

Capacity development for market-oriented agricultural development: Approaches, experiences and lessons learned

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Introduction

- Capacity development plays a critical enabling role in facilitating the adoption and scaling out of value chain development interventions and approaches by addressing attitudinal, knowledge and skills gaps in value chain actors, service providers and value chain supporters.
- Using participatory processes to assess knowledge and skills gaps of value chain actors and service providers, the project designs and implements capacity development interventions using a range of strategies, including training, coaching and mentoring, and the development of self-learning materials, such as manuals and guidelines.



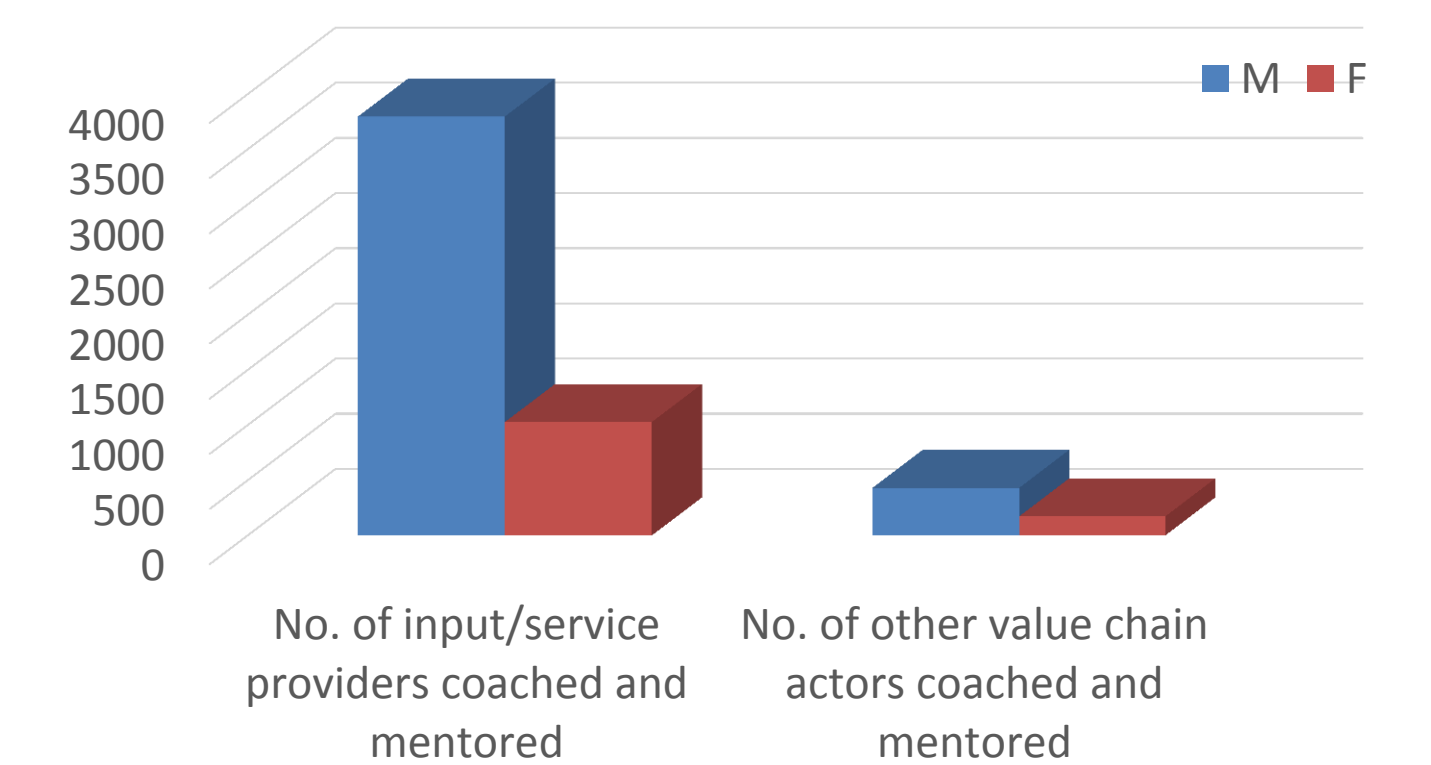
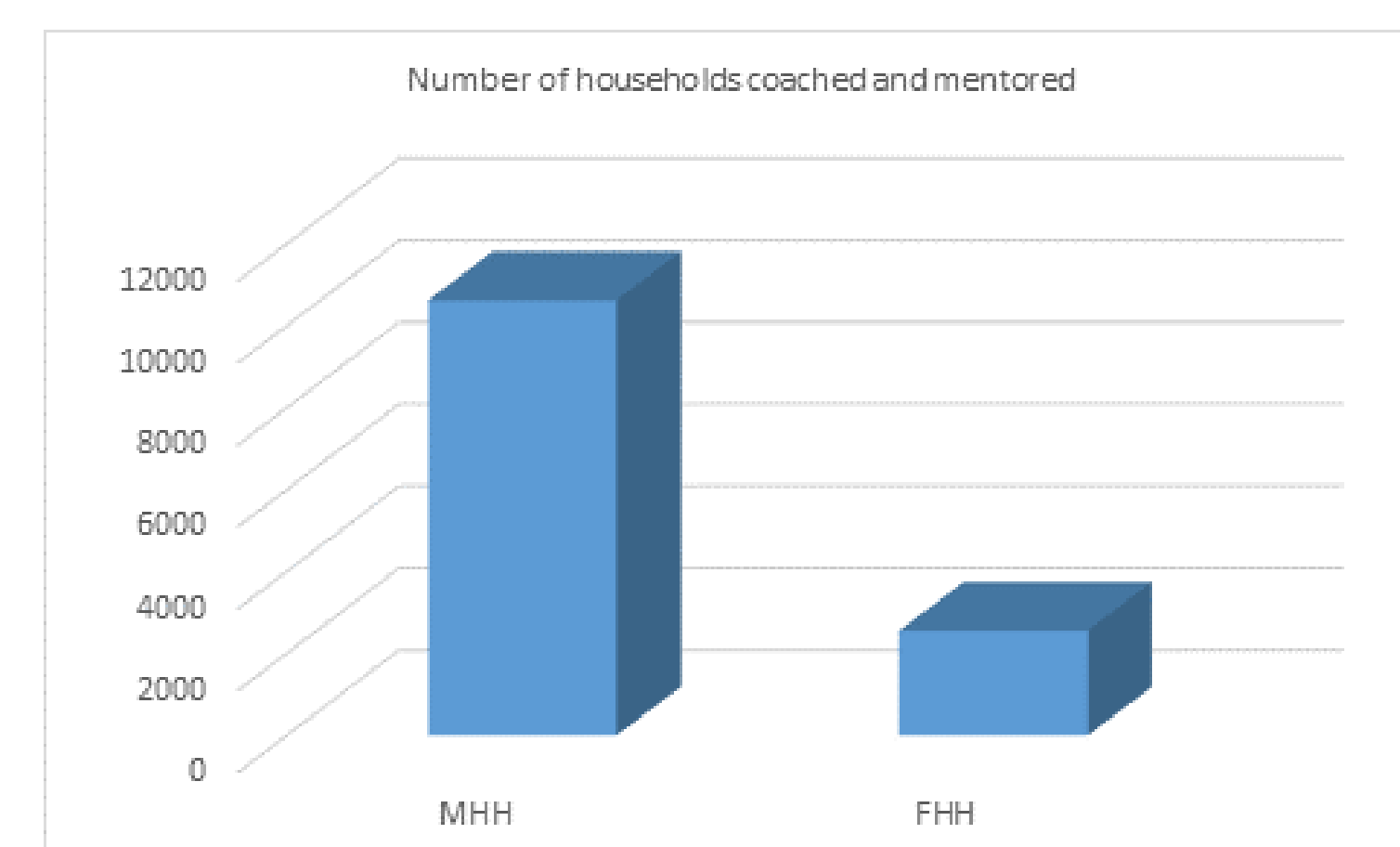
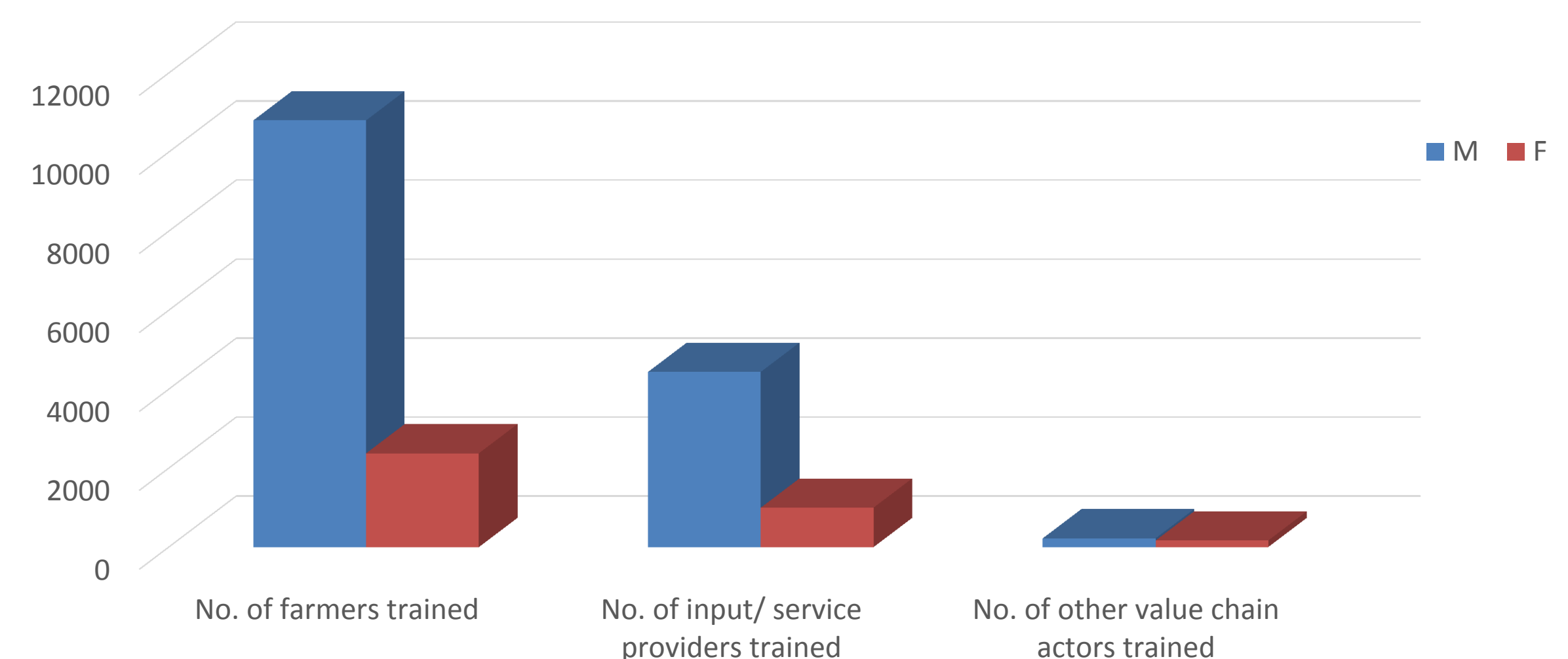
Approaches

- Training-of-trainers training** focusing on approaches which can be generalized and applied in a wider context.
- Mixed-group training** focusing on skills based practical training for male and female farmers and development agents.
- Household coaching and mentoring** which address the needs of both members of households.
- Self-learning materials** which are complimentary ways to acquire knowledge and skills.

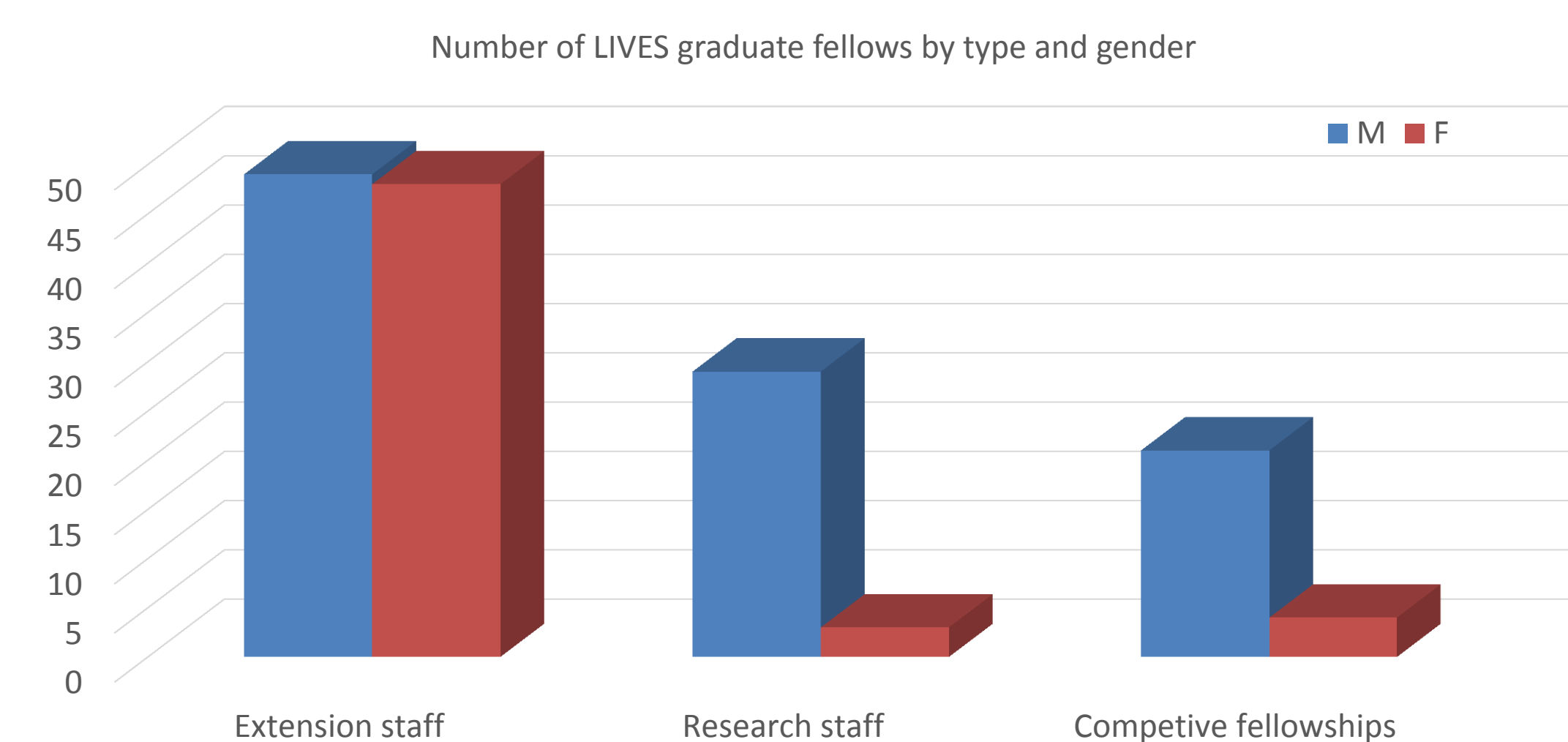


Outputs

- Between April 2013 and September 2015, LIVES has trained and coached a total of 37,614 value chain actors and service providers.



- 154 (36% female) public sector staff have benefited from the 200 BSc/MSc fellowship opportunities offered by LIVES.



Conclusions and lessons learned

- The development of standard training manuals and cascading strategies help ensure consistency and quality of training at other levels, leading to increased training reach and impact.
- A mixed-group training approach fosters interaction among farmers and development agents, getting to know each other better, deepens their learning experience, leading to increased follow-up, knowledge acquisition, and skills application.
- Couples training and household coaching improve women's access to information and knowledge, leading to improved understanding, appreciation, and cooperation between household members, and increased knowledge acquisition and skills application.
- Formal capacity development training also contributes to the informal farmer-to-farmer exchange of skills and knowledge.