



Resilience of yak farming in Bhutan

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Yak farming in Bhutan

Unique culture and tradition

- Cultural identity
- Tourism



30 households/year leave yak farming (Wangdi, 2016)

- Future yak farming



Internal factors

- Forage availability

- Yak mortality

- Labour availability



Influenced by external factors

Objective: Assess impact of external factors on the resilience of yak farming practices in different regions

Study sites: 3 yak farming regions

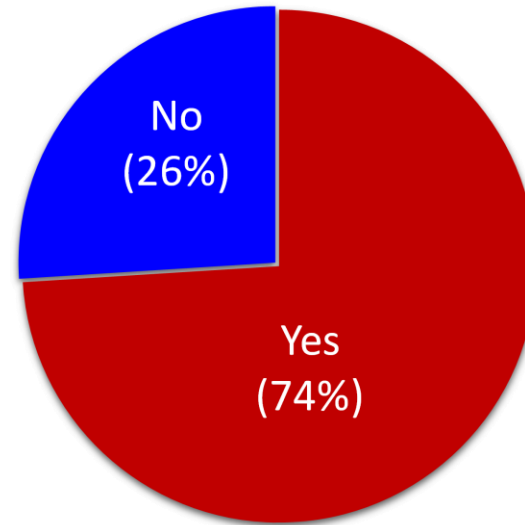


Results: market situation

Market

- Villages and towns
- India

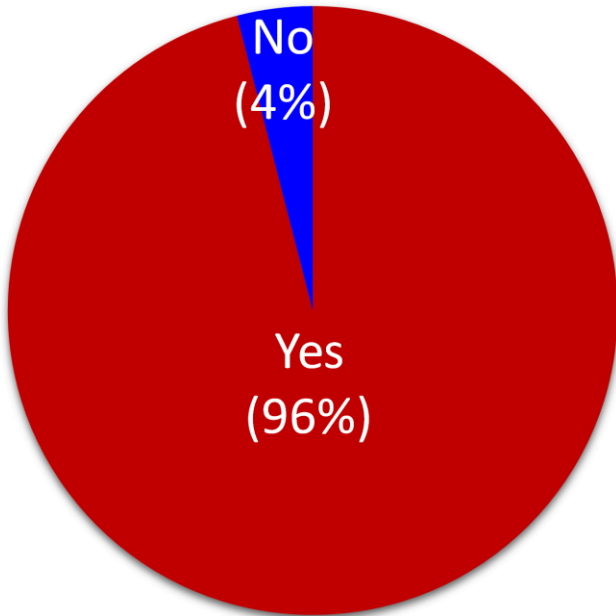
Able to sell yak products



Results: yak mortality

- Vet. & extension services improved over the years

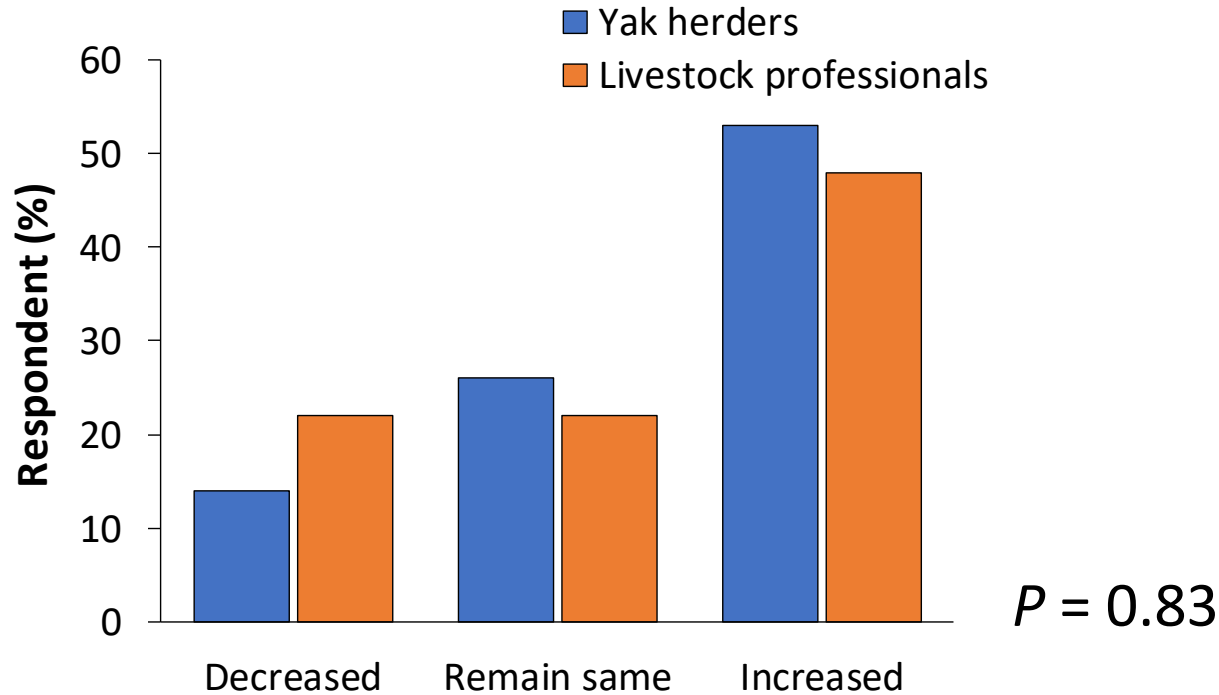
Yak death



- Endoparasites (west, 100%)

- Wild predators (west, 100%; central, 100%; east, 87%)

Results: wildlife predation over the years

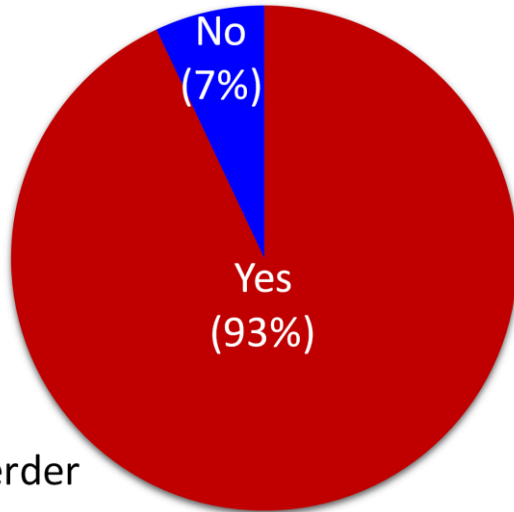


Forest & Nature Conservation Act of 1995

- Prohibit hunting and trapping

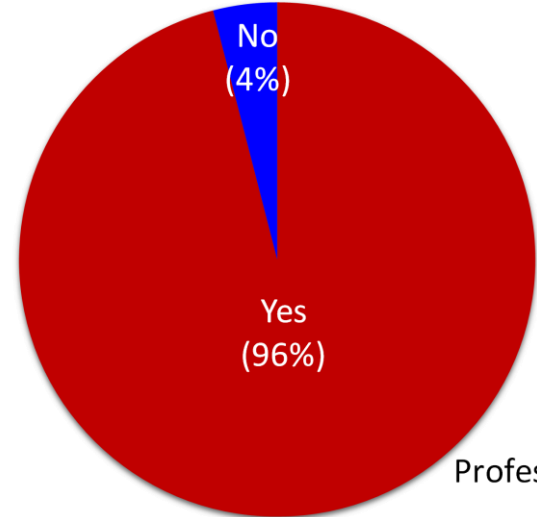
Results: forage situation

Forage shortage



Yak herder

Forage shortage



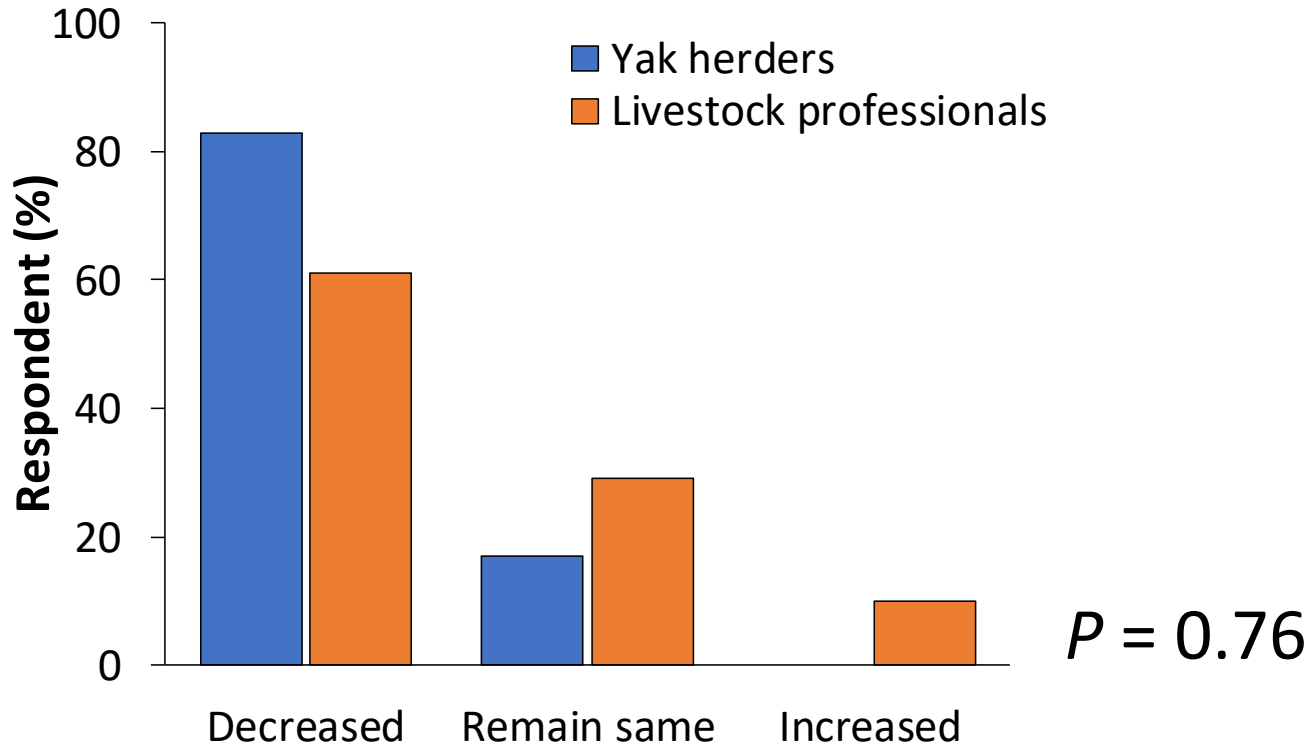
Professionals

- **Shrub proliferation (Conservation Act 1995)**

- **Increase cattle, hybrids**

- **Increase horse (tourism)**

Results: forage availability over the years



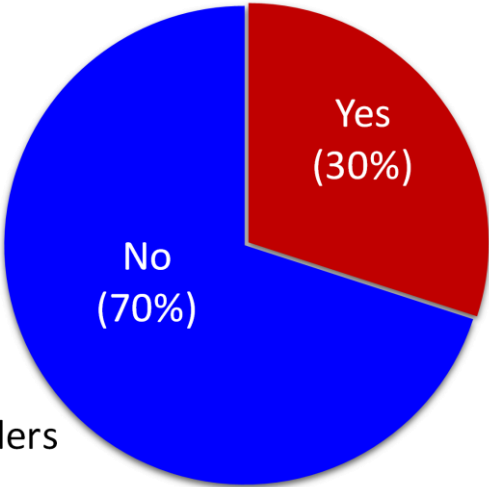
Results: Labour situation

- Other activities involved

- Tourism

Livestock professionals (96%)

Labour shortage



Yak herders



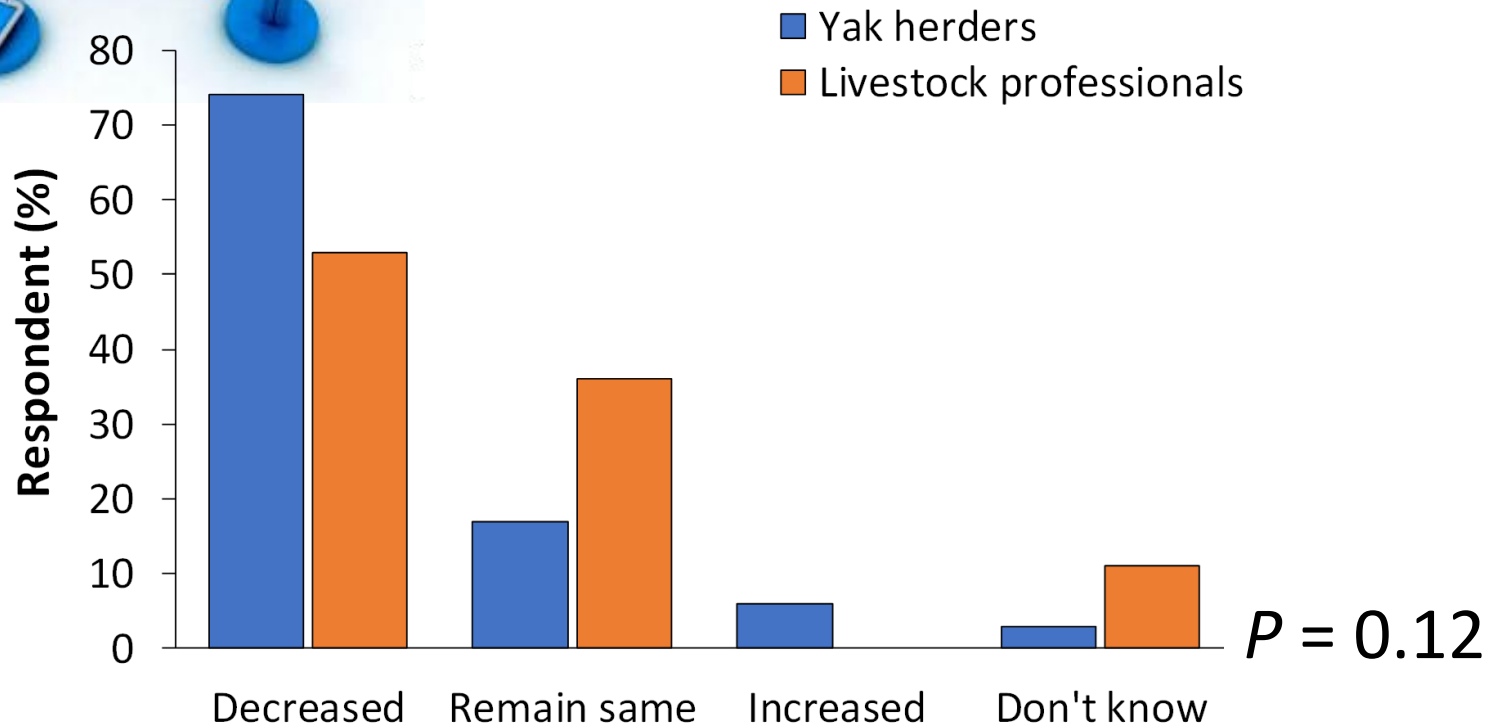
http://dragonherbsbhotan.com/condyocarpus-sinensis/right_collection-season/

- Education



Results: successor to yak farming

- Globalisation



Message: threats to resilience yak farming

- Forage shortage ↑

- Wildlife predation ↑

- Successor ↓

