



Institute of  
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**EDRI**  
Ethiopian Development  
Research Institute (EDRI)

# Examination of the Linkages between Local Food Economies and Household Nutrition in Rural Tanzania

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# Introduction

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**The key issue** – analysis of how the operation of local food economies impacts on the nutrition status of rural households in Tanzania

## Rationale:

- ❖ Agriculture in Tanzania employs about 85% of the population (URT, 2011)
- ❖ Rural households highly dependent on markets as means of livelihood and food access but they have limited access (World Bank 2013)
- ❖ Low nutrition status



# Objectives

## Specific Research Questions

1

- How is income distributed between households with different farming systems in the study area?

2

- What are the main channels used by households for buying and selling food?

3

- What are the main challenges faced by households in buying and selling food and the coping strategies adopted by them?

4

- What are the linkages between household food access and income levels?





# Findings

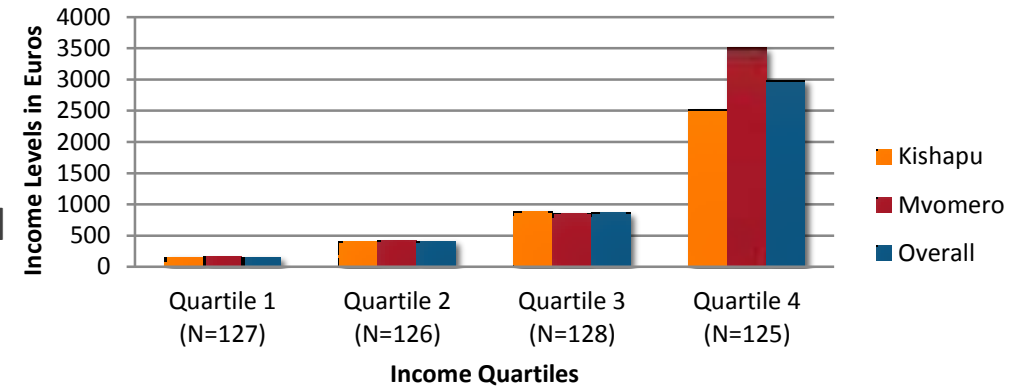
## Income Distribution



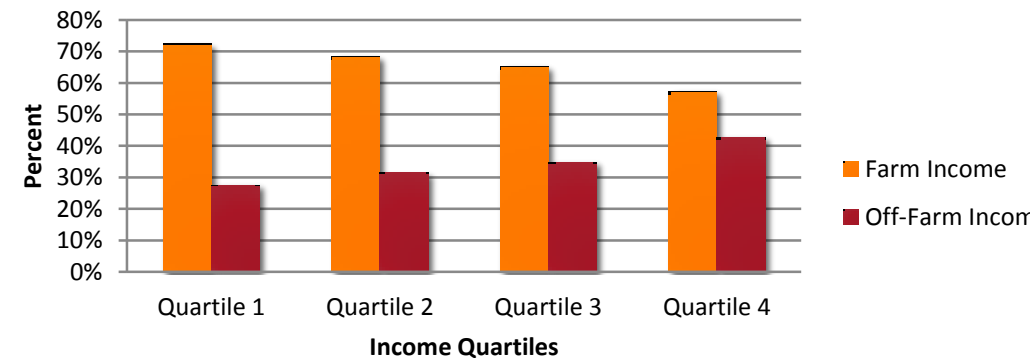
Highly unequal income distribution; e.g.

- ❖ Households in Quartile 1 have less than half the income of those in Quartile 2
- ❖ Households in Quartile 2 have less than half the income of those in Quartile 3.
- ❖ Gini Coefficients – Kishapu 0.56, Mvomero 0.58 (National Rural Coefficient 0.29 in 2012)
- ❖ Low Incomes – 90% of the population earn less than median income
- ❖ Period with no income whatsoever - more than 3 months (Kishapu); more than 2 months (Mvomero)
- ❖ Kishapu – 78% of income from **farming**
- ❖ Mvomero – 57% of income from **off-farm**
- ❖ Proportion of off-farm income higher in income quartile 4

Income Levels by Quartiles

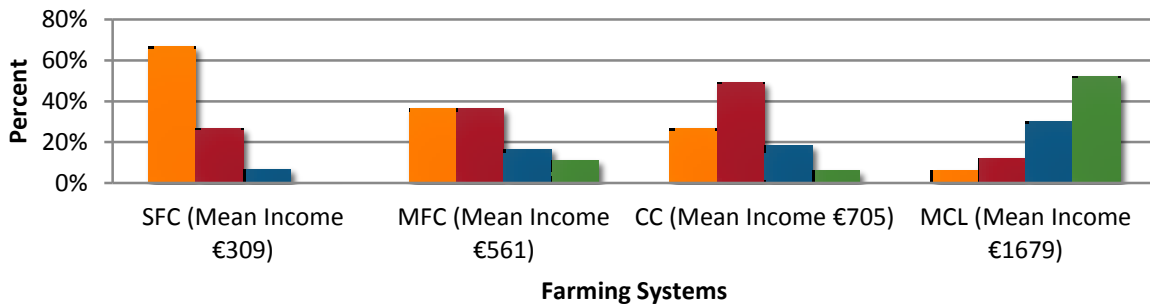


Farm and Off-Farm Income Proportions

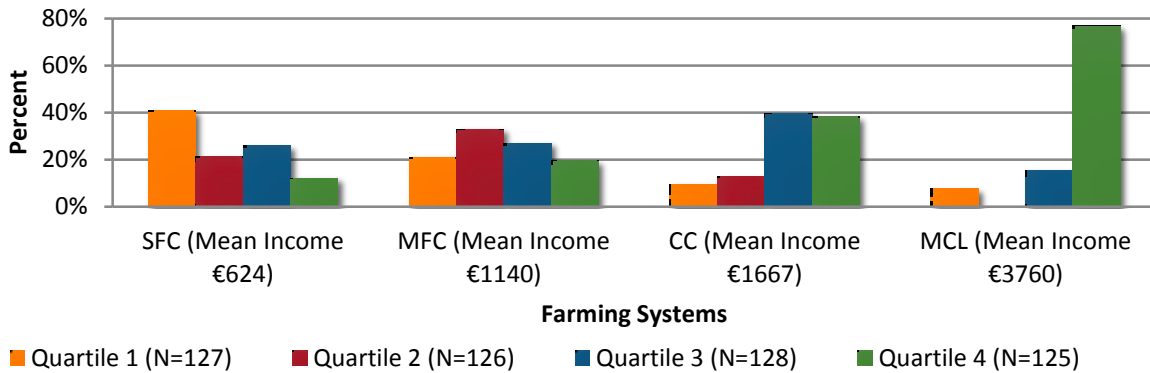


# Farming Systems and Farm Household Categories

Income Quartiles for Different Farming Systems - Kishapu



Income Quartiles for Different Farming Systems - Mvomero



For each farming system – HH in Mvomero earn about twice as much as those in Kishapu

- ❖ SFC – Earn very low incomes
  - ❖ Mean income €309 in Kishapu and €624 in Mvomero
- ❖ MFC & CC – Earn medium incomes;
  - ❖ MFC – mean income €561 in Kishapu and €1140 in Mvomero
  - ❖ CC – mean income €705 in Kishapu and €1667 in Mvomero
- ❖ MCL – Earn very high-incomes,
  - ❖ Mean income €1679 in Kishapu and €3760



# Access to Markets Selling of Output



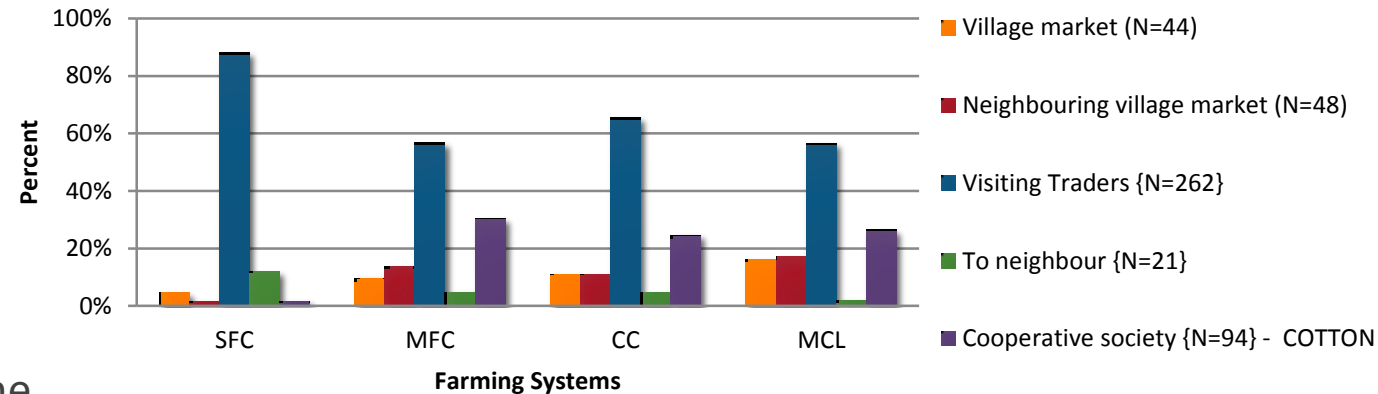
## ❖ Channels

- ❖ Visiting traders – Mvomero (90%), Kishapu (43%); Co-operative societies for cotton growers Kishapu (41%)

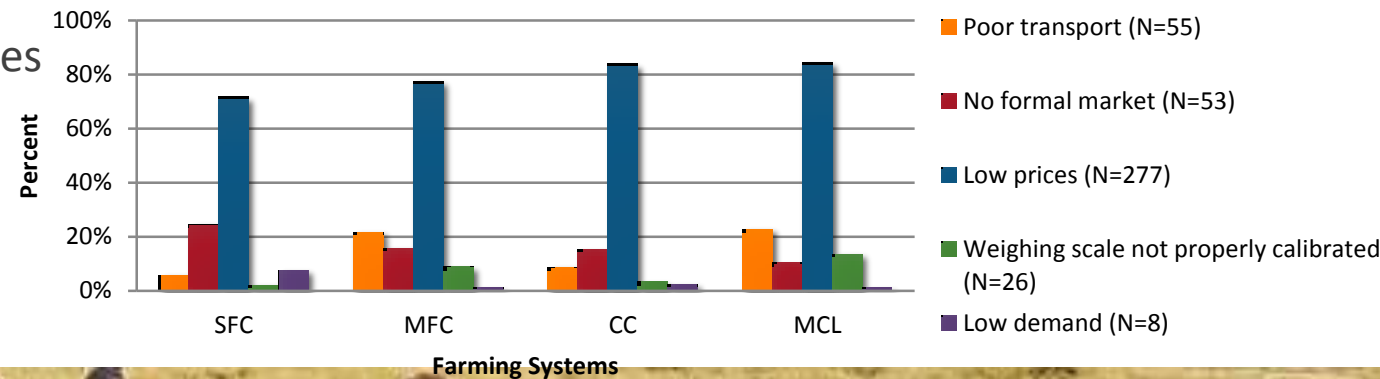
## ❖ Challenges in Selling

- ❖ Low prices, poor weighing scale calibration (for cotton sellers), a lack of transport and the absence of a formal market
- ❖ Little/no means of dealing with the challenges – output is sold anyway

Selling Channels



Challenges in Selling Output





# Access to Markets

## Food access



### ❖ Channels

- ❖ Local shops, neighbours, the district market
- ❖ Forest foods
- ❖ Bought food – 73% in Kishapu; 90% in Mvomero.

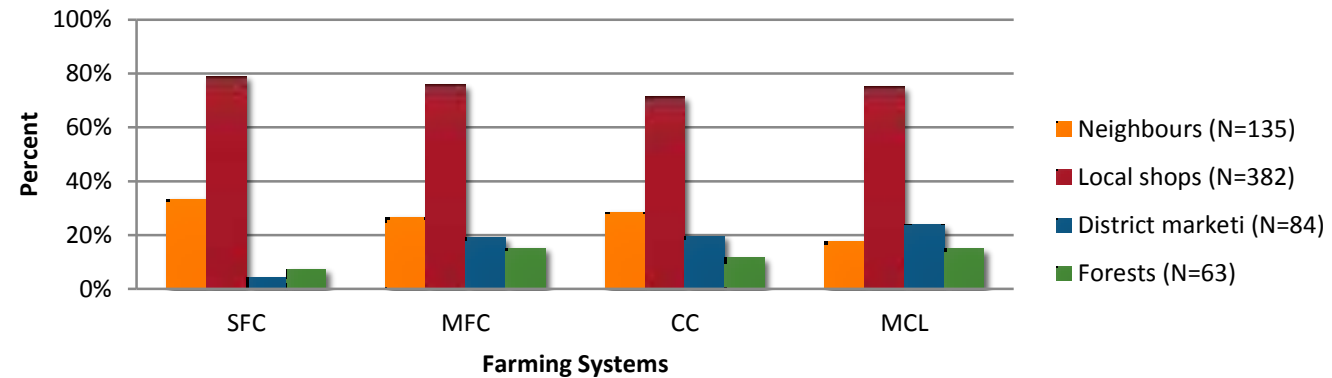
### ❖ Major Challenges in Buying

- ❖ High prices, lack of transport, lack of formal market

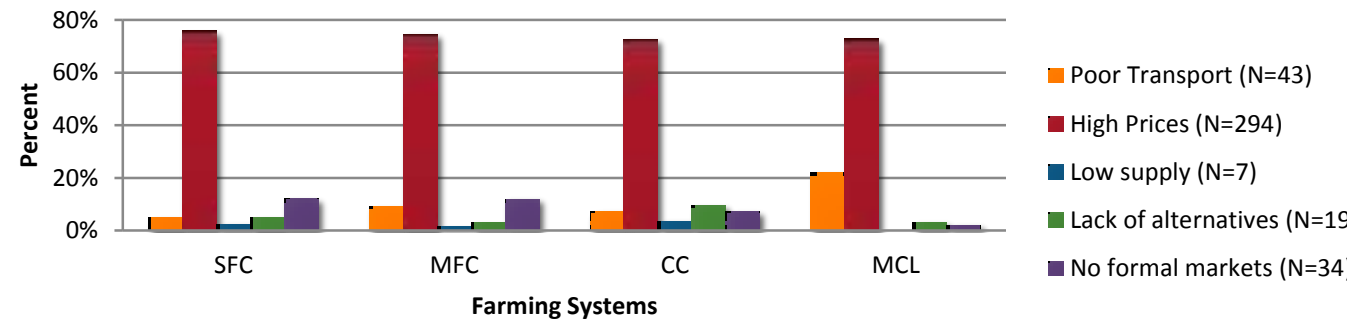
### ❖ Coping

- ❖ Reduced amount bought for all farming systems faced with high prices
- ❖ Little or no means of dealing with other challenges

Buying Channels

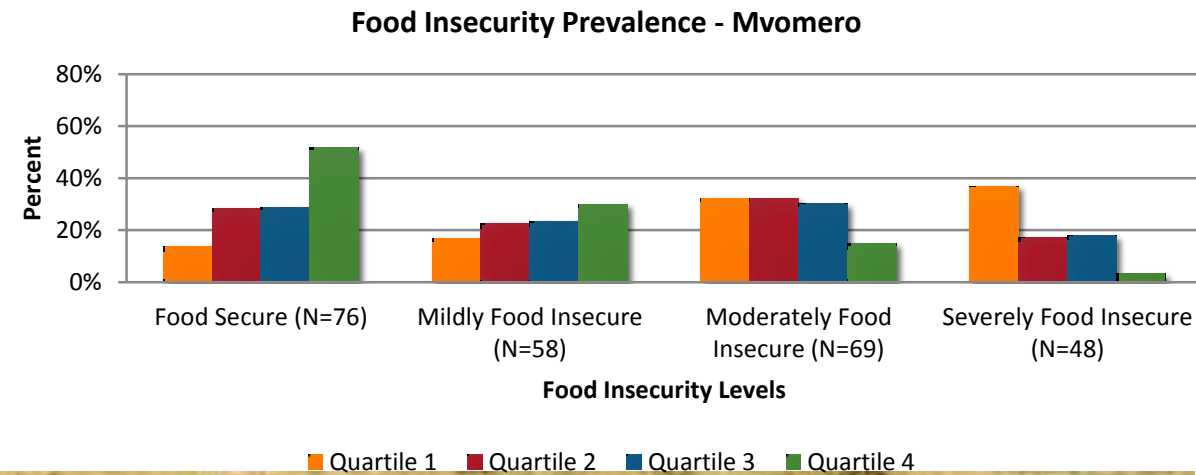
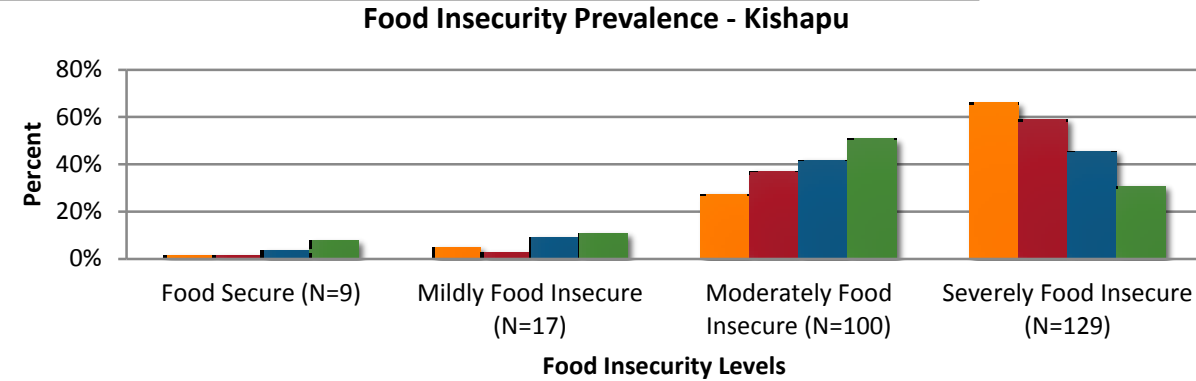
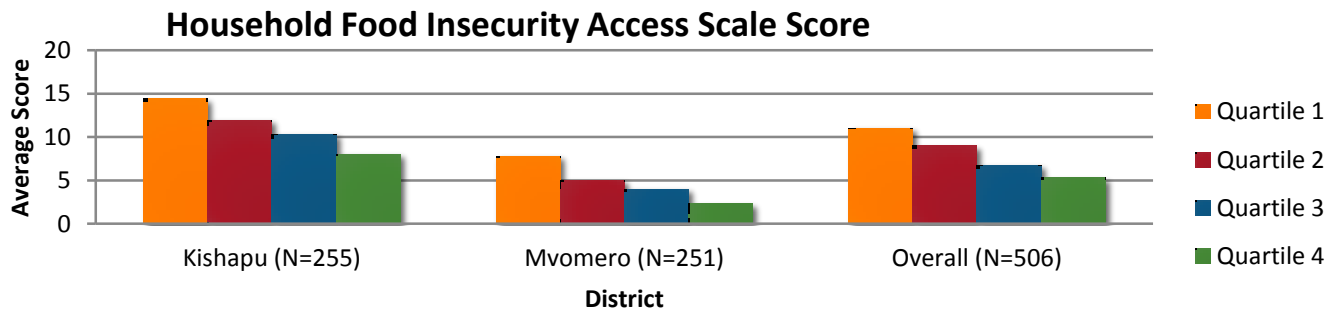


Challenges in Buying Food



# Food Access Insecurity

- ❖ Higher levels of insecurity in Kishapu than Mvomero
  - ❖ Score – measure of severity
    - ❖ Kishapu – 11.2
    - ❖ Mvomero – 4.8
  - ❖ Prevalence
    - ❖ Higher levels of food insecurity in Kishapu even in high income quartiles are observed
    - ❖ Relatively higher food security in all income quartiles in Mvomero





# Conclusions

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## Main Observations

- High dependence on subsistence farming
- High dependence on the market
- Little to no income in part of the year
- Lack of means to deal with challenges in the market

Rural Farming Households are vulnerable

## Policy Recommendations

- Improvement and diversification of farm and off-farm incomes
- Increase farm production
- Improve market conditions and access to markets
  - E.g. roads, credit, market information





# THANK YOU

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