



RUMIRES

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Regarding Antimicrobial Use Among Small Ruminant Farmers from Portugal

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INTRODUCTION

The use of antibiotics in farm animals is believed to be one of the factors driving the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ARB). The evaluation of Knowledge (K), Attitude (A) and Practices (P) of farmers allows the design of appropriate educational actions for responsible antimicrobial use (AMU).

Aims: To assess the Knowledge (K), Attitudes (A), and Practices (P) of small ruminant farmers in Portugal regarding antimicrobial use, resistance, and residues.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Validated Questionnaire with 4 sections:

- Sociodemographic info;
- KAP assessment (7 questions each).

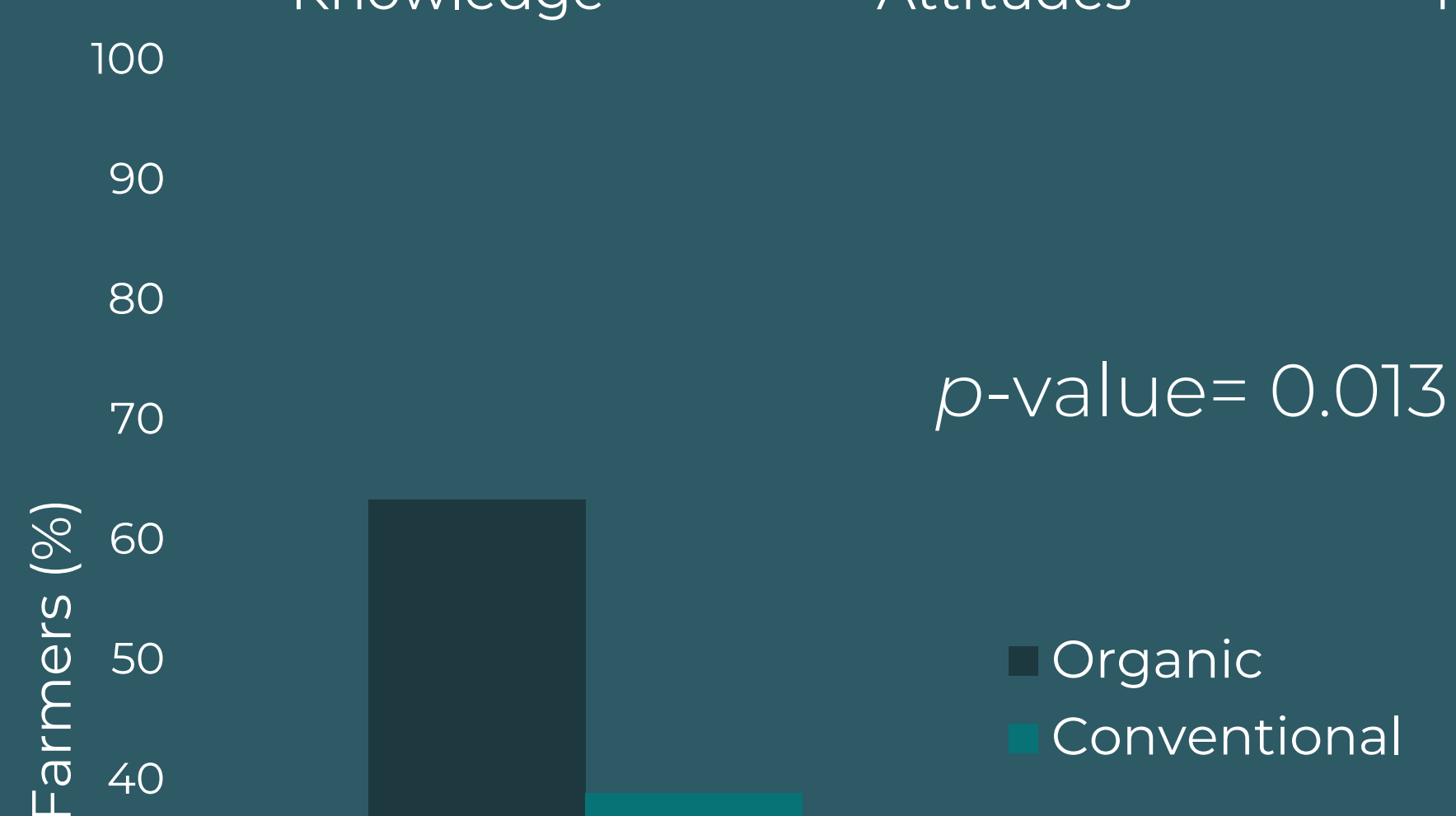
Scoring: Correct answer = 1, Incorrect answer = 0.

Levels: Bad (0–2), Good (3–5), Very Good (6–7).

The questionnaire was distributed by farmers' associations and completed face-to-face by researchers.

RESULTS

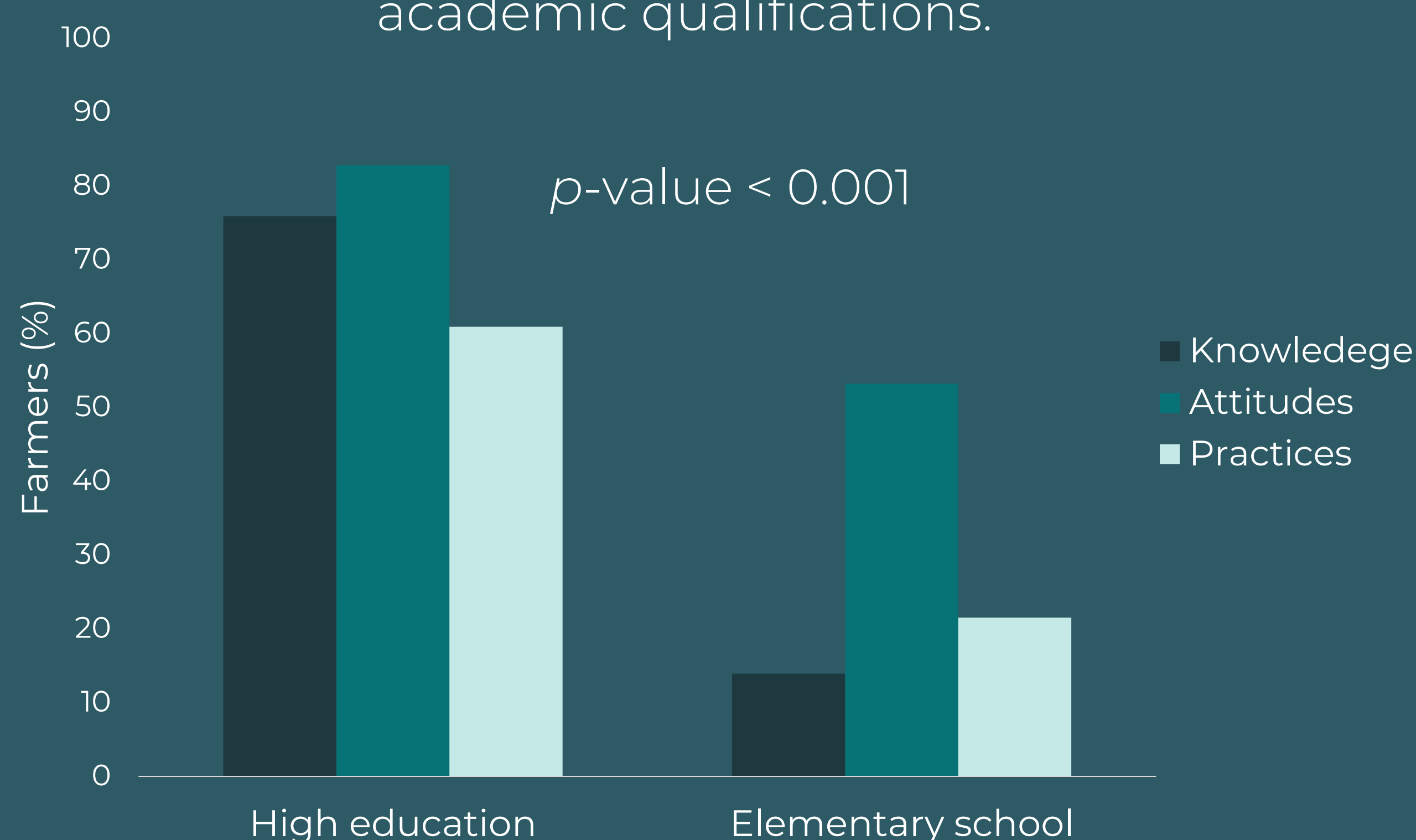
Based on 267 answers, farmers KAP were classified as Very Good, Good and Bad.



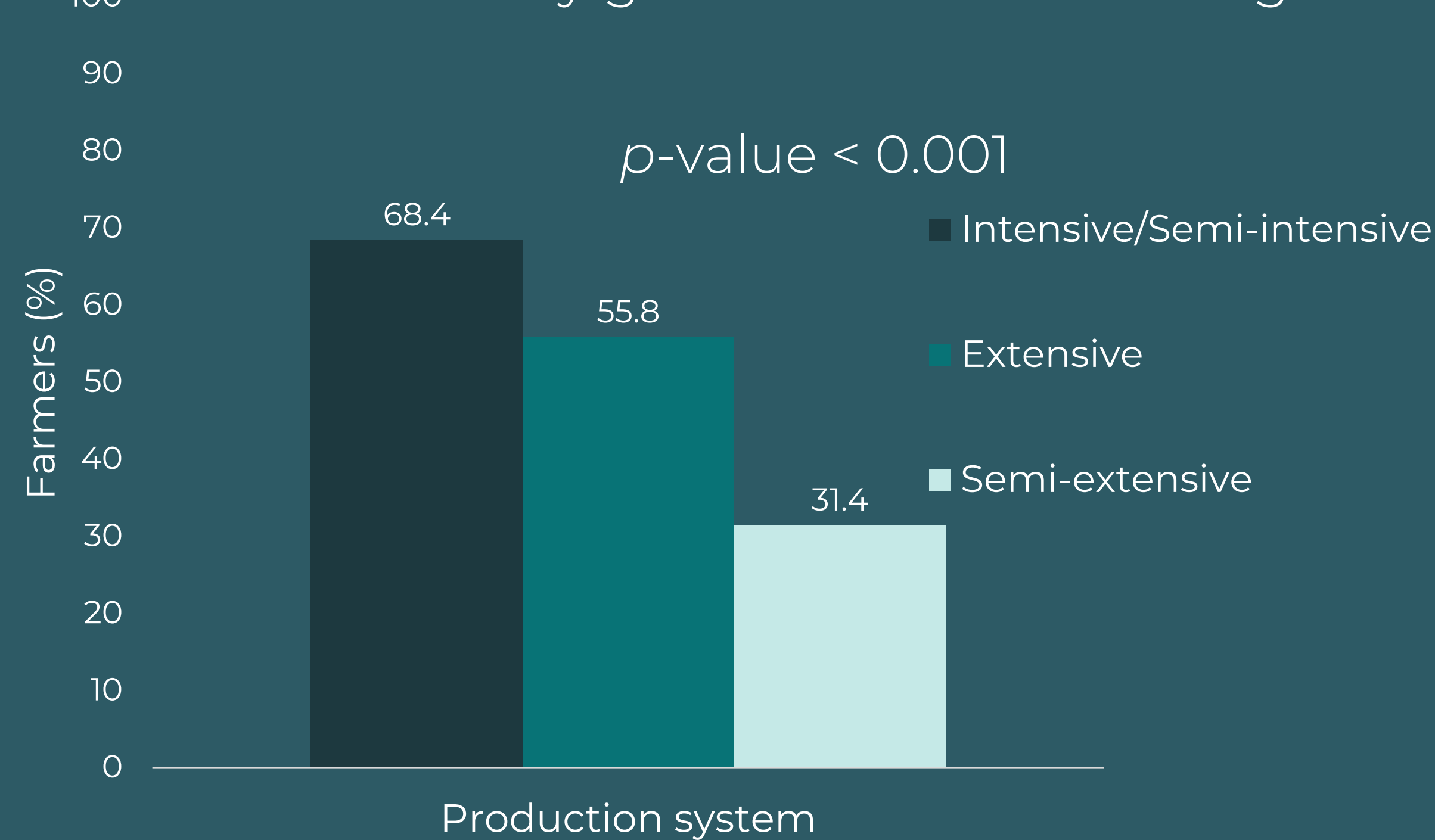
More than half of farmers in organic production demonstrated a "very good" level of K.

Farm Type

KAP levels were positively influenced by farmers' academic qualifications.



Farmers in intensive/semi-intensive systems exhibited "very good" levels of knowledge



CONCLUSIONS

Academic qualifications, organic certification, and intensive production systems were associated with higher KAP levels, particularly in knowledge. The gap between attitudes and practices highlights the need for targeted education. Strengthening training and awareness among small ruminant farmers is essential to promote responsible AMU and combat resistance.



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