

DESIRE: Gender Template

Study site: Cointzio watershed, Michoacán, Mexico

Template climate with 6 months drought under the tropics

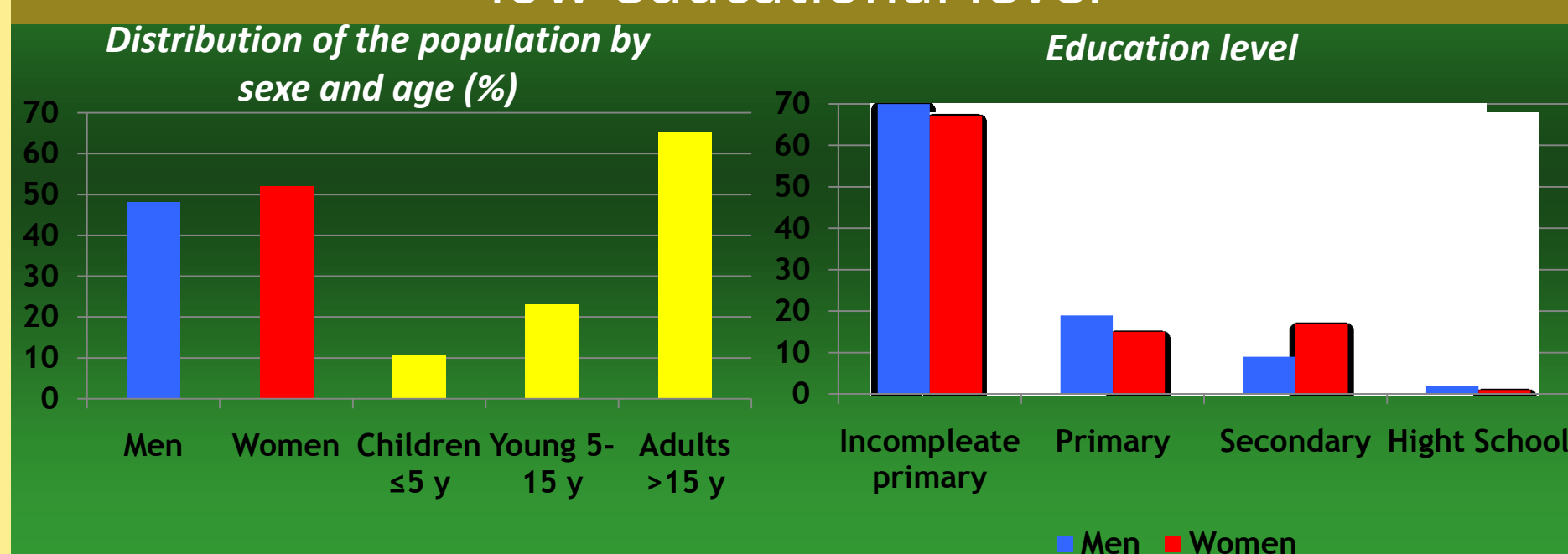
Women in rural communities of Cointzio watershed, traditionally have the responsibility of the home and family meanwhile men are in charge to bring money at home.



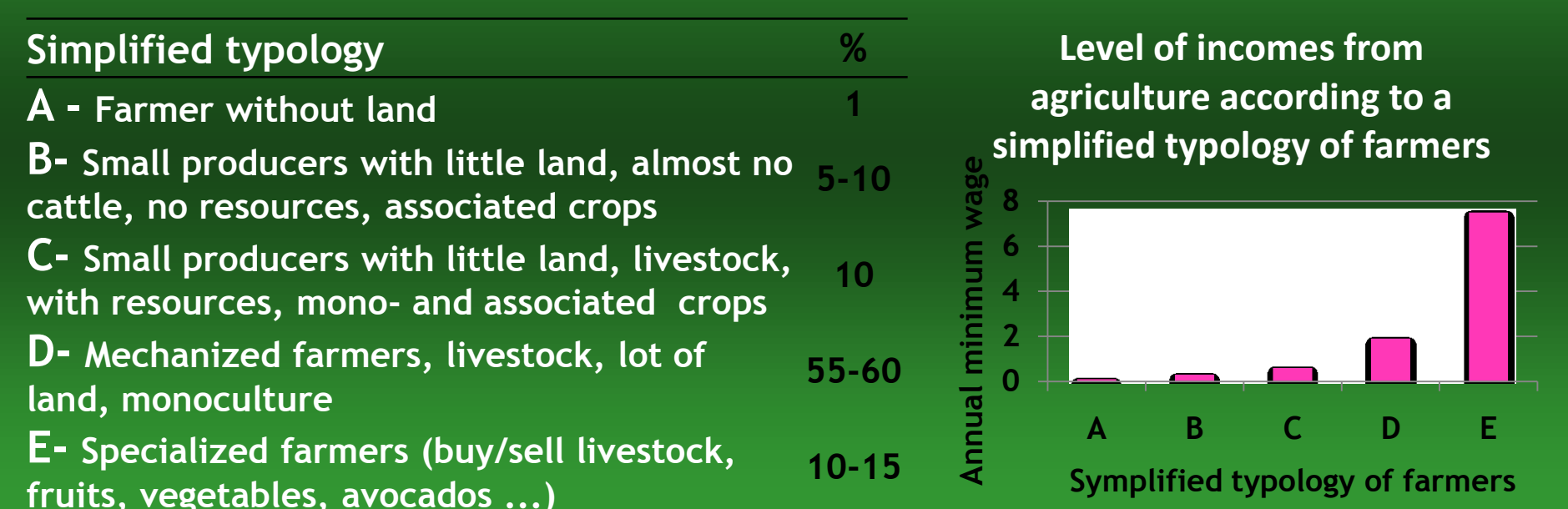
Before and during DESIRE project, members of DESIRE team worked on the socio-economic situation of different rural communities of the Cointzio watershed. One study was specifically focus on the women of these communities (Vidal, D., 2007. *Estrategias de sobrevivencia: el caso de las comunidades de la microcuenca de Atecuaro, municipio de Morelia, Michoacán, México*. Universidad de Concepción, Chile)
The present data comes from official data, workshops and personal interviews of different rural communities of the study site.



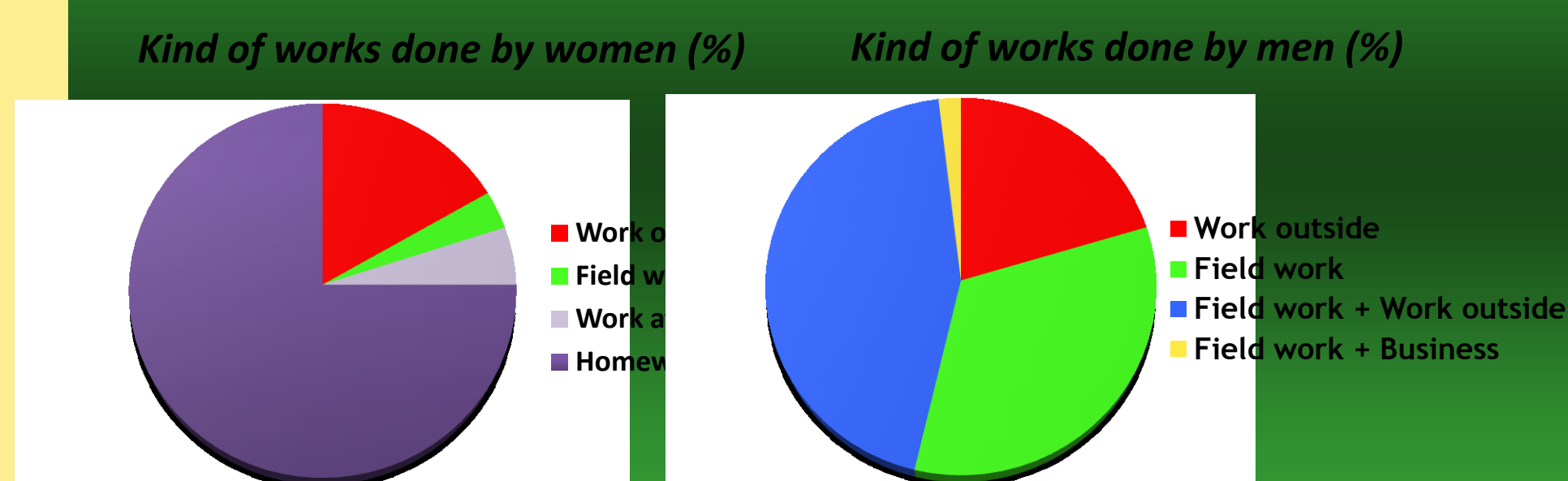
Demography: More women than men, more children (3,5) than the national average (3,0) and low educational level



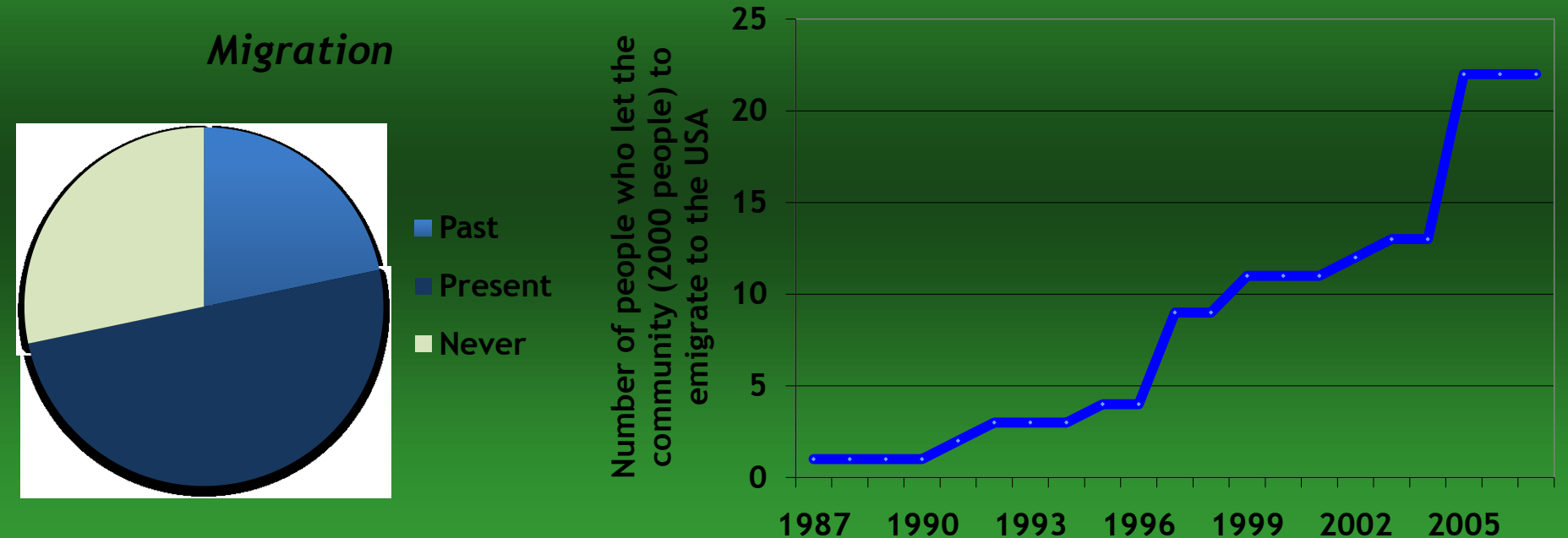
Income: Agriculture is just an extra income for most farmers! Money is coming from off farm activities (work, foreign remittances, government help)



Labor division:
Women at home and Men outside



Emigration: 86% of emigrants are men, but since few years, women are also emigrating to the USA



Successful Story

Miss Carmen Campos-Domínguez is living in San Rafael Coapa, in the sub-watershed of El Calabozo-Potrerillos. Meanwhile her husband works in the fields and abroad, she is in charge of the family and home. Thanks to the project of the SEMARNAT (Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources), she asked and obtained an ecological oven call "Patsari". This oven reduce more than 75% the wood consuming and so, reduce the deforestation. It is also reducing the time spend to go to pick this wood or, save the money needs to buy it. It is also healthier because the smoke is conduce outside of the kitchen. In regards to the benefits, Miss Carmen Campos-Domínguez is promoting widely the use of this oven on the community. In other hand, she is looking for new economical incomes from women related activities, she will start a new project of mushroom production (*Pleurotus* sp.), thanks to SEMARNAT and DESIRE actions.



Conclusions

- Rural communities of Cointzio watershed are still very conservative and the role of women is mainly reduced to the home activities, except when the man is not at home for a long time or when he left is family...
- Only 10 to 20% of the annual incomes comes from the agriculture for most of farmers. So they are not very interested to investing time and money to improve their production and fight against soil degradation.
- For young people, the future is on the other side of the border. Since last years, men and women are emigrating to the states meanwhile before, nearly only men were doing this.
- To develop soil conservation strategy, it is necessary to guarantee new and appropriate income for families farming. Alternatives to save money and protect the environment (oven Patsari) have being developed. New activities to be developed at home that generates income (mushrooms) have been proposed. Life conditions of the communities (water, light, internet...) have been improved and the Project has helped to change and develop new productions. One of this consist to improve the cattle quality which mean a reduction of their movement and by the way, a reduction of soil erosion.

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