



Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek

Farmers' expectations and experiences with alternatives for surgical castration

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Agricultural and Fisheries Policy Area

Evaluation of farmers' expectations and experiences

2009 Expectations

**19 farmers
perform 4
alternatives**

**Same evaluation of alternatives
in 2009 and 2011:**

- Questionnaire with issue statements
- Ranking of the 5 treatments (control + 4 alternatives)

2011 Experience

Evaluated alternatives



Control

- Routine castration practice



Castration with CO₂-anaesthesia

- Clinical trial, in cooperation with ZTC (Lovenjoel, Belgium)



Castration with analgesia

- Metacam[®] 10 to 15 minutes before castration



Entire male pigs

- Slaughtered at normal slaughter weight



Immunocastration

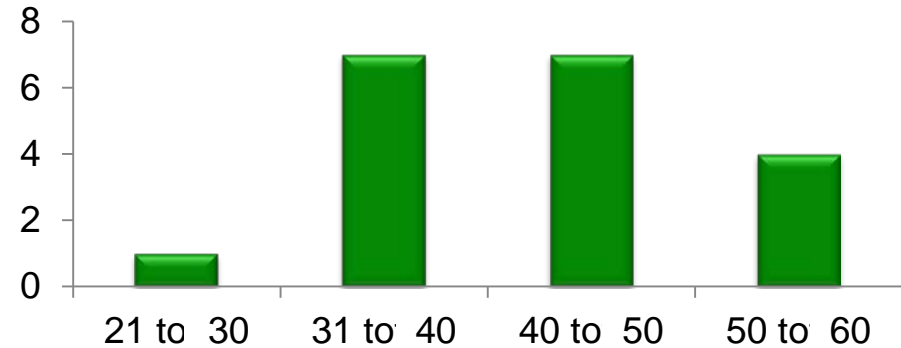
- Two vaccinations with Improvac[®]

Experimental set-up



- 19 farmers
- 120 male pigs/treatment
- Single sex rearing
- All 5 treatments in random order

Age farmers (year)



Results

- 19 farmers
- 4 alternatives + control
- 2 time points (“before” and “after”)
- Issue statements and ranking of preference



- Time x alternative
change of opinion due to experience (and time)
 - Farmer
different farmer, different preference
- Limitations for generalization

Issue statement

Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)



Evaluated alternatives

MET

P-value

Farmer

CO2

Alternative

Time

IMP

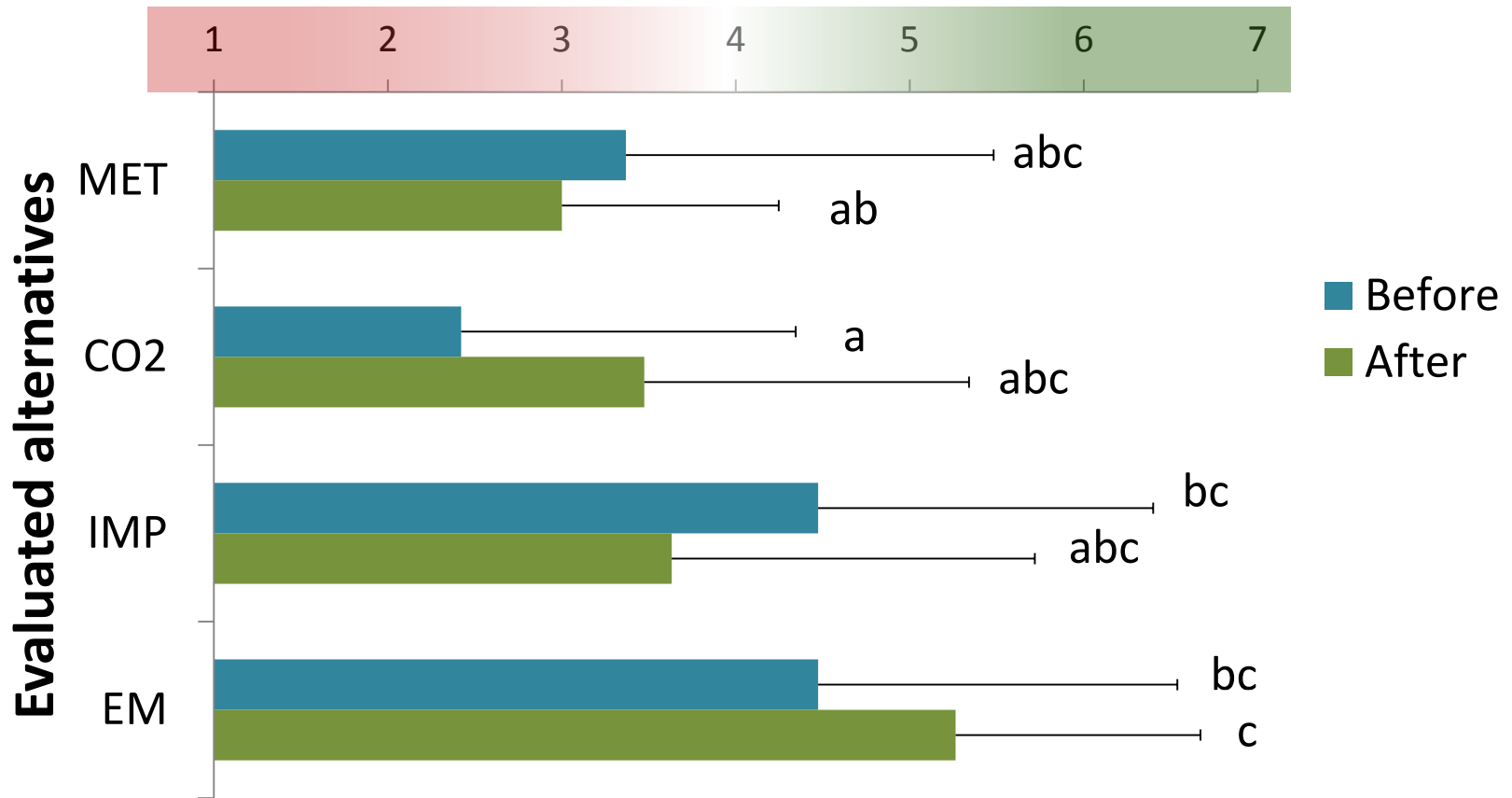
Time x Farmer

Time x Alternative

EM

Easy to perform

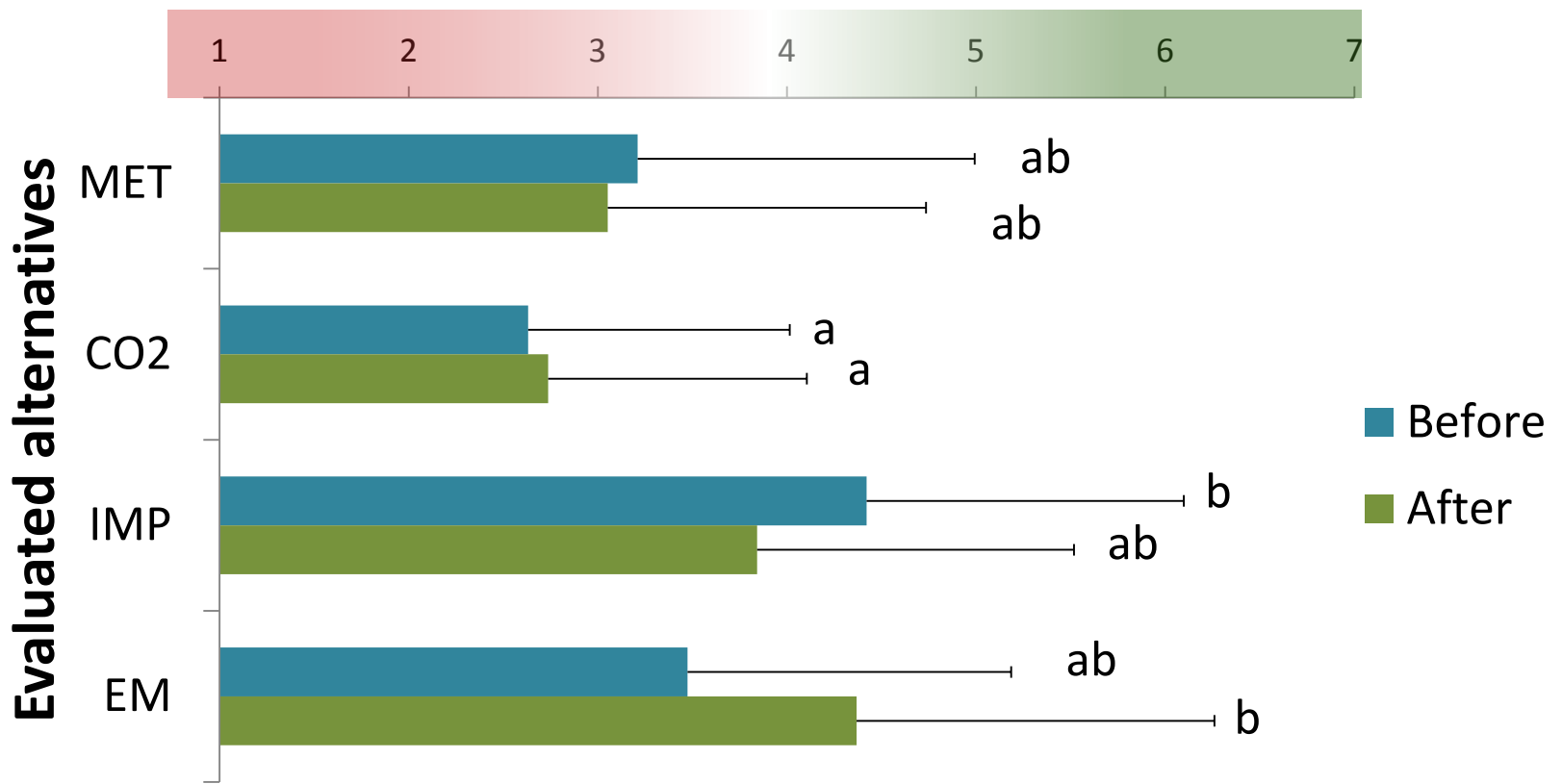
Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)



Before: CO₂ < IMP, EM
 After: MET < EM

	P-value
Alternative	0.001
Time	0.564
Time x Alternative	0.049

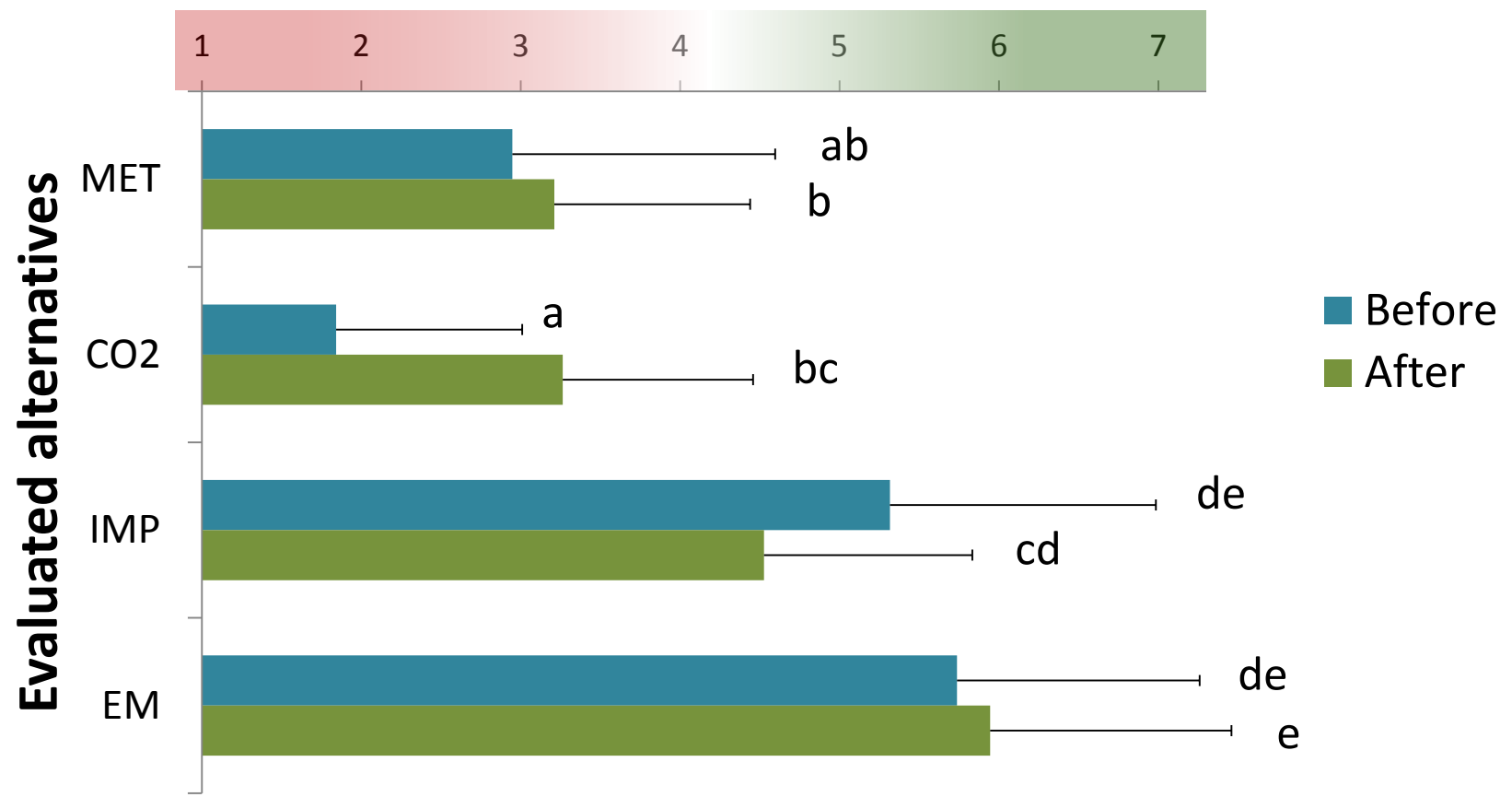
Worthwhile performing
 Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)



Before: CO₂ < IMP
 After: CO₂ < EM

	P-value
Alternative	0.001
Time	0.711
Time x Alternative	0.035

Better performance
 Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)

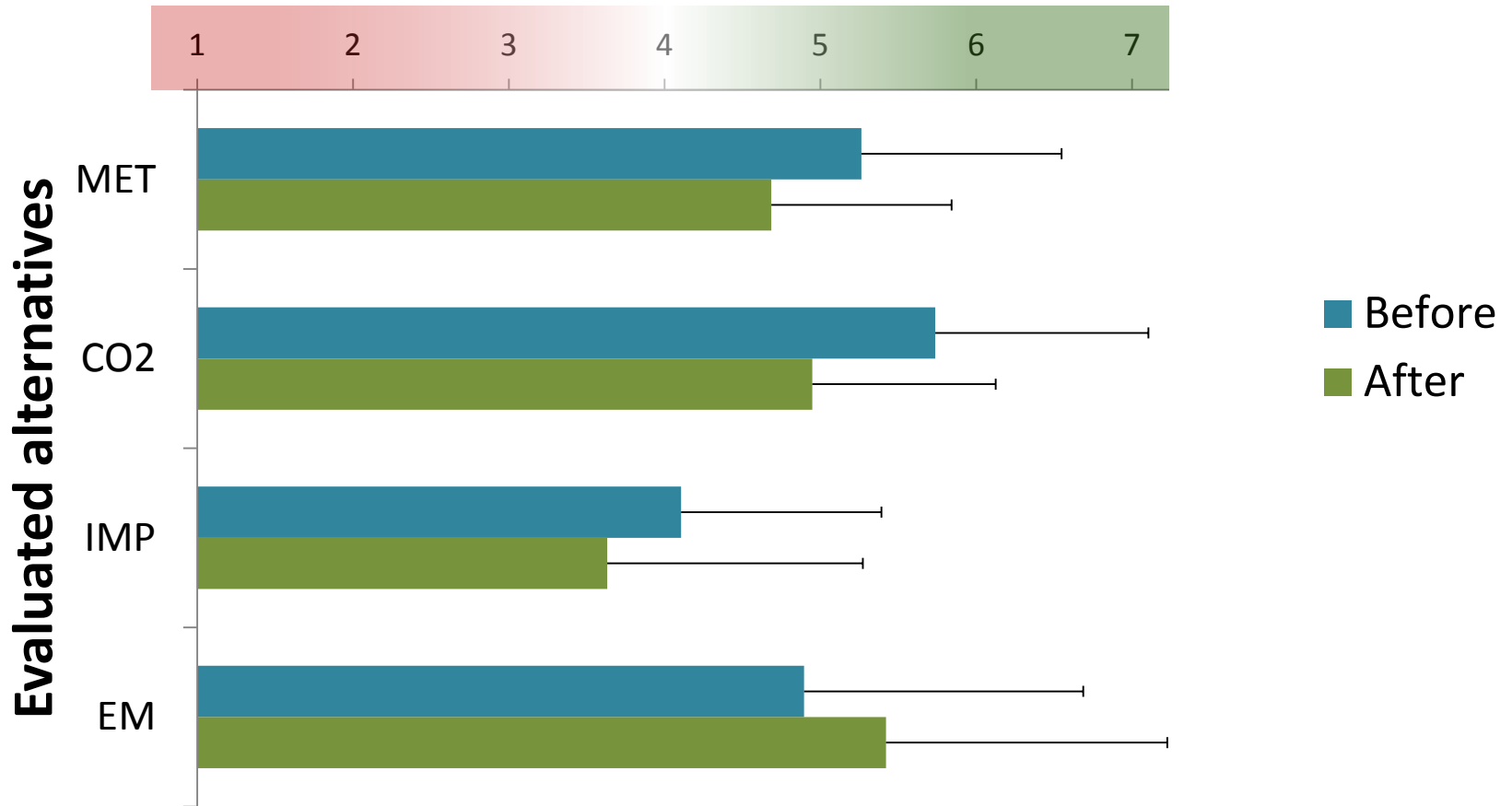


Before: CO₂, MET < IMP, EM
 After: MET ≤ CO₂ ≤ IMP < EM

	P-value
Alternative	<0.001
Time	0.114
Time x Alternative	0.002

Better consumer acceptance

Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)

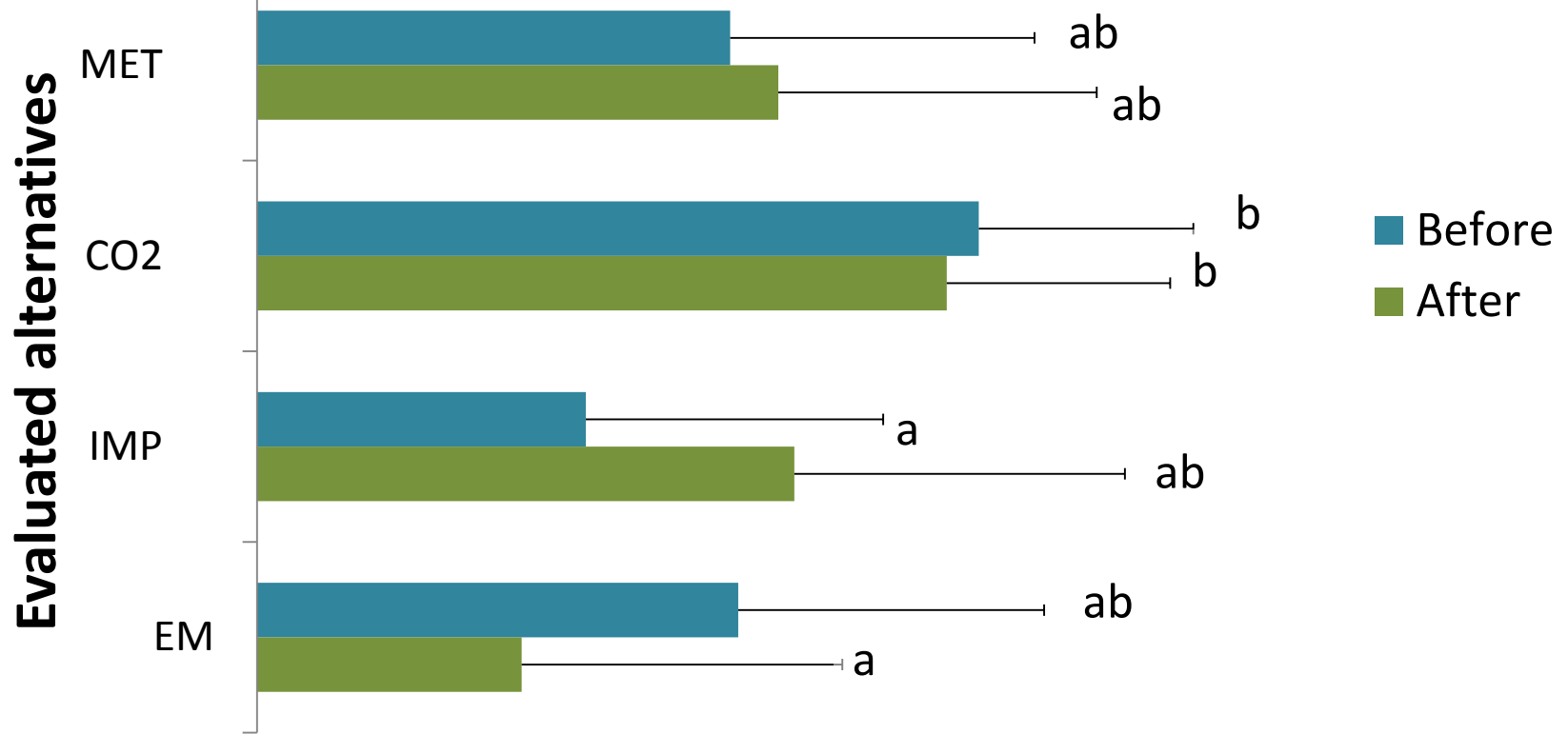


IMP < MET, EM, CO2

	P-value
Alternative	<0.001
Time	0.068
Time x Alternative	0.052

I don't want to perform

Totally disagree (1) to totally agree (7)

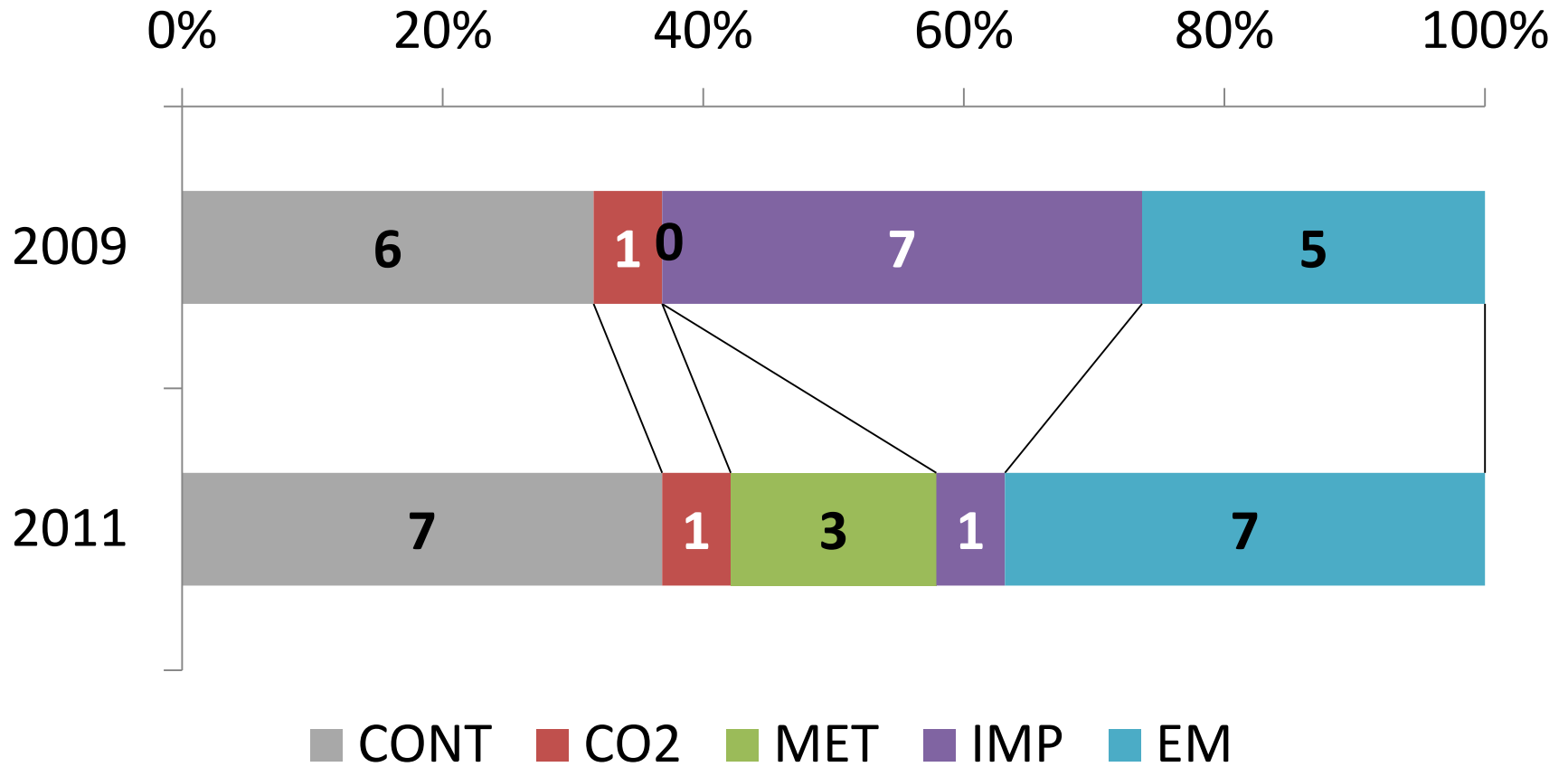


Before: $IMP \leq MET, EM \leq CO_2$
 After: $EM \leq MET, IMP \leq CO_2$

	P-value
Alternative	0.001
Time	0.954
Time x Alternative	0.001

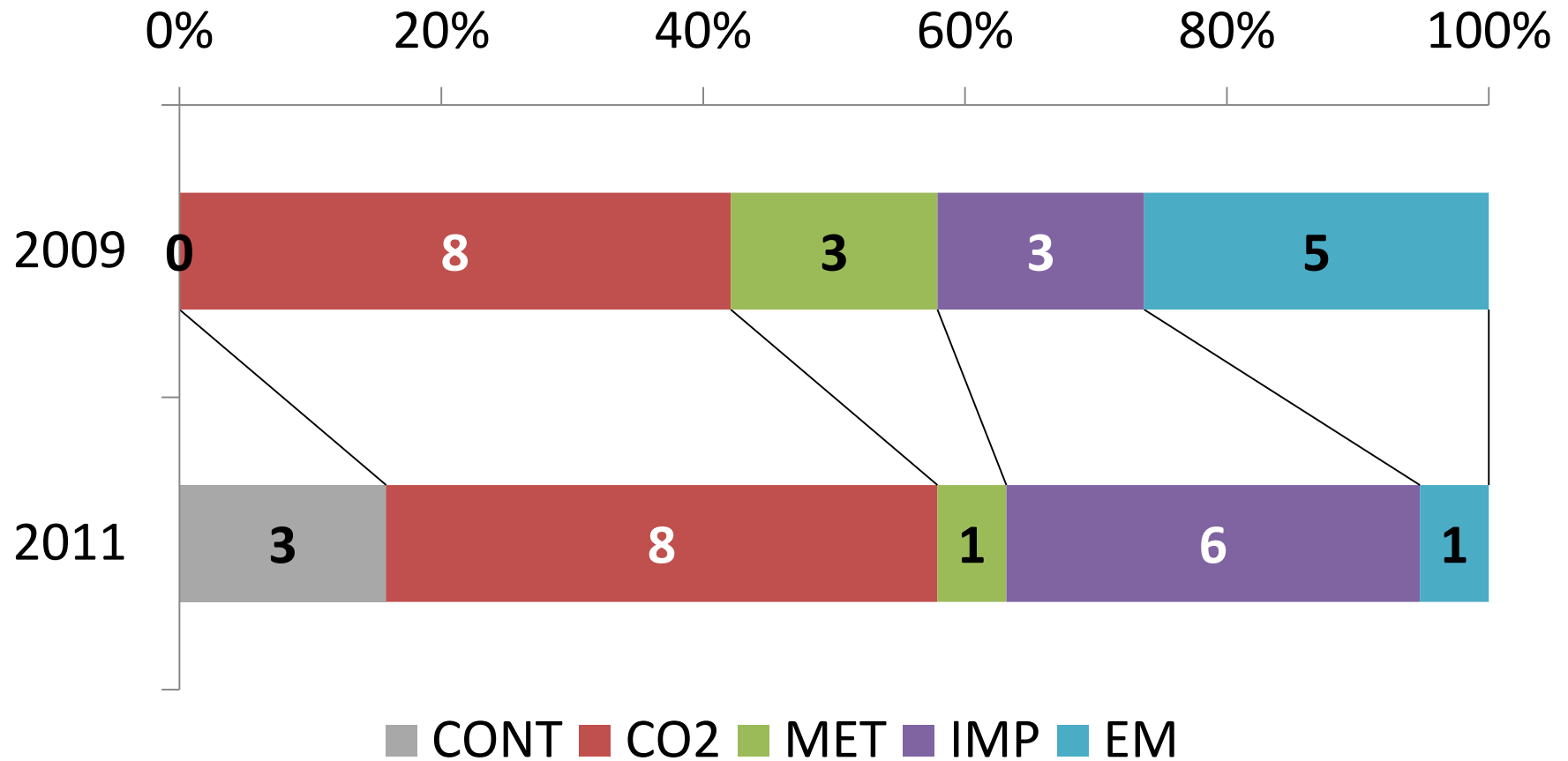
Different farmer, different preference

Most preferred method (ranking 1)



Different farmer, different preference

Least preferred method (ranking 5)



Conclusions

Time x alternative
EM and CO₂ scored better than expected,
MET as expected,
while IMP did not entirely match expectations

Farmer
different farmer, different preference

Thank you for your attention

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