



Exploring cocoa farmers perceptions and management of soil fertility in Cameroon

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A study to investigate soil fertility management practices of cocoa farmers in Cameroon

Objectives

- To assess cocoa farmers' appraisal of soil fertility status
- To identify existing soil fertility management practices

Methodology

- Semi-structured survey,
- 120 farmers (94 men, 26 women),
- 10 villages
- 2 divisions (60 farmers per division)

Table 1: Characteristics of the two division studied

	Division	
	Mbam and Inoubou	Mvilla
Mean Temperature (°c)	25	24
Dominant Soils	Ferric Acrisols, lateritic and hydromorphic	Ferralitic yellow-brown to brown-red deriving from (gneiss and granite)
Rainfall (mm)	1300	1650
Dominant Vegetation	Savannah, Gallery forest	Humid dense forest

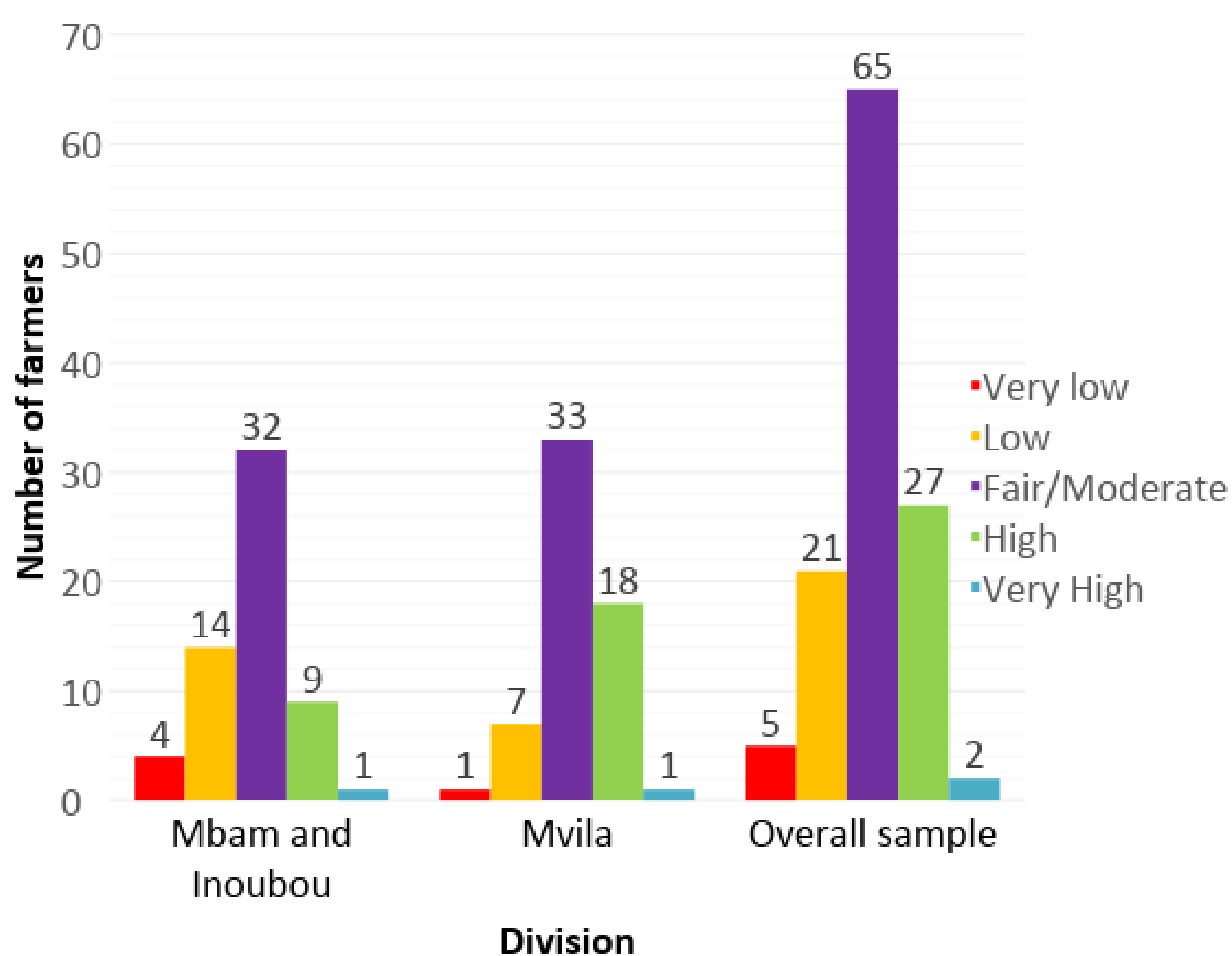


Figure 1: Distribution of farmers according to their appraisal of soil fertility level

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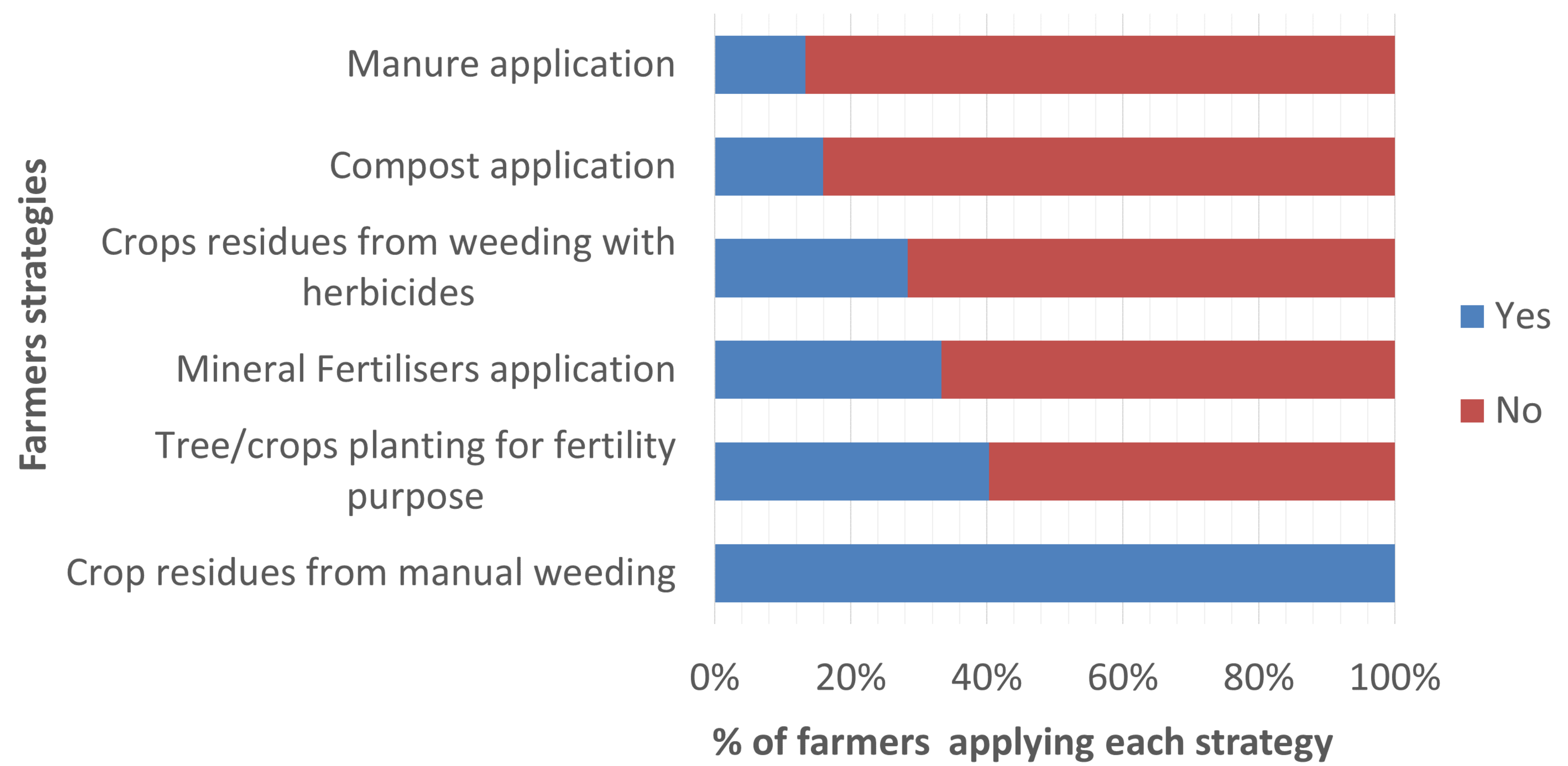


Figure 2 : Distribution of farmers according to soil fertility management strategies practices

Results

- Just about 25% of farmers consider soil fertility as low or very low,
- Farmers use several indicators related to soil colour, texture, productivity, and flora and fauna composition to assess soil fertility level
- Less than 35% of farmers applied organic or inorganic fertilizers in their farms
- Farmers in the humid forest zone are more positive about soil fertility status
- Farmers in the Savannah area are more inclined to invest in soil fertility management



Figure 3: Plant residues are left under cocoa canopy to provide soil nutrients
Photo by Urcil Kenfack E. (July 2018)

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