



Regional Sector Report Sustainable Agriculture *Focus on Green Business Development*

Rhoda Wachira

Programme Management Officer, UNEP

Africa Office

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Introduction

- Overall objective of the SWITCH Africa Green programme is to support participating countries in Africa in the transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty.
- The programme focuses on four priority sectors and a set of cross cutting issues identified based on the needs and priorities of national stakeholders in the participating countries during the inception phase of the project.

Country	IWM	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Tourism
Burkina Faso	✓		✓	✓
Ghana	✓		✓	✓
Kenya		✓	✓	✓
Mauritius		✓	✓	✓
South Africa	✓	✓	✓	
Uganda		✓	✓	✓

Background

- A Survey was developed to capture SCP interventions implemented through the Switch Africa Green programme and the impact of these interventions.
- Design targeted 10% of the 3,000 beneficiary MSMEs.
- Questionnaires were circulated widely for inputs and piloted with the grantees of the programme.
- A database containing details of the beneficiaries of the programme was developed and used to prepare the report on Sustainable Agriculture sector.

Manufacturing



Integrated Waste Management



Agriculture



Tourism



Agriculture Sector in Africa

- Agriculture is the backbone of many economies in Africa. It plays a key role in economic activity including through backward and forward linkages with other sectors, job creation, export receipts, and domestic value-added. On average the sector accounts for 55 percent of employment and about 15 percent of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).
- Embracing SCP practices is at the heart of transforming the agriculture sector to support long-term sustainability and contribute to the fight against climate change.

Agriculture Sector in Africa ...contd.

Main challenges faced by the sector:

- How to achieve growth through improvement in productivity and yields instead of expansion in the area under farming activities.
- Climate change and variability, particularly because rain-fed agriculture is dominant in Africa.
- Sub Sahara Africa has the highest rate of food insecurity globally.
- Weak infrastructure, governance and land degradation,
- High input costs and low productivity in the subsistence sub-sector and lack of competitiveness. The sector also provides a number of opportunities as will be shown in this report.



Projects in the Agriculture sector

Kenya – The project on up-scaling sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants to promote commercial cultivation and processing of indigenous traditional medicinal plants and manufacturing of derived products.

Mauritius - four projects were implemented and focused on promotion of sustainable fresh fruits and vegetables; the bio-cultivation of Gombava lime plants and production of Chilli paste; training and technical support to strengthen organic and innovative farming capacities in areas such as pig rearing and horticulture.

Projects in the Agriculture sector...contd

South Africa - Five projects were implemented including sustainable livestock production in the rangelands of South Africa; sustainable agriculture and environmental restoration in Port Elizabeth; and capacity building for farmers and MSMEs in Limpopo Eastern Cape, KwaZulu, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga.

Burkina Faso – production and use of organic fertilizer in agricultural production.

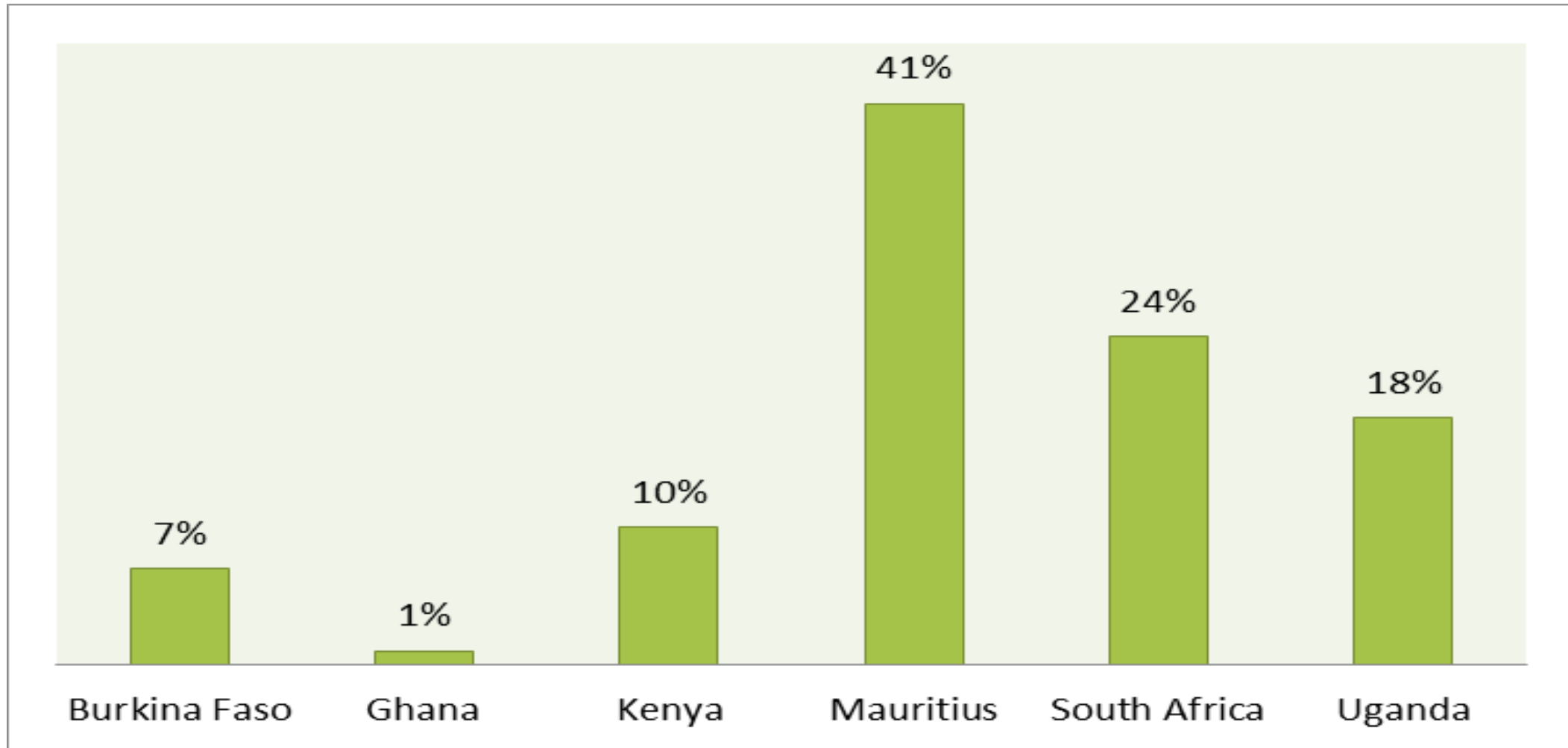
Uganda - organic production of Sesame in Lira District in Northern Uganda.

Interventions

At the broad sector level, several strategic interventions were implemented. These include:

1. Development and deployment of knowledge and information resources including toolkits such as Sustainable procurement and marketing guidelines, factsheets and sustainable agricultural practices;
2. Capacity building events and MSMEs support including coaching activities training on green business solutions, eco-labeling, and certification;
3. Awareness creation, sensitization and facilitating networking and learning; and
4. Support for improvement in the policy environment

Distribution of MSMEs by Country and Type of Business



Analysis of impacts

The short-term and medium-term effect of the interventions is to realize the change in behavior and institutional performance, especially in the uptake of SCP practices, improved business performance, and increased awareness of environmental goods and services. The results are discussed along three dimensions of sustainable development:

1. Economic:

- Change in sales including change in cost of production,
- Increased incomes, new business opportunities, etc.

2. Social:

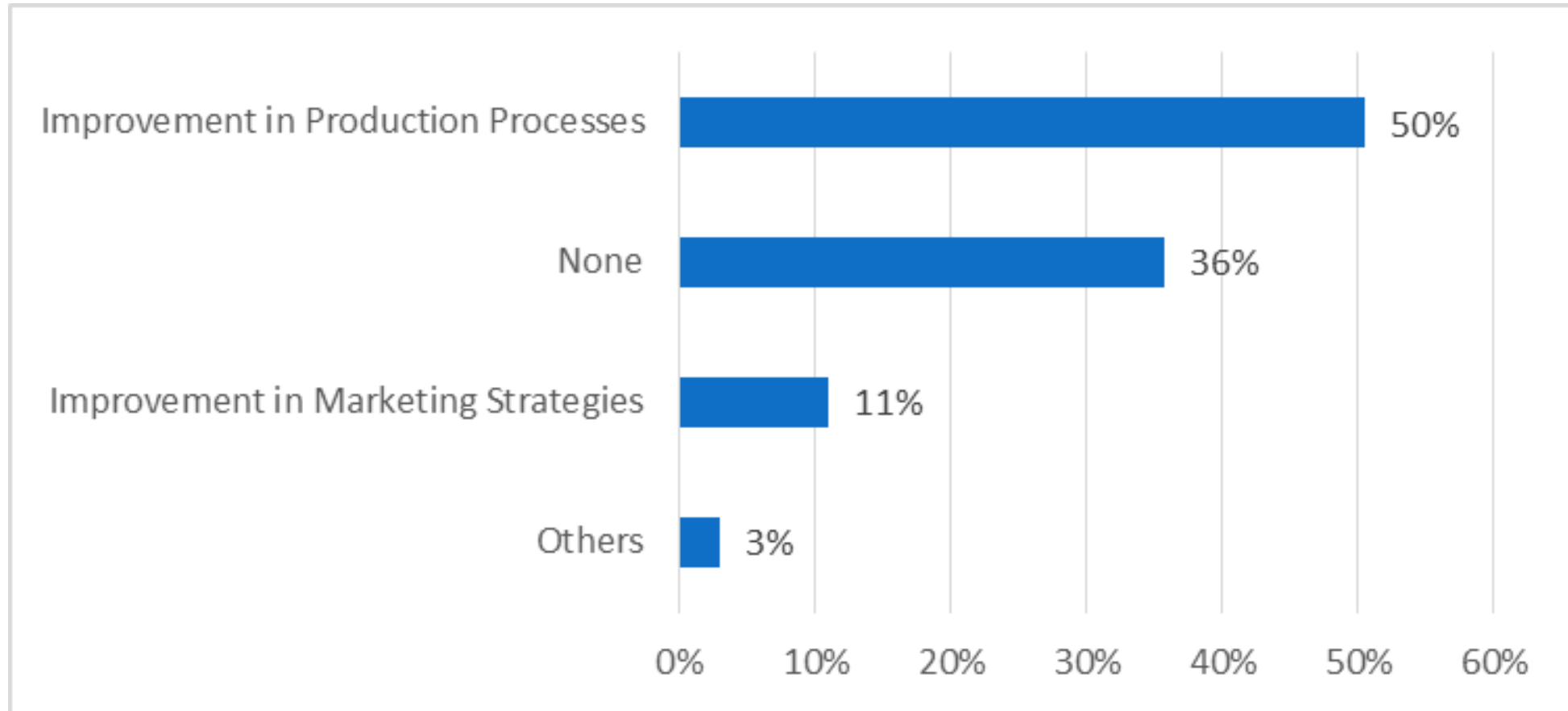
- Employment;
- Stronger inclusive communities

3. Environmental:

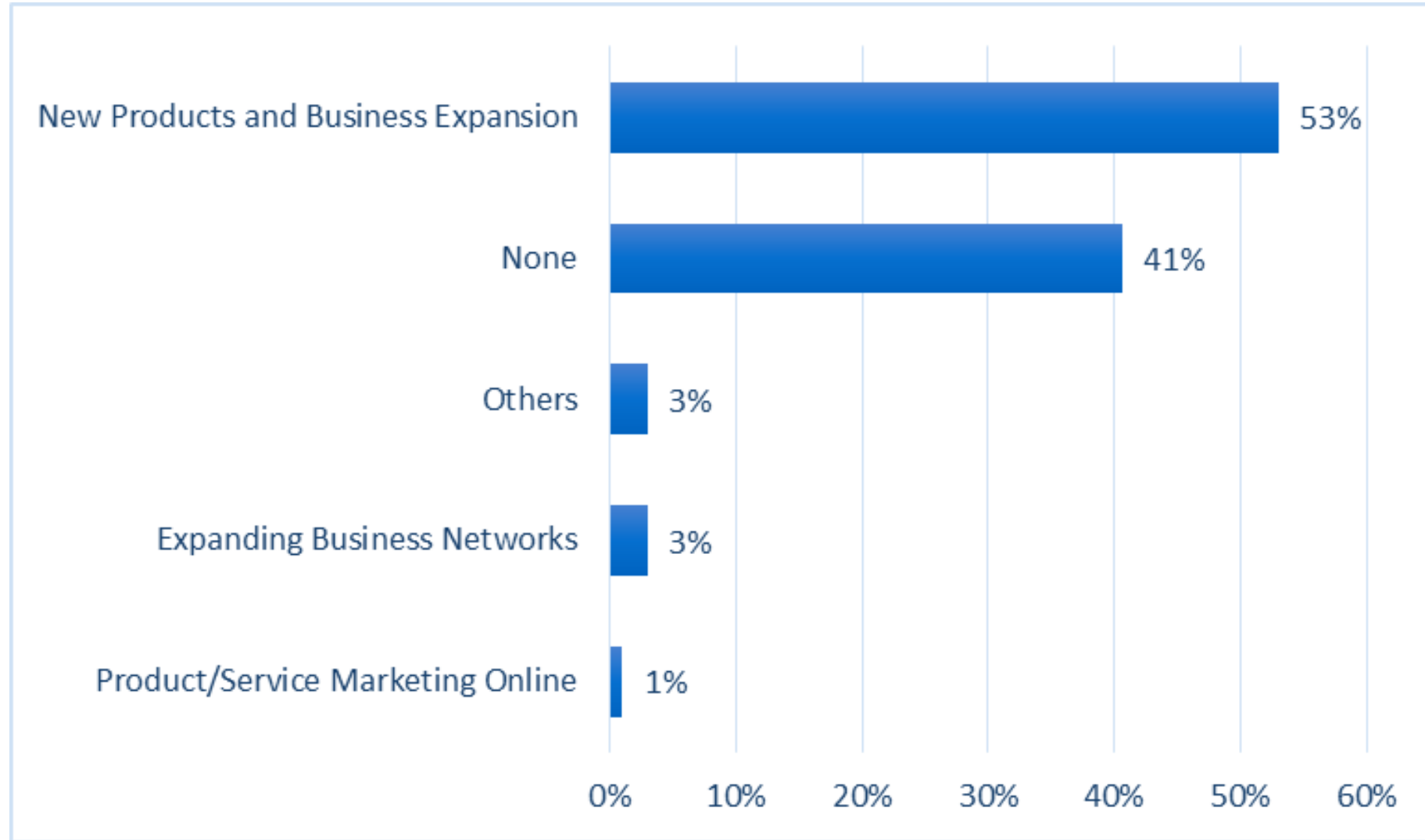
- Implementation of reduce, reuse, recycle waste measures,
- Energy and water efficiency processes, etc.



Factors Explaining increased sales

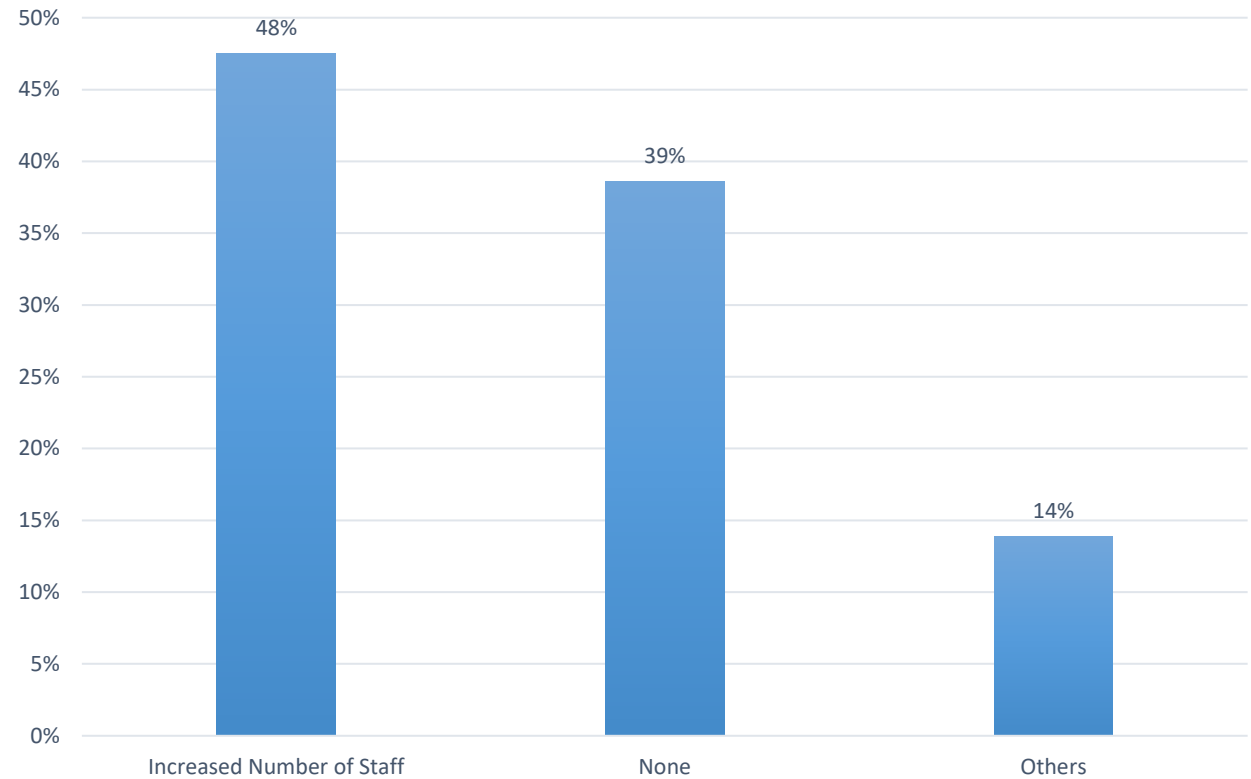


New Business opportunities

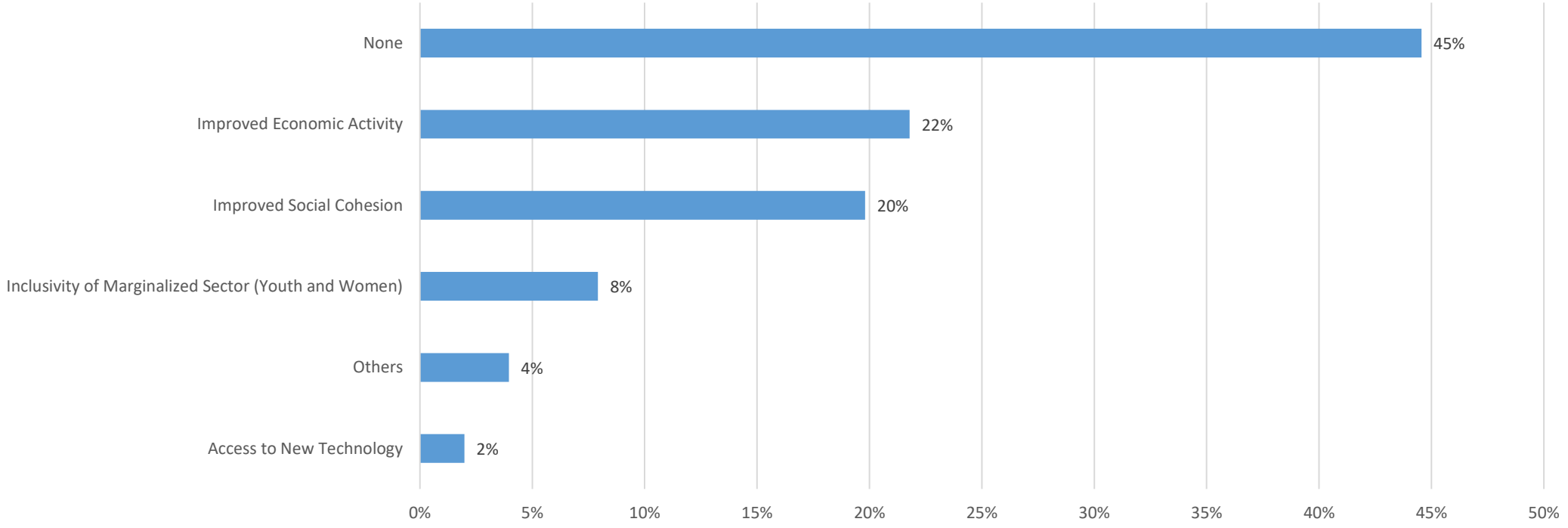


MSMEs Reporting Creation of New Jobs

- About forty-eight (48) percent of the enterprises reported that new jobs had been created during the period of the implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green Programme.
- While this percentage might appear low, the 14 percent who are categorized as 'others' are largely sole-proprietorship start-ups representing new employment opportunities.
- A total of 2,995 new jobs were created in this sector. However, some of the jobs are affected by seasonality and are largely dependent on family labor.



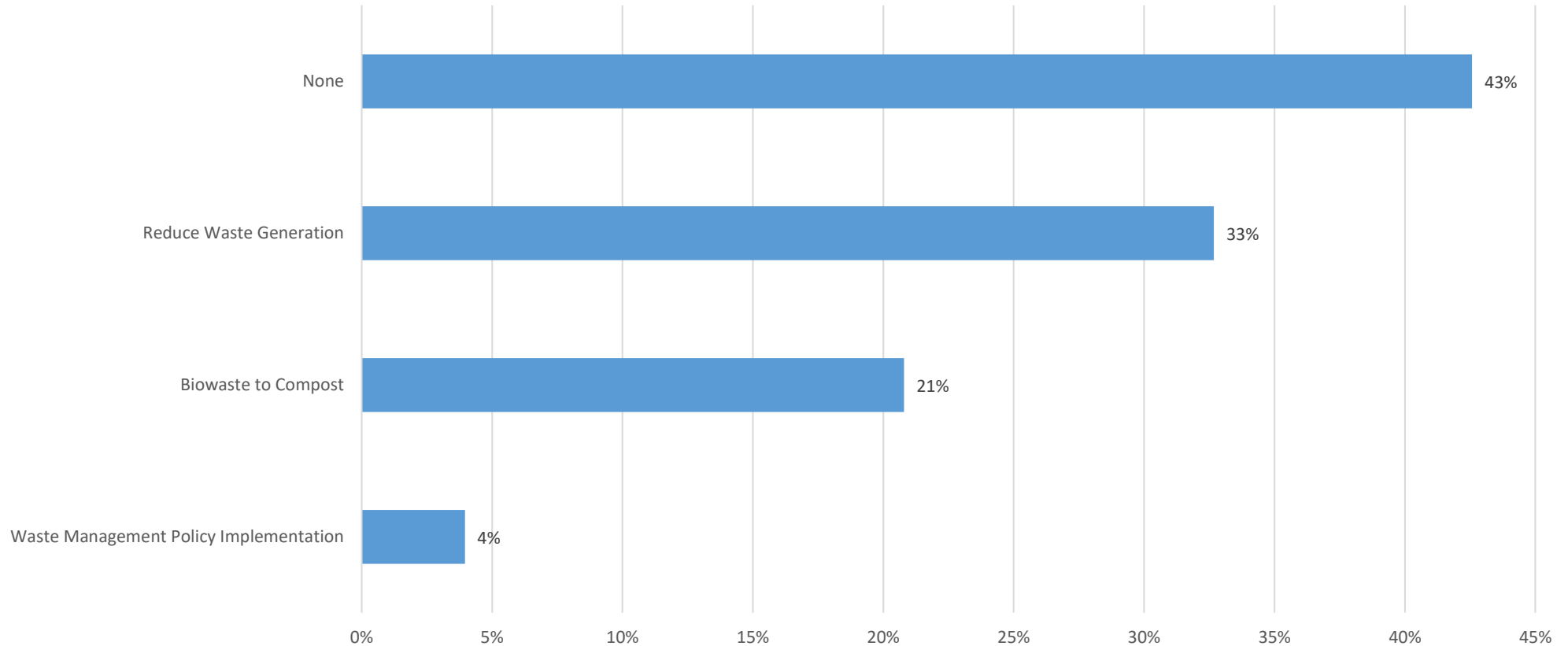
Social Impacts



Energy and Water Efficiency measures

- Seventy-one (71) percent of the surveyed enterprises indicated that they did not implement any energy interventions. Eighteen percent of the enterprises adopted energy-efficient technologies, mainly the use of solar for pumping water and energy-saving stoves.
- 52 percent of the enterprises implemented water-efficiency interventions such as re-use, rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and installation of water-saving devices.

Implementation of 3 Rs

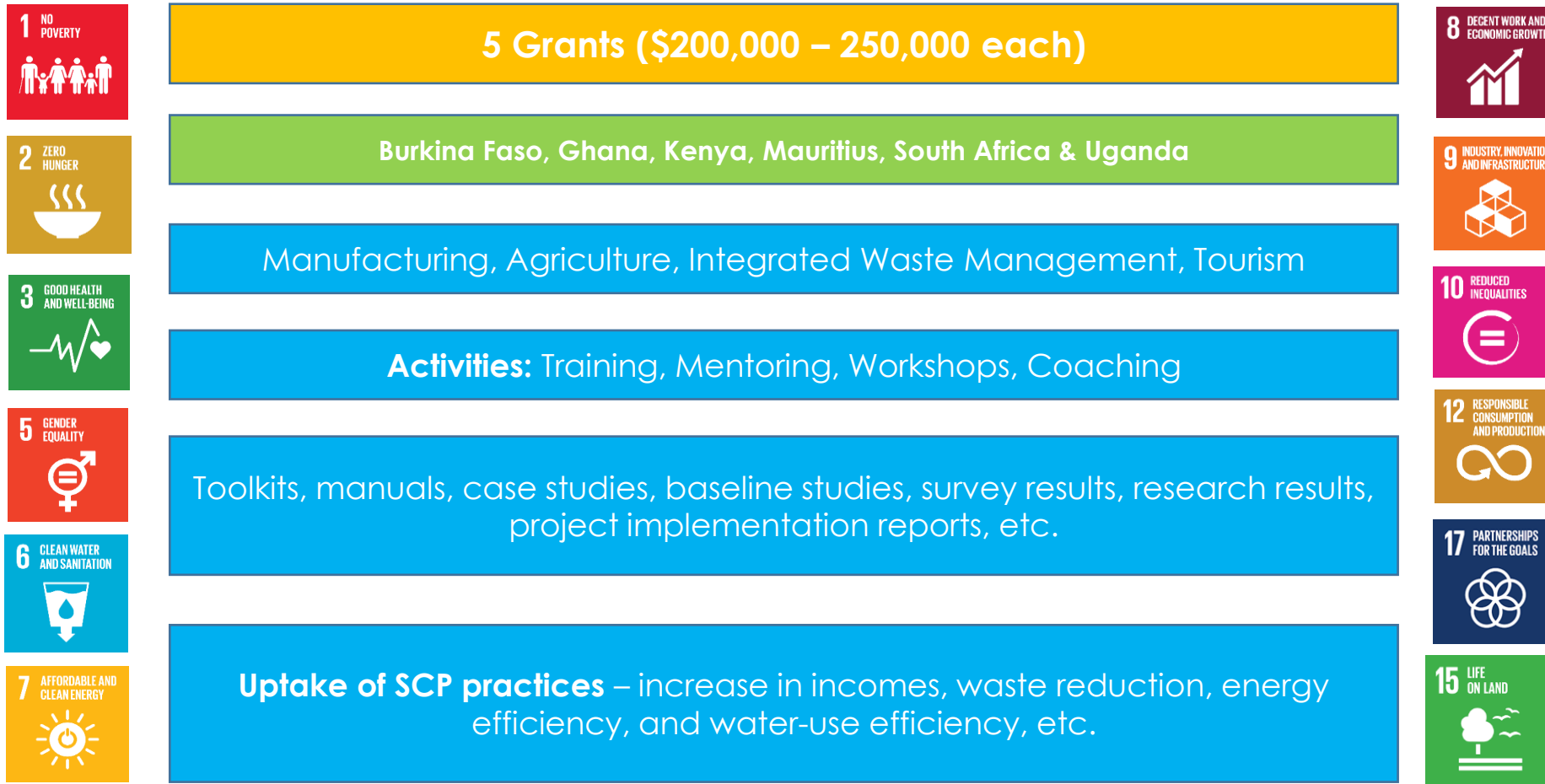


Regarding the 3Rs interventions used, about 57 percent of the enterprises implemented waste reduction measures including composting, use of waste for mulching, and as fuel. Forty-three (43) percent of the surveyed enterprises did not implement 3Rs measures.

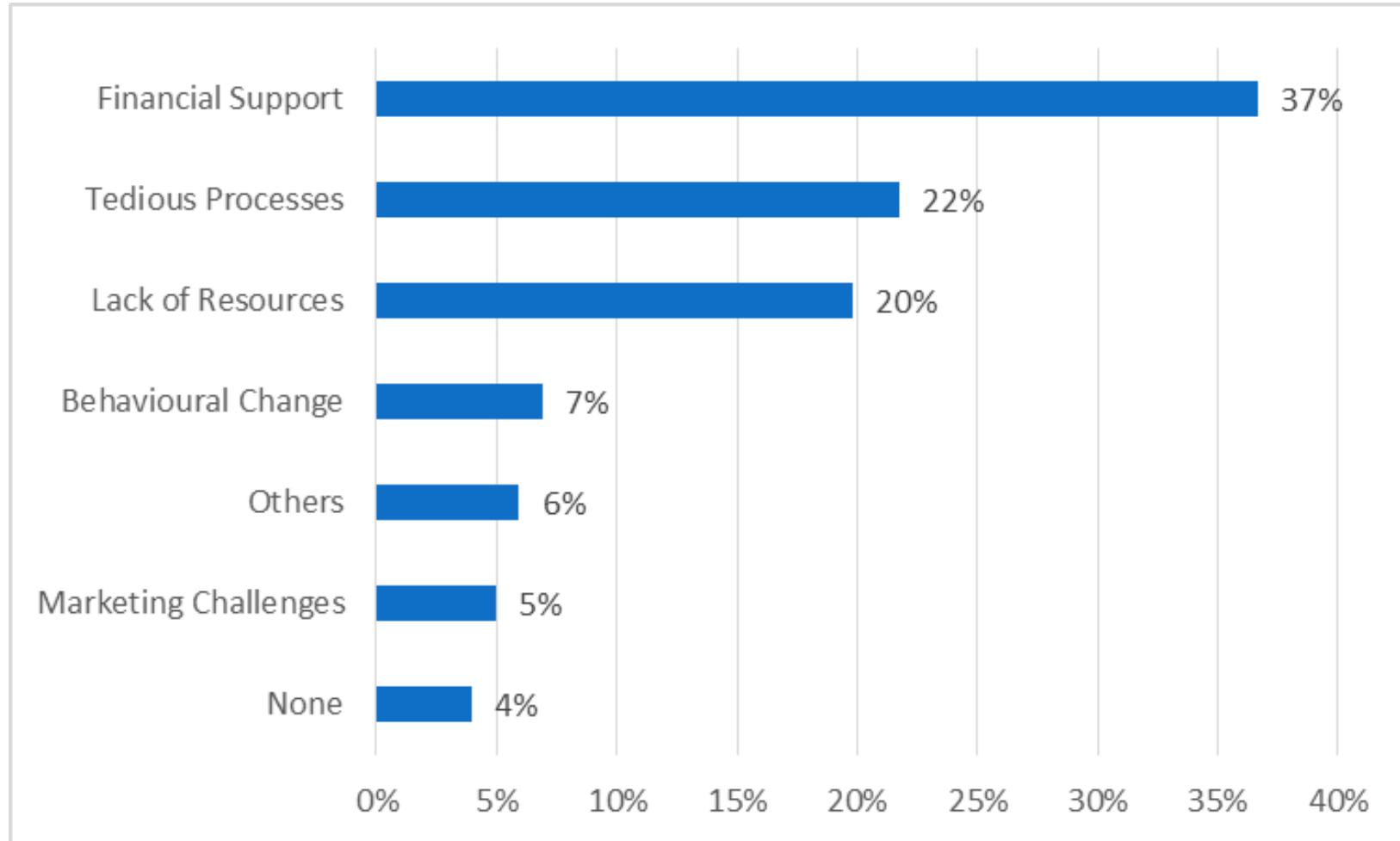


Summary of results

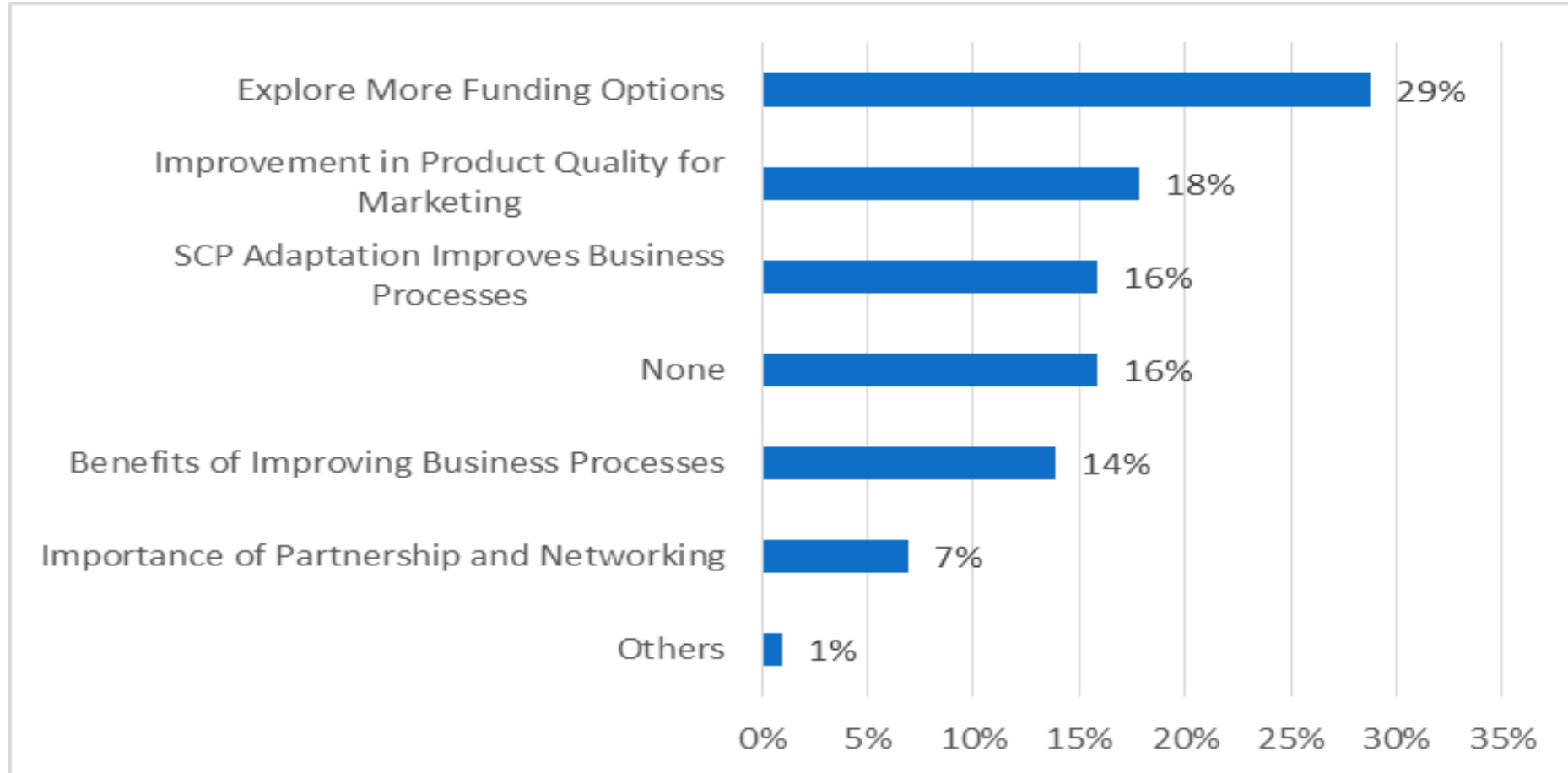
- Results indicate a strong uptake of SCP practices by the participating enterprises.
- There were notable positive impacts in the economic, social and environmental pillars.
- The programme specifically supports SDG 8, SDG 12 and SDG 17 but also contributes to a wide set of SDGs



Challenges faced by MSMEs



Lessons Learnt from Implementation



Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings reveal that the application of SCP practices in agriculture has economic, social, and environmental benefits. The results also indicate that the interventions of the SWITCH Africa Green have triggered the envisaged change in behavior and enterprise performance with the potential to support the transition to sustainable agriculture development.

1. Financing transition to sustainable agriculture

At the enterprise level funds are required to implement resource-efficient technologies in energy-use and water-use. Innovative green financing mechanisms, including green funds and fiscal incentives are required to support the adoption of green technologies in the sector.

Public investment in agricultural infrastructure, extension workers, and protection of the environment is encouraged and should leverage private sector resources in arrangements such as public private partnerships.

Conclusion and Recommendations...contd.

2. Capacity Building and Knowledge sharing

Many beneficiary enterprises underscore the importance of SCP and skills for improved business performance. Some of the relevant areas for continued capacity building and knowledge sharing include business skills to support commercialization of agriculture, soil management, pests and weeds control, eco-innovations and solutions, and standards and certification;

3. Integrated policy Approach

There is need to review and align the policy and regulatory framework to support sustainability including productivity, SCP practices, food security, and resilience. Key areas include rural transport and agriculture infrastructure, mitigation and adaption policy measures, agricultural research and innovation systems, and fiscal incentives such as subsidies and tax incentives that support sustainable agriculture.



THANK YOU!

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