

“Uluchay” Social-Economic Innovation Center

Research Paper

**Economic Empowerment  
and Opportunities for Women in  
Rural Areas in Agricultural  
Markets in the Livestock Value Chain**

May 2008  
Sheki, Azerbaijan



**ULUCHAY**  
Social-Economic Innovation Center



## LIST OF ACTONYMS

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**ACF** – Acción Contra el Hambre (ACF International)

**AZN** – Azerbaijan New Manat (currency)

**CU** – Credit Union

**MFI** – Micro Finance Institutions

**FTF** – Face-to-Face

**FGD** – Focus Group Discussion

**WEE** – Women Economic Empowerment

**MP** – Market Player

**LP** – Local partner

**TG** – Target group

**Ex Com** – Executive Committee

**WUU** – Water Users Union

**AI** – Artificial Insemination

**IDP** – Internally Displaced People

**HH** – Household

**NGO** – Non-governmental organization

**WB** – World Bank

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## **Women, Poverty and the Economy**

Nowadays poverty reduction is a universal human problem faced by the world community. Poverty reduction signifies the use of productive resources, including land and water reserves, the expansion of educational opportunities, and the provision of legal equality between men and women at all levels by the general population. The reduction of poverty stands as one of the most important challenges for Azerbaijan. In order to establish macro-economic stability and lay the foundation for economic growth the Azerbaijan government started The State Programs on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (2003-2005).

Social and economic reforms carried out in Azerbaijan have significantly changed the level of economic activity of women. The goals and targets set in The Beijing Platform and in the outcome document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of The General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as the goals of The Millennium Declaration have found their reflection in The State Programs and in the National Plan of Action to address the problems of women (2000-2005).

The process of privatization has begun, and nowadays the private sector accounts for more than 70% of the gross domestic product. A new concept has been risen, the "Woman Entrepreneur." Land reform has been put into practice, as a result of which more than one million women have become landowners.

Despite the successful implementation of all aforementioned reforms, problems still exist that stand in the way of implementing a policy of equal rights and equal opportunities.

### **Some Facts:**

- The existence of "mentality" and "social custom" barriers
- Existing stereotypes hampering the development of entrepreneurship among women
- Absence of start-up capital, limited access to micro and macro credits
- Lack of information and knowledge relating to business
- Lack of power in decision-making and in control of family budgets
- Big household/family responsibilities (overload with work)
- Limited opportunities for making alternative job choices
- Less mobility and flexibility than men

It is necessary to solve such problems while in the process of economic reform, the rights of women in process of privatization, the legal and social guarantees for the protection of women's entrepreneurship, the provision of consulting services for women entrepreneurs, networking among women entrepreneurs, etc.

While the Azerbaijan Republic shifts to a market economy, there is great demand for attracting women into this sphere and, most importantly, in rural areas to start small businesses. The provision of micro credits for women dealing with agriculture in rural areas should be ensured and strengthened so that women can operate a business inside and outside the community. Private initiatives should be fostered among women to get knowledge about the law and regarding the new conditions in the economy.

## CONTEXT

The Women Economic Empowerment Survey (WEE) will help to identify the current economic status of women and the communities in which they live. Relationships within the actors of the market value chain do exist inside and outside the community. The survey aims to study and understand the existing market environment, the current linkages between women and stakeholders of the livestock chain and the main factors hampering women's economic development.

This field survey will aid in the understanding of the current economic framework of women, economic skills of women, their level of economic independence, access to the services of livestock market value chain, available economic opportunities, impact of the existing public and private sectors, causes and gaps hampering their economic development and empowerment.

In order to get more comprehensive data, the survey will focus mainly on women actively participating in livestock activities inside and out of the household and with different actors of livestock market value chain inside and outside the community.

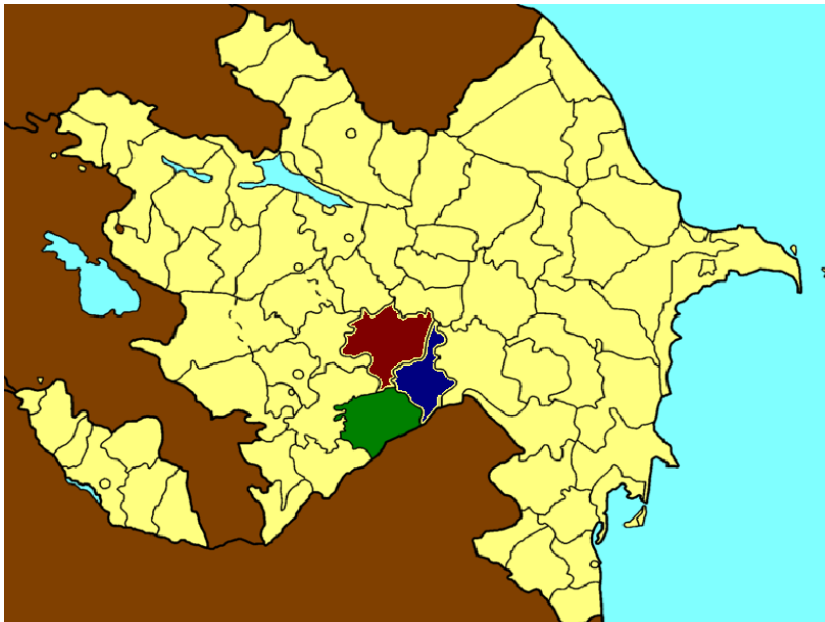
### Objectives

**Component C Objective** - Economic empowerment of women in agricultural markets promoted

Based on the Market Development Approach the WEE Survey aims to:

- ❖ Understand "Why markets don't work for women," "Which actions should be taken to make markets work for women," "What existing markets offer to women?"
- ❖ Analyze the participation and role of women in livestock market value chain.
- ❖ Define active women roles in commercially-based economic activities in rural areas.
- ❖ Define and document gender issues in the target communities of aforementioned districts by conducting a survey on economic empowerment of women in agricultural markets.
- ❖ Provide an analysis of outcomes, define a strategy and submit recommendations to improve women economic empowerment in agriculture market.

## TARGET AREAS



- Agcebedi
- Beylagan
- Fizuli

### **Global Snapshot of Agjabeledi District**

Agjabeledi is located in the central part of Azerbaijan in the Kur-Araz lowland. The district covers an area of 1756 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 107,400 people distributed among 44 villages. The privatization of agriculture in Agjabeledi started in the middle of 1990 and 0.4 ha of land was distributed each member of a family working in the kolkhoz.

The farmers who have access to land pay taxes to the village municipality. In theory the amount paid depends on the category of the land but in practice on the municipality decision. The amount paid per Ha and per year is 10 azn.

Farmers whose agricultural lands are situated in the upper canal irrigate their lands by gravity. WUU represented in the village is responsible for the managing of water distribution to the lands of farmers and collecting of water fees. The amount paid per Ha per year is 10 azn and fixed by WUU.

### **Global Snapshot of Beylagan District**

Beylagan is also located in the central part of Azerbaijan in the Kur-Araz lowland. The district covers an area of 1131 km<sup>2</sup> with an 82,960 population distributed among 38 villages.

Farmers whose agricultural lands are situated in the upper canal irrigate their lands by gravity. WUU represented in the village is responsible for the managing of water distribution to the lands of farmers and collecting of water fees.

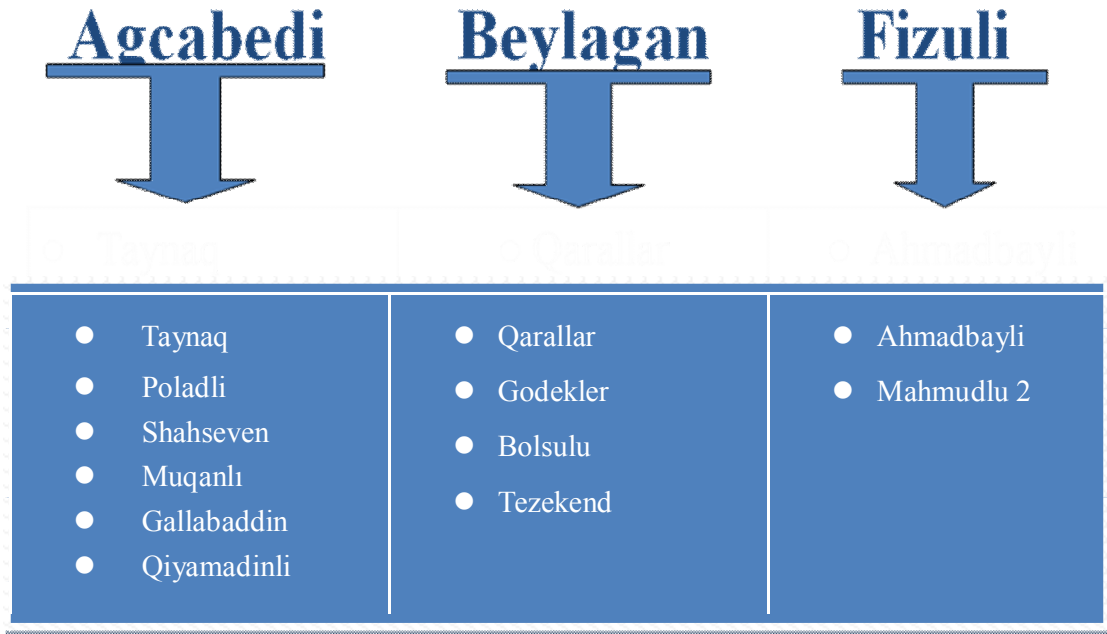
### **Global Snapshot of Fizuli District**

Fizuli a district of Azerbaijan where many people displaced during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region returned to.

The district covers an area of 1131 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of about 30,000 distributed among 21 villages.

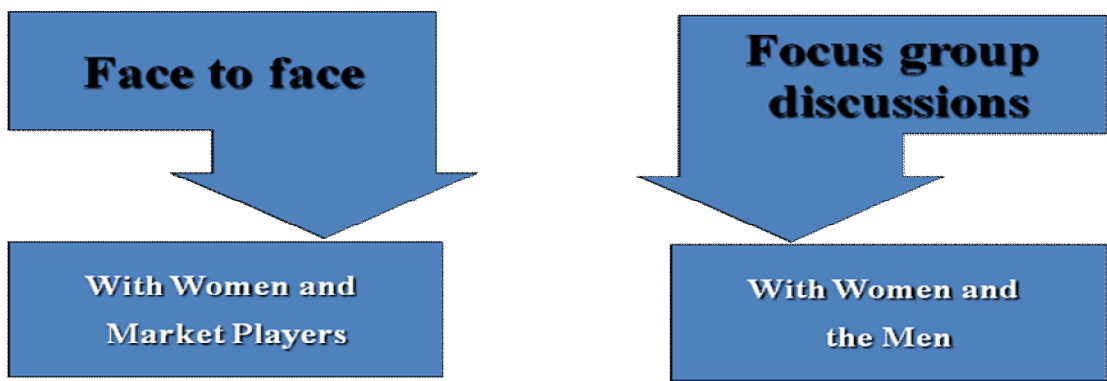
It was completely occupied by the Armenian forces for four months in 1993-1994 and the majority of the population left the district and occupied tent camps in the Bilasuvar area.

Currently some returnees live in the district while a large number of former Fizuli residents live in various other locations of Azerbaijan.



## Survey Methodology

The Survey was conducted by Local Partner, "Uluchay," via Face-to-Face interviews, Focus Group Discussions and interviews with Market Players interacting with ACF target group inside and outside the community, through using the technique of Quantitative Research Methodology.



In the frame of the survey implementation the LP appointed one team leader and three interviewers to conduct 8 interviews with women, 6 interviews with actors of livestock market values chain and one focus group with men and women per village. One interview lasted approximately 45 minutes to an hour per person, which added up to 2-days per community to complete surveying.

Before starting the WEE survey the field team of Uluchay had several meeting in ACF office with ACF staff with the purpose of debriefing on questionnaire forms. The interviewers have been trained and instructed for pilot test by ACF Supervisor. Based on the results of pilot test some changes have been made in questionnaire forms for the FTF interviews.

In the initial stage of the survey the project staff of Uluchay contacted the local municipality and the local authority of aforementioned districts in order to provide needed space to hold the surveys. Priority for interviewers was given mostly to women, as they were the main target group of the project. In order to contact local women active in livestock activities in the community the field team used different approaches such as meeting with women at water points, cultivation fields, etc. During the initial meeting process in each visited village the list of women active in livestock activities were made up by LPs in order in case of rejection from participation next random selection could be possible to make from the available list.

## Targeting & Sampling

In total the sample size comprised of 80 face-to-face interviews and 20 focus groups with men and women to be organized in all targeted communities to compare survey data and obtain alternative opinion. The focus group discussions were organized with 3 to 5 men per community who are active in agricultural/livestock activities. Each discussion group took approximately one hour.

The whole survey period was divided into two stages:

In the 1st stage, there were 4 interviews with women, 2 interviews with actors of market value chain and 1 focus group discussion with men and women per village. There was a small break and the same order followed in the second stage.

The LP was responsible for defining the existing actors of the livestock market value chain operating inside and outside the community, mainly in Fodder, AI, Irrigation, Vet, Machinery, MFI, etc as LP was required to initiate the defining and involvement of those actors in process.

It was defined that 60 percent of surveys will represent females, 30 percent actors of market value chain and only 10 percent male.

*Sampling table*

<u>District</u>	<u># of village</u>	<u>Face to Face women</u>	<u>Market Players</u>	<u>Focus Group Discussion</u>	
				<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<u>Agcabedi</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Beylagan</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Fizuli</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Total number</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>120</u>

## Survey Tools

The questionnaire forms of quantitative and qualitative research for FTF, FGD and MP (women/men and stakeholders) have been designed and developed in mutual consultation with



ACF and LP Uluchay. Afterwards the questionnaire forms have been delivered to ACF External Consultant from Springfield for validation and approval.

The questionnaire form of FTF consisted of approximately 73 open and close-ended questions and lasted 45 minutes up to 1 hour. However the potential areas of discussions in FTF, FGD and interview with MP have been focused on economic potential for women in agribusiness, private sectors (mainly livestock), main constrains and opportunities in empowerment of women. The idea was to define how the farmers deal with MP in terms of selling and buying of agricultural products and using the services and information, pinpoint the existing MP both inside and outside the community with whom the target group economically active farmers (men and women) deal with and to define the existing resources, opportunities, constrains that TG faces in interacting with MP and possible solutions for future intervention of **Component C**.

*The questionnaires included questions that helped to reveal information on the following indicators:*

- Level of economic independence of women
- Access of women to family budget and spending
- Access of women to information of livestock market
- Access of women to different actors of livestock market value chain
- Main duties of women at home (agricultural & non-agricultural activities)
- Role of women in selling and buying of livestock related inputs
- Factors hampering the economic development and empowerment of women
- Opportunities for economic empowerment of women

### Timing

The survey was carried out in April-May 2008 in 10 selected villages of the targeted districts( 4 in Agjabedi, 4 in Beylagan and 2 in Fizuli). Generally one full month was allocated for the implementation of this field survey.

Activities	Month & Week							
	March	April	May				June	
		Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2
TOR & Questionnaire design								
Debriefing of questionnaire forms								
Pilot test of questionnaire								
Face-to-Face interviews with women								
Focus Group Discussions with men & women								
Interviews with Market Players								
Data entry & analysis								
Final Report Development								

# RESULTS

## Livestock Market Value Chain analysis (Why markets do not work for poor women)

### Survey Outputs

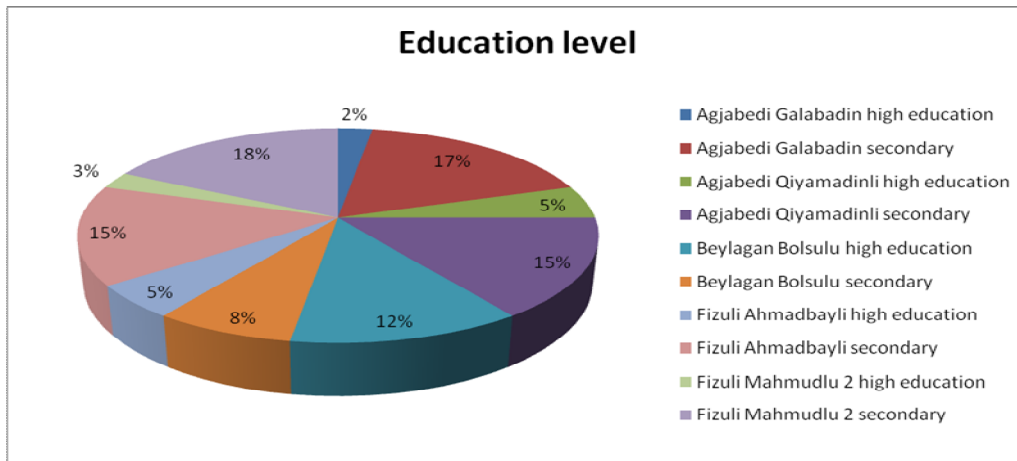
Questionnaire form was divided into 8 Chapters: information about Micro-Finance services, Veterinary services, Water Users Unions, Machinery services, land services, input services, Artificial Insemination services and general information access for women. All three surveyed districts are allocated geographically close to each other; people living there are accessing almost same resources, services, sharing same customs and mentality. Through survey process it was determined that in many surveyed villages results are coming to the same conclusion as in previous one. Thus in survey analysis some diagrams are brought for one certain community and can be used for others as well – to certain chapters.

Below is the example charts for some villages in Beylagan, Agjabedi and Fizuli. Charts identify roles of women, problems women face in certain communities and shows possible solutions to those problems.

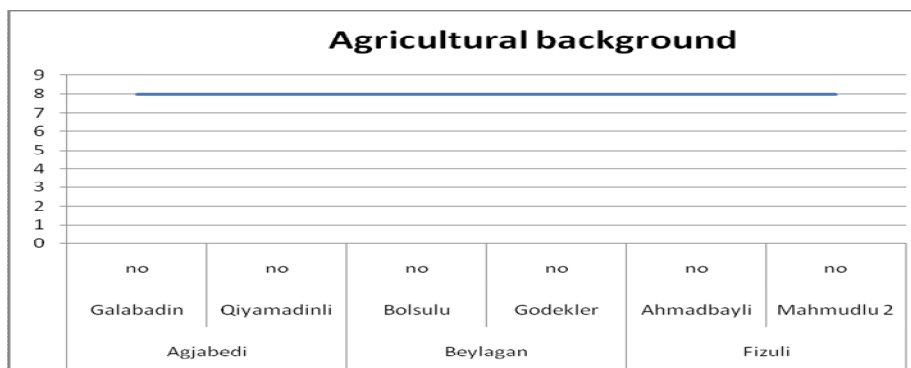
**We bring some results received during interrogations, on example of two villages from each area**

### **Analysis of incomes**

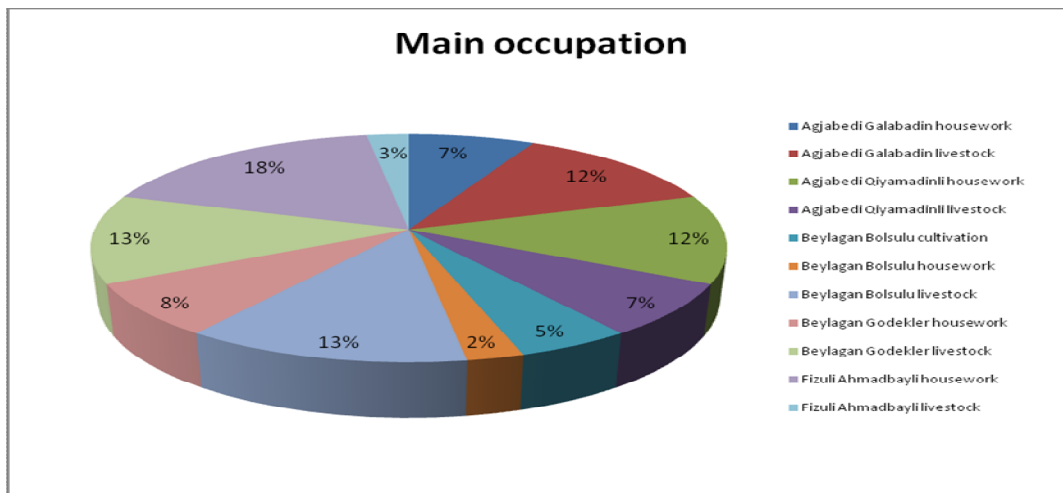
#### Education level:



#### Do you have any agricultural background?

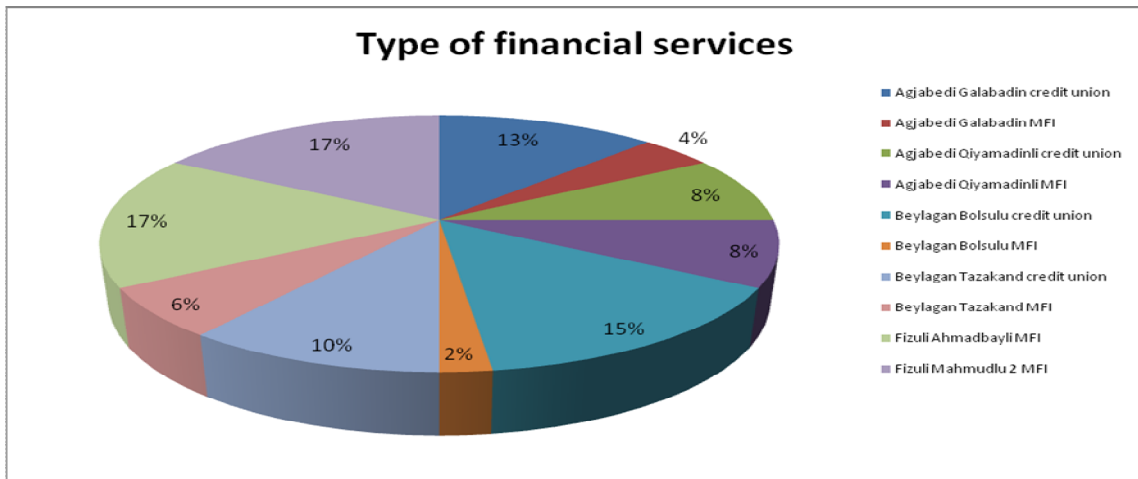


## What is your main occupation?

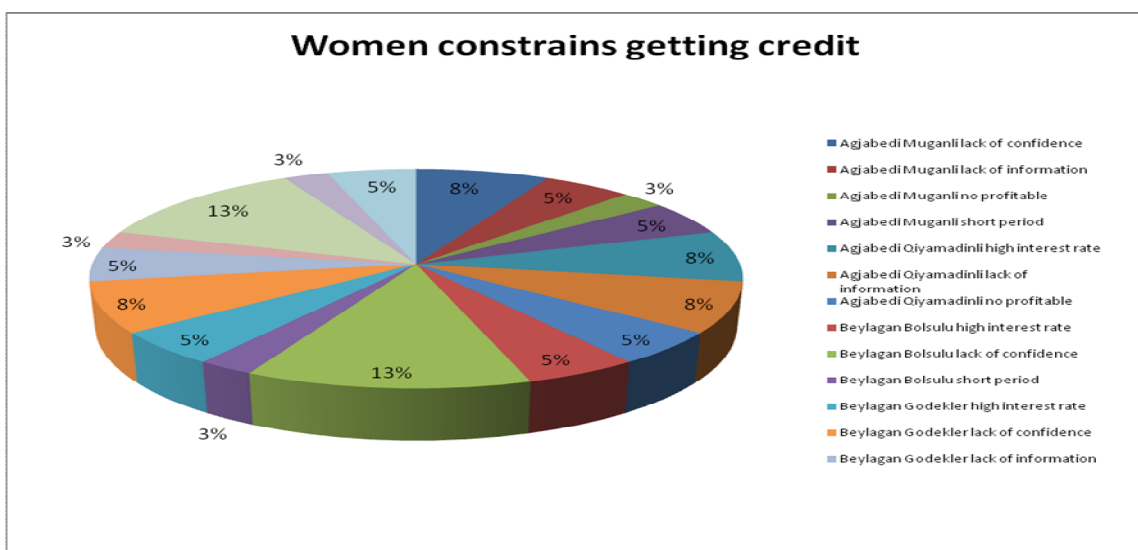


## Micro-Finance services

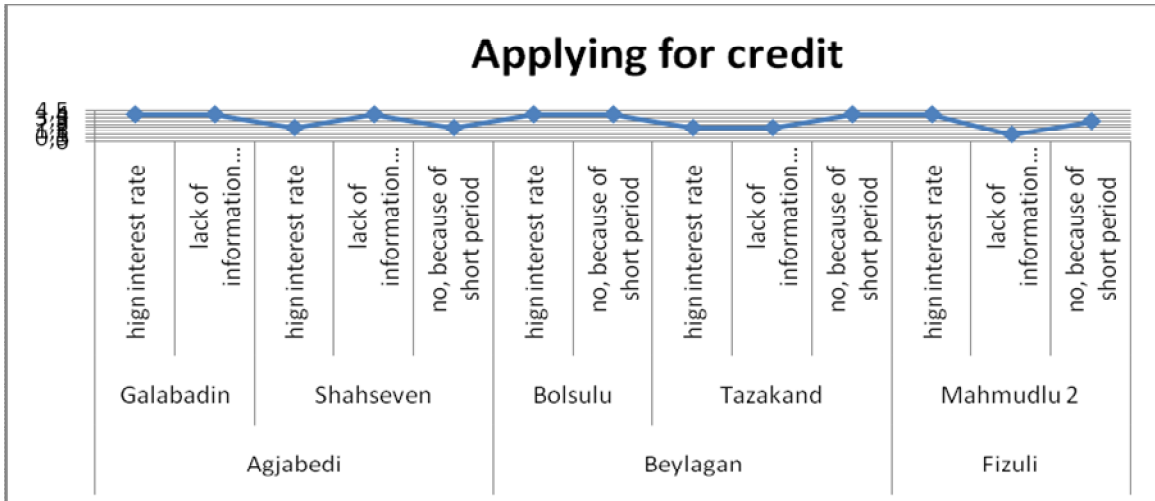
### What type of financial services you have in your village?



### What are the main constrains of women to get credit?

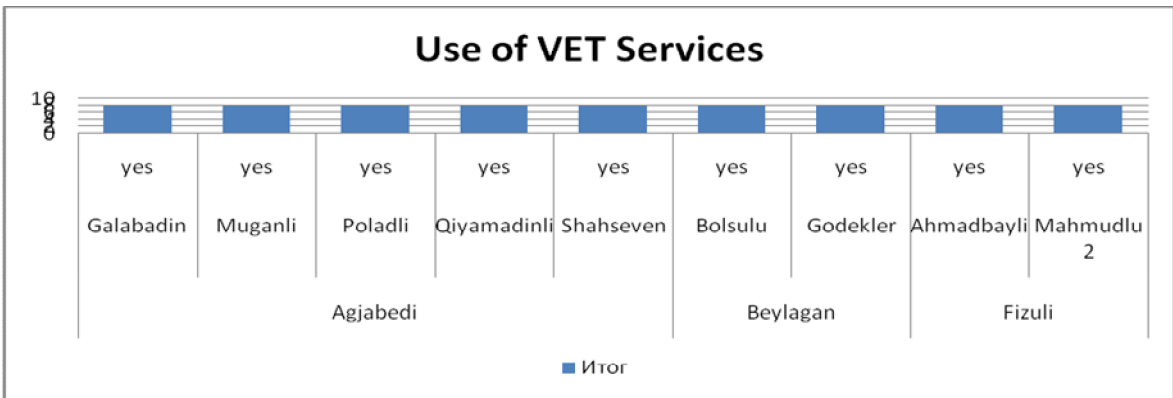


Have you asked for credit?

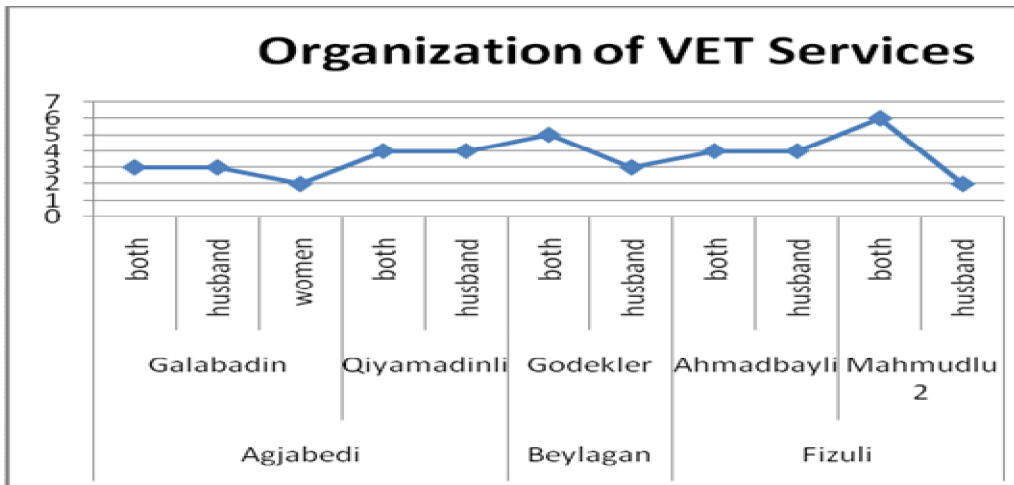


## Veterinary services

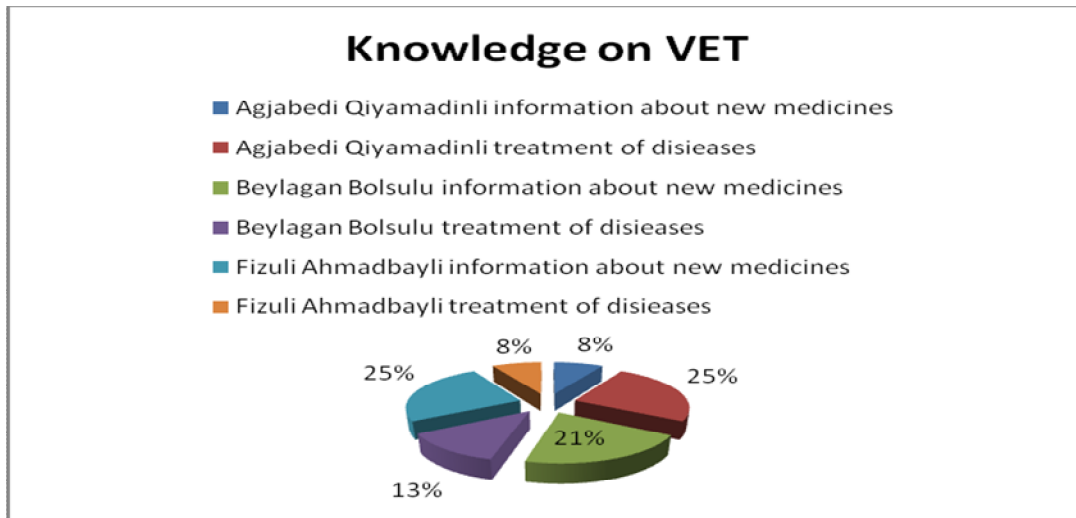
Do you use vet services?



Who is usually organizing with vet services in the family?

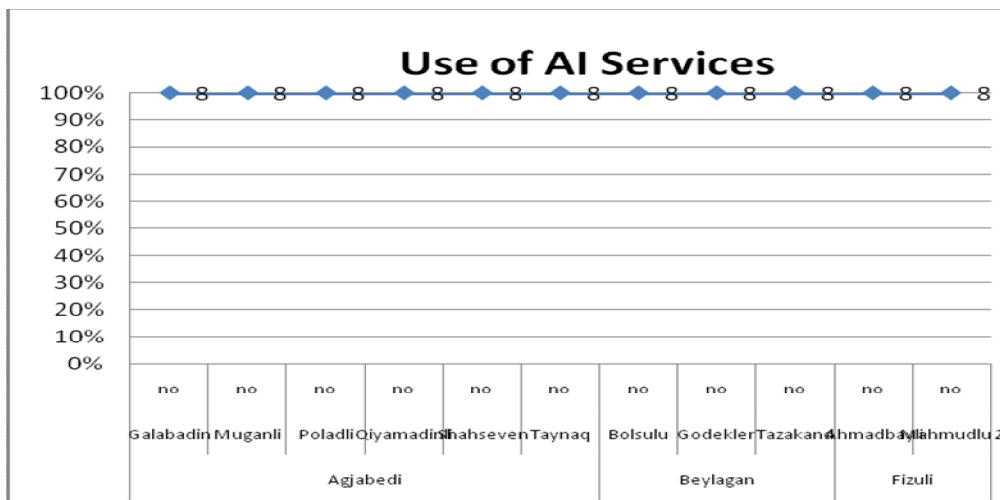
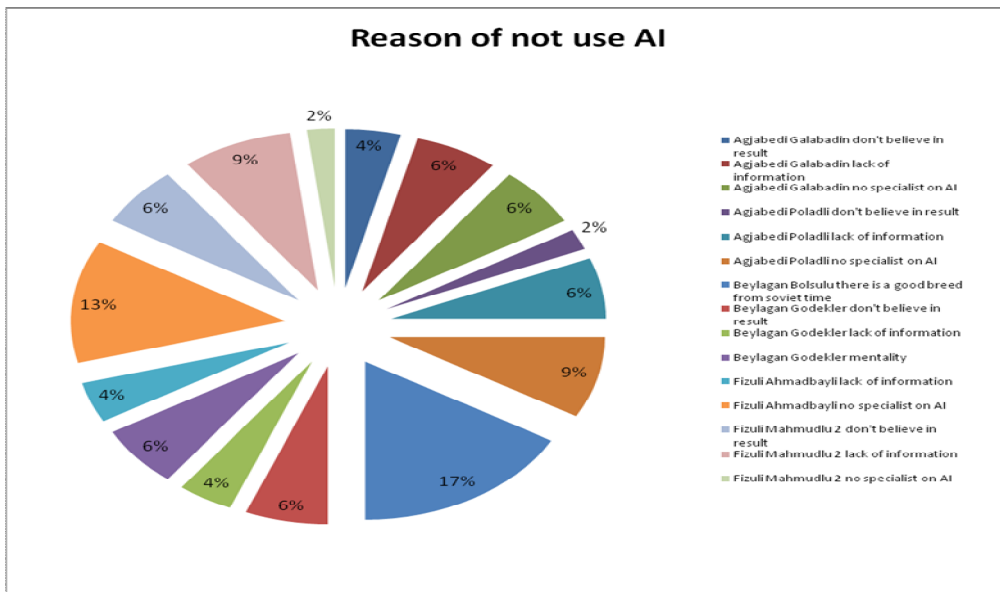


What you would like to know about Vet Services for your livestock activities.



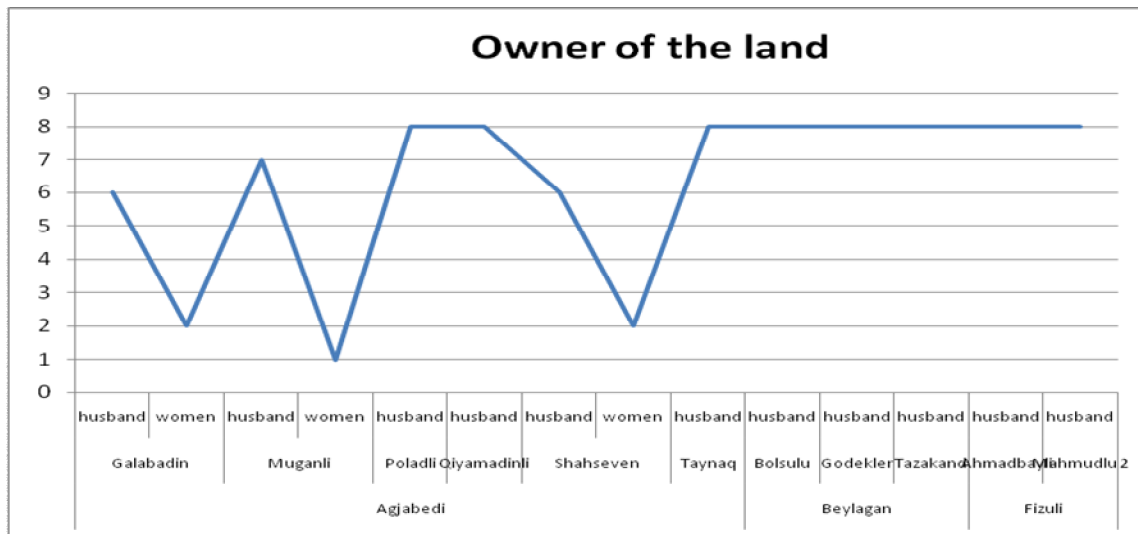
## Artificial Insemination

Is there any reason why you will not use AI services?

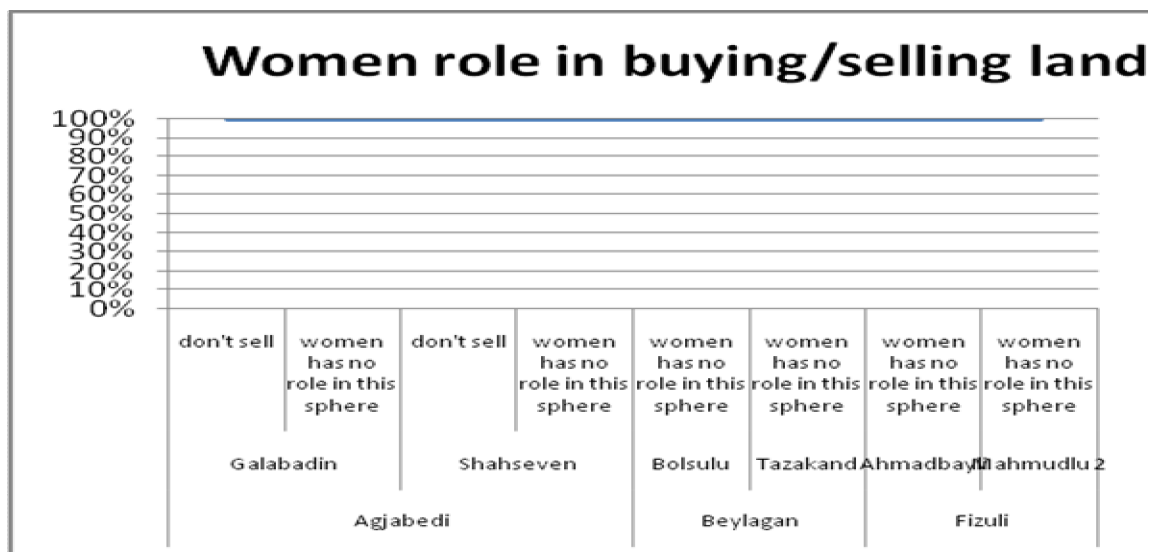


## Land services

Who is the legal owner of the land?

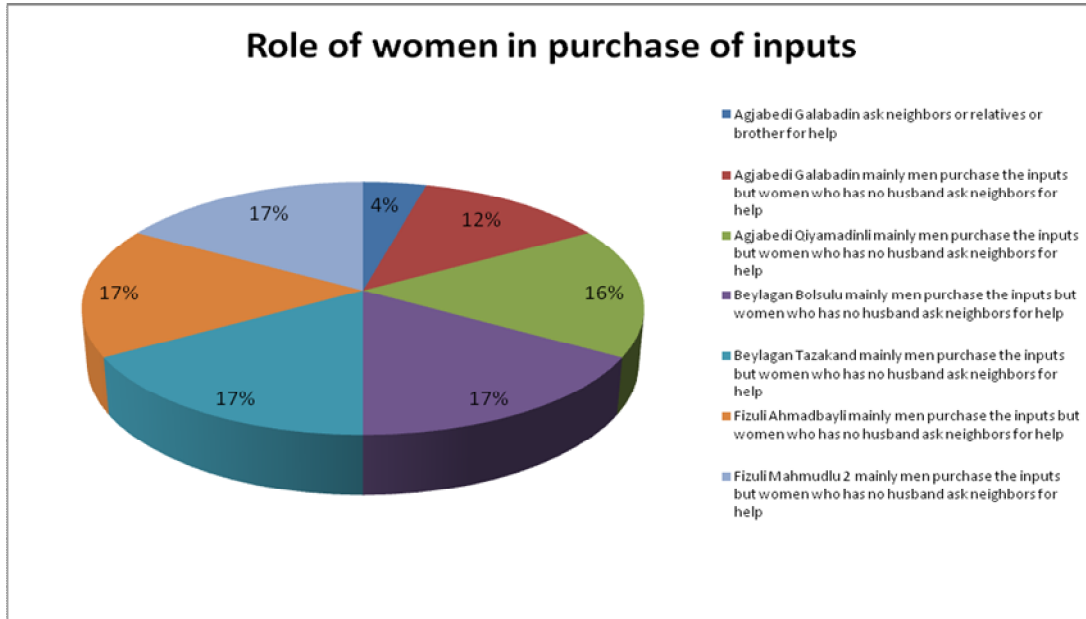


What is the women role in buying and selling the land? 100% none role

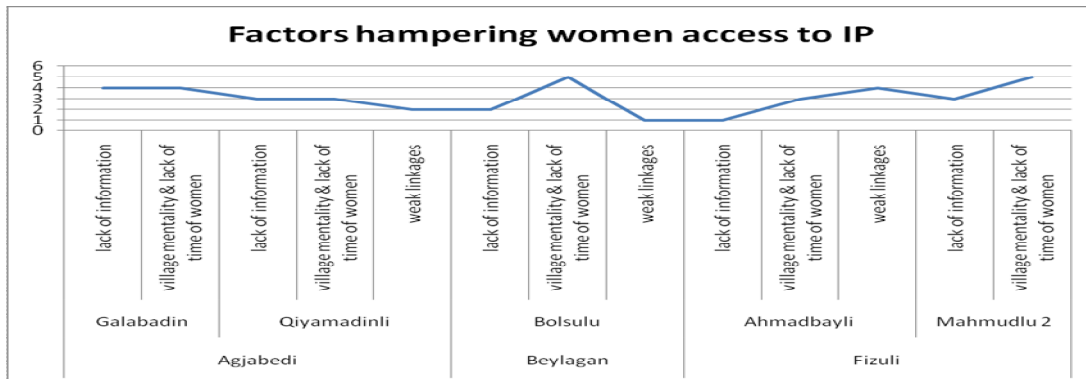


## Input services

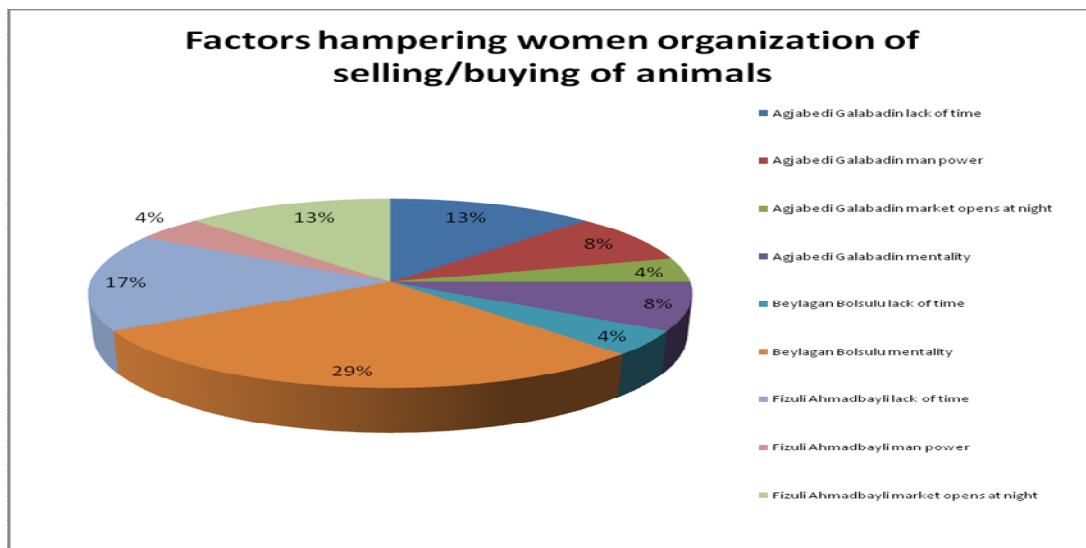
What is the role of women in purchasing of agricultural inputs?



What factors hamper women access to input providers? (3 max by priority)

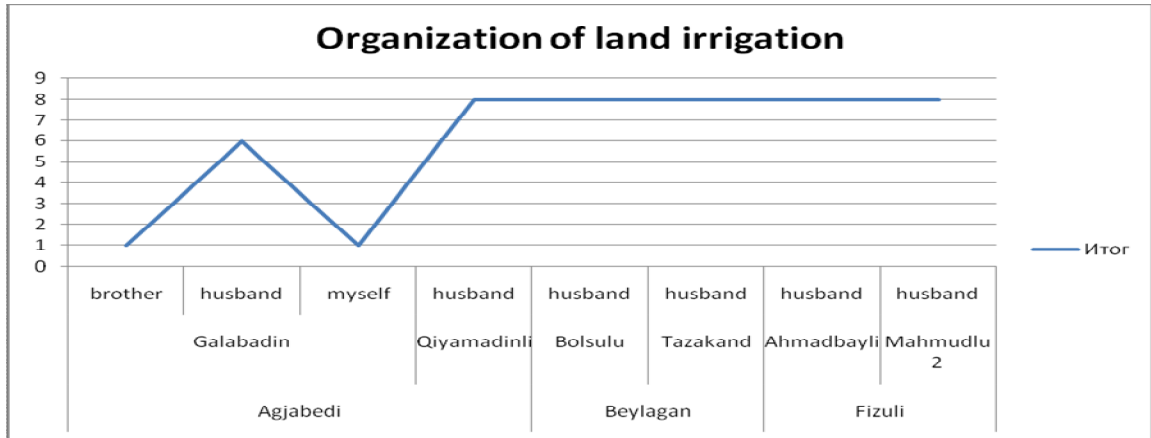


What factors hamper the women to make decision and organize the selling/purchase of animals?

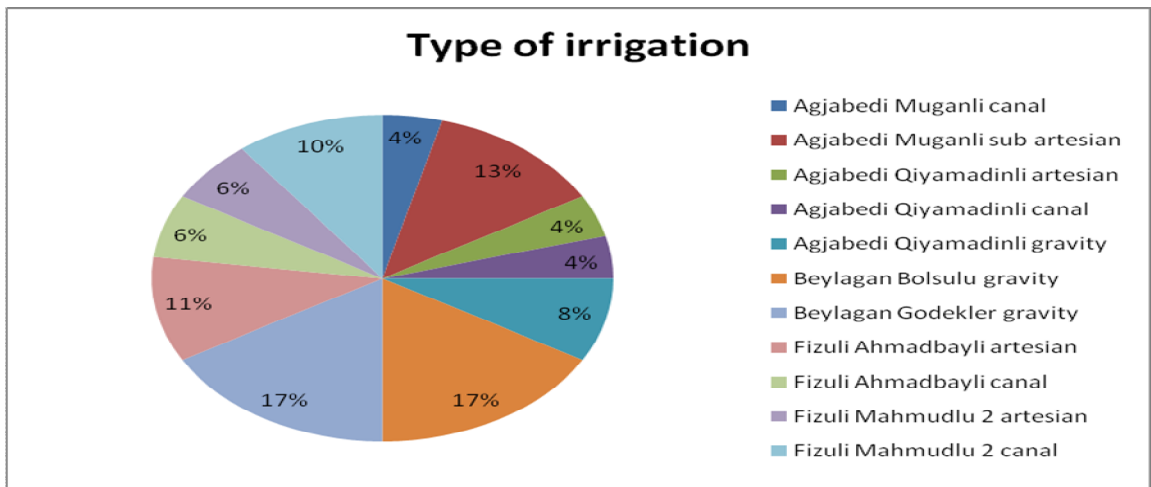


# Water Users Unions

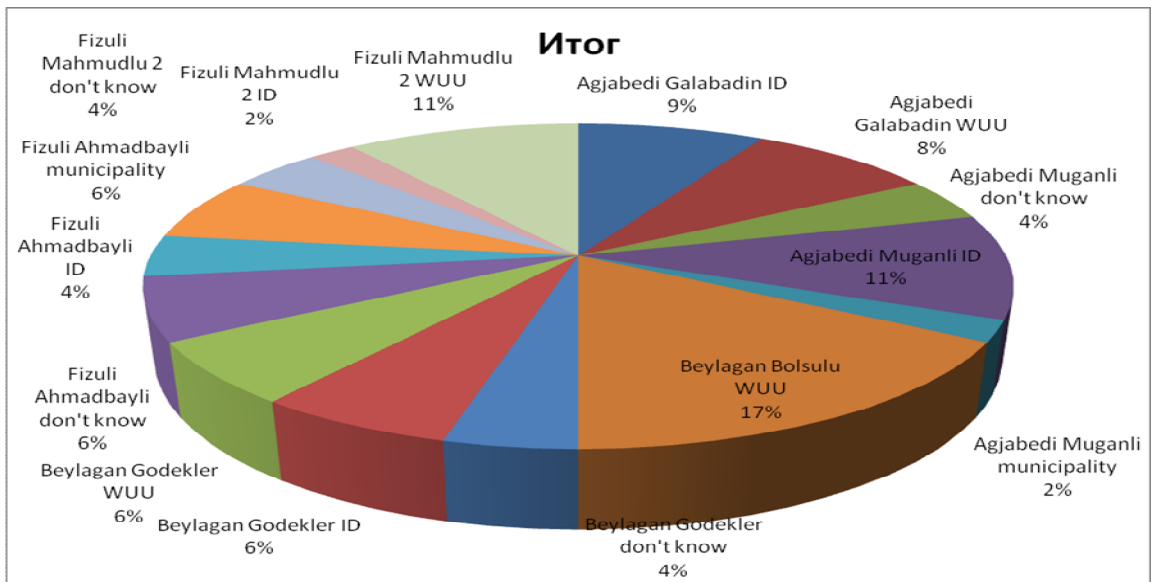
Who organizes the irrigation of lands?



What type of irrigation do you use?



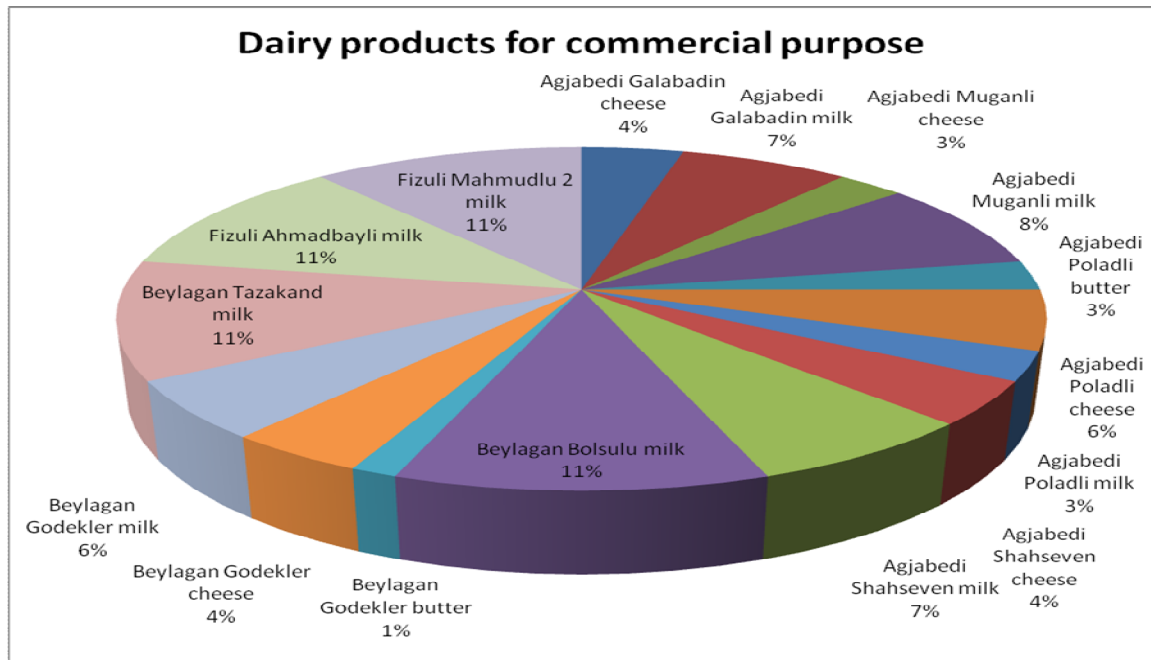
What entity do you pay for irrigation?



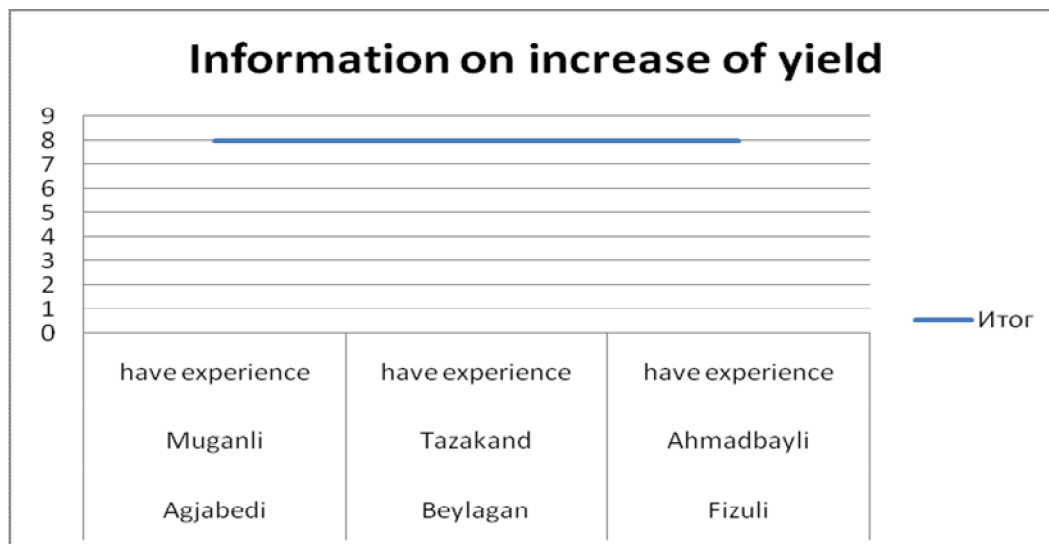


## Analysis of processing

What dairy products are you making for commercial activities?

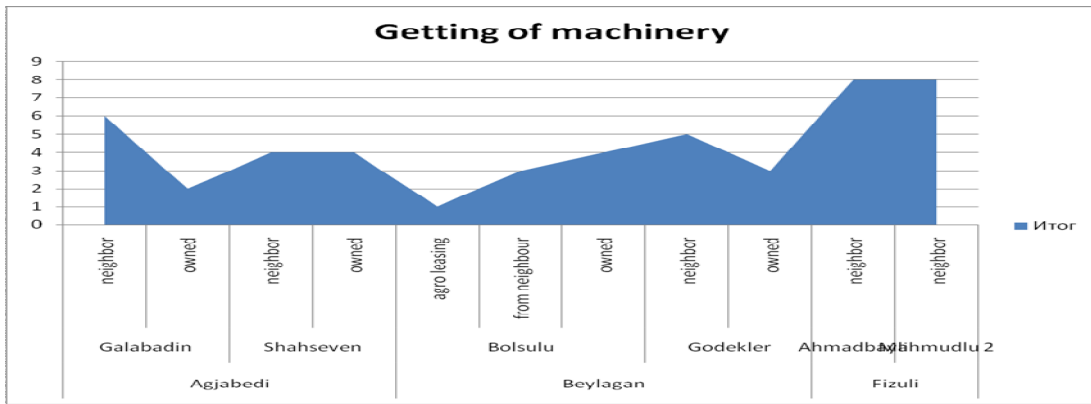


Who provides the information and services for increasing milk yield and quantity?

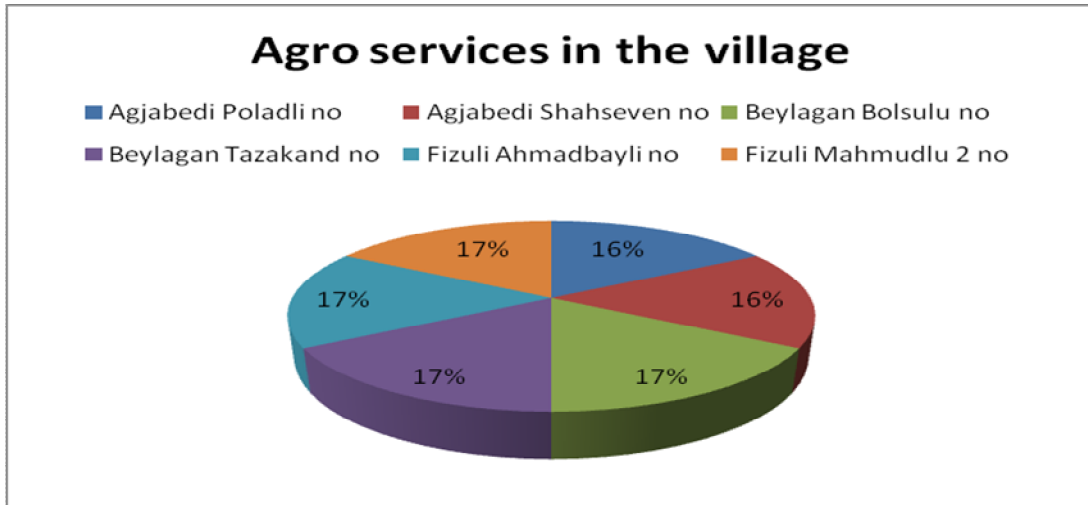


## Analysis of Machinery

Where do you get the machinery that you use?



Are there any agro-services in your village?



Are there any types of machinery women use and which type?

