

ASSESSING HISTORIC DROUGHT IMPACTS ON UK IRRIGATORS: A GROWERS SURVEY

(Preliminary results)

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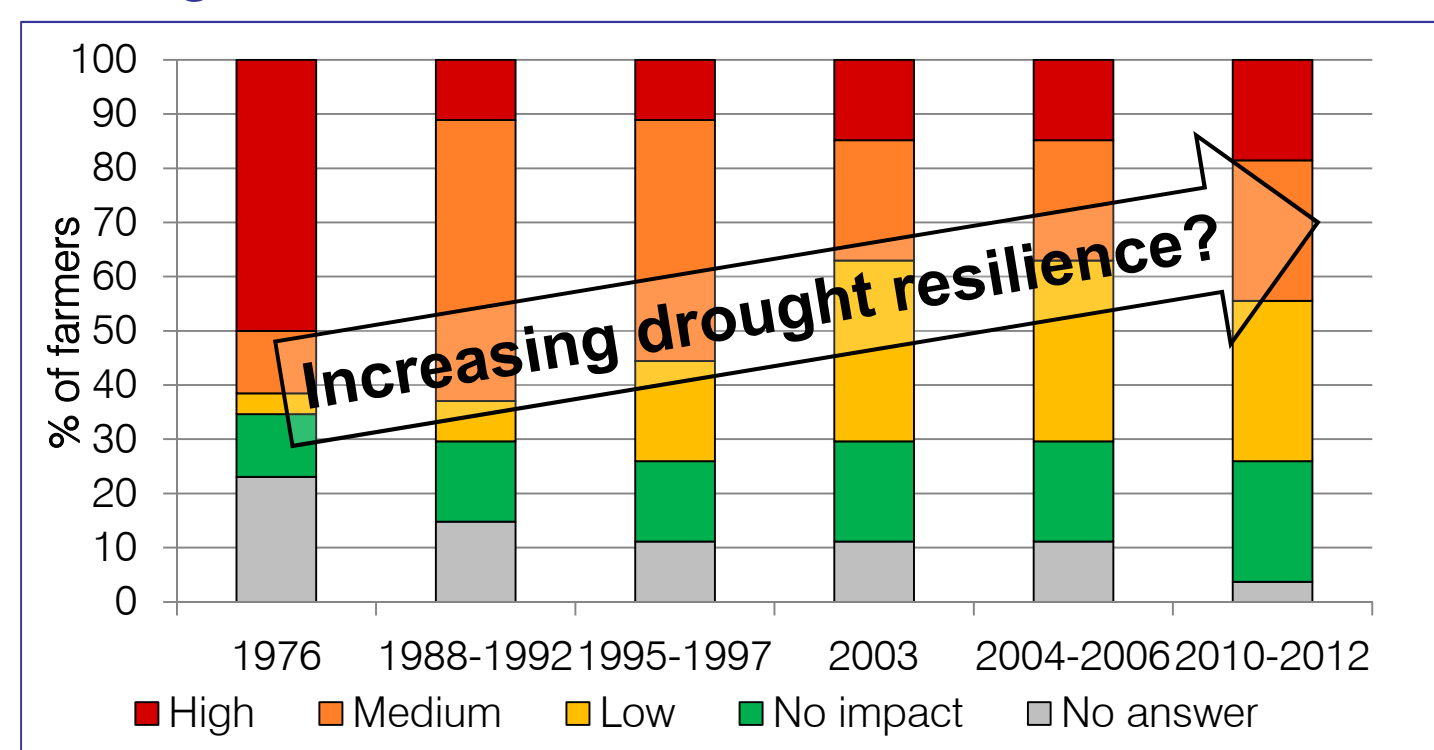
AIM

To better understand the agricultural impacts of droughts and agri-businesses' responses. This will help to inform future drought management actions and increase irrigated agriculture's resilience to drought.

2

DROUGHT IMPACTS

Effect on production (yield and/or quality) in recent droughts



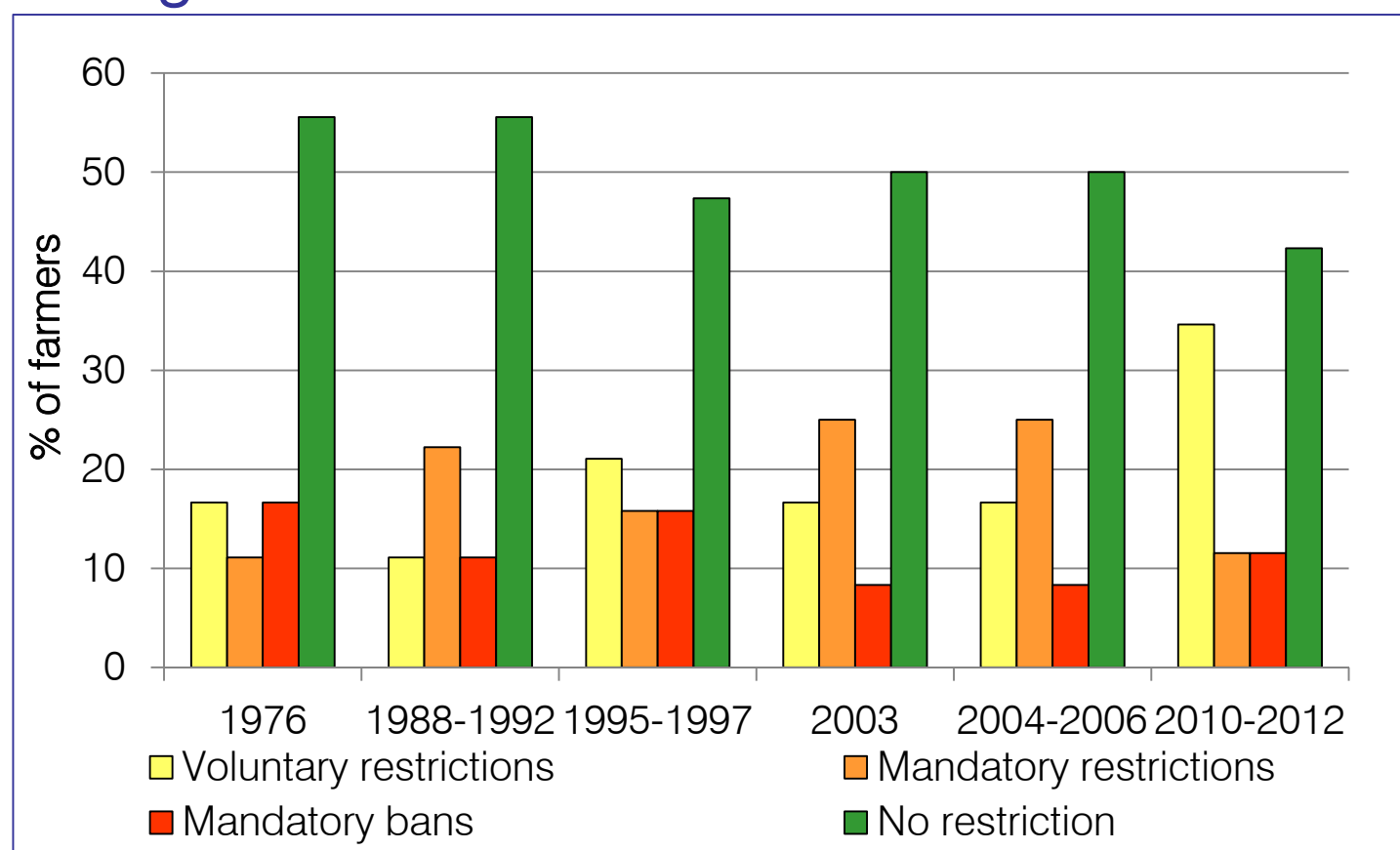
Typical yield reduction for most recent drought

Crops	Average yield reduction (%)
Potatoes	14
Cereals	29
Sugar beet	20
Vegetables	15
Small fruit	21
Grass	10

Typical impacts on farm-gate prices for most recent drought

Impact on prices	% of farmers
No effect	44
Slight increase in price (<5%)	13
Moderate increase in price (5-10%)	19
High increase in price (more than 10%)	24
Slight decrease (less than 5%)	0
Decrease more than 5%	0

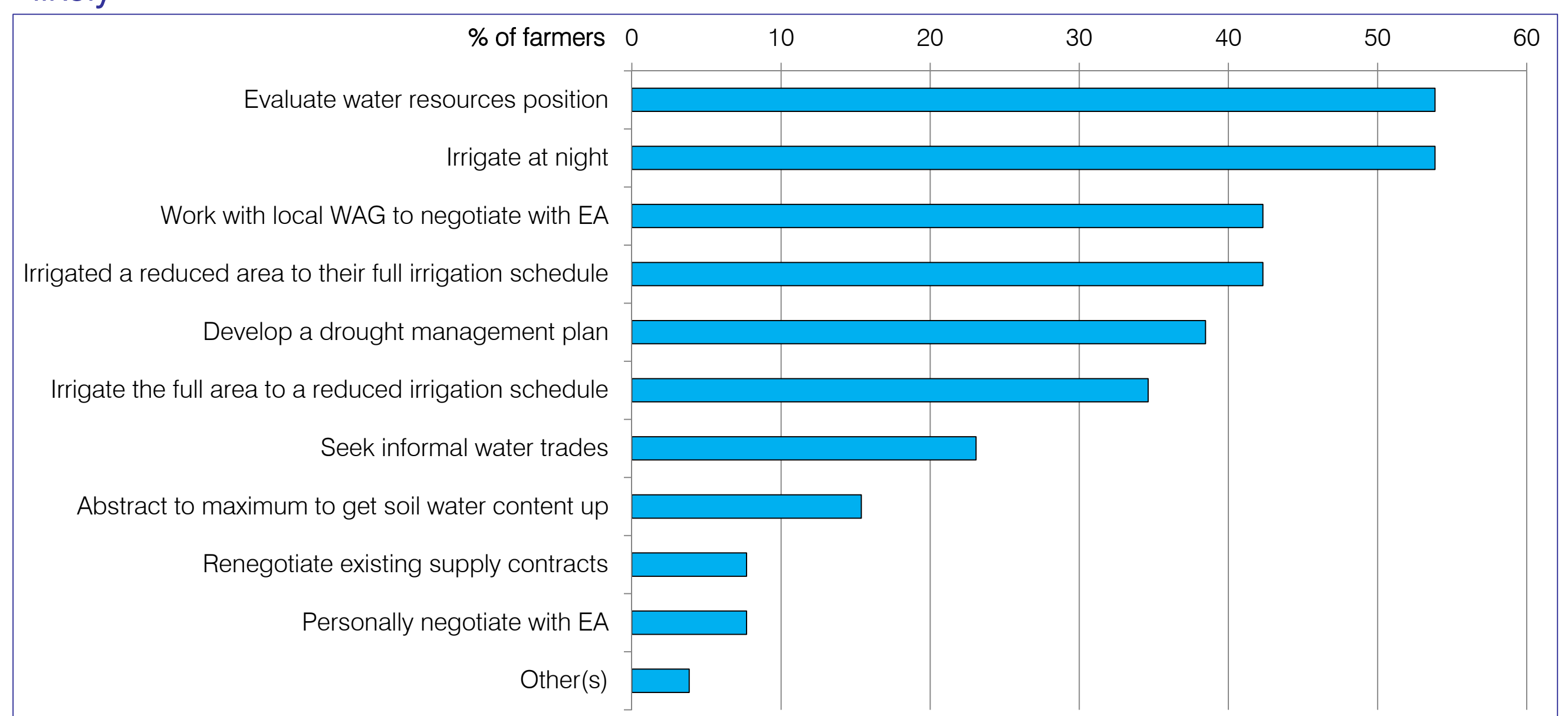
Abstraction restrictions experienced during recent droughts



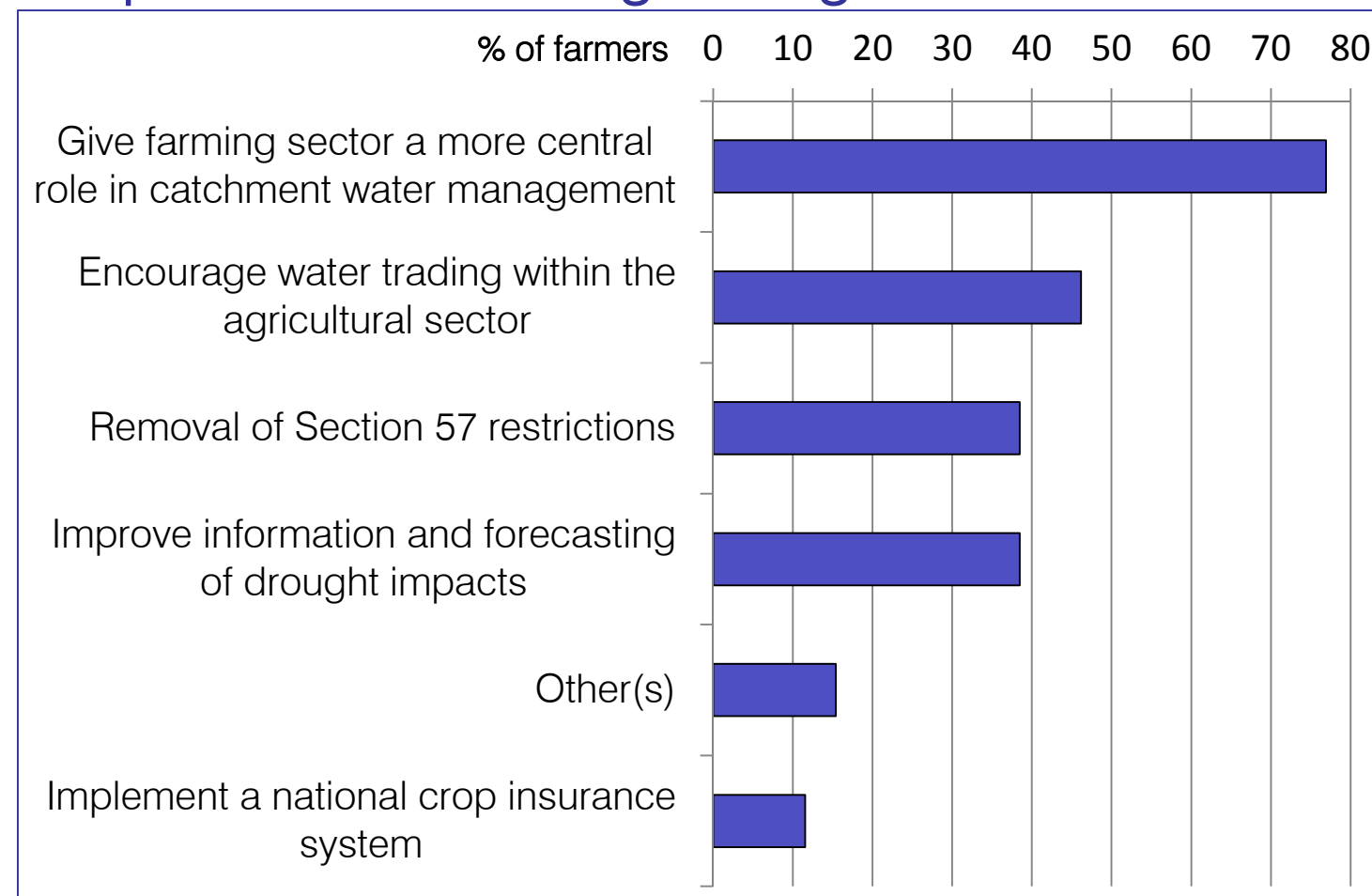
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DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

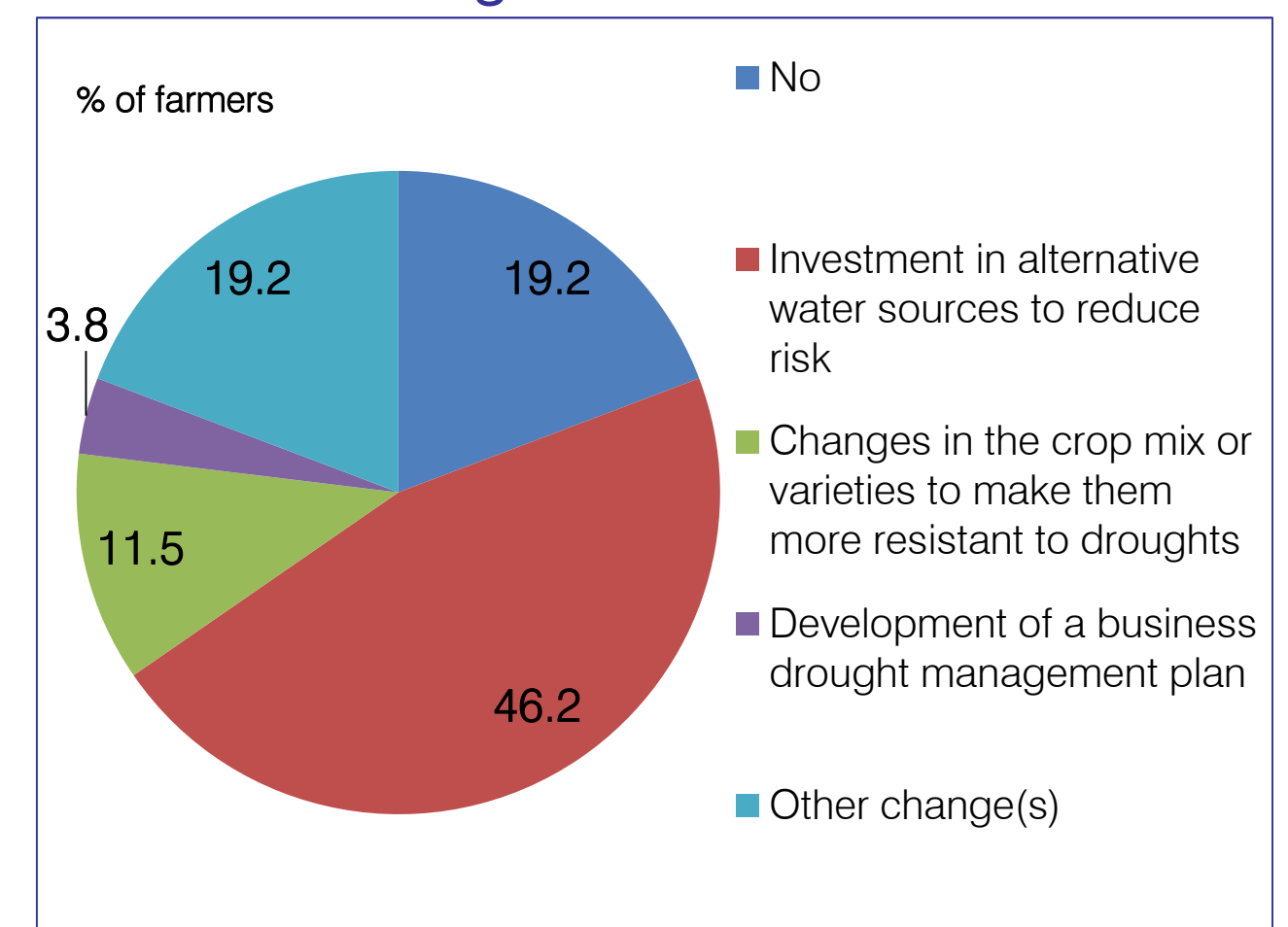
Strategies implemented when a drought has been declared and abstraction restrictions are likely



Changes that might reduce future droughts impacts on the UK irrigated agricultural sector



Recent changes in farm management to cope with future drought risks



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CONCLUSIONS

- Farm businesses' resilience to droughts appears to have increased over time.
- Investment in alternative water sources is an important component of drought resilience.
- Night-time irrigation and evaluating water resource position are the respondents' most important strategies when a drought has been declared.
- 80% of respondents think that drought is an important risk for their business
- In general, respondents are happy with the EA's drought management

Do you want to contribute? Please, fill in the online survey:
https://cranfielduniversity.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eVPNqA3lyZV2TmR

- Analysis of historic drought and water scarcity in the UK: a systems-based study of drivers, impacts and their interactions project (NE/L01016X/1)
- MaRIUS project: Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of droughts and water Scarcity (NE/L010364/1) <http://www.mariusdroughtproject.org>