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Background

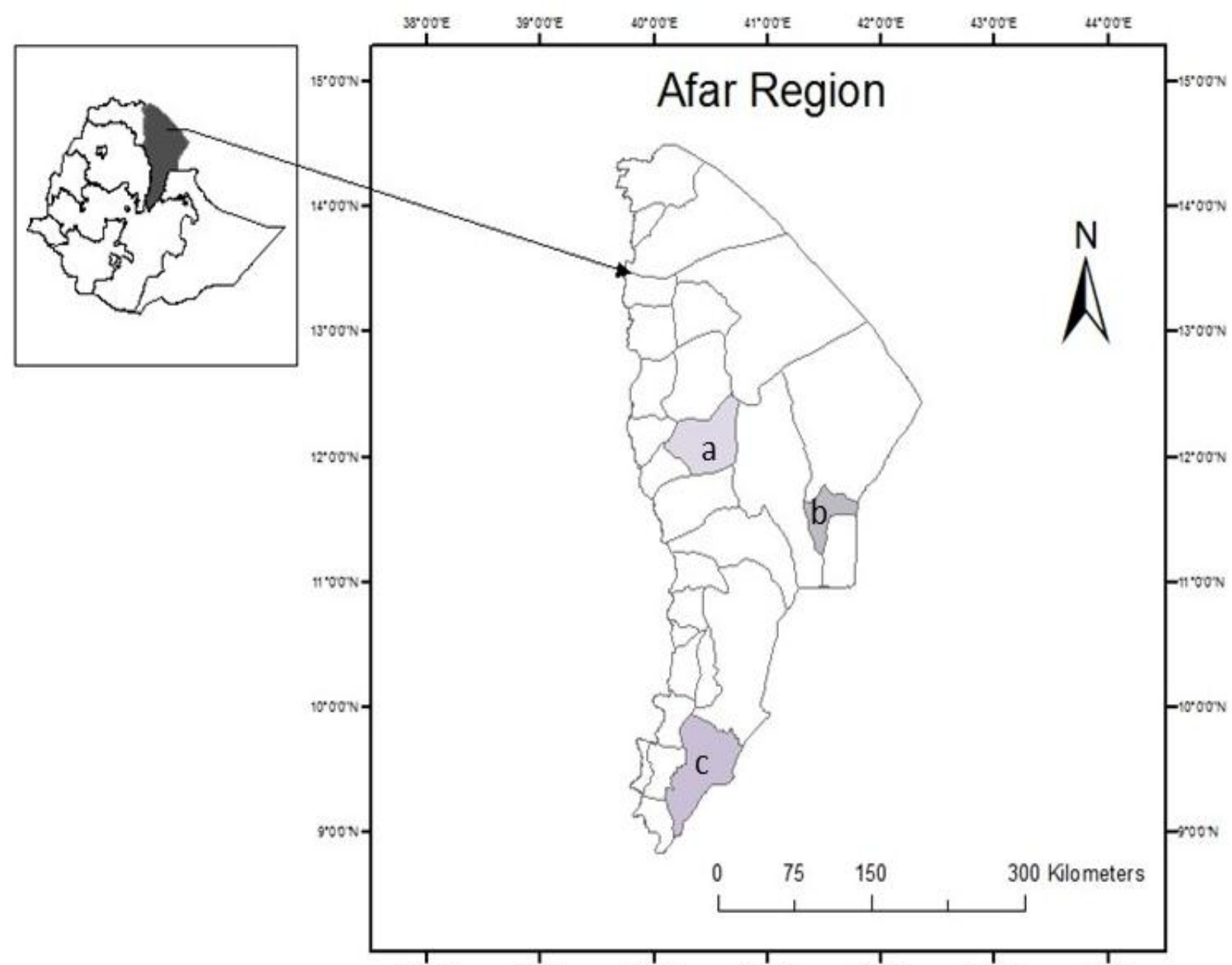
Rangelands in African drylands provide a multitude of ecosystem services whose sustainable management is critical for resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral systems which have traditionally depended on the customary institutional mechanisms for regulating the use of resources and conflict management. The livelihood strategies of pastoral communities in drylands have gradually shifted to agro-pastoralism, which is accompanied by changing accessibility to natural resources and significant sustainability implications.

Aims

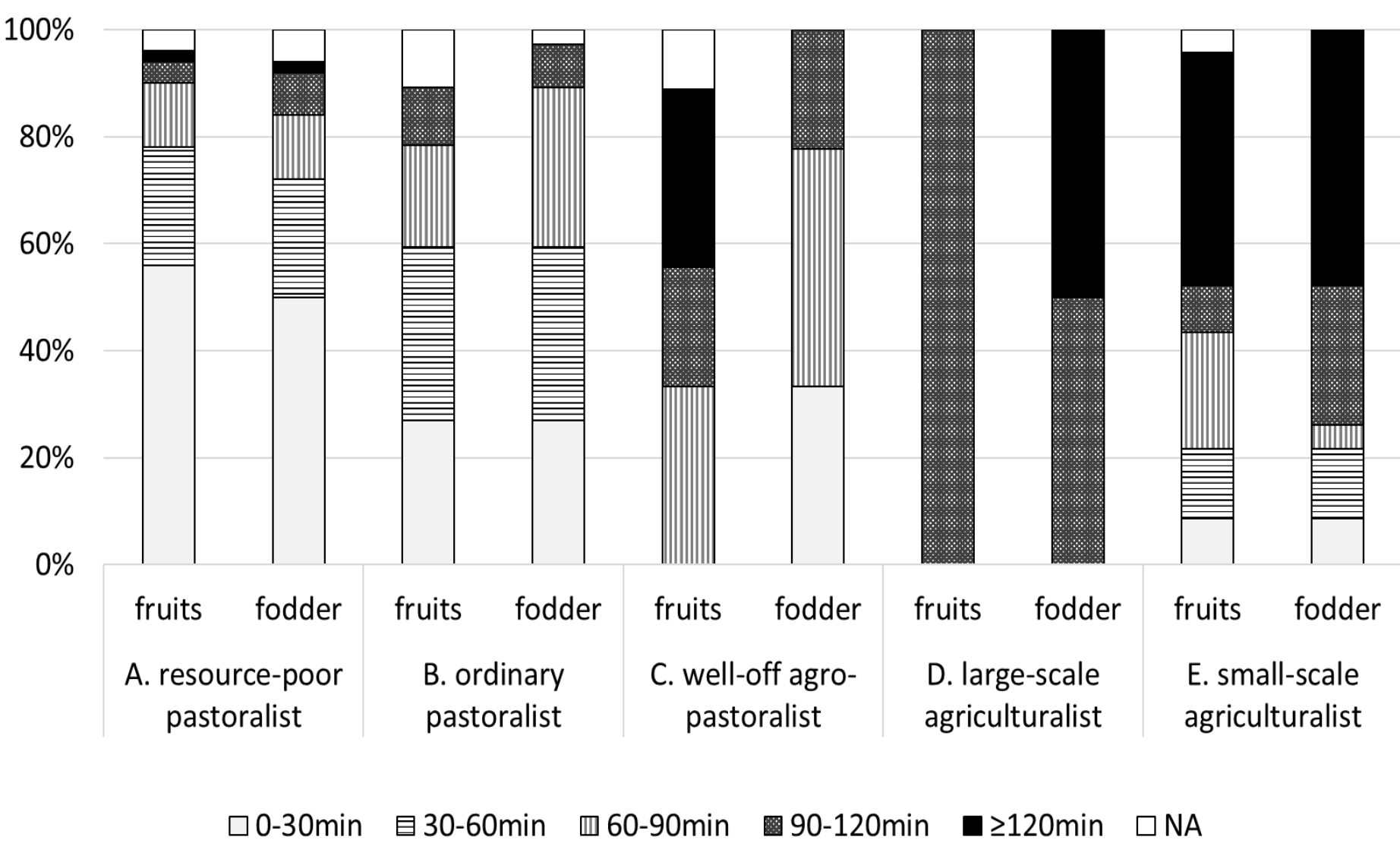
The study documented changing modes of access to tree resources along with livelihood transitions to agro-pastoralism in traditionally pastoral communities, aiming to guide interventions to promote tree regeneration and plantation while addressing livelihood needs.

Materials and methods

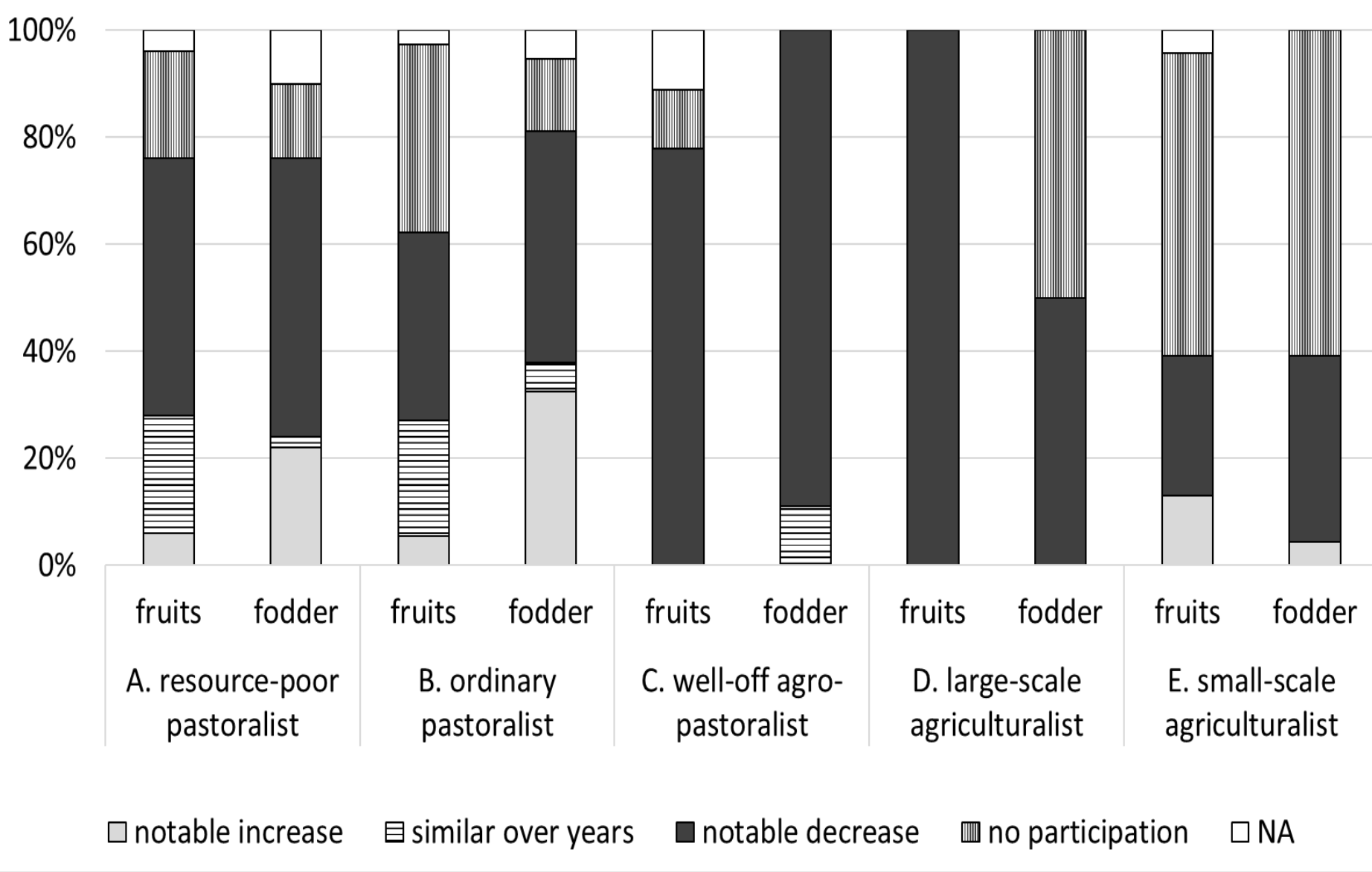
The socio-economic data was collected from 122 households in pastoral-agro-pastoral communities in Afar, Ethiopia. Cluster analysis was performed to group households with similar livelihood strategies. Then differences among livelihood clusters in perceptions of livelihood contributions of fruits/fodder tree resources and their physical as well as tenorial accessibility were



Location of the study sites (a Awra, b Assaita, c Amibara)



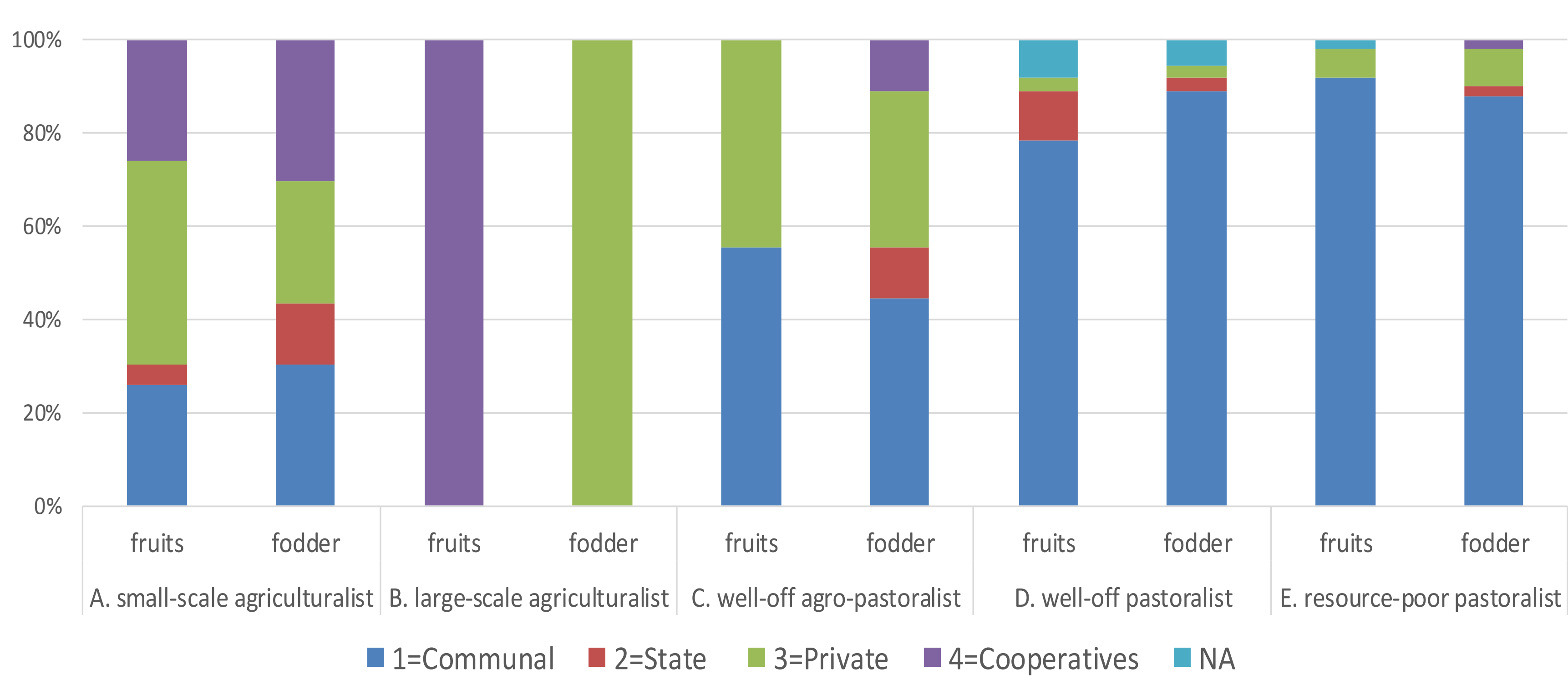
Time required to access tree resources by livelihood clusters



Changes in importance of tree resources to livelihoods by livelihood clusters

Results

The five clusters varied significantly for livelihood proxy variables. The resource-poor pastoralists and well-off pastoralists collected fruit and fodder tree resources from communal land. As livelihoods shifted from pastoralism to agro-pastoralism physical access to fruits/fodder trees decreased as communal land was increasingly diminishing and becoming remote from homesteads.



Tenure regimes to access tree resources by livelihood clusters

Conclusion

The livelihood transition from pastoralism to agro-pastoralism/agriculturalism in Afar is accompanied by changing accessibility to tree resources both in terms of physical access and institutional/tenorial regimes with significant sustainability implications. Strategies targeting agro-pastoralists and agriculturalists should be urgently developed to promote tree regeneration and planting through awareness raising and capacity building.



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