representative estimates, and it consists of 3,265 households, 2,474 of which are agricultural households. Data was collected at multiple levels: communities, households, plots, individuals, and crops & animals. For this research, all analysis is reported at the household level.

Abstract

This research project examines the traits of Tanzanian farmers living in five different farming system-based sub-regions: the Northern Highlands, Sukumaland, Central Maize, Coastal Cassava, and Zanzibar. We conducted quantitative analysis on data from the Tanzania National Panel Survey (TNPS). We complimented this analysis with qualitative data from fieldwork conducted in the summer of 2011 and September 2013 to present a quantitatively and qualitatively informed profile of the “typical” agricultural household’s land use patterns, demographic dynamics, and key issues or production constraints in each sub-region.

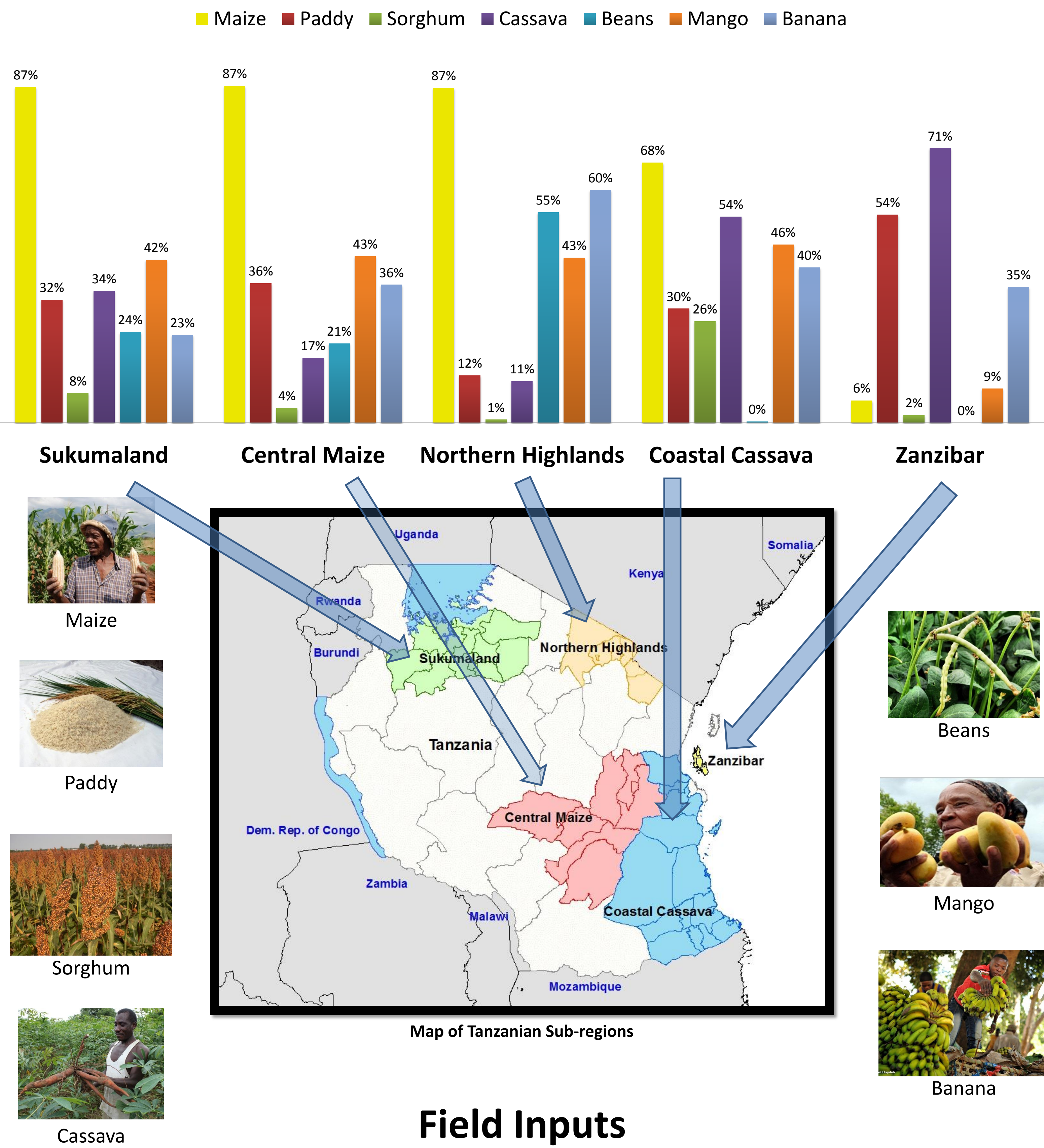
Our findings confirm that there exist many differences among these sub-regions. This research contributes to the knowledge base of those working with smallholder farmers in Tanzania to improve agricultural systems as a means of reducing hunger and poverty. Specifically, this research offers information about the activities and challenges faced by the “typical” farmer in each of the Tanzanian sub-regions. Collectively, these differences emphasize the importance of a geographically tailored approach to agricultural development.

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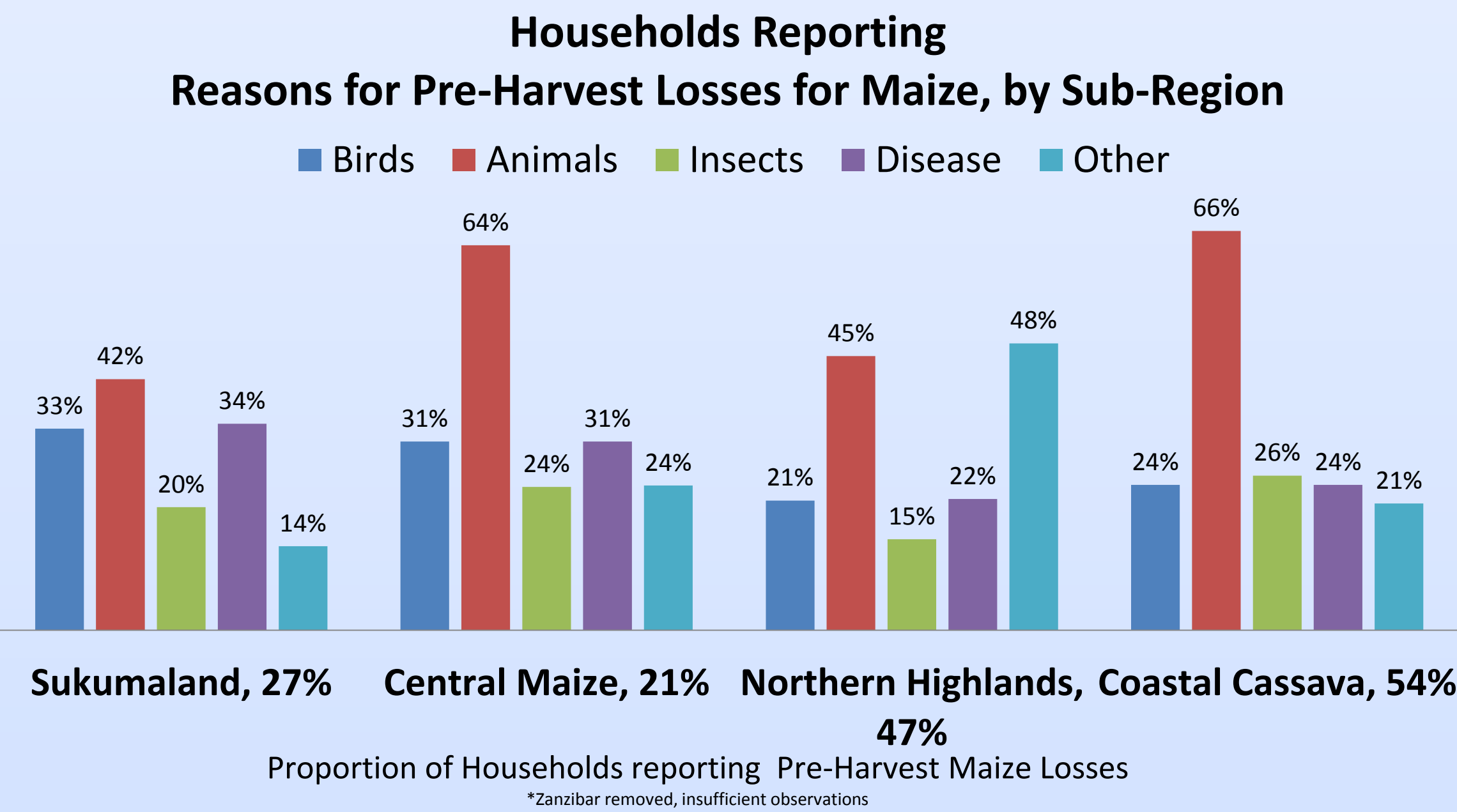
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Proportion of Households Growing Crops by Sub-Region

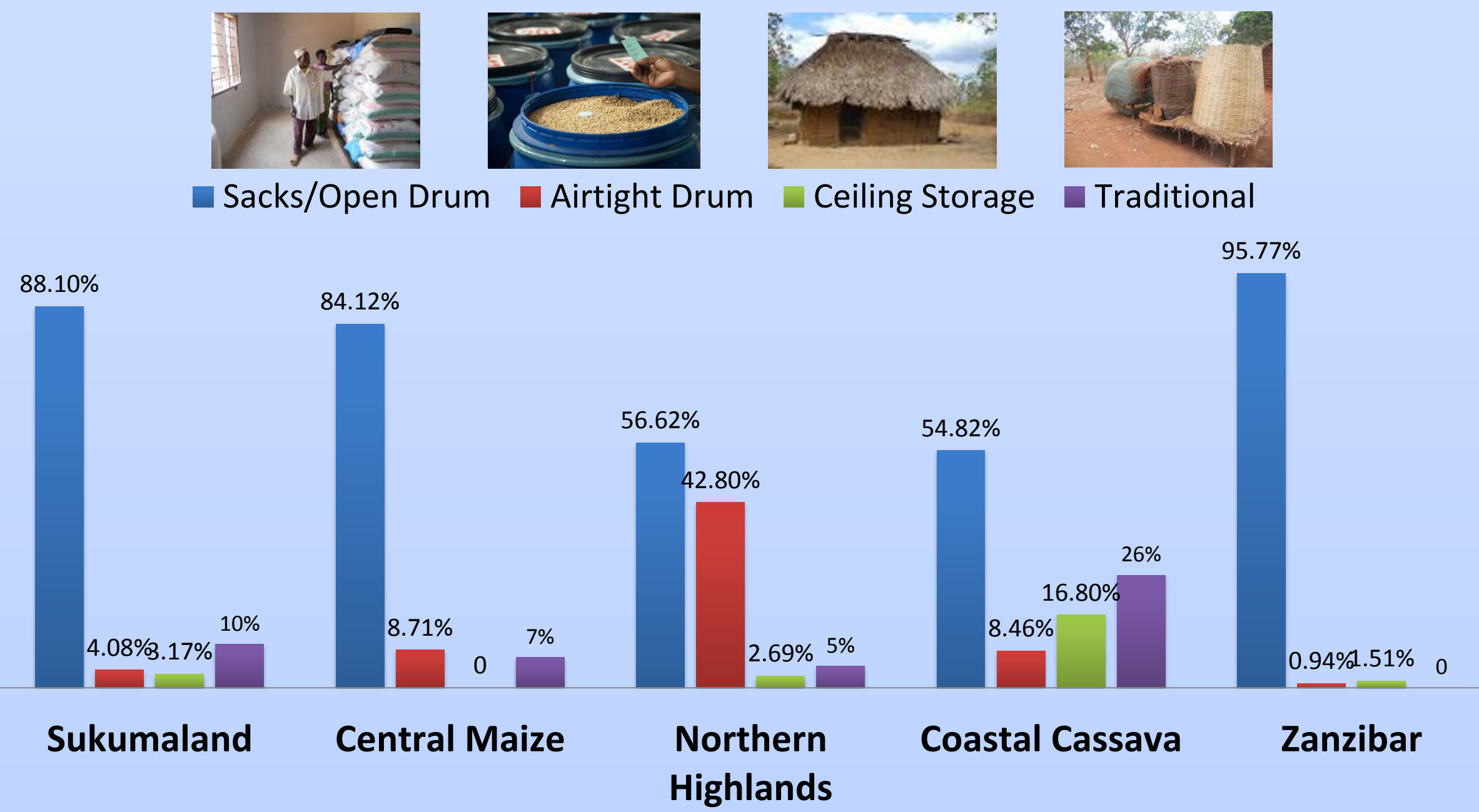


Farmer Losses & Storage Methods

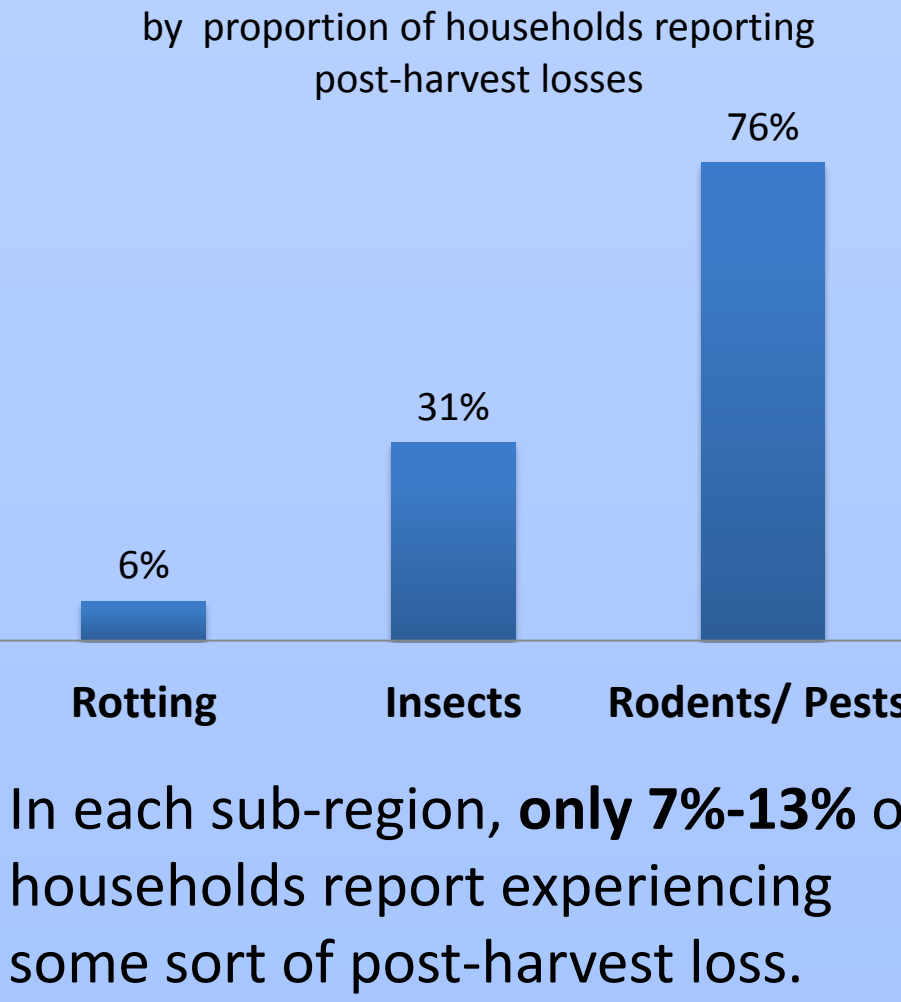


The impact of pests differs between sub-region and between crop affected, however we were unable to include crops other than maize in this analysis due to insufficient observations.

Proportion of Households Using Different Storage Methods



Reasons for Post-Harvest Losses in the Coastal Cassava Sub-Region



Cassava Processing

The same chemical in cassava that deters pests must be removed through a complicated and time consuming process when cassava is processed for food.

Field Inputs

