



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Department of Agriculture

Shan State



A Study on Farmers Using ICT

**(Information and Communication Technology) Tools
for Agricultural Information in Loilem Township**

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Introduction

- ❖ Myanmar's extension program requires to change through ICT technology
- ❖ to provide impetus to information delivery for agricultural development
- ❖ ICT facilitates communication, processing and transmission of communication by electronic means
- ❖ The term ICT was coined by Stevenson in 1997.
- ❖ In recent years, there is a visible shift from the old ways of delivering information to the modern ways of information delivery systems.
- ❖ ICTs can be one major intervention in agricultural extension system
- ❖ contribute to “smarter” more efficient and sustainable agriculture

(Salampasis & Theodoridis, 2013)

Rationale Of The Study And Problem Statement

- ✓ Myanmar's conventional extension service system has some limitations with personal ability, time, money, etc.
- ✓ Moreover, loilem township Extension agent and farmer ratio is 1:519 (DOA, 2021)
- ✓ There is needed to narrow down extension agents demand.
- ✓ Over come pandemic disease COVID-19 during this period
- ✓ ICTs is essential for agricultural farm communication in the future.
- ✓ Therefore , the present study was designed to assess the farmers' agricultural information to use ICT tools in the Loilem Township.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study Socio-economic condition of farmers' household
2. To know the extent of utilization and multiple usages of ICT tools among farmers
3. To examine need of agricultural information for farmers using ICT tools
4. To identify the limitations in the usage of ICT tools among farmers

General Description of the Study Area

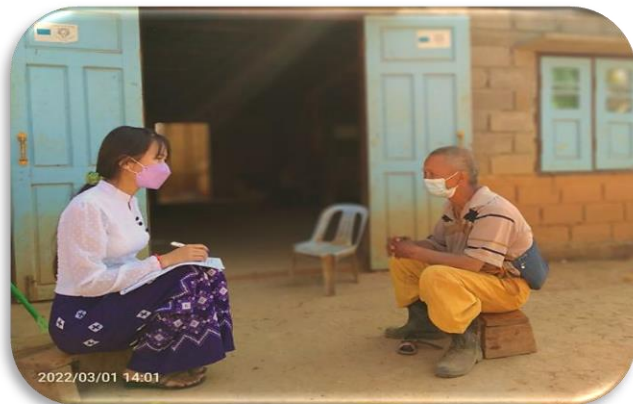
- ✓ Loilem Township, Loilem district, Shan State
- ✓ Location- Latitude 20 .9772° N and Longitude 97. 4814° E
- ✓ Total area – 1,323 square Kilometer
- ✓ Total village group - 11
- ✓ Total villages - 135
- ✓ Total population – 124,557
- ✓ Population density – 94.12/ Sq km
- ✓ Gender ratio (Male: Female) – 1:1.05



(DOP, 2014)

Sampling Design and Data Collection

- ❖ District and Township were selected purposively keeping in view the flow of agricultural information through ICT
- ❖ 4 Villages were selected randomly, considering the range of network and distance
- ❖ With Simple Random Sampling (SRS) technique, each village selected 25 respondents a sample of 100 respondents was selected for data analysis.
- Both quantitative and qualitative data
- **Primary survey data** : selected respondents through the structural interview schedule and direct observation.
- **Secondary data** from several books, research literatures, official records of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI)
- Excel was used for data analysis



Results and Discussion



Farmers' different age groups of sample respondents

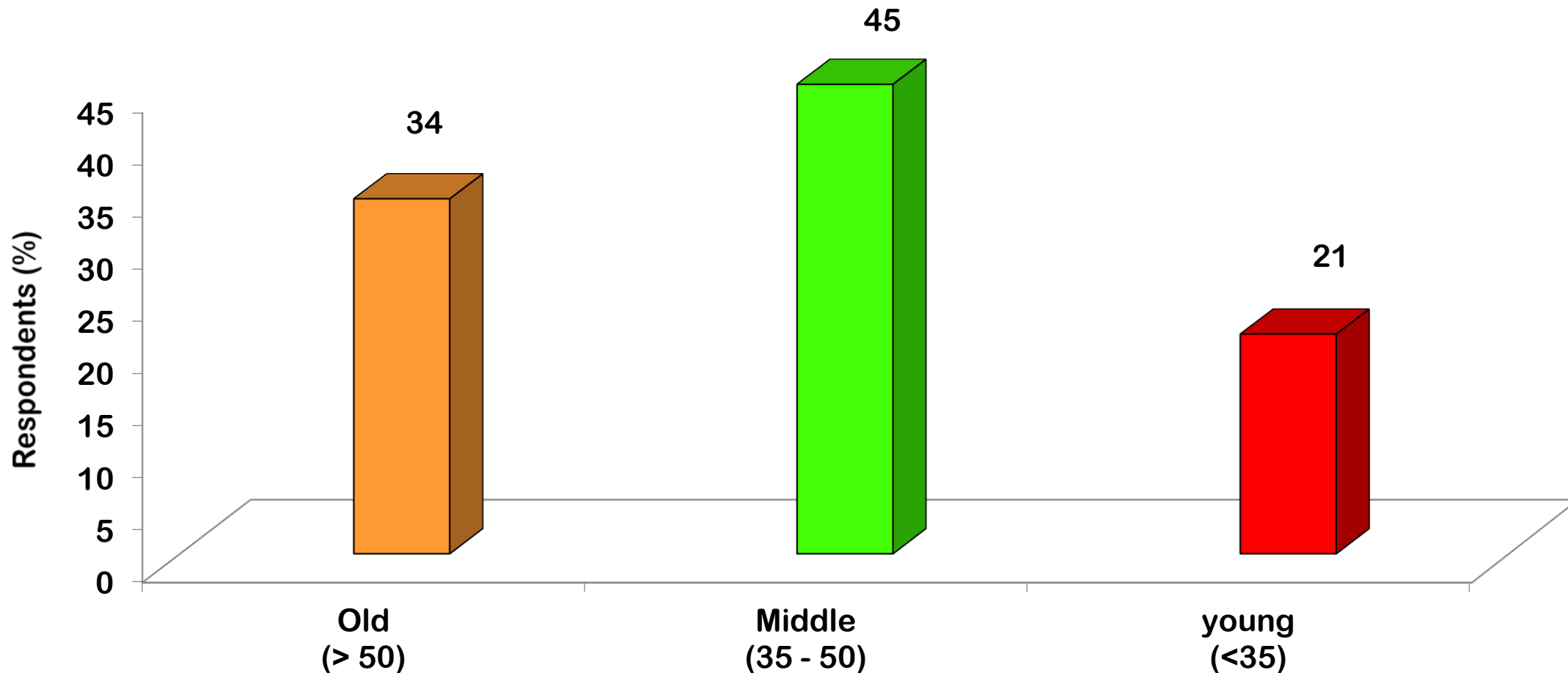


Figure 1. Farmers' different age groups of sample respondents

Farmers' different education levels of sample respondents

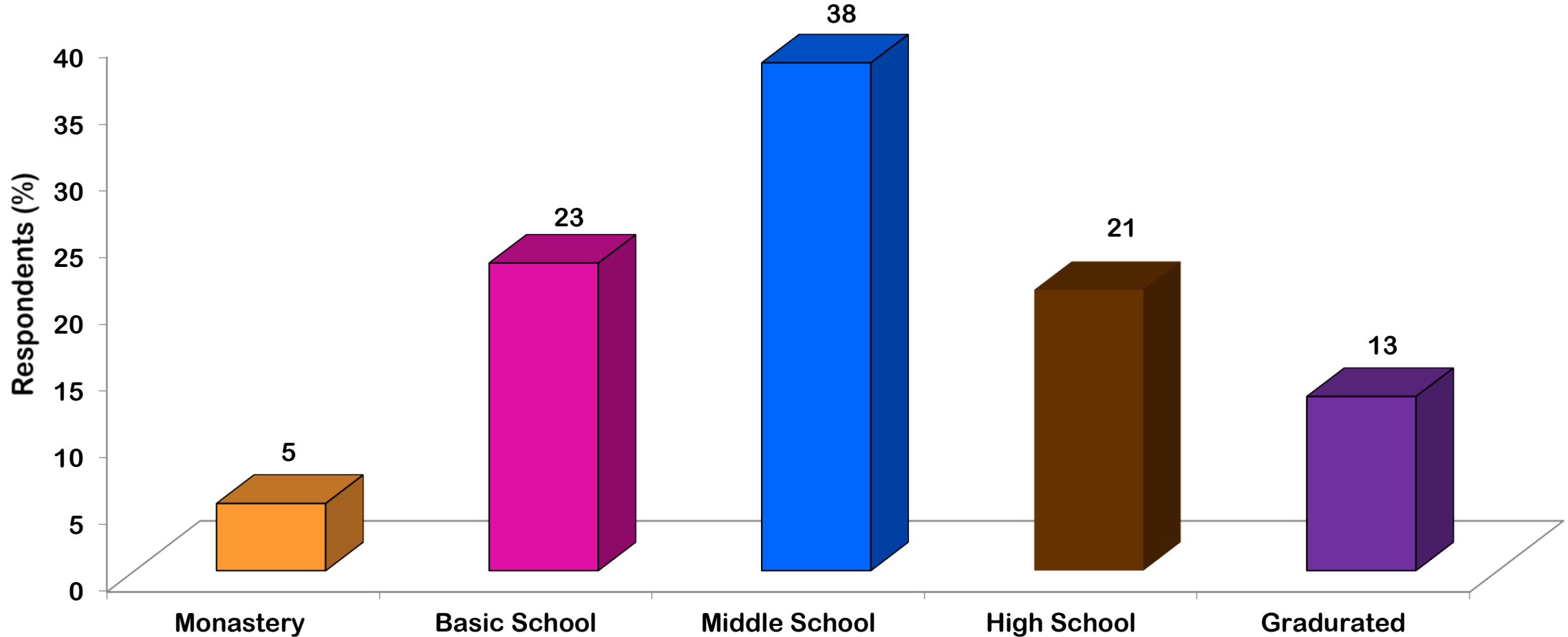


Figure 2. Farmers' different education levels of sample respondents

Farmers' different Farming experience groups of sample respondents

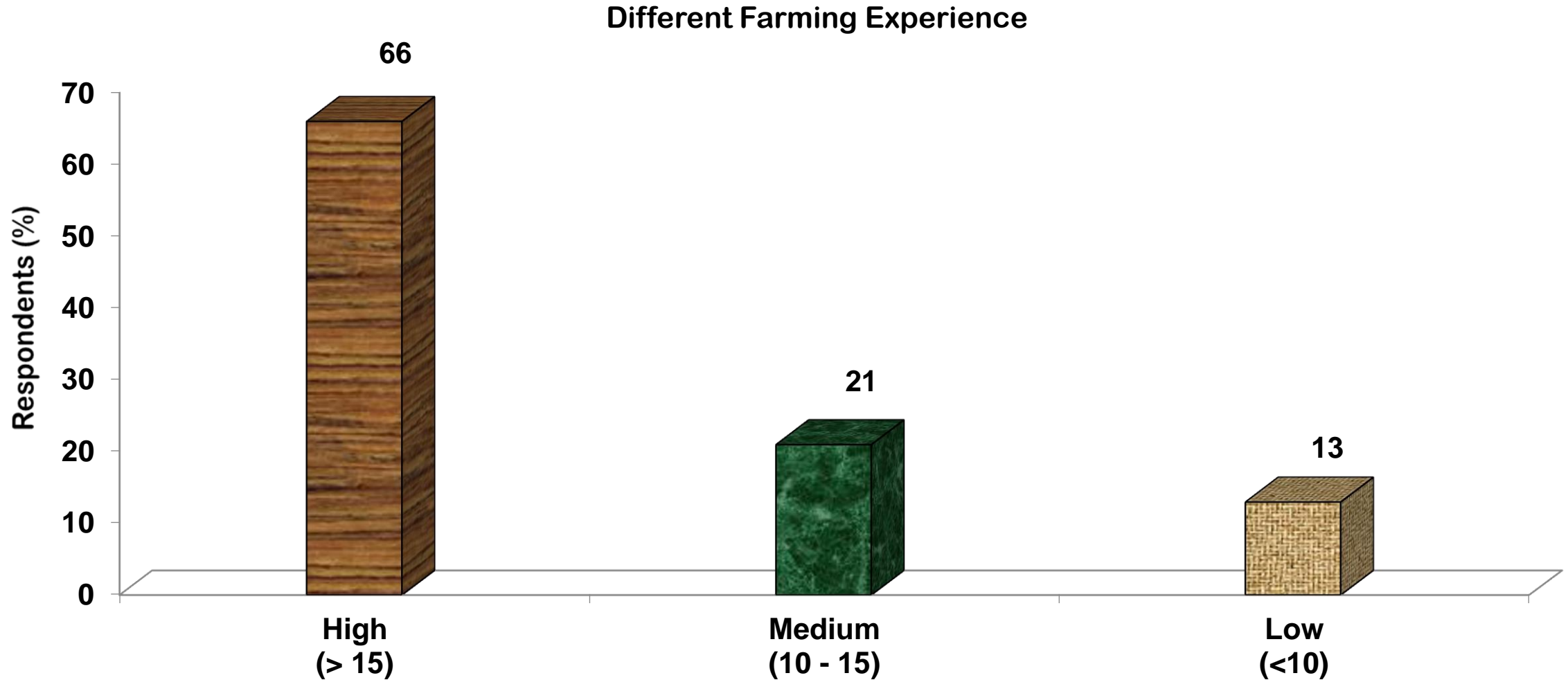


Figure 3. Farmers' different farming experience groups of sample respondents

Usage of different ICT tools

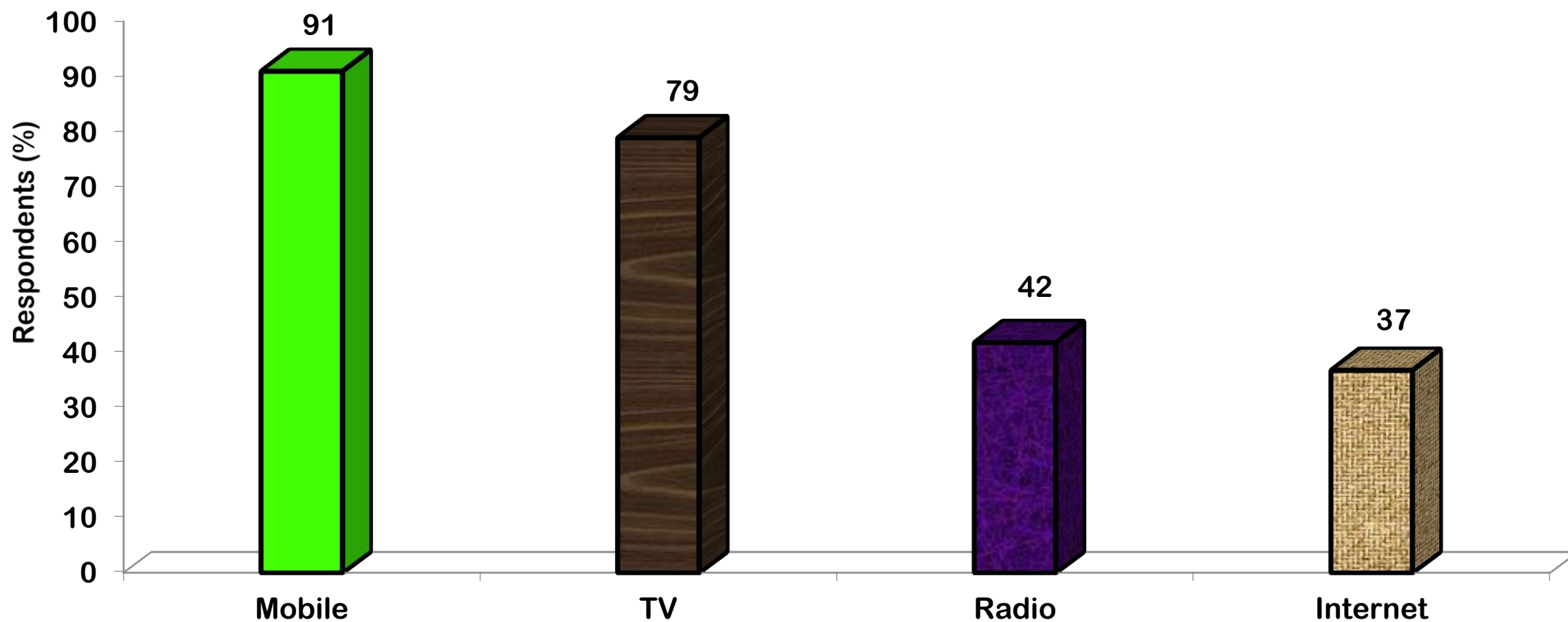


Figure 4. Usage of different ICT tools among farmers

Usage of different mobile applications for farm communication

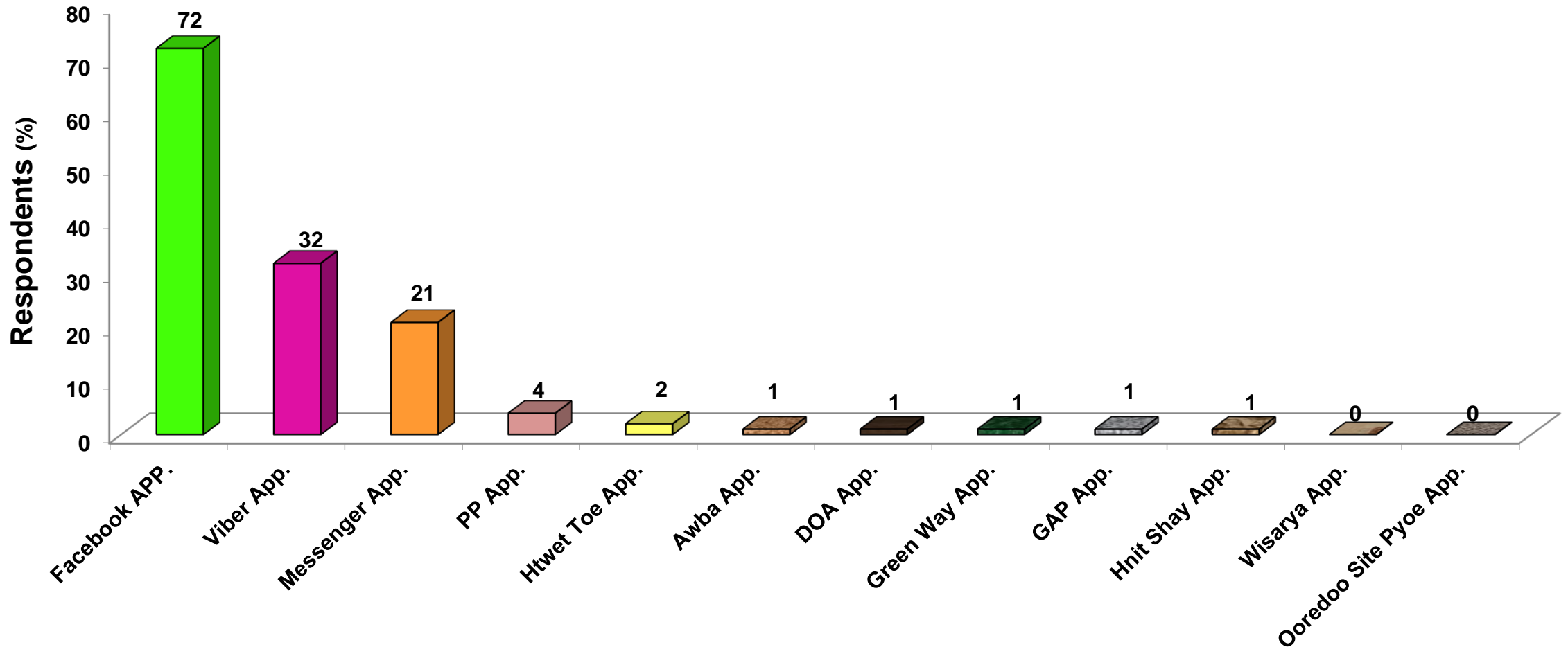


Figure 5. Usage of different mobile applications among farmers

Farmers' Agricultural information diffusion of sample respondents

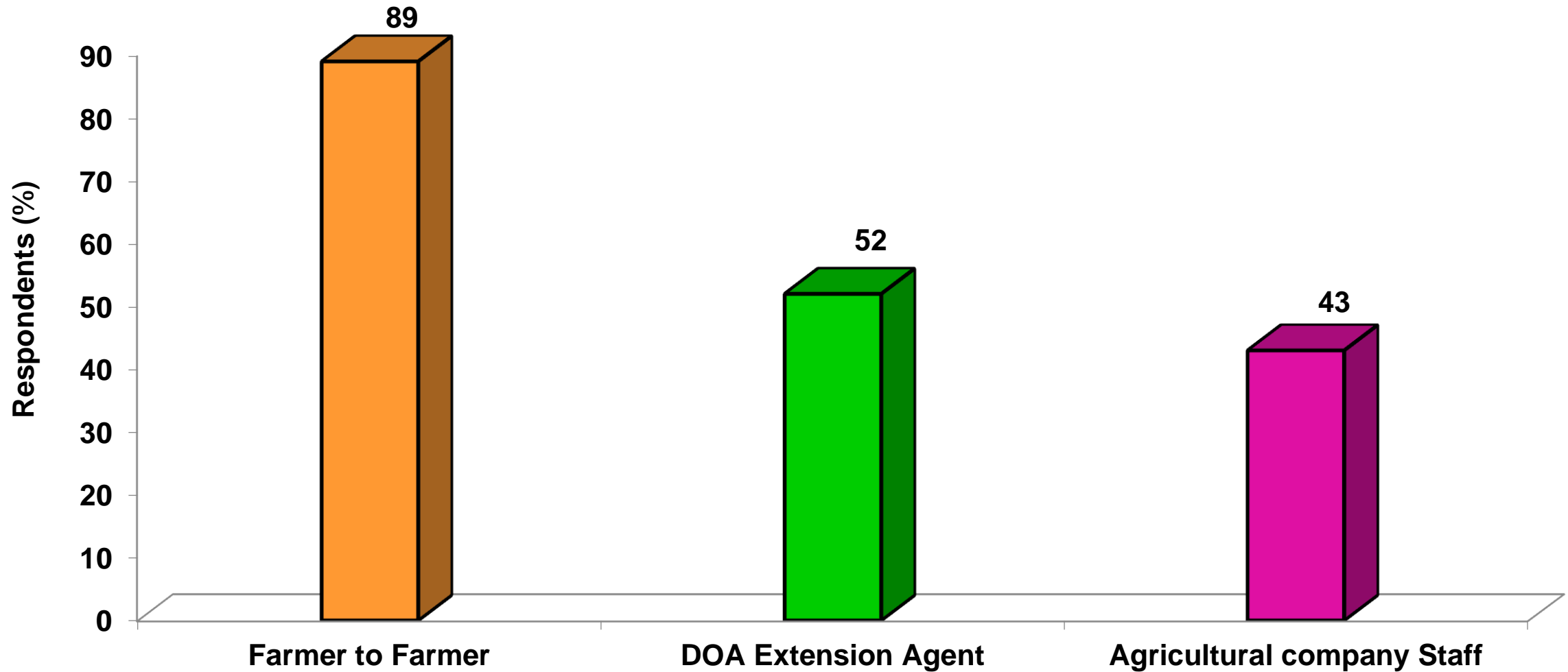


Figure 6. Farmers' Agricultural information diffusion of sample respondents

Farmers' Agricultural information needed of sample respondents

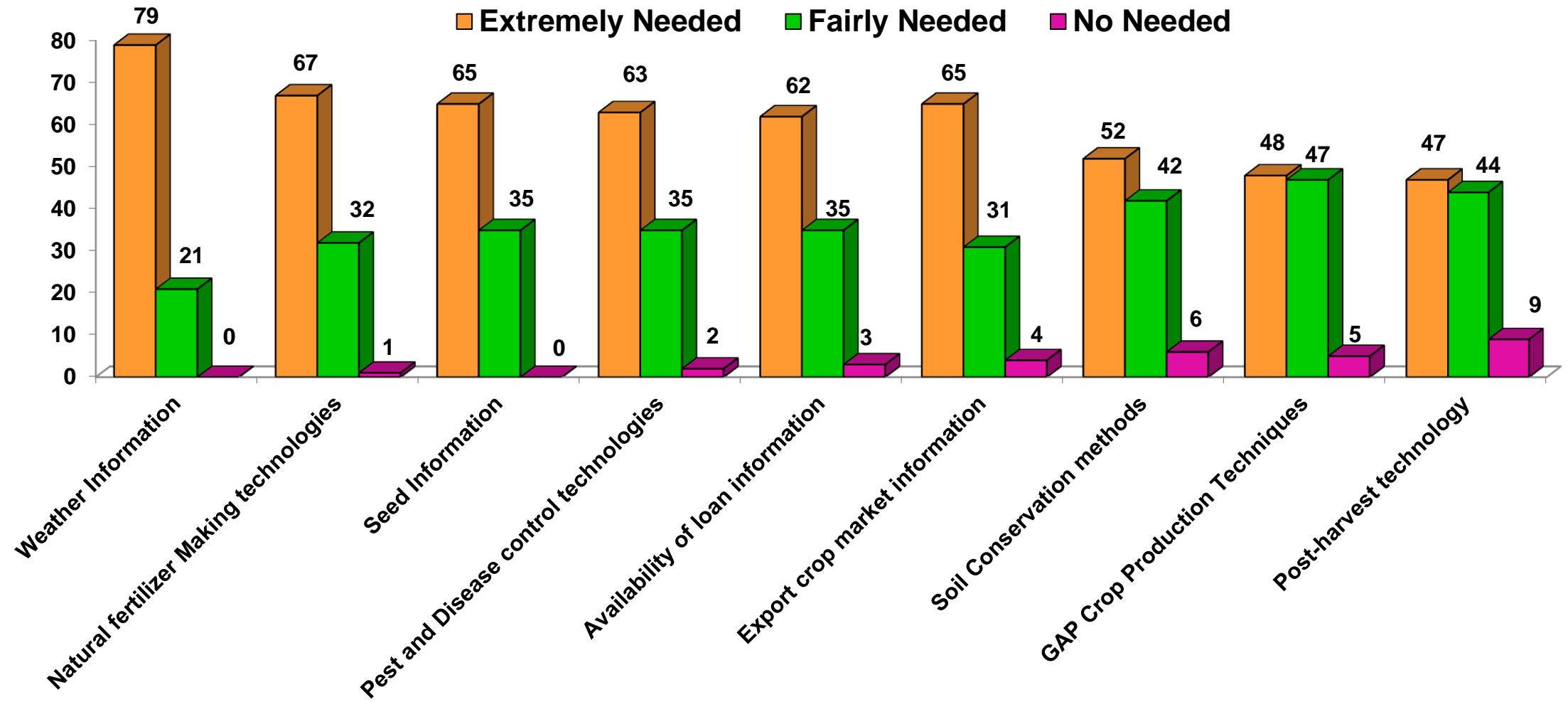


Figure 7. Farmers' Agricultural information needed of sample respondents

Limitations in the use of ICT tools

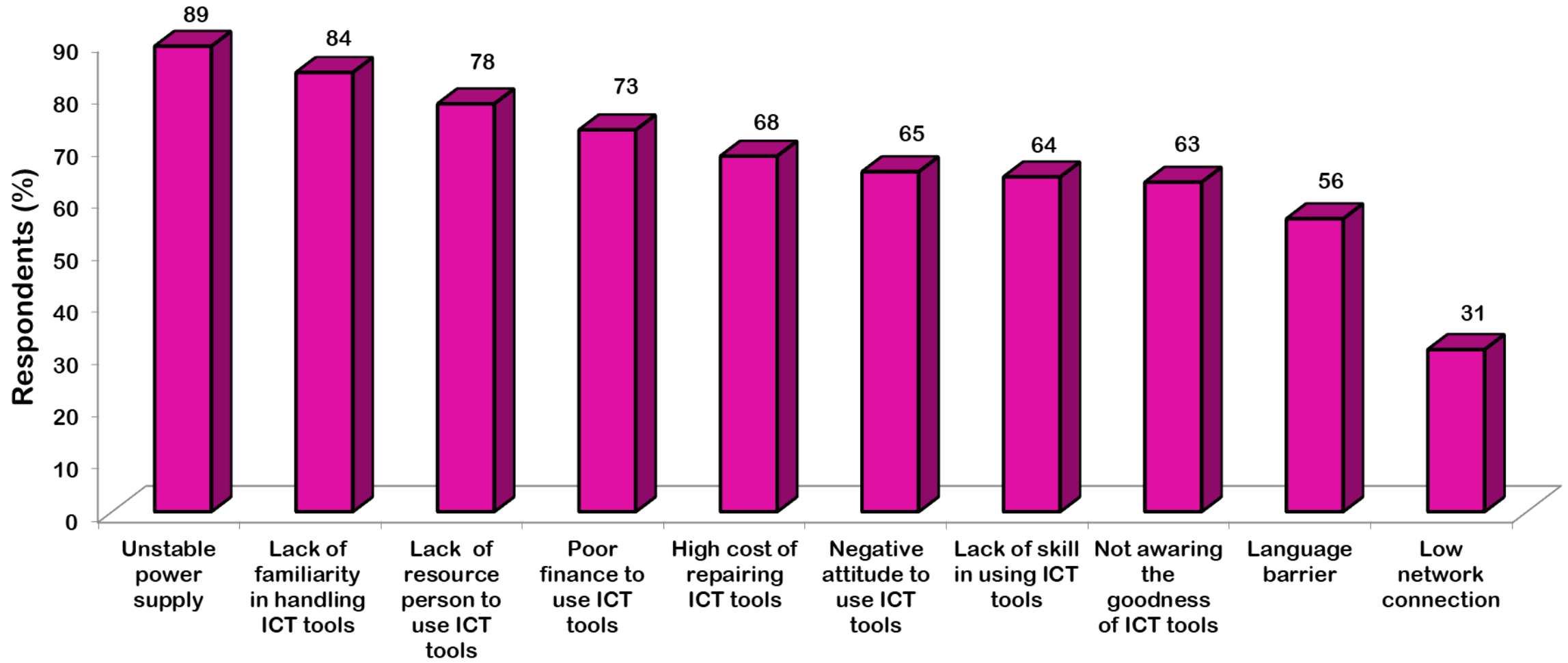


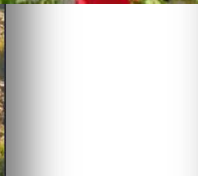
Figure 8. Limitations in the use of ICT tools among farmers

Conclusion

- Most of respondents were middle and basic school education
- has middle and old age and they have high farming experience.
- Mobile Phone and TV were the major ICT tools using among farmers,
- Although Facebook, Messenger and Viber apps. for agricultural information were also popular but Agri; Apps. usage were rarely among them.
- Information related to weather, natural fertilizer making and seed were the important information needs of farmers
- Majority of agricultural information diffuse farmer to farmer were more available other than.
- Lack of electricity and lack of familiarity and resource person to use ICT tools were major limitations in use of ICT tools.

Recommendation

- Weather based advisories should be provided in real time through ICTs for appropriate measures in agricultural operations
- Appropriate Agri; mobile apps. should be introduced from reliable media and extension agents to farmers for agricultural information disseminated
- Facebook, Viber and Messenger Apps. could be used for agricultural advisories and technological pages owing to popular among farmers
- More number of agricultural programs and Agri-educational short movies should be prepared on agricultural technologies for mobile users and TV as they are used prominently by farmers.
- Agricultural related success story video based extension, agri; documentary and farmers' portal could be areas of future studies



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Thank you for your kind attention

