

Enhancing Biodiversity and Resilience in Crop Production

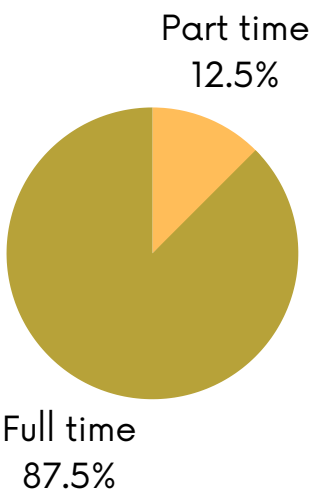
United Stated Case Study

Respondents' Info

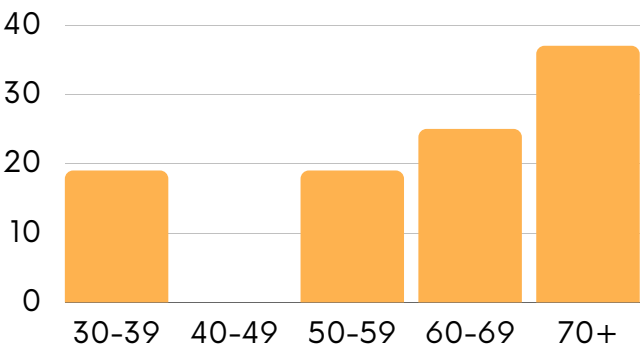
GENDER



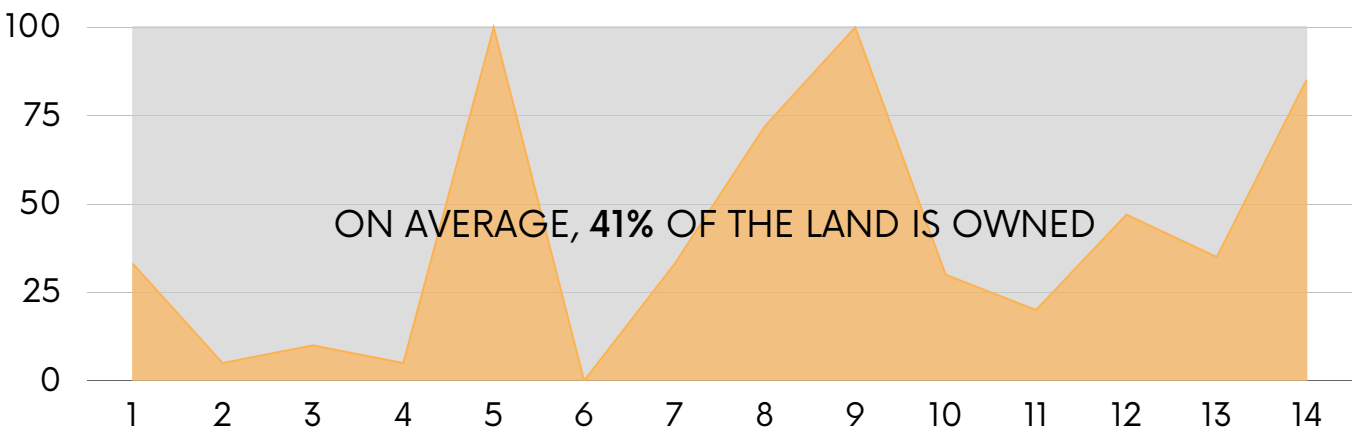
ACTIVITY



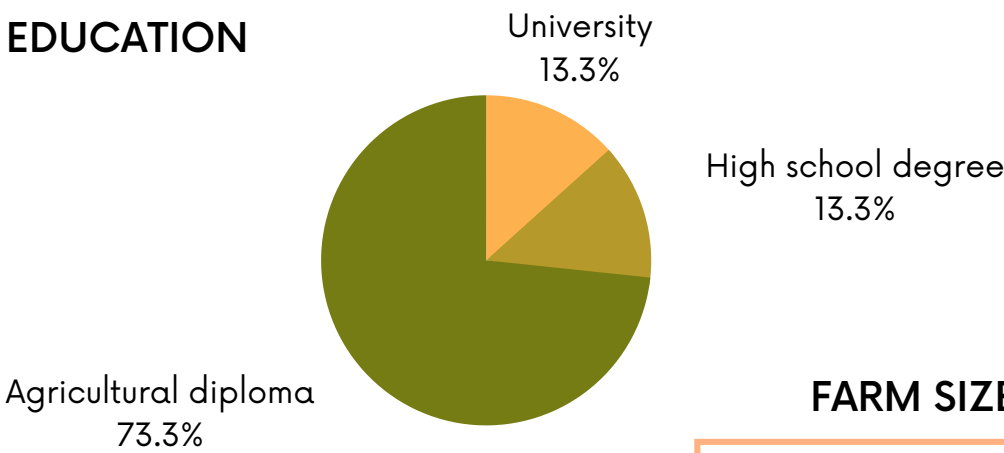
AGE DISTRUBUTION (%)



LAND OWNERSHIP



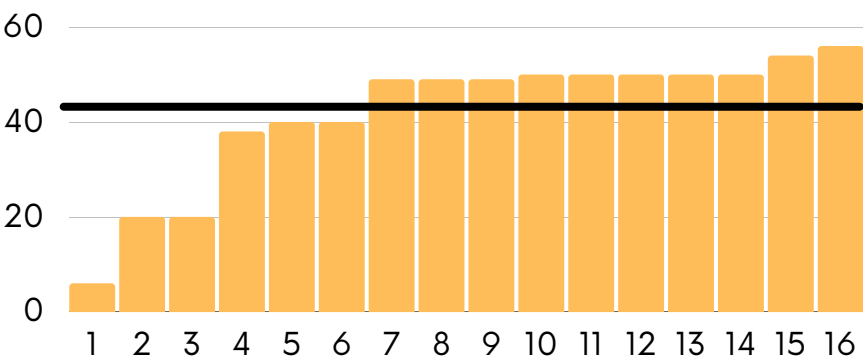
EDUCATION



FARM SIZE



YEARS EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE



42 YEARS AVERAGE EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

AVERAGE CROP GROWN



SOYBEAN CORN

ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE IN CROP PRODUCTION

PERCEPTION OF BIODIVERSITY

Interviewees demonstrate an **understanding** of biodiversity. Several defined biodiversity as various forms of life existing together in an area:

**"Biodiversity to me means all walks of life.
Coexisting together on earth."**

Overall, a majority of farmers expressed the **positive outcomes** that could potentially result from biodiversity enhancing practices during some point of their interview.

"Biodiversity has allowed us to become better stewards of the land. We feel that we are improving not only soil health, but also improving water quality by reducing the amount of runoff, both soil and nutrients, that have the potential to leach and wash away."

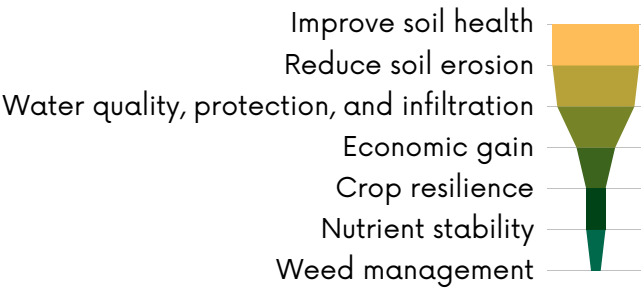
What biodiversity enhancing practices they would incorporate on their farm if costs and practicality were not a factor?

62.5% respond cover crops



POTENTIAL OF BIODIVERSITY

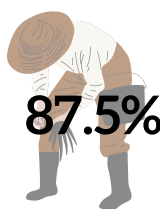
What are the potential benefits of biodiversity enhancing practices ?



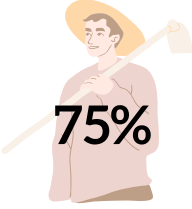
BIODIVERSITY IN PRACTICE

What do farmers implement on-farm?

COVER CROPS



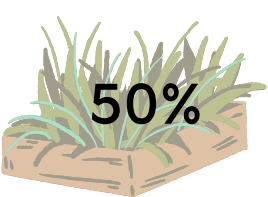
NO-TILL



CROP ROTATION



BUFFER STRIP



PUBLIC POLICIES & PROGRAMS

PARTICIPATION

15 out of 16 farmers stated that they were currently participating or had previously participated in **government policies or programs** designed to support conservation practices.

LIMITATIONS

Several farmers also noted that although government support exists to encourage the adoption of biodiversity enhancing practices, it is **limited** and financial support must be **increased**.

"We have a problem of governmental programs throwing money at producers on short-term practices where the producer leaves the practice. As soon as payments stop. We need commitment towards long-term adoption."

FARMERS' PERCEPTION OF OTHERS

CHALLENGES

Several farmers noted that although neighbors seem willing to adopt, they experienced challenges that influenced their adoption.

"Most of them are open-minded about incorporating biodiverse conservation practices, are concerned about protecting the environment, but also are equally concerned about the risk to their bottom line."

CURIOSITY

Farmers noted that neighbors understand biodiversity enhancing practices are beneficial but do not **take the time** to implement them on their farm

"We often get questions regarding practices that we have implemented. It's something others will try for a season, get frustrated because of not understanding the different management style and go back to what they were comfortable with."

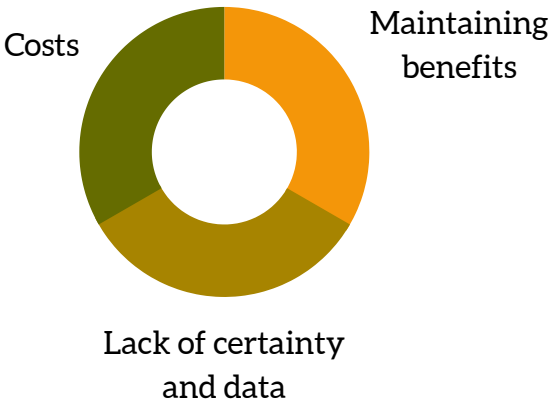
RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

Many farmers referred to return on investments as a key factor for adoption or mis-adoption of biodiversity enhanced practices:

"Unfortunately, many large cash rent farmers dominate our area. Many of which are unwilling to commit to long-term conservation practices while having short-term cash rent leases."

LIMITATIONS

What are the main limitations to further adoption of biodiversity enhancingt practices ?



ASPIRATIONS & VISIONS

COVER CROPS



E.g. 31.25 % of farmers said they would like the future state of their farm to increase **cover crops**

CONSERVATION



3 farmers noted they would like their future farm to be environmentally friendly or emphasize conservation.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES



"We hope that market prices and input costs would remain stable so that we can always **sustain financial stability**."

MAIN LIMITATION TO THE IDEAL FARM



Financial limitations

"Has to be economically compelling."