

Survey on expected farmers' skills for the future in the western part of France

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Actual and future farmers sometimes disagree on what to be required skills for the future farmers and how it should be included in new teaching programs

Surveys were conducted in the western part of France to determine these probable skills for the coming 10 years

Material & Methods

Surveys in the western part of France from 7th to 18th January 2013

Two qualitative inquiries submitted to farmers (n = 38) and teachers (n = 14) in agriculture

A closed-questionnaire sent to students in farming schools (4 classes and 75 students)

Analyses performed using R software



Results & Discussion

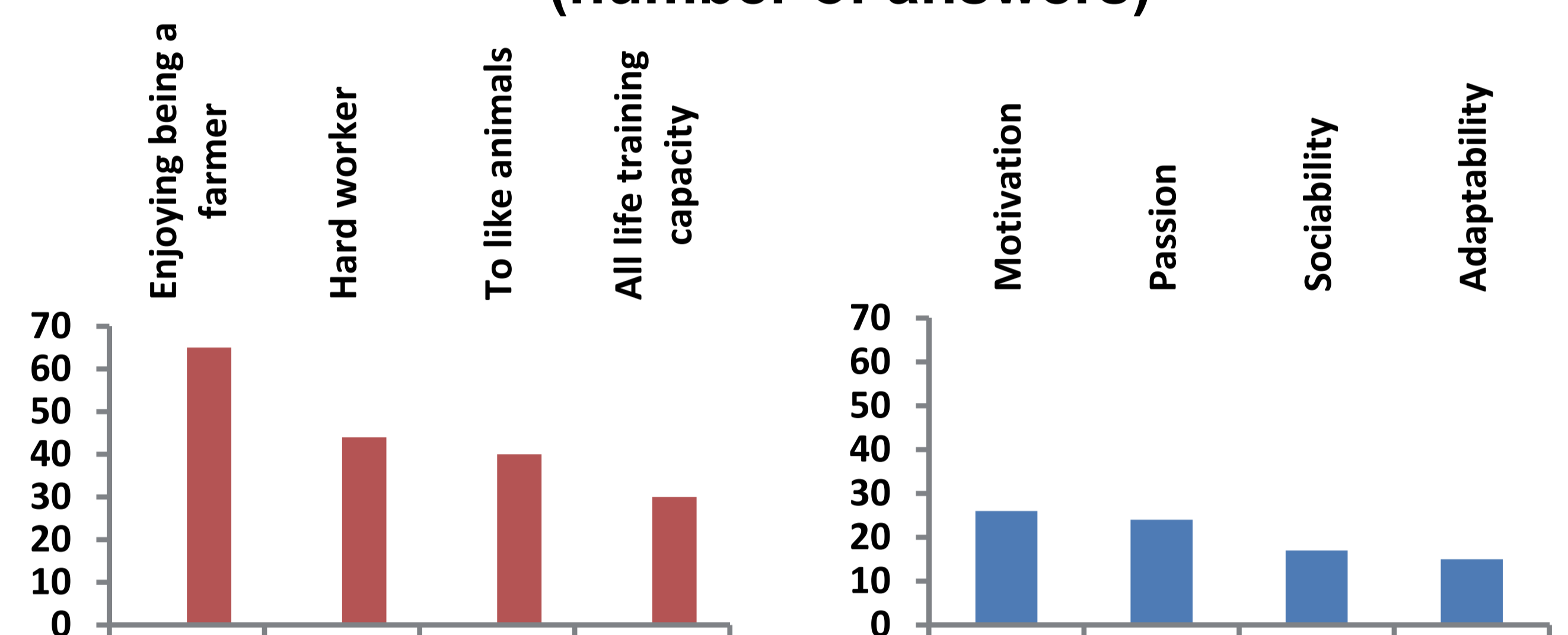
Students

2/3 of them being male of 17.9 years of age on average (17 to 20)

72 % of them had the strong willing to settle down in a farm, but only 60% felt ready to do it right after school

A strong motivation, in close connection with passion (64/75) and being a hard-worker (43/75), are the main success factors for becoming a farmer

Today's (red) and tomorrow's (blue) farmers skills according to students, farmers and teachers (number of answers)

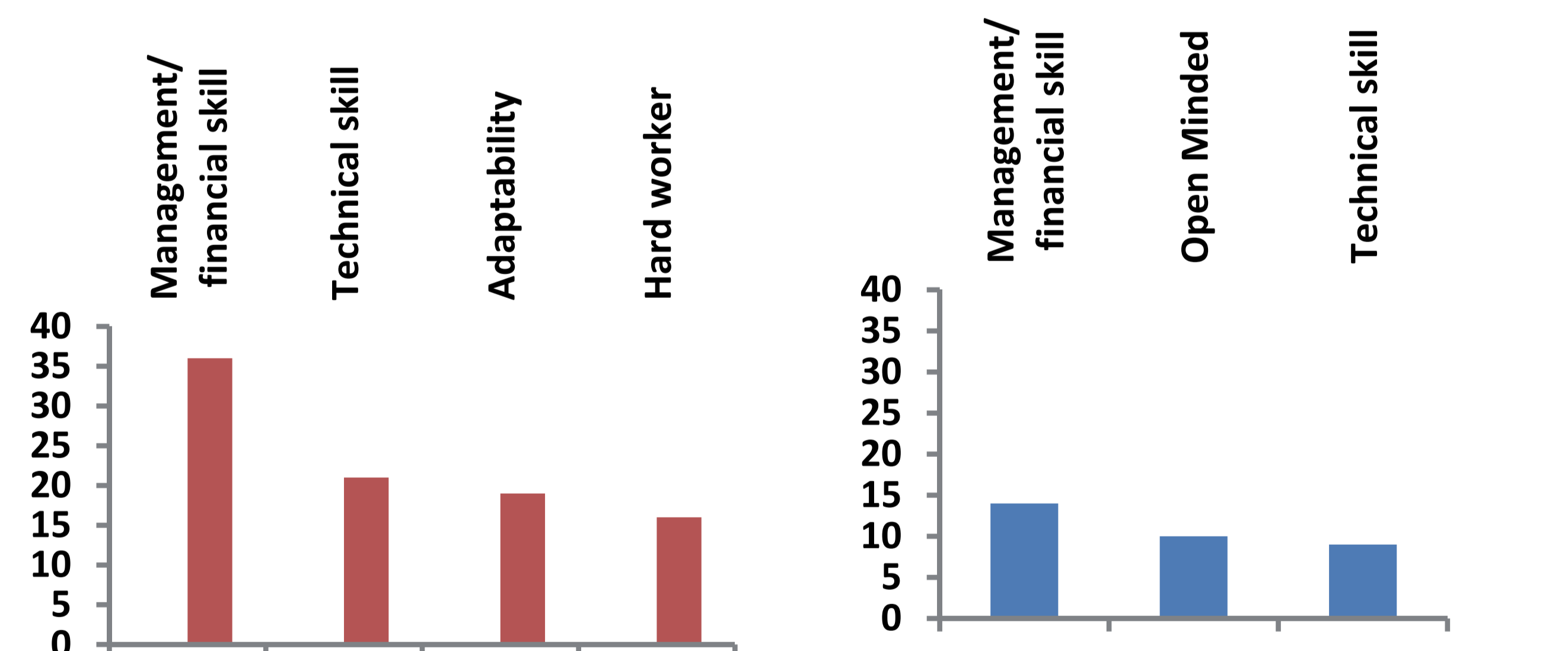


Farmers

Mainly men inquired (33/35), aged 47 years on average (23 to 63)

Mean number of full-time worker was 2.3 per farm and varied from 1 to 5

Management associated with basic and technical knowledge were the main factors of becoming a successful farmer

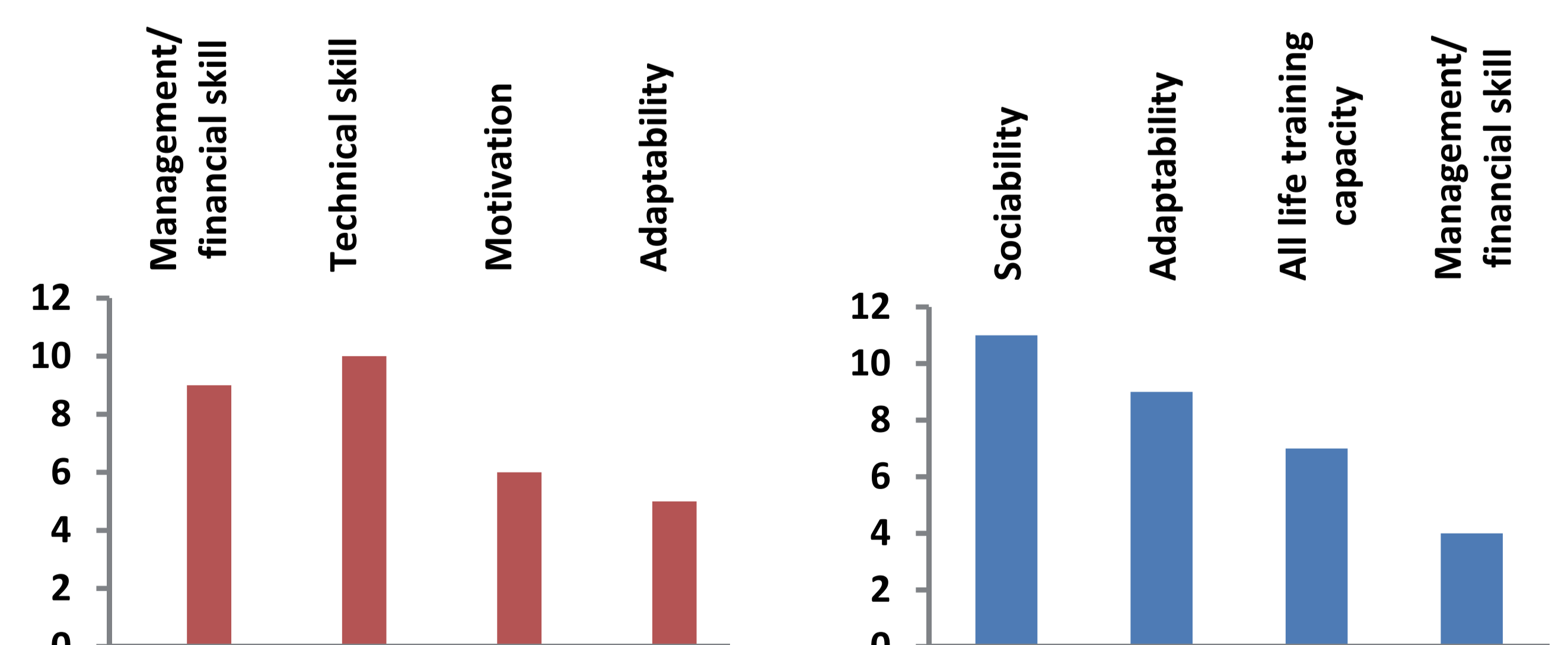


Teachers

Men and women inquired equally, average 20.3 years of teaching experience

Mainly taught animal sciences (9), economical management (3) or crop sciences (2)

Management and the ability to learn new knowledge (9/14 in each case) were also identified as important skills



Conclusion

In all surveys, management appeared is the most important skill, before others such as technical knowledge

Such surveys conducted in a local part of France should be carried on other French and/or European territories to have a better idea of the opinion of the agricultural representatives, which could be useful to prepare some of expected changes in the agricultural training courses in the future

Authors wish to thank all participants who kindly answered their questions

