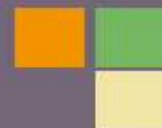


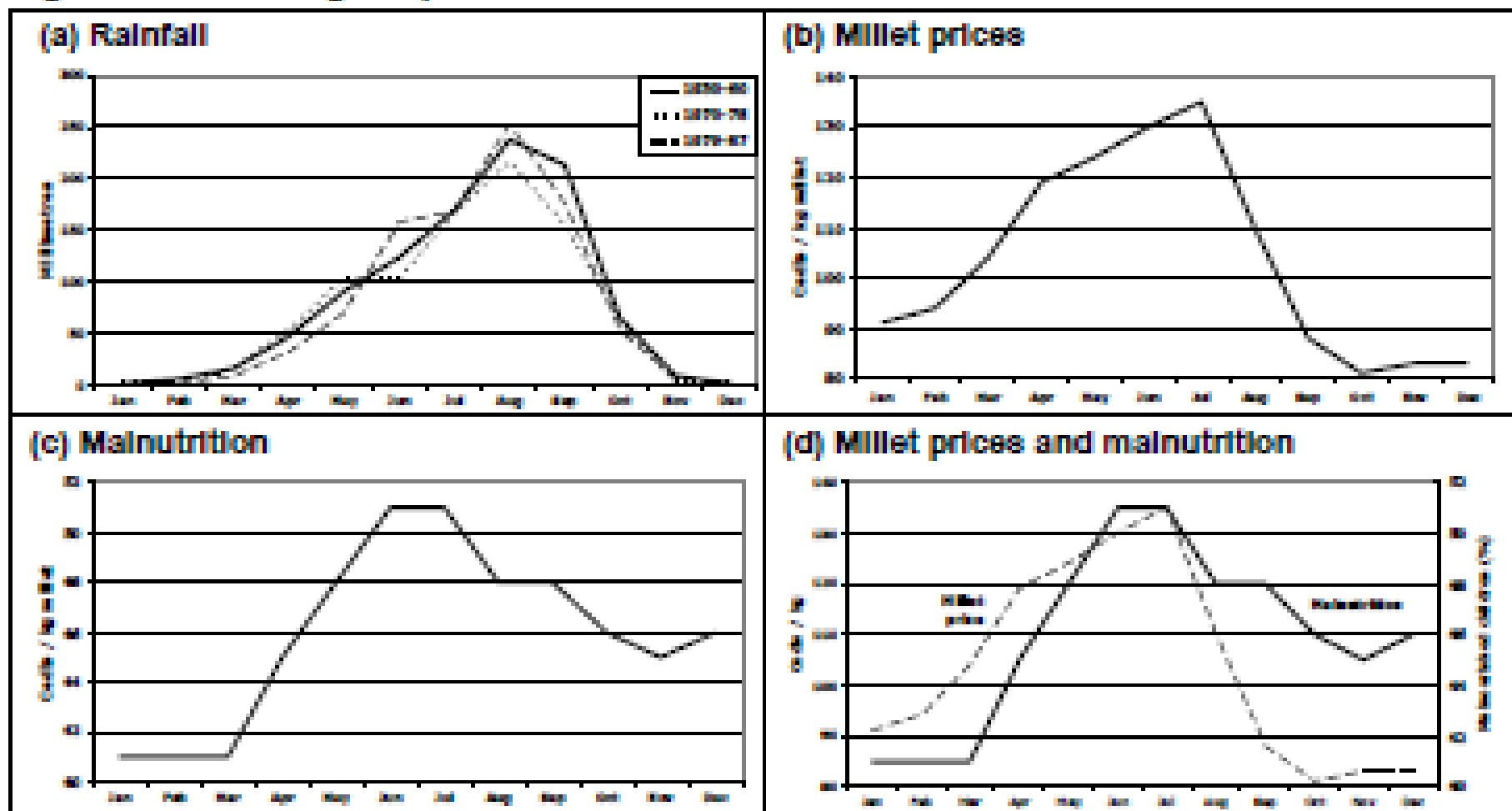
## **Seasonal Neglect?** **Aseasonality in agricultural projects**

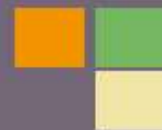
**Stephen Devereux**

**Richard Longhurst**

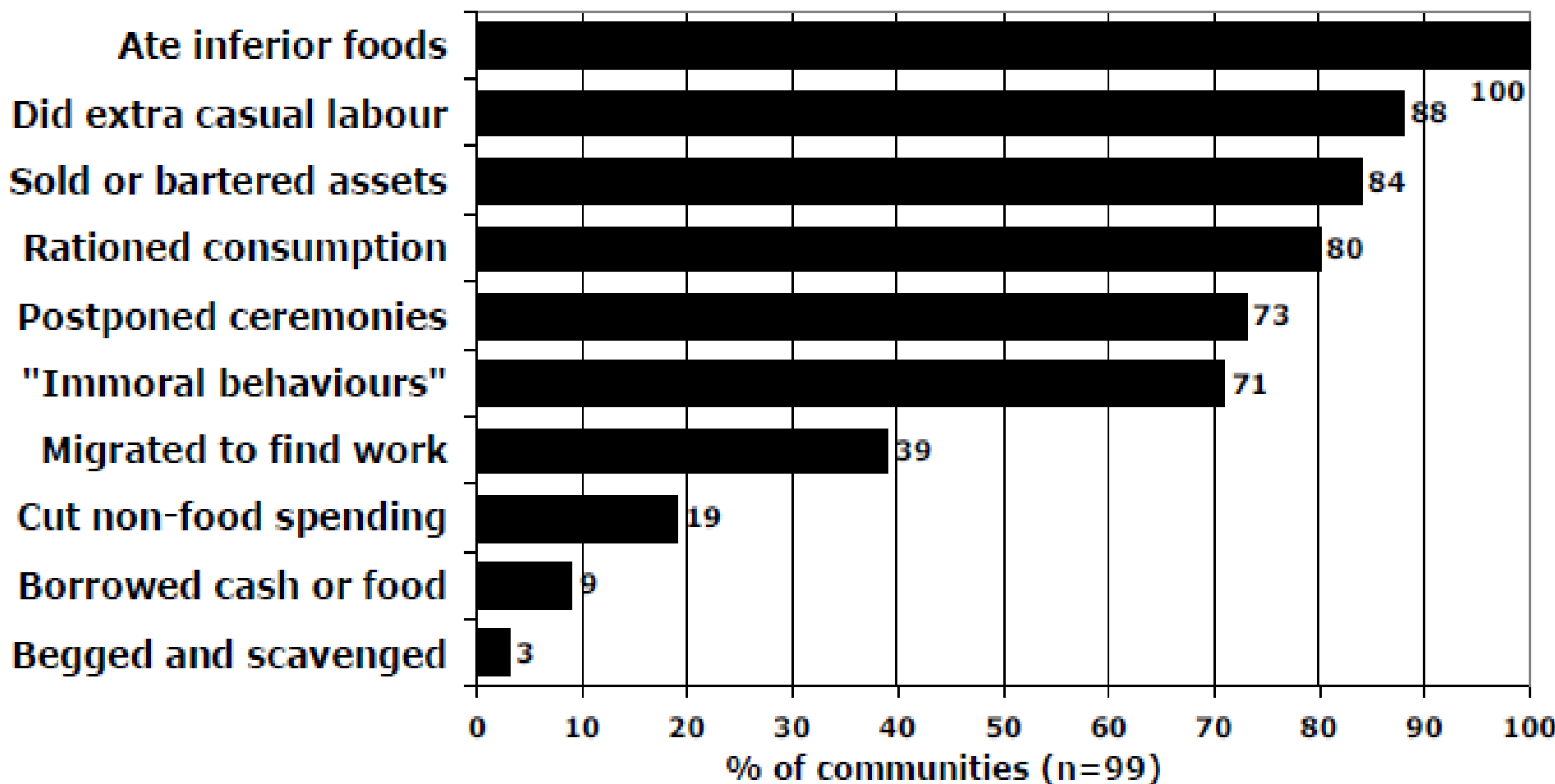


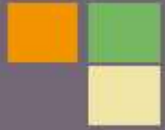
## “Adverse seasonality”





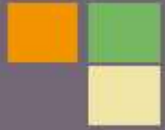
## “Coping” with seasonality





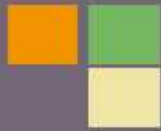
## Hypothesis

**Seasonality is routinely ignored in the conceptualisation and design of agricultural projects, with detrimental consequences for project performance and participants' wellbeing.**



## Methodology

- 1. How does the project aim to raise production and income? (What is the causal pathway from activities to impacts?)**
- 3. Are there any seasonal dimensions to project activities? (e.g. crop breeding / irrigation / marketing / storage?)**
- 4. How do project activities factor in seasonality? (are activities planned around an annual calendar?)**
- 5. Have the seasonal dimensions of farmers' livelihoods been assessed? (employment, production, incomes, health...)**
- 6. How will the project assist farmers to manage seasonality?**



## Evidence (1) AfDB

462 documents reviewed.

***“Overall, the attention paid to seasonality was very low.”***

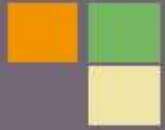


## Evidence (2) IFAD

120 documents reviewed.

### **“Implicit seasonality”:**

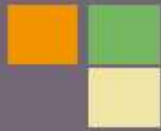
- Irrigation
- Seasonal input credit
- All-weather rural roads
- Women’s seasonal workloads



## Evidence (3) Vegetables

***“In the original project design we never really thought about seasonality, or how the project could alleviate some of the seasonality constraints that farmers face. We have not done any livelihood analysis. The investments we are making are upstream – we expect there to be a trickle-down effect from crop breeding to adoption, to producers’ and consumers’ wellbeing. Now we are trying to focus more on downstream impacts – how can the new varieties that are released have maximum impact on farmers and consumers?”***





## Trying to see what best to do

1. **“Seasonality assessments”** should be standard in design phase of agricultural and rural social protection projects.
2. **“Seasonality smoothing”**: projects should not only raise annual production, but stabilise intra–annual consumption.
3. **“Seasonality index”** should be included in M&E indicators.
4. **“Seasonality proofing”** of agriculture-based livelihoods, (e.g. innovative insurance mechanisms for farmers).
5. **“Seasonality awareness”** for development professionals, agricultural advisers, programme officers, project staff.