

more than 0.50 ha. These findings indicate that the tunnel vegetable farming in the study area is mainly practiced by small and medium scale farming households.

3.2 Plastic tunnel structures

3.2.1 Types of tunnel used by the respondents

Farmers used different types of plastic tunnels based on their farm size, investment capacity and crop to be planted. Among the respondents, 84% used medium sized tunnel with a height of 2-2.5 m, while 10% used high tunnel (4-5 m) and 6% used low tunnels (up to 1 m) (Figure 2).

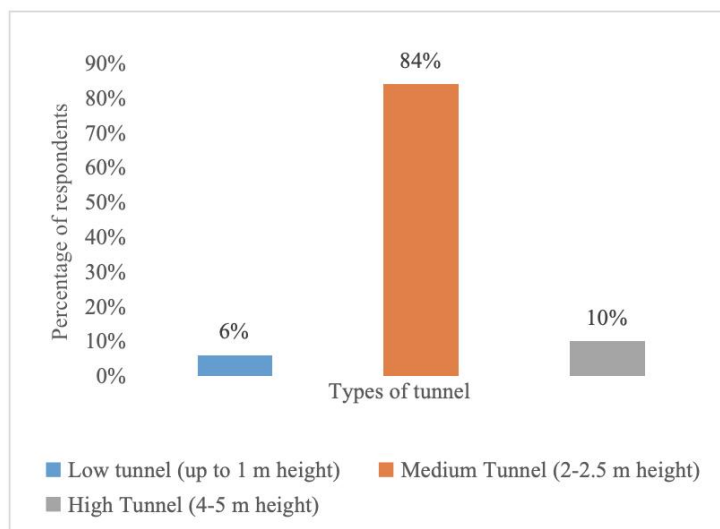


Figure 2 Types of tunnels used by the respondents

The most common structure respondents used were medium tunnels as they are suitable for crops like tomato and cucumber. Protected structures such as walk-in tunnels are common for cultivating commercial vegetables as they provide a controlled environment and allow efficient crop management (FAO, 2013).

3.2.2 Grams per Square Meter (GSM) of plastic used by the respondents

The majority i.e. 60% of the farmers used 90 GSM plastic sheets, followed by 120 GSM (25%), 200 GSM (7%), and 8% of the other farmers used others GSM (50 GSM, 70 GSM, 150 GSM) and microns plastic (100 micron, 200 micron) (Figure 3).

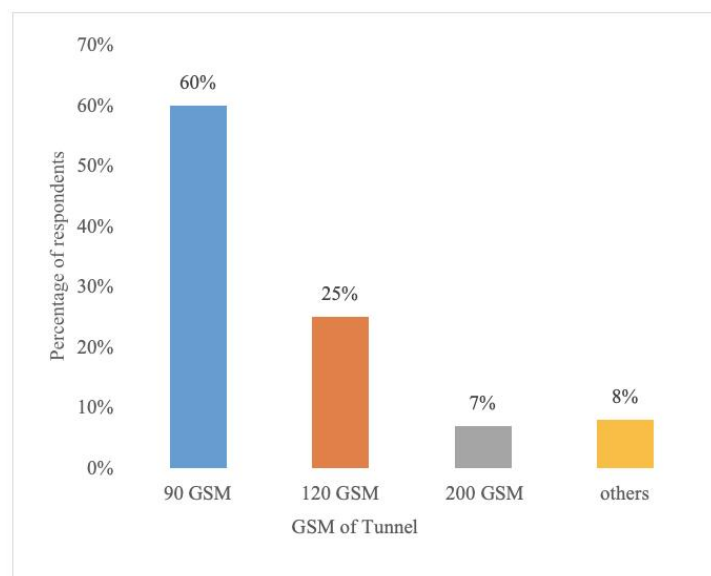


Figure 3 GSM of plastic used by the respondents