

Farmers objectives and environmental concerns in Aurland coastal mountains, Norway

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Introduction

Small-scale sheep and goat farming in Norway is an important activity in remote areas (north-alpine mountains and fjords).

This activity represents a minor and decreasing contribution to the local economy, which is largely dependent on tourism linked to aesthetic value of natural and cultural landscapes.

However, sheep and goat farming is essential to maintain cultural landscape and provides other public goods or services such as cultural heritage and traditional food products of differentiated quality.

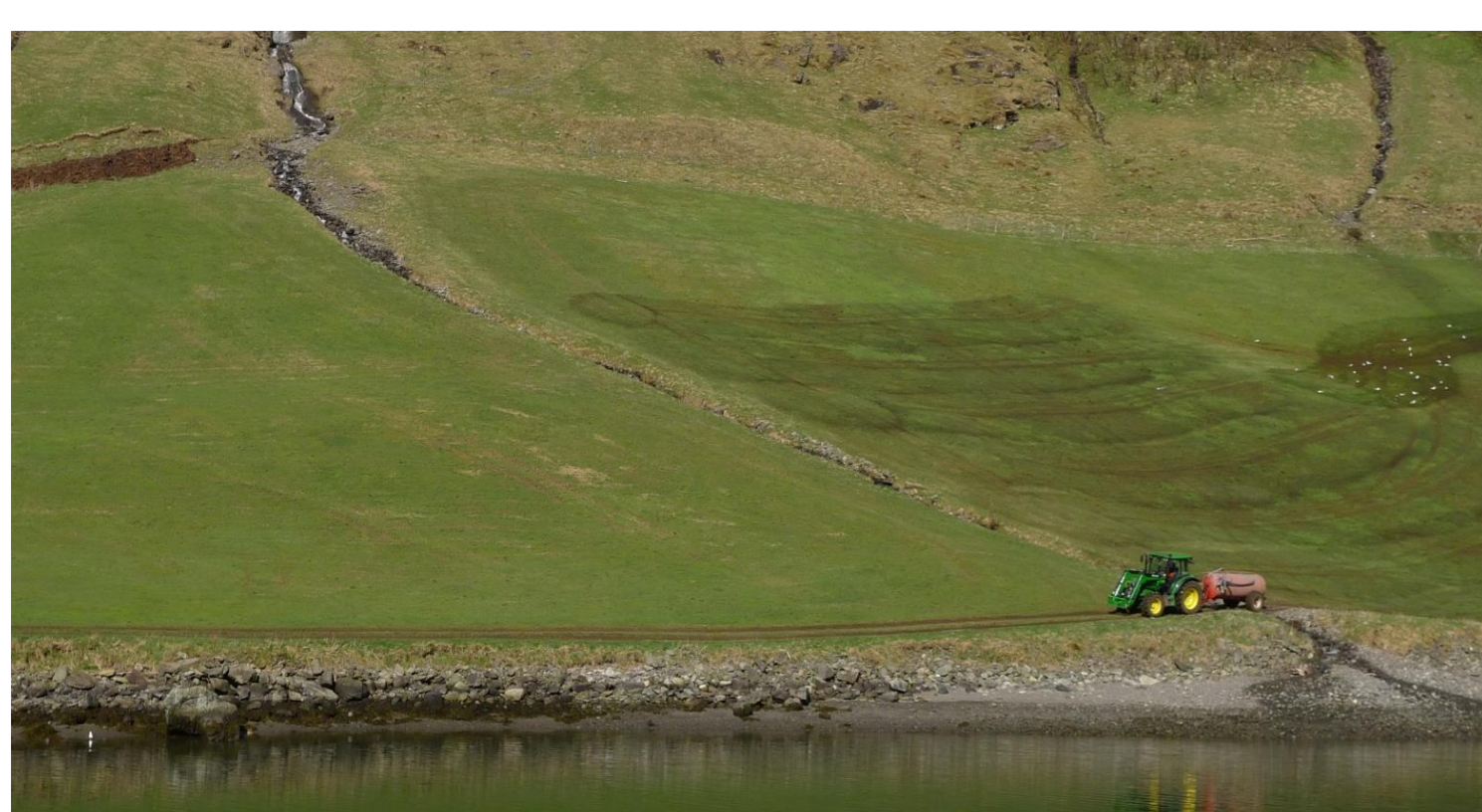
Continuity of farms is a central issue when assessing the sustainability of these agro-ecosystems in the short-medium term.

Objectives

- To know farmers' objectives, and their relative importance, in relation to farming.
- To know the main opinions of farmers on issues related to agriculture and the social and economic environment.
- To know their perception on environmental services and disservices linked to livestock production in mountain and fjord areas.

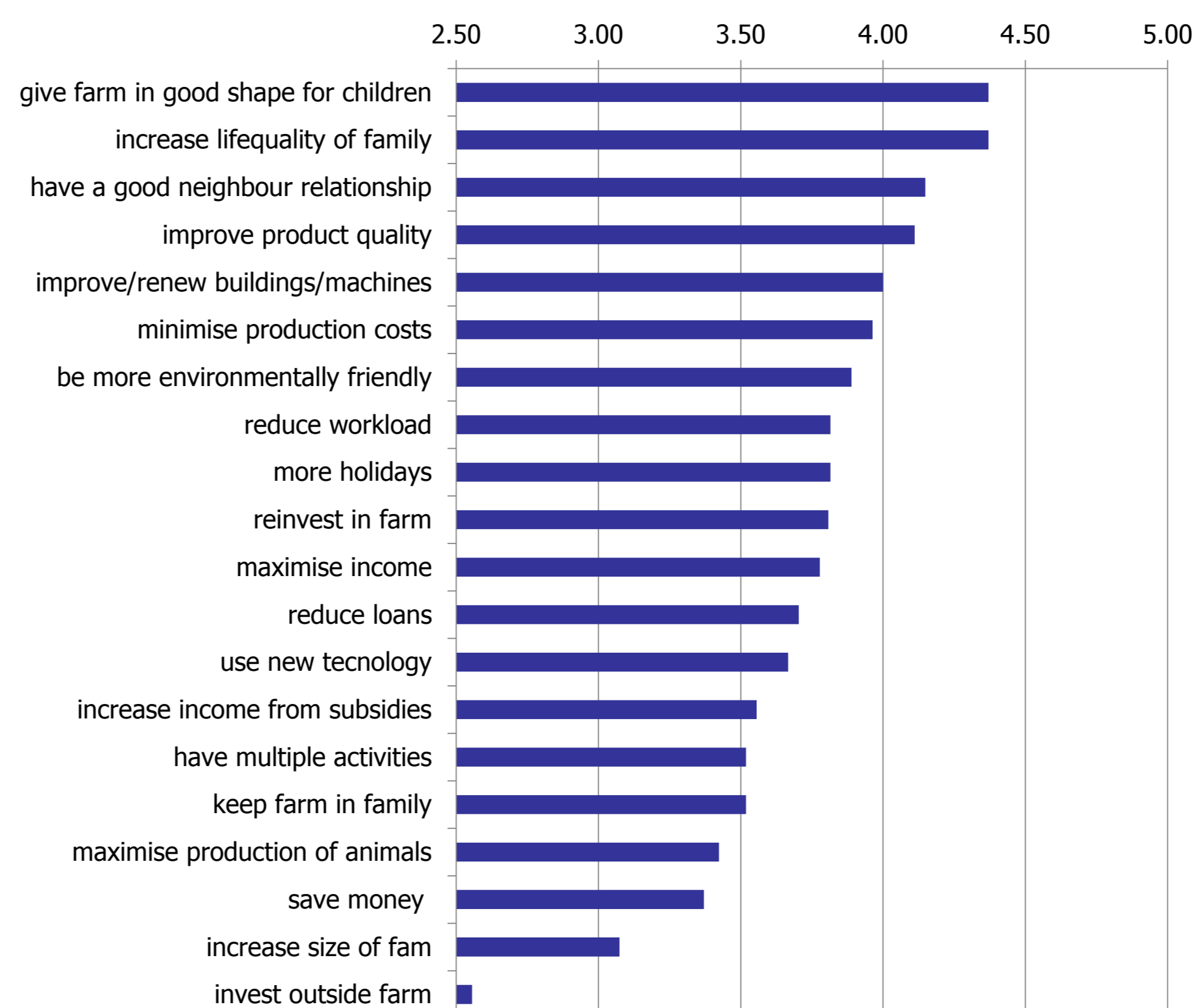
Methods

- Twenty-seven farms in Flåm and Aurland (48% of total number of farms) were surveyed with a face to face questionnaire.
- Data on (i) farming recent changes and prospects for changes in the future; (ii) farmers objectives and opinions on their own activity; (iii) farmers perceptions on relationships between farming and the environment; (iv) farm structure; (v) family composition and labour; (vi) land use; (vii) grazing and herd management.
- Five-points Likert scale questions to measure objectives and opinions; open questions to assess environmental services and disservices of farming

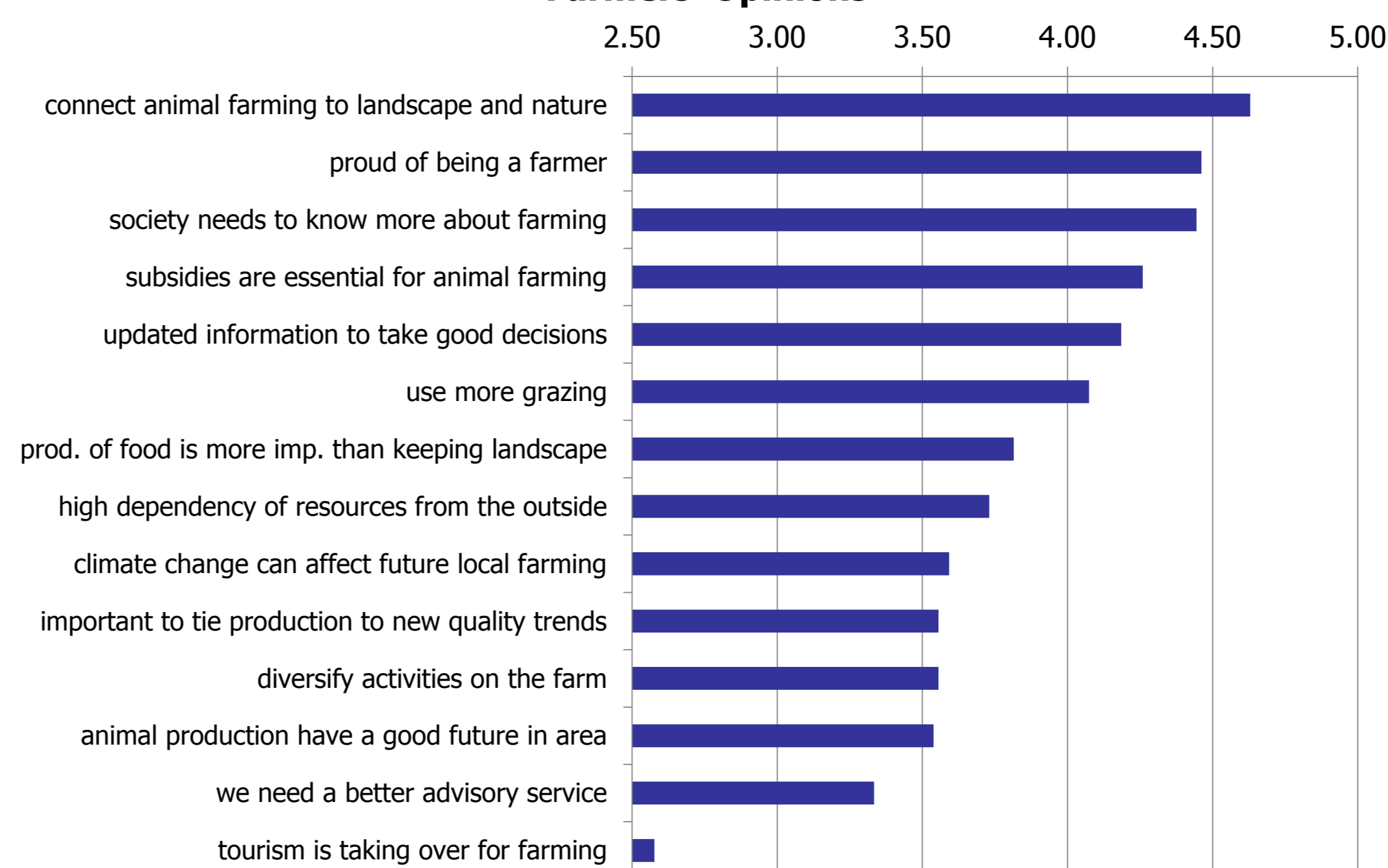


Results

Farmers' Objectives

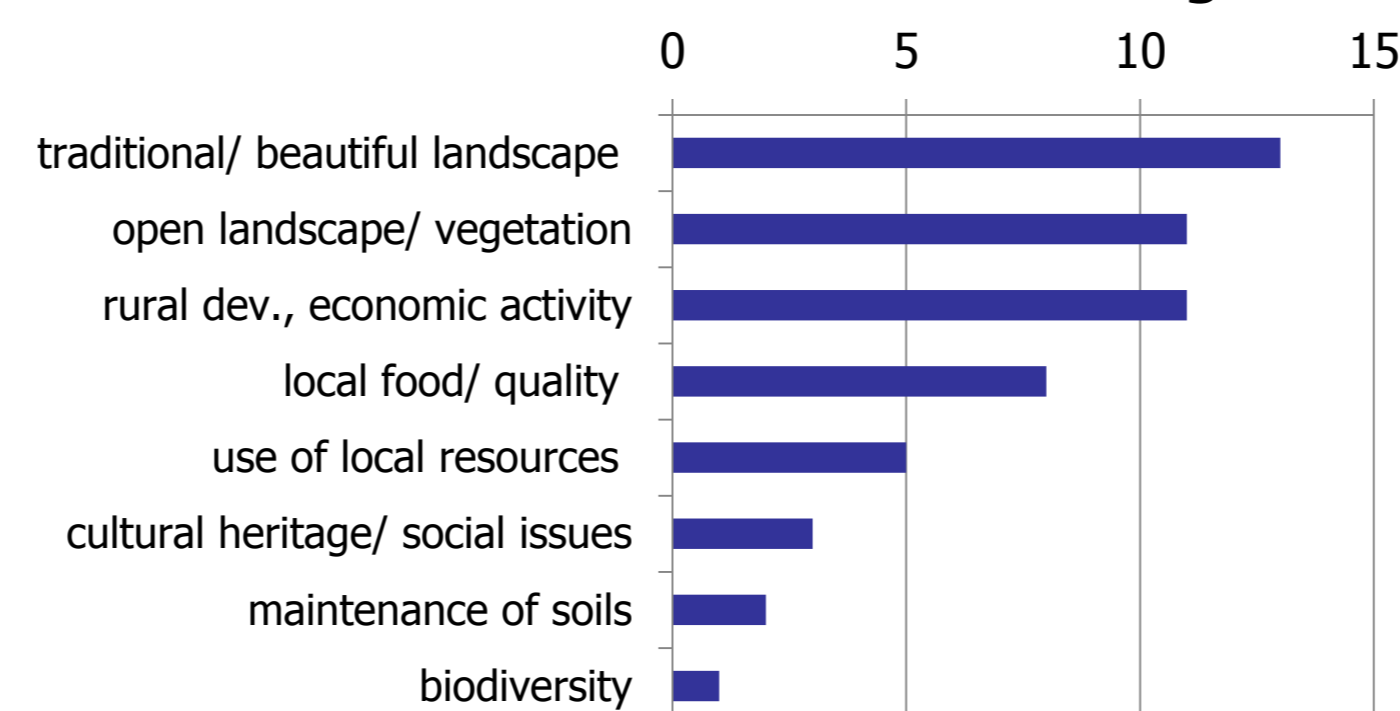


Farmers' Opinions



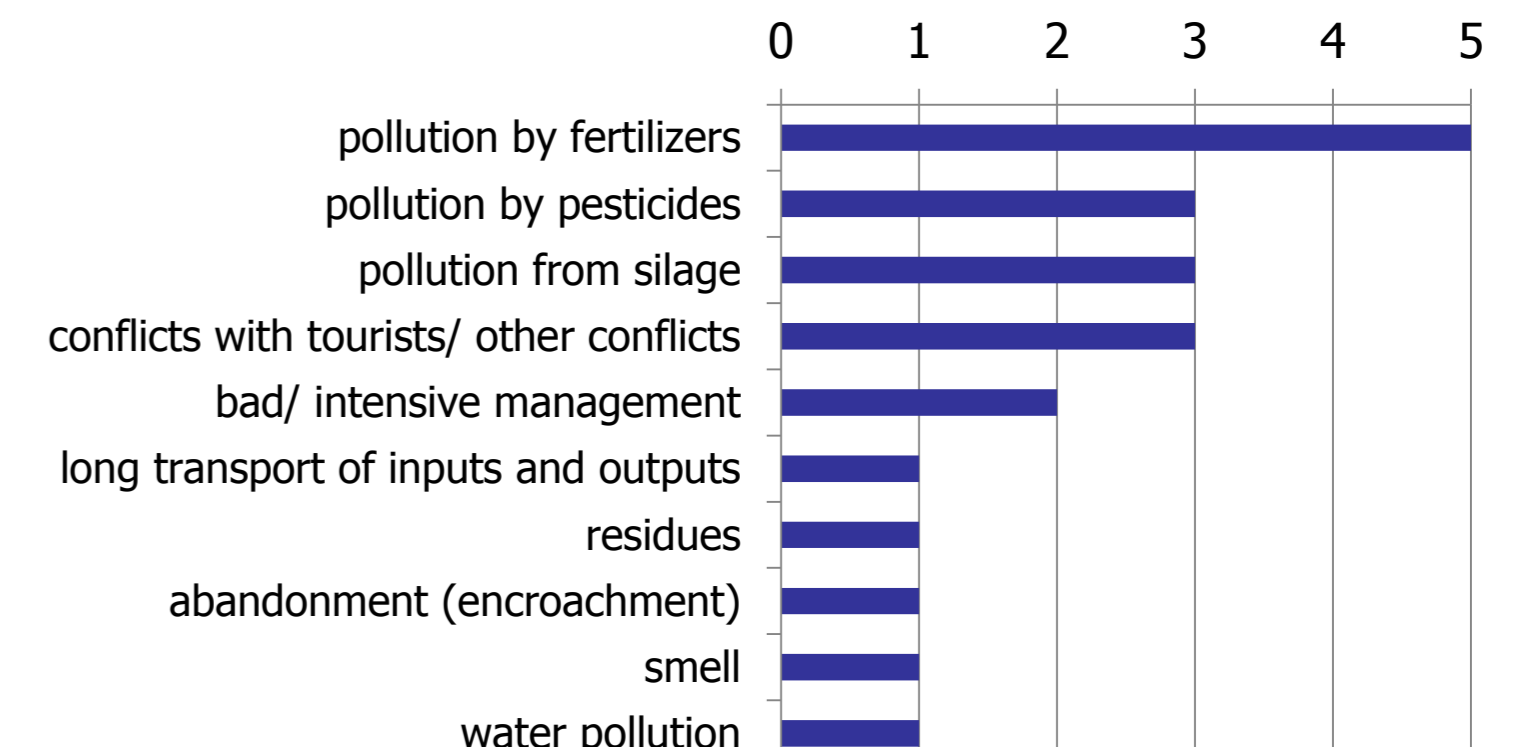
Scale: 1. not important at all; 2. not very important; 3. neutral; 4. important; 5. very important

Environmental services of farming



Scale: number of times mentioned by farmers

Environmental disservices of farming



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