

NATIONAL GENDER PROFILE OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS

Report based on the Lao Expenditure and
Consumption Surveys, National Agricultural
Census and the National Population Census

2010



LAO PDR

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Agriculture and Rural Development*

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Vientiane, 2010



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSP	Country strategy and program
DoS	Department of Statistics
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAD	Gender and Development
GRID	Gender Resource Information and Development Centre
LAC	Lao Agricultural Census
LaoNCAW	Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LECS 3	Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-03
LECS 4	Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2007-08
LWU	Lao Women's Union
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NCAW	National Commission for the Advancement of Women
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NGPES	National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SDD	Sex-Disaggregated Data
UN	United Nations

Summary sheet

1 | Agricultural Households

Sex of household head (%)

Male headed households:	95
Female headed households:	5

Average household size

Male headed households:	5.9
Female headed households:	4.8

Average household labour force (active members)

Male headed households:	4.4
Female headed households:	3.8

Employed labour (%)

Male headed households:	31
Female headed households:	25

2 | Literacy rate

Household head

Male headed households:	80
Female headed households:	49

Household members age 10+

Male members:	75
Female members:	57

3 | Agricultural land

Land access (%)

Male headed households:	96
Female headed households:	88

Land area (ha)

Male headed households:	1.9
Female headed households:	1.6

4 | Technologies

Average irrigated land area (ha)

Male headed households:	1.2
Female headed households:	1.3

5 | Credit

Access to credit for production/business purposes

Male headed households:	15
Female headed households:	10

Credit used for agriculture purposes

Male headed households:	36
Female headed households:	28

6 | Crop production (percentage of area planted)

Rice

Male headed households:	77
Female headed households:	89

Industrial crop

Male headed households:	8
Female headed households:	4

7 | Livestock production
Engaged in cattle production (%)

Male headed households:	52
Female headed households:	47

Average number of cattle owned

Male headed households:	5.1
Female headed households:	4.5

Engaged in buffalo production (%)

Male headed households:	55
Female headed households:	88

Average number of buffalo owned

Male headed households:	3.5
Female headed households:	5.5

Engaged in pig production (%)

Male headed households:	62
Female headed households:	58

Average number of local pigs owned

Male headed households:	3.0
Female headed households:	2.3

8 | Fishery
Engaged in fish culture (%)

Male headed households:	58
Female headed households:	39

9 | Food consumption expenditure

Male headed households:	46
Female headed households:	45

10 | Agricultural households exploiting forest (%)

Male headed households:	52
Female headed households:	34

11 | Access to safe drinking water (%): (dry season)

Male headed households:	58
Female headed households:	48

12 | Access to electricity (%)

Male headed households:	61
Female headed households:	77

13 | Wood as main fuel for cooking (%)

Male headed households:	81
Female headed households:	69

Preface

Like in many countries across the world, Lao women are major contributors to agricultural production. Their contributions, often unpaid, are crucial for household food security and the rural economy. Nevertheless, their activities are often excluded from economic accounts and their contributions remain invisible and therefore greatly undervalued as a result of lack of sex-disaggregated data. By and large, agricultural statistics tend to under-represent, or even omit, data items that are crucial for understanding women's important role in the agricultural sector. The lack of relevant data on women in agriculture limits planners' understanding of the real situation in rural economies and constrains their potential to act. There is thus a strong need for incorporating a gender perspective in statistics.

In response to the increasing demand placed upon national statistical systems for reliable statistical data disaggregated by sex and age, FAO with financial support of SIDA aims to strengthen national capacities for socially and sex-disaggregated data in agriculture and rural development in the Asia-Pacific region. This support involves the development and pilot testing of a Gender and Agricultural Statistics Framework that will be compatible with the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture guidelines. Lao PDR expressed interest in participating in the development and pilot testing of the framework. As part of the project, staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Lao Women's Union, Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women and the Department of Statistics were trained in gender analysis and mainstreaming gender concerns in agricultural censuses and surveys. Further, as part of the FAO-SIDA project, DoS was supported in re-tabulating existing census data in order to produce a range of sex-disaggregated data that was used for further gender analysis. This National Gender Profile is the outcome of that support.

It is with great pleasure that we present the first National Gender Profile of Agricultural Households. The Gender Profile presents sex-disaggregated data on demographic and social characteristics of agricultural households, their gender based access to productive resources, their livelihood activities, and important livelihood outcomes. This Gender Profile is produced by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Statistics.

On behalf of MAF and DoS, we gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by SIDA.

Dr. Ty Phommassack
Vice Minister, MAF

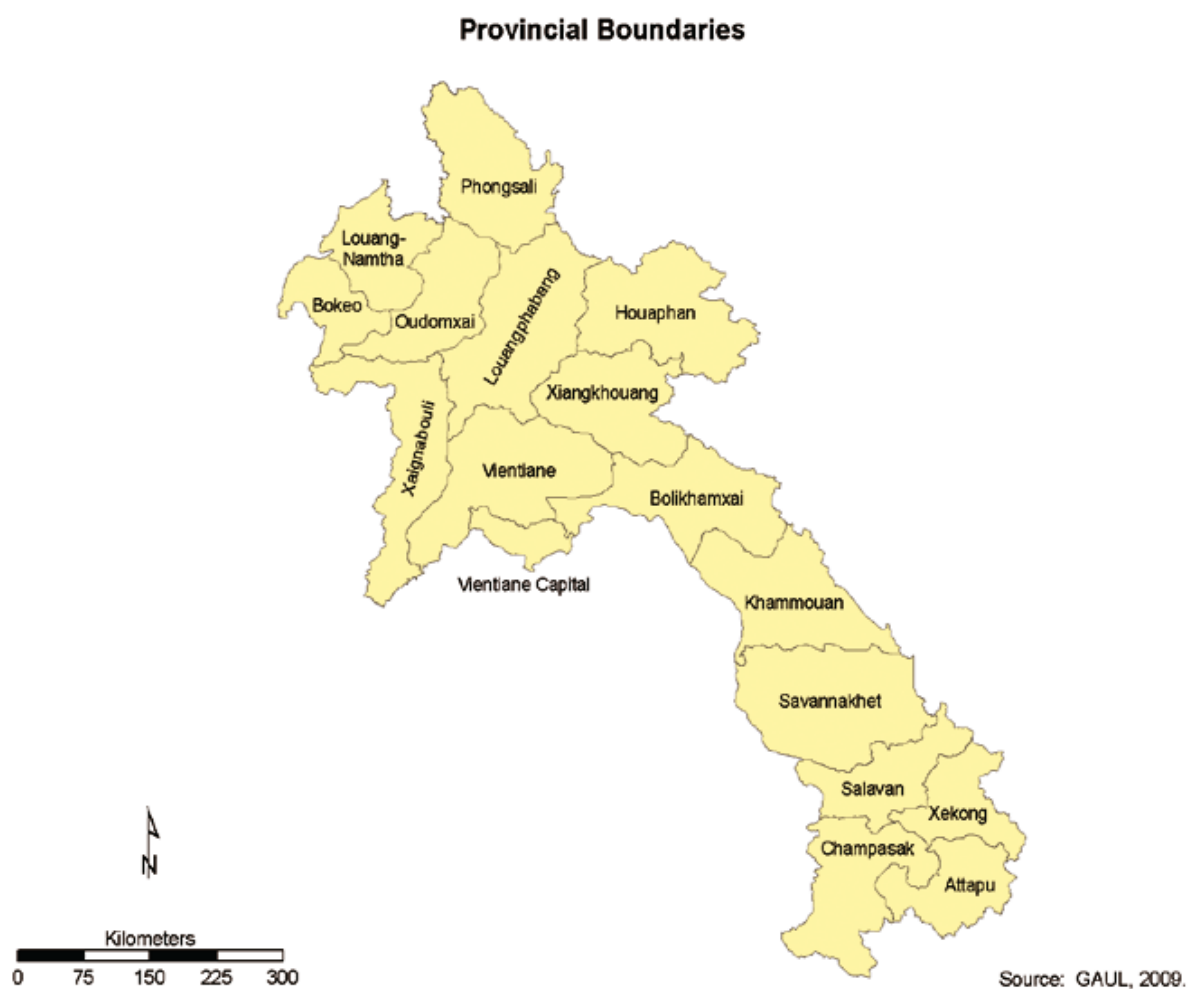


Serge Verniau
FAO Representative



Vientiane
April, 2010

Map of Lao PDR





CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a rural country with an estimate of 6.3 million people in 2010. About 73 percent of its population live in rural areas¹. Livelihoods of a large majority of these people are based on a combination of rice-based agriculture, the collection of forest products and livestock production. Lao PDR is highly dependent on agriculture. In 2008, the sector generated over 30 percent of the GDP and provided employment for up to 80 percent of the work force². The sector is dominated by smallholder farm families engaged mainly in subsistence production. Most of those employed in agriculture are self-employed or unpaid family workers and almost 66 percent of all hours worked concern work on own operated farms³.

Rice is the most important crop and rice cultivation takes place on 65 percent of the total cultivated areas⁴. In Lao PDR, three main farming systems dominate: dry-land rice cultivation using shifting cultivation techniques in the northern and eastern mountain regions; paddy rice cultivation along the Mekong River; and the cultivation of horticulture crops in the highland areas of the south.

1.2 AGRICULTURAL DATA SOURCES

This National Gender Profile draws primarily on data from the Lao Expenditure Consumption Survey for 2007/8 (LECS4); the 2002/2003 LECS3; the 2005 Population Census, and the 1998/1999 Lao Agriculture Census. Most of the gender analysis within the Profile is based on LECS4, but where possible, comparisons over time are made using data from the earlier LECS3. LECS4 is a nationally representative household survey that covers 8 296 households. LECS 3 was conducted in 2002/3 and covered 8 092 households.

1.3 RATIONALE FOR A NATIONAL GENDER PROFILE

Women in Lao PDR are major contributors to the economy, but until today their contributions remain invisible and therefore greatly undervalued as a result of lack of sex-disaggregated data across all sectors. In the agricultural sector, women's contribution to agricultural production, often unpaid, is crucial for household food security and the rural economy. However, their activities are often excluded from economic accounts. Although a number of national surveys such as the Agriculture Census 1999, Population Census 2005, LECS3 and LECS4 were implemented in the country, gender data related to agriculture were not or inadequately tabulated, analyzed, and disseminated. The lack of relevant data on women in agriculture limits planners' understanding of the real situation in rural economies and constrains their potential to act. There is thus a strong need for incorporating a gender perspective in statistics. This National Gender Profile of Agriculture Households provides data on the gender gap between male and female headed households working in the agricultural sector in terms of access to productive resources, livelihood generation, and livelihood outcomes. The information in this Profile can be used for planning and policy making purposes for addressing gender inequalities and for improving agricultural production for both rural men and women.

¹ Population and Housing Census, 2005.

² Statistical Yearbook, 2008.

³ LECS 4, 2009.

⁴ *Ibid.*

1.4 GENDER ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK FOR THE LAO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Table 1.1 indicates the key gender areas of investigation in this report. It highlights the key points analysed from a gender perspective.

1.5 RE-TABULATION

Following a stakeholder workshop held in Vientiane in September 2009, a set of questionnaires of LECS3, LECS4, 2005 Population and Housing Census, and the 1998 agriculture census were revisited to select appropriate data items for re-tabulation. The Department of Statistics processed the sex-disaggregated data according to the FAO re-tabulation plan, and with support from FAO carried out further gender analysis. A total of two hundred and forty two (242) tables were produced by DoS, including 83 tables from LECS4, 79 tables from LECS3, 40 tables from Population and Housing Census, and 40 tables from the Lao agricultural census. This Gender Profile includes a selected number of tables; all other tables will be available through a Gender in Agriculture database.

1.6 KEY DEFINITIONS

1.6.1 Key definitions from the 2005 Population Census

- A single-person household comprises of one person living in a part or the whole of the dwelling unit, arranging for food and other life necessities on his own without joining other persons and possessing his own civil registration book.

TABLE 1.1 | Gender Analysis framework of the Lao agricultural sector

Thematic area	Statistics/indicators
Demographic and social characteristics of agricultural households	Female headship Household size Age Sex ratio agricultural population Marital status Household labour force Ethnicity Educational attainment Literacy
Access to and control over productive resources	Gender-based access to: Farm labour Land access Land size Land tenure Irrigation and water management Credit Durable goods
Livelihood activities	Gender based differences in: Crop production Livestock production Fishery Forestry Non-agricultural businesses
Livelihood outcomes	Poverty proxies: Food consumption Poor housing conditions Safe drinking water sources Sources of energy.

- ▶ A multi-person household comprises of two or more persons living in a part or the whole dwelling unit, and who together arrange for food and other life necessities and share a common registration book.

1.6.2 Key definitions from LECS3 and LECS4

- ▶ A household is a group of people making common arrangements for food, shelter and other acts of daily living. A household usually consists of relatives such as a husband, a wife, children and parents, but sometimes includes unrelated people such as live-in household or farm workers.
- ▶ An agricultural household is a households with at least one member engaged in agricultural activities, regardless whether the household owns, rents or uses land for free. It includes own account/self-employment and agricultural activities can be primary or secondary activities.

1.6.3 Key definitions from 1999 Agriculture Census

- ▶ A household is a group (one or more) of people who make common arrangements for the provision of food, shelter and other acts of daily living. Usually, the household consists of the group of people shown in the civil registration book. A household is different from a family; a son/daughter living independently from his/her parents is a separate household.
- ▶ The head of household is well known by the household members; he/she knows well the situation of household and is responsible for money and welfare of the members in the household.
- ▶ An agricultural holding (often shortened to “holding”) is defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock raised and all agricultural land operated, regardless of ownership. Usually, the agricultural holding is the same as the household, but sometimes it can be a part of a household or a partnership between households. (There are also other types of agricultural holdings, such as corporations and government farms - these will not be included in the census.)

1.6.4 Gender-related definitions

- ▶ Sex refers to the biological differences between men and women.
- ▶ Gender refers to the social differences between women and men, i.e. the different responsibilities of women and men in a given culture or location. These roles of women and men are learned and they change over time. Gender roles are influenced by perceptions and expectations arising from social and cultural, political, environmental, economic, institutional factors, as well as class, age, ethnicity.
- ▶ Gender analysis is the study of the different roles of women and men to understand what they do, what resource they have and what their needs and priorities are.
- ▶ Gender statistics is a field of statistics which cuts across the traditional fields to identify, produce and disseminate statistics that reflect the realities of the lives of women and men and policy issues relating to gender equality⁵.
- ▶ Sex-specific data: Data collected according to physical attributes⁶.
- ▶ Gender-disaggregated data: Analytical indicators derived from sex-disaggregated data on socio-economic attributes⁷.

⁵ World Bank Institute.

⁶ Hedman, Perucci and Sundstrom 1996.

⁷ *Ibid.*

1.7 OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

This National Gender Profile has 7 chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of the agricultural sector, the agricultural data sources used in this Profile and its rationale. Chapter 2 presents the enabling environment related to agriculture and gender. Chapter 3 presents gender statistics related to the demographic and social profile of the agricultural household, including agricultural population and household characteristics, marital status, ethnicity, literacy and education. Chapter 4 provides data on gender-based access to productive resources. It covers farm labour, land, improved technologies, and credit. Chapter 5 comprises gender statistics on rural livelihood activities such as, crop production, livestock production, fishery, forestry, non-agricultural business, and labour division. Chapter 6 presents statistics related to livelihood outcomes of male and female-headed households, covering income, food security and nutrition, and poverty status. Last but not least, Chapter 7 draws final conclusions.



CHAPTER 2

Gender, agriculture and the institutional context

2.1 GENDER AND THE LAO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The agricultural sector is important for the Lao economy. According to the 2005 Population Census, 64 percent of the active populations are farmers. Of these 66 percent were women and 62 percent men. Lao rural women play a significant role in agriculture. They do most of the farm work (planting, weeding and harvesting crops), tend livestock, and also spend long hours performing off-farm and household chores like collecting firewood, preparing meals and caring for children. Traditionally, men plough, make bunds and prepare seedbeds. Women, on the other hand, do more than half of the transplanting of rice, weeding, harvesting, threshing and post-harvest operations. In some areas the traditional task division is changing due to lack of male labour. Generally, rural households grow rice, vegetables, sweet potatoes, tobacco, cassava and maize, and they tend fruit and banana trees. In general for these crops, men do the land preparation, ploughing and fencing. Women do the weeding and marketing. But, men and women jointly plant, put manure, irrigate and harvest.

Forest forms an important economic resource base for rural communities and assists in providing household food security. Typically, women gather wild foods from forests like mushrooms, wild berries, fruits, nuts, honey and earthworms, and also medicinal herbs. Men hunt wild animals. Firewood collection is mostly done by women, while men cut trees for firewood¹.

Since Lao PDR is a landlocked country, the main fisheries resources are the Mekong river and its tributaries, reservoirs, rice fields and ponds. In particular, fish pond culture and rice-cum-fish cultivation have increased in importance over the past decades. Both women and men are involved in fishing activities. Women are especially engaged in the management of fish ponds and fish culture in the rice fields. They further play a key role in processing and marketing fish².

Livestock production forms an important aspect of farming systems in Lao PDR and many households depend on livestock as an important source of cash income. Further, a majority of the farmers use buffaloes and bullocks for ploughing. The gender division of labour in livestock management is such that women and men jointly care for cows and buffaloes. In the rainy season these animals often graze in the forest, and in the dry season in the fallow rice fields. In addition, women take care of smaller livestock such as pigs and poultry³. Also, women pound most of the animal feed and feed the pigs and poultry. They also sell small livestock like pigs, chickens, ducks and eggs in the market. In those households that have goats, girl children often have the responsibility for grazing and watching the goats.

2.2 NATIONAL GENDER POLICY

The Government of Lao PDR has conducive policies to promote gender equality. As clearly stipulated in the revised Constitution of 2003 and other Laws, women and men have the equal right in all spheres: political, social-culture and in the family. This creates a favourable condition for women of all ethnic groups to participate in the development process at all levels. The country has revised a number laws to guaranty women rights such as of the

¹ Gender, Livelihood and Forest product, GRID, 2004.

² FAO gender fact sheet.

³ Women in the office and rice field (Schenk, 1995).

enactment of the Law on Development and Protection of Women in 2004, the 2005 amendment of the Penal Law criminalizing discrimination against women in article 177, the revised labour law in 2006, and a revision of the Family Law in 2009⁴.

According to the NGPES, it is expected that all ministries develop strategies and action plans to promote gender equality at national, provincial, district and village levels. Line ministries have begun to mainstream gender concerns by: establishing high-level gender working groups; collecting sex-disaggregated data relevant to poverty reduction and other national goals; using this data to develop a gender profile or assessment of the sector; developing a gender strategy and action plan, identifying issues or problems related to women's participation in the sector and actions to redress them; providing gender training and capacity-building to staff; improving the gender and ethnic balance of staff at all levels; screening all new policies, programs and projects from a gender perspective; consulting local women in the design of new projects for poverty reduction, and ensuring that they participate in project activities, including extension services and training.

In the agricultural sector, gender concerns will be integrated in specific programmes and projects through a number of measures. Development project planning will include gender-related data and needs assessments; inclusion of women in project activities; application of gender equity in extension and training services related to agriculture and animal breeding; use of gender-related indicators to monitor projects; affirmative action concerning staffing of provincial and district staff, including extension workers; gender focal points in villages to promote improved agricultural practices; account of women's traditional rights in land reallocation, land titling and resolution of land disputes; assistance to women in accessing rural savings and credit schemes; and promotion and enhancement of small and medium enterprises (SME) especially those owned by women⁵.

The most recent policy for the advancement of women in agriculture and forestry in Lao PDR consists of six areas such as, strengthening the institutions for the advancement of women into MAF and its related institutions and programs at all levels; increasing of gender awareness and responsiveness of MAF staff at all levels; integration of gender analysis and gender-disaggregated data / information / statistics into MAF planning cycle; enhancement of qualifications, competencies and core skills of women to advance women in MAF workforce at all levels; increasing of rural women's access to and control over the resources and benefits; and enhancing ties with the external constituencies which support the advancement of women in agriculture and forestry, including relevant government ministries, local governments, three mass organizations, namely Lao Women's Organization, Labour Organization and Youth Organization, technical schools / training centres / universities, diplomatic missions / international financial institutions, UN agencies and international NGOs, mass media and private sector at all levels⁶.

2.3 NCAW AND LWU

In 2003, the Government officially established the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) as the national machinery for the promotion of gender equality, being institutionally independent of the Lao Women's Union, a mass organization which is part of the State. Since then, it has taken significant steps towards the adoption of the Law on the Development and Protection of Women (2004) and the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2006). The National Commission for the Advancement of Women has established the Sub commissions for the Advancement of Women at the ministerial and provincial levels⁷.

In the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), the ministerial committee was established in 2003 and has been operational on *ad hoc* basis. MAF Sub-CAW has the Vice-Minister as the Chair, Sub-CAW secretariat as the operational specialist unit for the advancement of women and Lao Women's Union focal point officers as Gender Mainstreaming Network. The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is housed at the Permanent Secretary's Office. Efforts to advance women into MAF institutions and programs have not materialized and the

⁴ Country Paper for Beijing Platform for Action, 2009.

⁵ NGPES, 2004.

⁶ MAF Gender policy paper, 2009.

⁷ Lao NCAW, 2008.

lack of significant progress is most likely due to the following reasons: 1) committee structures were perceived to be temporary and ad hoc, hence a lack of permanent commitment; 2) DAW has suffered a shortage in human and other resources; 3) appointment of LWU focal point officers, mainly women, and their job descriptions were made formally by the Department of Personnel, but the public policy agenda of advancement of women was seen as the mandate of LWU rather than the formal mandates of MAF; and 4) even where these officers made outstanding efforts, they were not necessarily linked to the formal system of performance evaluation and accordingly their efforts remained invisible⁸.

Gender in the context of MAF work has neither been well- and systematically integrated into the Human Resource Development Plan or been institutionalized in various management information system and practices yet. The Department of Personnel does not have the official management information system to record, retrieve and report the number of MAF staff who have previously attended in-country gender training courses. Giving gender training courses have been the most active area of intervention in the advancement of women so far, the number of those who attended could have been potentially high and their learning outcomes have definitely contributed to the gender integration in their actual practical work. Due to these institutional constraints, however, the nature and extent of progress in human resource development for the advancement of women cannot be measured; what learning outcomes of those who attended gender training have actually led them to engage in the concrete actions to mainstream gender into MAF institutions and programs; and as a result, to what extent capacity building for gender mainstreaming has contributed to the advancement of women in MAF institutions and programs. These are areas which require improvements for the advancement of women in MAF institutions and programs to be materialized.

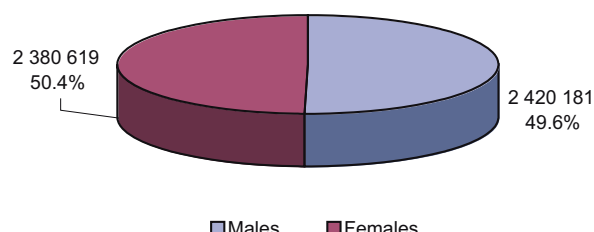
⁸ MAF Gender policy paper, 2009.

CHAPTER 3

Demographic and social profile of the agricultural households

This chapter presents data on demographic and social characteristics of agricultural households, i.e. households with at least one member engaged in agricultural activities, regardless whether the household owns, rents or uses land for free¹. It includes sex-disaggregated data on household composition, age, marital status, labour force, literacy, ethnicity, and education.

CHART 3.1 | Agricultural population by sex



3.1 AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

Agricultural population is composed of male and female members living in agricultural households. In Lao PDR, the total population living in agricultural households is 4 800 800 persons, out of a total population of 6 million (LECS4, 2009). Of the national agriculture population, 49.6 percent are male and 50.4 percent female. In a few provinces like Vientiane Capital, Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Borkeo, and Luangprabang the overall female agricultural population slightly exceeds that of men, while in Oudomxay, Xayabury, and Sekong the overall male agricultural population slightly exceeds that of women (Table 3.1, Charts 3.1 and 3.2 and Map 3.1).

The age and sex-distributions of the agricultural population are shown in Table 3.2. About 50 percent of the agricultural population is younger than 20 years. Further, there is a slightly higher percentage (4 percentage points) of women than men for the age groups 15 to 44 years, due to male rural-urban migration for non agricultural activities.

The active agricultural population (i.e. population at the age of 10 and higher residing in agricultural households) in 2007-08 includes a total of 3 641 686 persons (Chart 3.3). Women comprise 51 percent (1 856 283) of the active agricultural population and men 49 percent (1 785 403). With the present migration trends, women's share in active agricultural population may increase.

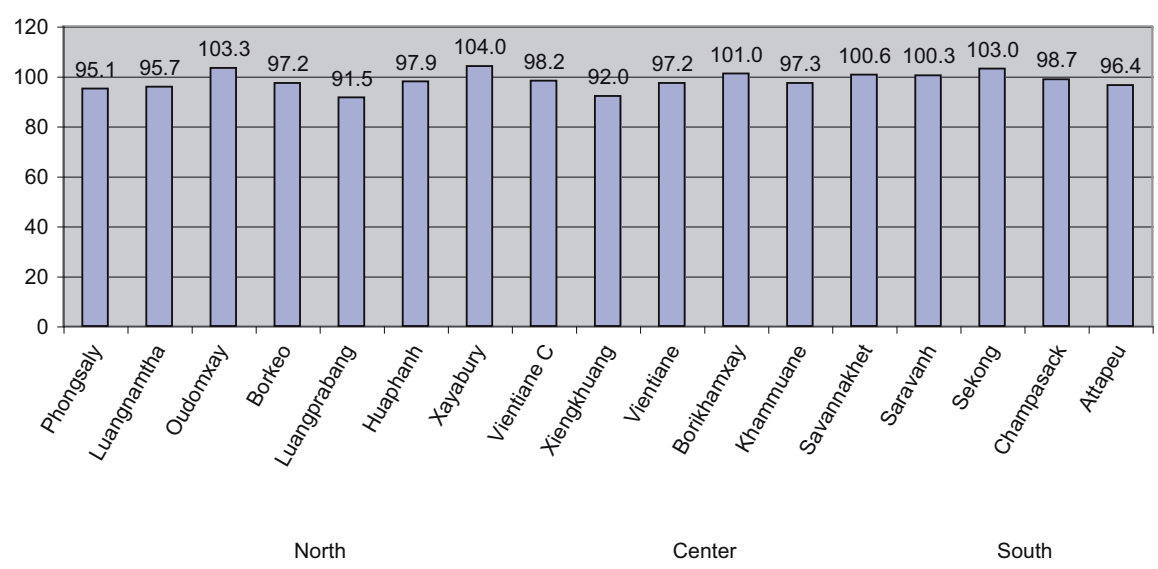
TABLE 3.1 | Agricultural population by sex of the members and ratio of male population over female population, by region: 2007-2008

Region	All population		Female members		Male members		Sex ratio (males per 100 females)
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Lao PDR	4 800 800	100.0	2 420 181	50.4	2 380 619	49.6	98.4
North Region	1 714 935	100.0	866 155	50.5	848 779	49.5	98.0
Center Region	2 051 712	100.0	1 035 331	50.5	1 016 382	49.5	98.2
South Region	1 034 153	100.0	518 694	50.2	515 458	49.8	99.4

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

¹ Includes own account/self-employment and agricultural activities can be primary or secondary activities.

CHART 3.2 | Sex ratio agricultural population by province



MAP 3.1 | Sex ratio of agricultural population

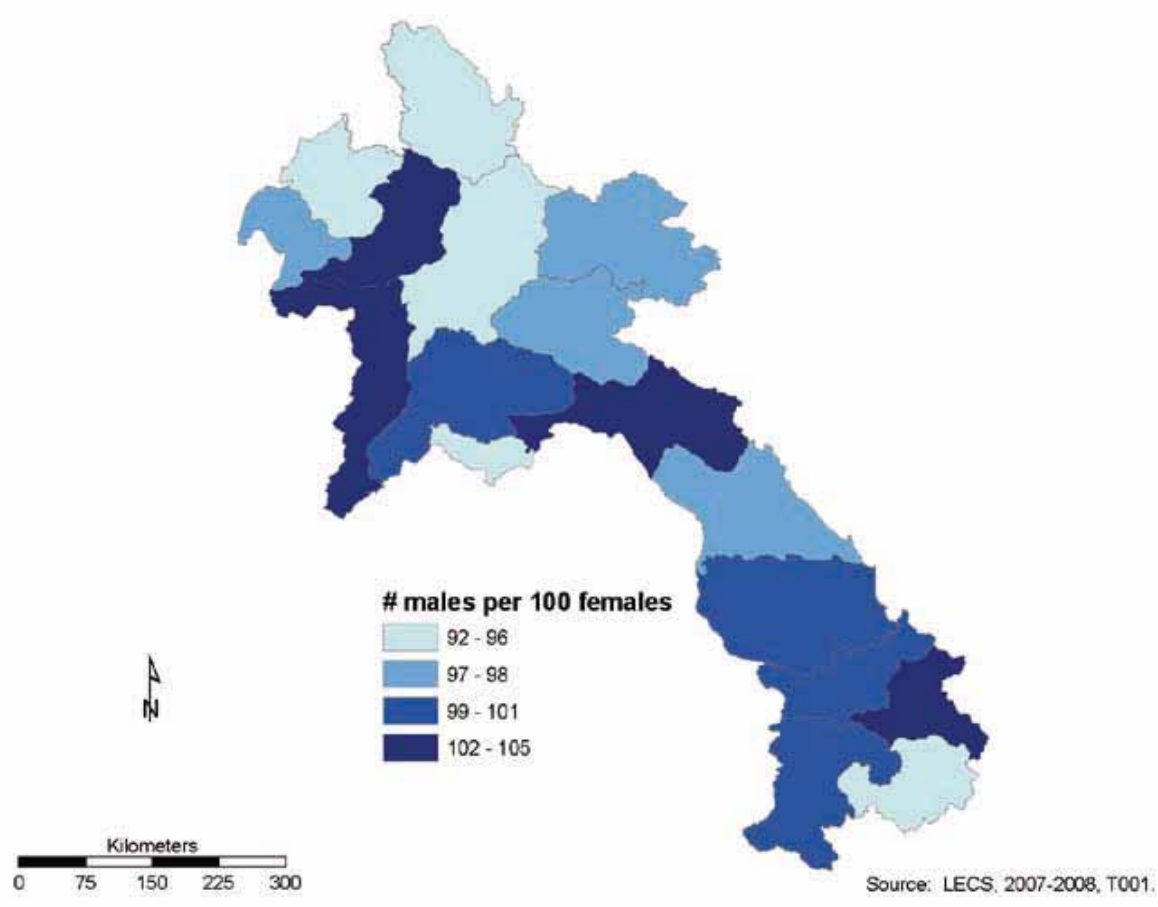


TABLE 3.2 | National age distribution of agricultural population

Age group	Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)
0 - 4	11.0	10.6	11.5
5 - 9	13.1	12.7	13.5
10 - 14	13.9	13.4	14.4
15 - 19	11.8	12.2	11.4
20 - 24	8.2	8.6	7.7
25 - 29	6.2	6.4	5.9
30 - 34	5.6	5.8	5.5
35 - 39	5.9	6.4	5.3
40 - 44	5.7	5.8	5.6
45 - 49	5.6	5.5	5.8
50 - 54	4.1	3.8	4.5
55 - 59	3.0	2.7	3.2
60 - 64	1.9	1.8	2.0
65 +	4.0	4.2	3.8

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

3.2 AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS

According to the 2005 Population Census, there were almost 952 386 private households in the country with a total population of almost 5.6 million persons. On average, 10 percent of these private households were headed by women. The latest data (LECS4, 2009) show 985 000 private households, of which 825 892 are agricultural households. Most of the agricultural households are headed by men and less than 5 percent of all agricultural households at national level are female headed. Female headship

CHART 3.3 | Agricultural population by sex

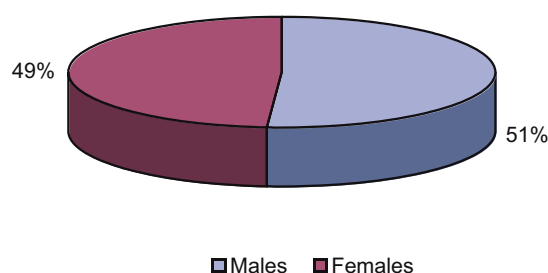


CHART 3.4 | Percentage of agriculture households, by sex of household head, by region: 2007-08

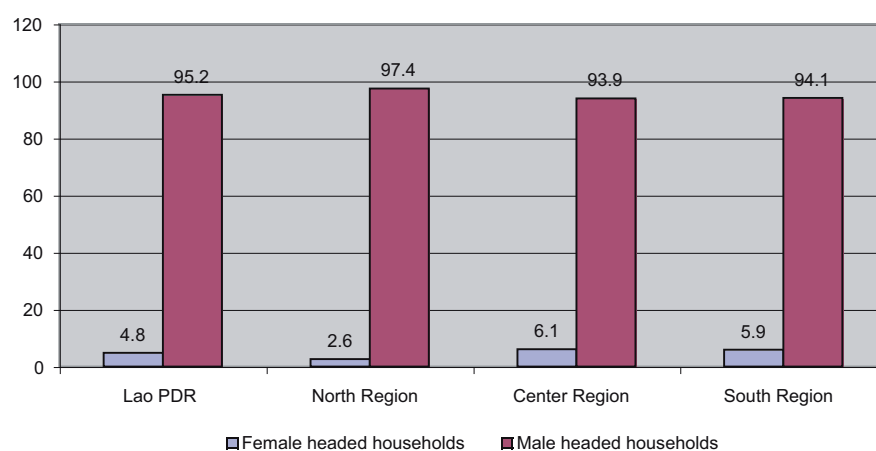
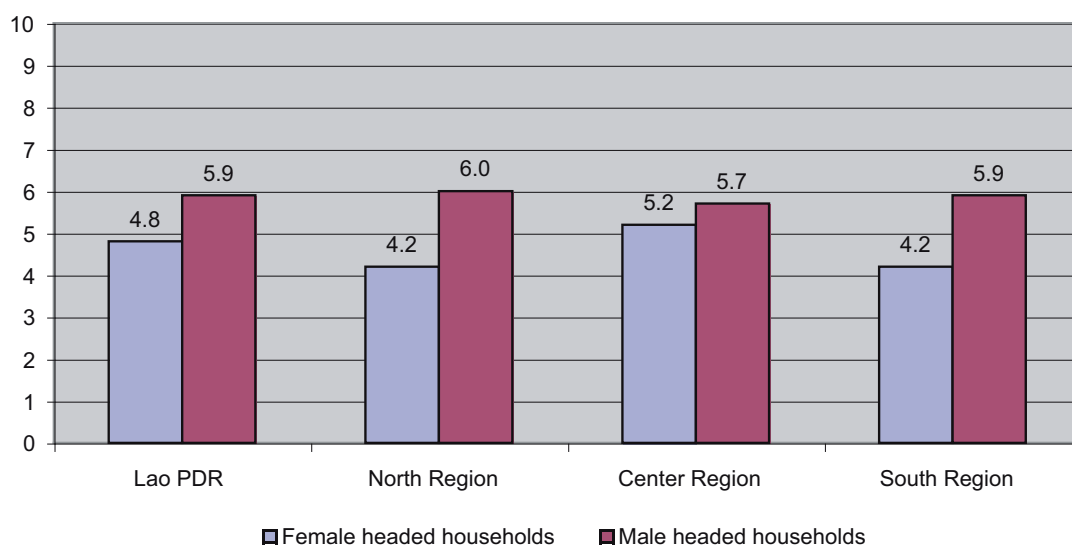
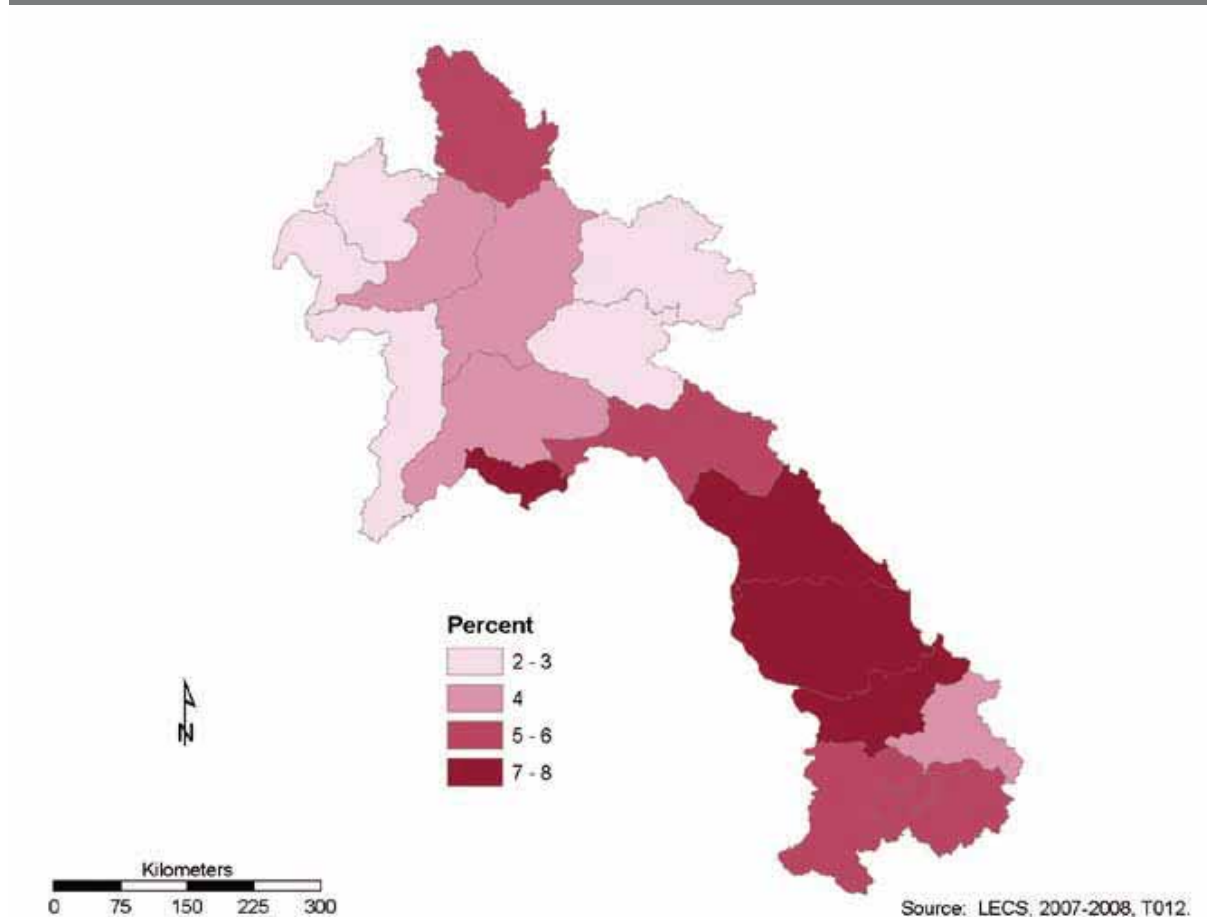


CHART 3.5 | Average household size for male and female headed households for different regions



MAP 3.2 | Percentage of female headed agricultural households



ranges from 3 percent in the North Region to 6 percent in the Center and South regions (Chart 3.4 and Maps 3.2 and 3.3). Female headship is highest in Savannakhet province (9%) due to male rural-urban migration and lowest in Borkeo and Huaphanh provinces as shown in Table 1 in Annex 1.

According to the 1998-99 LAC, there were a total of 667 900 holdings, i.e. an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock raised and all agricultural land operated, regardless of ownership. About 9 percent of these holdings were managed by women and 91 percent by men. The majority of the female holders were aged between 45-64 (50%), and 37 percent were in the age group of 25 to 44 years.

3.2.1 Household size

Following LECS4 data, the national average household size for agricultural households is 5.8 members, with male headed households having an average of 5.9 members and female headed households 4.8 members. At the regional level, household size ranges between 5.7 (Center) and 6.0 (North) members for male headed households and between 4.2 (North and South regions) and 5.2 (Center) members for female headed households. The difference in household size between male and female headed households is 1.1 at national level. At regional level, female headed households have on average 0.5 to 1.8 members less than male-headed households. The difference in household size between male and female headed households is mostly due to the absence of a male head in female headed households but other factors are also likely to play a role.

MAP 3.3 | Percentage of male headed agricultural households

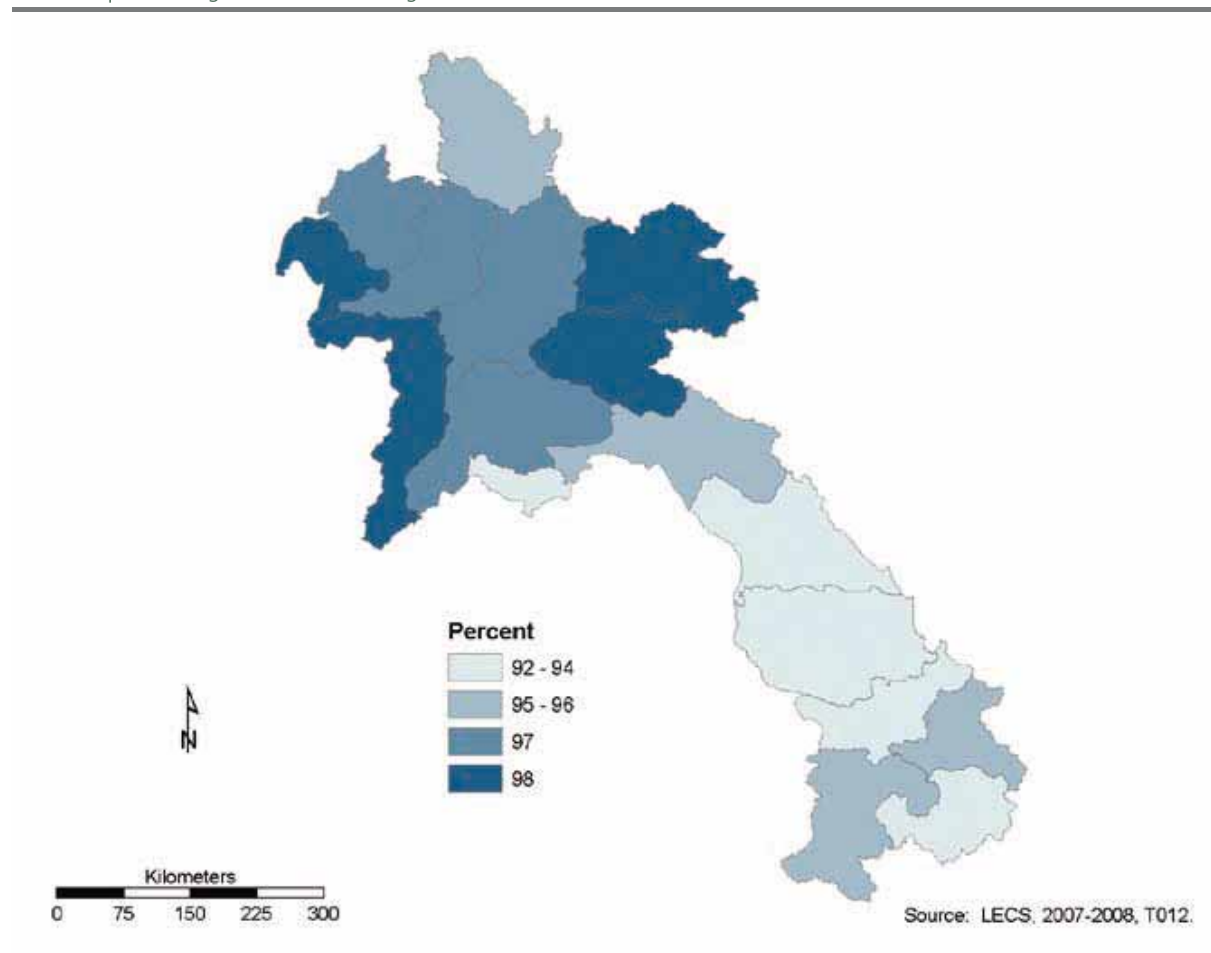


TABLE 3.3 | Median age of male and female heads, by region

Region	All household heads		Female heads		Male heads	
	Number	Median age	Number	Median age	Number	Median age
Lao PDR	825 892	46	39 940	52	785 952	45
North region	287 033	43	7 491	48	279 542	43
Center region	361 625	47	22 065	53	339 560	46
South region	177 234	47	10 384	53	166 850	47

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

3.2.2 Age

The median age of the agricultural household heads in Lao PDR is 46 years old. The median age of male and female heads is 45 and 52 years, respectively. In all regions, the median age of female heads is 5 to 7 years higher than that of male heads. Table 2 in Annex 1 presents median age data for male and female heads of agricultural households for all provinces.

3.2.3 Household labour force (active agricultural population)

The active agricultural population (the presumptive agricultural workforce) in Lao PDR refers to the population at the age of 10 and higher residing in agricultural households. Lao PDR has an active agricultural population of 3 641 686 or 76 percent of the overall population living in agricultural households. This corresponds to 4.4 active members per households (Table 3.4). Male headed agricultural households at national level have an average of 4.4 active members or 76 percent of its household members are presumptive active. Female headed households have less active household members due to the absence of a male head: an average of 3.8 household members is active. Across the regions, female headed households have an average of 0.4 (Center region) to 1 (North region) active member less than male headed households. The household labour force for female headed households is greatest in the Center region as a result of larger household sizes.

3.2.4 Marital status

According to LECS4 (2009), the majority (98%) of male headed agricultural households are married. There are no significant differences between the regions (Table 3.5). The main reason for female headship is widowhood (62%). About 20 percent of female headed households are married and became *de facto* heads as men migrated or left for other reasons. *De facto* headship ranges between 12 percent in the South region to 24 percent in the Center region. Divorce is another reason for female headship and ranges between 11 percent in the Center region to 18 percent in the South region.

TABLE 3.4 | Household labour force for female and male headed agricultural households

Region	Female headed agricultural households		Male headed agricultural households	
	Proportion of active members (%)	Average number of active members	Proportion of active members (%)	Average number of active members
Lao PDR	78.5	3.8	75.7	4.4
North region	82.7	3.5	74.7	4.5
Center region	76.3	4.0	77.4	4.4
South region	81.2	3.5	77.4	4.4

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 3.5 | Marital status of agricultural household heads by sex and region

Region	All		Female heads		Male heads	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	39 940	100.0	785 952	100.0
Never married	6 693	0.8	1 638	4.1	5 055	0.6
Married	775 639	93.9	8 036	20.1	767 603	97.7
Divorced/Separated	7 648	0.9	5 427	13.6	2 221	0.3
Widowed	35 912	4.3	24 838	62.2	11 074	1.4
North region	287 034	100.0	7 491	100.0	279 542	100.0
Never married	2 906	1.0	243	3.2	2 663	1.0
Married	273 117	95.2	1 438	19.2	271 679	97.2
Divorced/Separated	1 627	0.6	1 049	14.0	579	0.2
Widowed	9 207	3.2	4 762	63.6	4 445	1.6
Center region	361 625	100.0	22 065	100.0	339 560	100.0
Never married	2 237	0.6	593	2.7	1 645	0.5
Married	338 508	93.6	5 350	24.2	333 157	98.1
Divorced/Separated	3 308	0.9	2 514	11.4	794	0.2
Widowed	17 572	4.9	13 608	61.7	3 964	1.2
South region	177 234	100.0	10 384	100.0	166 850	100.0
Never married	1 550	0.9	803	7.7	747	0.4
Married	164 014	92.5	1 247	12.0	162 767	97.6
Divorced/Separated	2 713	1.5	1 865	18.0	848	0.5
Widowed	8 957	5.1	6 469	62.3	2 488	1.5

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

3.3 MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

The 2005 National Population Census collected data on mobility and migration of household members. According to the census, a total of 30 010 persons moved into agricultural households over a reference period of 12 months (Table 3.6). The majority are male: 27 813 or 93 percent, which is most likely due to the matrilineal character of many Lao societies. Most male and female members who recently joined an agricultural household came from within the same province (69% for both male and female members). The age category for male members joining agricultural households is slightly younger than for female members: Over two-thirds are aged between 25 and 49 years whereas more than two-thirds of female members joining agricultural households are aged between 35 and 59 years.

Table 3.7 shows 2005 National Population Census data on the number of male and female members of agricultural households who moved out of the household during a 12 month reference period. A total of 43 234 agricultural household members moved out of the household, of which 23 412 (54%) are male and 19 822 (46%) female. The majority of male and female members who moved out of the household are young: 84 percent of the male members leaving the household are below 30 and 47 percent are below 20. For female members moving out of the household, 89 percent are below 30 and 59 percent are below 20. Most male members leaving the household remain within the same province (53%), while 14 percent migrate to the capital and 12 percent go abroad. Likewise, most female members continue to reside within the same province (49%) but 17 percent migrate to Vientiane and another 17 percent go to a foreign country.

TABLE 3.6 | Number of agricultural household members that used to live somewhere else and moved in during the last 12 months, by sex, age and place where they came from

Age group of the members	Female members					Male members				
	Total number	Same province	Other province	Capital	Other country	Total number	Same province	Other province	Capital	Other country
Lao PDR (total)	2 197	1 514	536	117	30	27 813	19 167	7 015	1 283	348
Less than 20 years	20	13	2	5	0	381	253	103	21	4
20 - 24 years old	55	42	9	4	0	1 166	854	273	34	5
25 - 29 years old	94	56	30	7	1	3 170	2 192	803	136	39
30 - 34 years old	190	132	51	5	2	4 228	2 934	1 056	176	62
35 - 39 years old	235	157	55	16	7	4 476	3 085	1 106	235	50
40 - 44 years old	307	235	55	15	2	3 895	2 685	979	182	49
45 - 49 years old	404	276	107	14	7	3 489	2 385	874	172	58
50 - 54 years old	316	224	78	9	5	2 710	1 851	686	136	37
55 - 59 years old	250	166	71	10	3	1 781	1 213	464	82	22
60 - 64 years old	170	117	36	15	2	1 234	828	351	48	7
65 years and above	156	96	42	17	1	1 283	887	320	61	15

Source: DoS/NPC (2005)

TABLE 3.7 | Number of members that used to live in agricultural households and moved out during the last 12 months, by sex, age and place where they moved to

Age group of the members	Female members					Male members				
	Total number	Same province	Other province	Capital	Other country	Total number	Same province	Other province	Capital	Other country
Lao PDR(total)	19 822	9 624	3 443	3 390	3 365	23 412	12 422	4 901	3 322	2 767
Less than 20 years	11 637	5 619	2 094	2 214	1 710	11 052	5 907	2 389	1 691	1 065
20 - 24 years old	3 654	1 745	656	597	656	5 257	2 672	1 176	818	591
25 - 29 years old	2 110	1 014	301	294	501	3 435	1 884	637	400	514
30 - 34 years old	765	397	98	84	186	1 318	719	224	140	235
35 - 39 years old	373	198	49	26	100	735	342	137	80	176
40 - 44 years old	170	86	33	14	37	341	184	59	32	66
45 - 49 years old	142	98	15	9	20	185	104	36	20	25
50 - 54 years old	94	49	17	9	19	144	87	29	12	16
55 - 59 years old	79	44	17	11	7	92	59	15	5	13
60 - 64 years old	70	35	18	12	5	77	51	15	5	6
65 years and above	171	78	46	31	16	176	107	37	19	13
Not Stated	557	261	99	89	108	600	306	147	100	47

Source: DoS/NPC (2005)

3.4 ETHNICITY

According to the 2007-08 LECS4, 54 percent of the agricultural population is Lao, 12 percent Keummeu and 8 percent Hmong (Table 3.8). The extent of female headship differs among the ethnic groups. Proportionally, most female headed agricultural households can be found among the Lao: 74 percent of female headed agricultural households are Lao compared to 53 percent of male headed agricultural households. A further 8 percent of female headed households are Keummeu. Among all other ethnic groups, female headship is relatively low.

TABLE 3.8 | Ethnic origin of the household head

Ethnic origin	All agricultural households		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	39 940	100.0	785 952	100.0
Lao	444 504	53.8	29 421	73.7	415 084	52.8
Thai	34 515	4.2	1 347	3.4	33 168	4.2
Phuthai	19 287	2.3	238	0.6	19 049	2.4
Leu	33 362	4.0	690	1.7	32 671	4.2
Nguan	4 719	0.6	31	0.1	4 689	0.6
Yung	276	0.0	-	-	276	0.0
Thaineau	1 876	0.2	-	-	1 876	0.2
Keummeu	101 778	12.3	3 302	8.3	98 476	12.5
Prai	1 631	0.2	-	-	1 631	0.2
Singmoon	578	0.1	-	-	578	0.1
Phong	2 512	0.3	-	-	2 512	0.3
Thein	111	0.0	-	-	111	0.0
Adoo	192	0.0	-	-	192	0.0
Lamed	1 263	0.2	-	-	1 263	0.2
Samtao	540	0.1	77	0.2	462	0.1
Katang	16 512	2.0	1 412	3.5	15 100	1.9
Makong	8 371	1.0	523	1.3	7 848	1.0
Tri	5 680	0.7	123	0.3	5 557	0.7
Yuroo	11 416	1.4	322	0.8	11 094	1.4
Treang	4 583	0.6	343	0.9	4 240	0.5
Taoy	10 215	1.2	81	0.2	10 134	1.3
Yerh	909	0.1	-	-	909	0.1
Brao	1 716	0.2	96	0.2	1 620	0.2
Katu	2 131	0.3	-	-	2 131	0.3
Hahak	3 786	0.5	235	0.6	3 551	0.5
Oy	2 777	0.3	-	-	2 777	0.4
Grieng	4 294	0.5	-	-	4 294	0.5
Cheng	727	0.1	-	-	727	0.1
Sdang	163	0.0	-	-	163	0.0
Shuay	2 490	0.3	-	-	2 490	0.3
Lavy	75	0.0	-	-	75	0.0
Pako	1 839	0.2	-	-	1 839	0.2
Toum	900	0.1	-	-	900	0.1
Akha	14 847	1.8	436	1.1	14 411	1.8
Singsiri	9 494	1.1	368	0.9	9 127	1.2
Lahoo	3 070	0.4	81	0.2	2 989	0.4
Lolo	899	0.1	-	-	899	0.1
Hor	1 219	0.1	192	0.5	1 027	0.1
Mong	65 552	7.9	623	1.6	64 929	8.3
Ilmearn	31	0.0	-	-	31	0.0
Other Ethnic Origins	5 054	0.6	-	-	5 054	0.6

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

3.5 EDUCATION

3.5.1 Education and literacy of agricultural household members

According to 2005 National Population Census data, 66 percent of all members of agricultural households aged 10 and older can read and write without difficulty (Table 3.9). Almost 75 percent of all male members aged 10 and above experience no difficulties in reading and writing compared to 57 percent of all female members, a difference of 18 percentage points. Literacy for male member is highest in Vientiane capital (92%) and lowest in Phongsaly (43%) and Luangnamtha (49%). Likewise, the percentage of girls (10+) and women that can read and write without difficulty is highest in Vientiane capital (83%) and lowest in Phongsaly (26%), Luangnamtha (31%), and Oudomxay (32%) provinces.

According to LECS4 data, 256 569 male members of agricultural households above 6 years have never attended school. The number of female members above 6 years that never attended school is 587 648; more than twice that of male members. The main reasons for not attending school include no interest, school too far, no teacher/supplies, too young and had to work (Table 3.10). The main difference in reasons given between male and female members is “had to work”; 14 percent of male members who did not attend school were not able because they had to work compared to 24 percent of female members.

3.5.2 Education and literacy of agricultural household heads

At national level, 54 of all heads of agricultural households have completed primary education (LECS4, 2009). A further 19 percent of agricultural heads of households completed lower secondary education and 7 percent upper secondary education. There is a difference in the educational attainment between male and female heads of

TABLE 3.9 | Number and percentage of agricultural household members 10 years and older that can read and write without difficulty, by sex and province

Province	All agricultural household members		Female members		Male members	
	Number	Percent (%)	Number	Percent (%)	Number	Percent (%)
Lao PDR	1 410 714	65.6	634 805	56.8	775 909	75.2
Vientiane Capital	100 967	87.6	46 845	83.0	54 122	92.0
Phongsaly Province	25 645	34.6	9 917	26.4	15 728	43.0
Luangnamtha Province	24 105	39.5	9 868	30.6	14 237	49.4
Oudomxay Province	52 099	47.5	18 729	32.4	33 370	64.2
Bokeo Province	29 057	50.0	10 934	36.7	18 123	64.1
Luangprabang Province	93 509	59.2	39 216	47.4	54 293	72.1
Huaphanh Province	67 124	60.4	27 499	47.9	39 625	73.7
Xayabury Province	128 135	82.2	62 780	78.0	65 355	86.6
Xiangkhuan Province	56 897	67.9	25 706	58.3	31 191	78.6
Vientiane Province	109 543	77.0	49 170	68.7	60 373	85.4
Borikhamxay Province	63 634	75.5	29 636	68.0	33 998	83.6
Khammuane Province	91 287	65.4	41 762	56.3	49 525	75.8
Savannakhet Province	239 803	63.9	108 647	56.1	131 156	72.4
Saravane Province	88 495	57.1	39 091	47.1	49 404	68.6
Sekong Province	17 627	51.4	7 277	39.7	10 350	64.8
Champasack Province	196 647	80.1	96 083	74.0	100 564	86.9
Attapeu Province	26 140	56.1	11 645	45.7	14 495	68.6

Source: DoS/NPC (2005)

TABLE 3.10 | Main reasons for not attending school among agricultural household members (6 years old and over) that have never attended school, by sex

Main reason for not attending school	Both sexes		Female		Male	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Lao PDR	84 4217	100.0	587 648	100.0	256 569	100.0
Too young	74 912	8.9	36 767	6.3	38 145	14.9
Too expensive	5 953	0.7	4 458	0.8	1 495	0.6
No interest	273 978	32.5	188 894	32.1	85 085	33.2
Had to work	174 188	20.6	138 741	23.6	35 447	13.8
School too far	160 353	19.0	116 370	19.8	43 983	17.1
No teachers/supplies	92 267	10.9	62 614	10.7	29 652	11.6
Illness	11 023	1.3	6 502	1.1	4 521	1.8
Language	14 875	1.8	10 801	1.8	4 074	1.6
Other reasons	34 337	4.1	20 557	3.5	13 780	5.4
Missing	2 331	0.3	1 945	0.3	386	0.2

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

agricultural households (Table 3.11). Proportionally, 9 percentage points less female heads of households completed primary education than male heads. The difference in completing primary education is particularly notable in the South and North regions, where 21 and 16 percentage points less female heads completed primary education, respectively, compared to male heads (Chart 3.6).

According to LECS4, 78 percent of all agricultural household heads can read and write without difficulty. Proportionally, more male heads of households are literate compared to female heads. Almost 80 percents of all male heads can read and write a letter without difficulty compared to only 49 percent of all female heads: a difference of 31 percentage points. In addition, there are regional variations in literacy among male and female heads. In the North region, 73 percent of male heads can read and write without difficulty compared to 84 percent in the Center and South regions. Among female heads in the North region, 28 percent can read and write without

CHART 3.6 | Primary education at highest level education completed by sex of household

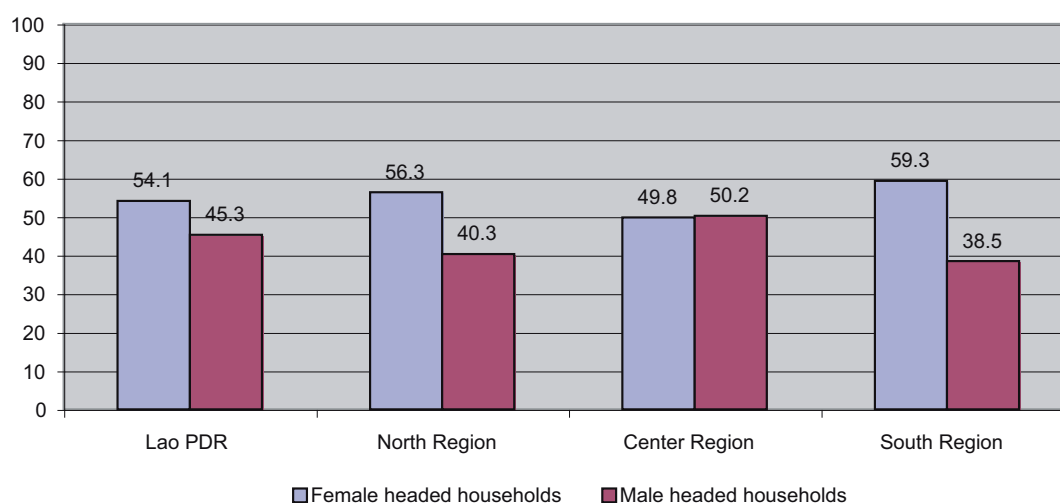


TABLE 3.11 | Highest level of education completed by sex of the household head

	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR						
Primary	443 562	53.7	18 087	45.3	425 475	54.1
Lower secondary	155 506	18.8	4 231	10.6	151 275	19.2
Upper secondary	56 165	6.8	840	2.1	55 324	7.0
North Region						
Primary	160 350	55.9	3 016	40.3	157 334	56.3
Lower secondary	50 876	17.7	648	8.6	50 228	18.0
Upper secondary	10 054	3.5	96	1.3	9 958	3.6
Center Region						
Primary	180 328	49.9	11 077	50.2	169 251	49.8
Lower secondary	67 721	18.7	2 320	10.5	65 401	19.3
Upper secondary	37 249	10.3	536	2.4	36 713	10.8
South region						
Primary	102 884	58.0	3 994	38.5	98 890	59.3
Lower secondary	36 909	20.8	1 263	12.2	35 646	21.4
Upper secondary	8 861	5.0	208	2.0	8 654	5.2

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 3.12 | Percentage of household heads that can read and write without difficulty

Region	All agricultural household heads	Female heads	Male heads
Lao PDR	78.4	48.7	79.9
North region	71.8	28.4	72.9
Center region	82.1	56.2	83.7
South region	81.5	47.5	83.6

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

difficulty compared to 48 percent in the South region and 56 percent in the Center region (Table 3.12). Table 4 in Annex 1 presents literacy data of household heads at provincial level.

The 2005 National Population census data show a similar trend: 75 percent of all male heads of agricultural households can read and write compared to 43 percent of female heads.

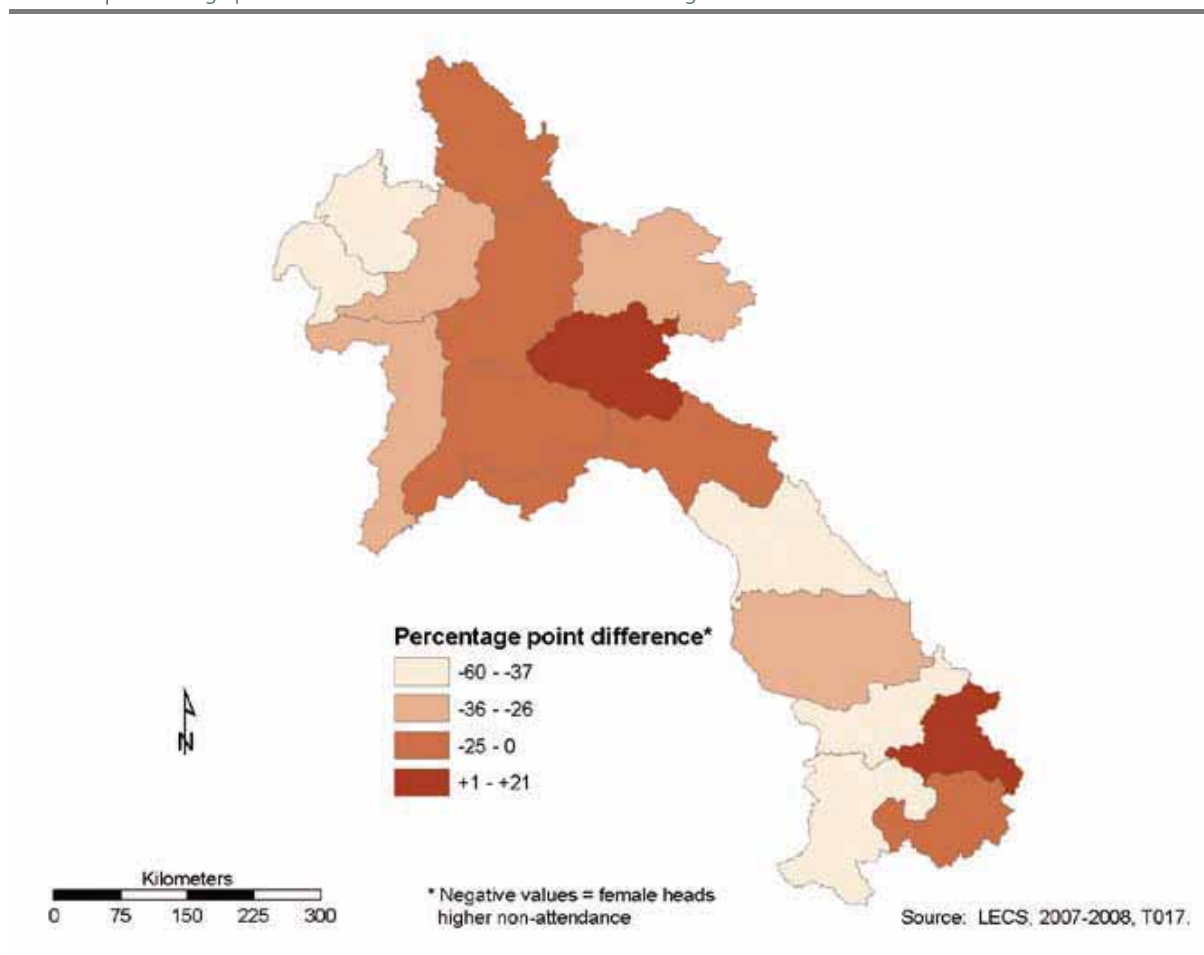
Following LECS4 data, 101 561 out of 785 952 male heads (13%) have never attended school (Table 3.13). The proportion of female heads that never attended school is three times as high as that of male heads (39%). The difference between male and female heads in terms of not attended school is highest in Saravanh, Champasack, Bokeo, and Luangnamtha and lowest in Xiangkhouang province (Map 3.4). The main reasons for not attending school are similar for male and female heads and include no interest, school too far, had to work and no teacher/supplies.

TABLE 3.13 | Number and percentage of agricultural household heads that has never attended school, by sex of the household head and main reason for not attending school

Province/main reason for not attending school	Female heads		Male heads	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Lao PDR	15 741	39.4	101 561	12.9
Too young	0	0.0		0.0
Too expensive	232	1.5	949	0.9
No interest	4 808	30.5	26 937	26.5
Had to work	3 587	22.8	19 919	19.6
School too far	3 811	24.2	24 582	24.2
No teachers/supplies	2 152	13.7	20 644	20.3
Illness	0	0.0	963	0.9
Language	0	0.0	1 868	1.8
Other reasons	1 151	7.3	5 545	5.5
Missing	0	0.0	153	0.2

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

MAP 3.4 | Percentage point difference in male and female heads of agricultural households who did not attend school



CHAPTER 4

Gender-based access to productive resources

This chapter presents sex-disaggregated data on gender-based access to productive resources for male and female headed agricultural households. The data is based on LEC3, LEC4 and the 1998-99 LAC. The chapter includes gender statistics related to farm labour, land, improved technologies, and credit.

4.1 FARM LABOUR

4.1.1 Household labour

According to the 1998-99 LAC, about half of all agricultural household heads spent 6 to 8 months per year on agricultural production and related activities (Table 4.1). Male heads of households spent more time on agriculture than female heads: 69 percent of all agricultural male heads spent more than six months in a year on agricultural production compared to 58 percent among female heads: an 11 percentage points difference.

TABLE 4.1 | Number and percentage of agricultural household heads engaged in agriculture, by sex and number of months engaged in agriculture

Number of months	All household heads		Female heads		Male heads	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	667 895	100.0	52 938	100.0	614 958	100.0
1-2 months	31 222	4.7	2 775	5.2	28 446	4.6
3-5 months	125 510	18.8	10 024	18.9	115 486	18.8
6-8 months	331 877	49.7	23 485	44.4	308 392	50.1
9-12 months	123 062	18.4	7 254	13.7	115 808	18.8
No response	56 225	8.4	9 400	17.8	46 825	7.6

Source: DoS/LAC (2000)

TABLE 4.2 | Number and percentage of agricultural household members 10 years old and older that engage in agricultural production, by sex of the household heads and period engaged in agricultural production

Number of months	All agricultural households		Female headed households		Male headed households	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Total	611 671	100.0	43 538	100.0	568 133	100.0
1-2 months	31 222	5.1	2 775	6.4	28 446	5.0
3-5 months	125 510	20.5	10 024	23.0	115 486	20.3
6-8 months	331 877	54.3	23 485	53.9	308 392	54.3
9-12 months	123 062	20.1	7 254	16.7	115 808	20.4

Source: DoS/LAC (2000)

Household farm labour comprises the labour of agricultural heads and of male and female members aged 10 and above. Table 4.2 presents data on the number and percentage of agricultural household members that are aged 10 and above and that participate in agricultural production and related activities. Both male and female headed households rely heavily on household farm labour. More than half of all male and female headed agricultural households have members who work 6 to 8 months in a year on the farm.

4.1.2 EMPLOYED LABOUR

In addition to household farm labour, about 31 percent of all agricultural households employ workers (Chart 4.1). Overall, both male and female headed households employ workers and the difference is small (7 percentage points). At regional level, the difference in employment of workers between male and female headed households is the largest in the Northern region, where 15 percentage points more female headed households employ workers than male headed households. In the Central and Southern regions slightly more male headed households employ workers.

The 1998-99 LAC also collected data on the type of remuneration given to employed farm labour, including wages, products, labour exchange and other means. Overall, 43 percent of all agricultural households employed workers on the basis of wages and labour exchange, with no significant difference between female headed and male headed households (Chart 4.2). The type of remuneration differs at regional level (Table 4.3). In the Northern region, most agricultural households (64%) employ farm labourers on a labour exchange basis, rather than paying in cash. In the Center and Southern regions, payment in cash is more common accounting for 61 percent and 54 percent of all agricultural household heads, respectively.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL LAND

4.2.1 Land access

At national level, 96 percent of all male and 88 percent of all female headed agricultural households have access to agricultural land; a slight difference of 8 percentage points (Table 4.4). Particularly in the Southern region, fewer (16 percentage points) female headed households have access to agricultural land compared to male headed households. In the Northern and Center regions male and female headed households have more equal access to land with a percentage point difference of only 3 and 5 percent, respectively (Map 4.1).

CHART 4.1 | Percentage of agricultural households that employed workers

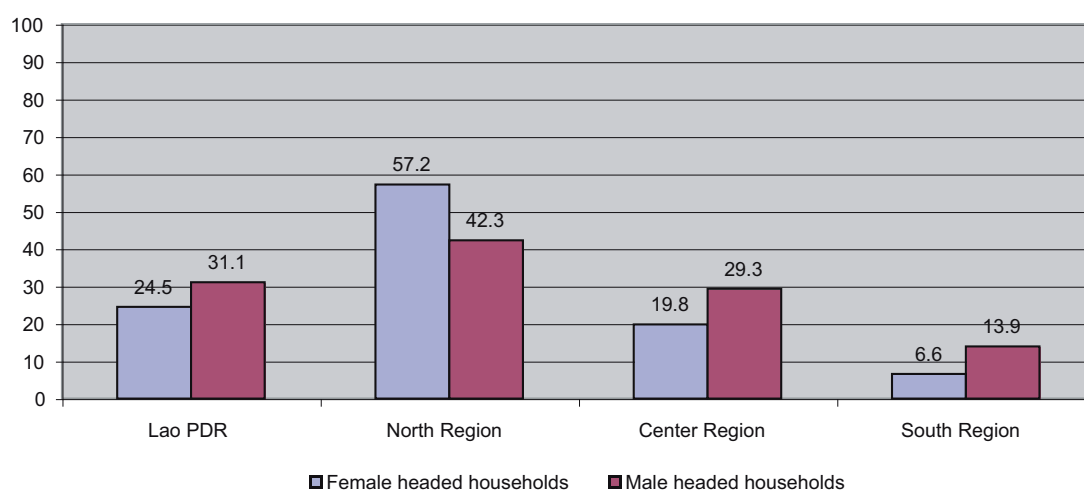


Table 4.3 | Number and percentage of agricultural households that employed workers, by sex and type of remuneration

Region/condition provided	All agricultural households		Female-headed household		Male-headed household	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR						
Total households	204 134	100.0	12 973	100.0	191 162	100.0
Wages	87 977	43.1	5 812	44.8	82 165	43.0
Products	24 224	11.9	1 473	11.4	22 751	11.9
Exchange of labour	89 411	43.8	5 494	42.4	83 917	43.9
Other means	2 523	1.2	194	1.5	2 329	1.2
North Region						
Total households	102 651	100.0	6 757	100.0	95 894	100.0
Wages	26 809	26.1	1 797	26.6	25 012	26.1
Products	9 438	9.2	509	7.5	8 929	9.3
Exchange of labour	65 867	64.2	4 439	65.7	61 427	64.1
Other means	537	0.5	12	0.2	525	0.5
Center Region						
Total households	83 609	100.0	5 248	100.0	78 361	100.0
Wages	51 370	61.4	3 380	64.4	47 991	61.2
Products	10 837	13.0	702	13.4	10 135	12.9
Exchange of labour	19 837	23.7	984	18.7	18 853	24.1
Other means	1 565	1.9	182	3.5	1 383	1.8
South Region						
Total households	17 874	100.0	968	100.0	16 906	100.0
Wages	9 798	54.8	635	65.6	9 162	54.2
Products	3 948	22.1	261	27.0	3 687	21.8
Exchange of labour	3 708	20.7	71	7.4	3 636	21.5
Other means	421	2.4	0	-	421	2.5

Source: DoS/LAC (2000)

CHART 4.2 | Percentage of agricultural households that employed workers during the past one year, by sex and work condition

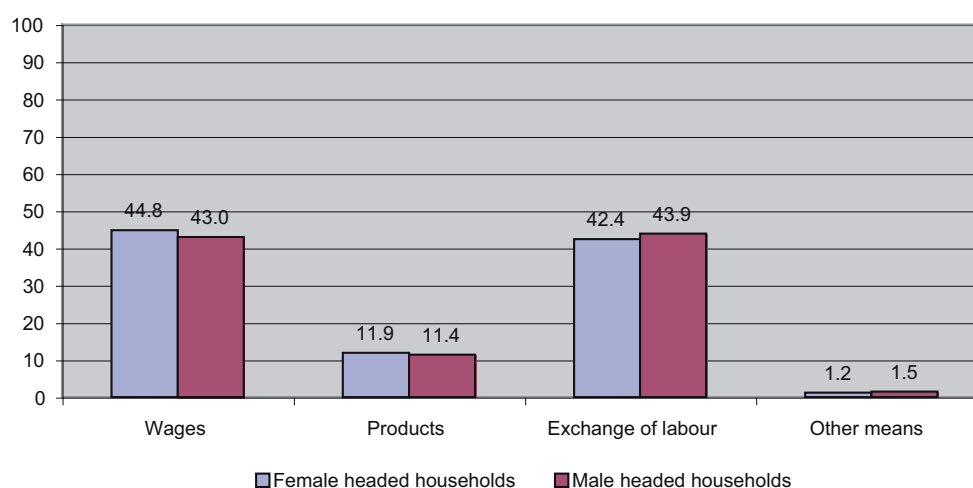


TABLE 4.4 | Land access by sex of household head and region (%)

Region	Percentage of agricultural household with access to agricultural land	
	Female headed households	Male headed households
Lao PDR	87.8	95.7
North region	94.4	96.8
Center region	89.4	94.5
South region	79.1	94.5

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

The majority of agricultural households have access to one plot of land (Table 4.5). In particular, female headed agricultural households own or lease one plot: 80 percent compared to 60 percent of all male headed households (Map 4.2). Twice as many male headed households (36%) hold 2 to 3 plots compared to female headed households (18%). Only a small proportion of agricultural households have access to more than 3 plots: 5 percent of male headed and 2 percent of female headed households.

MAP 4.1 | Percentage point difference between male and female headed agricultural households in proportion of access to land

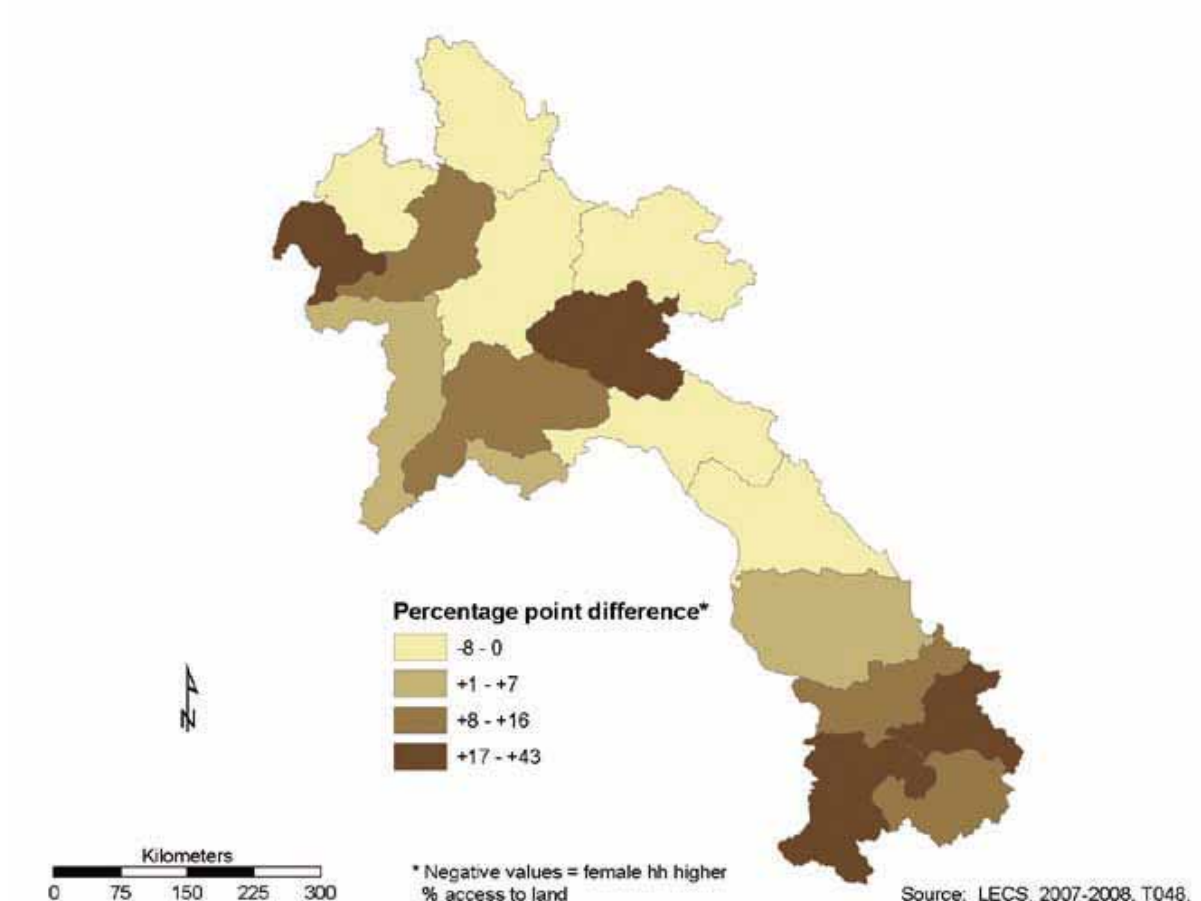
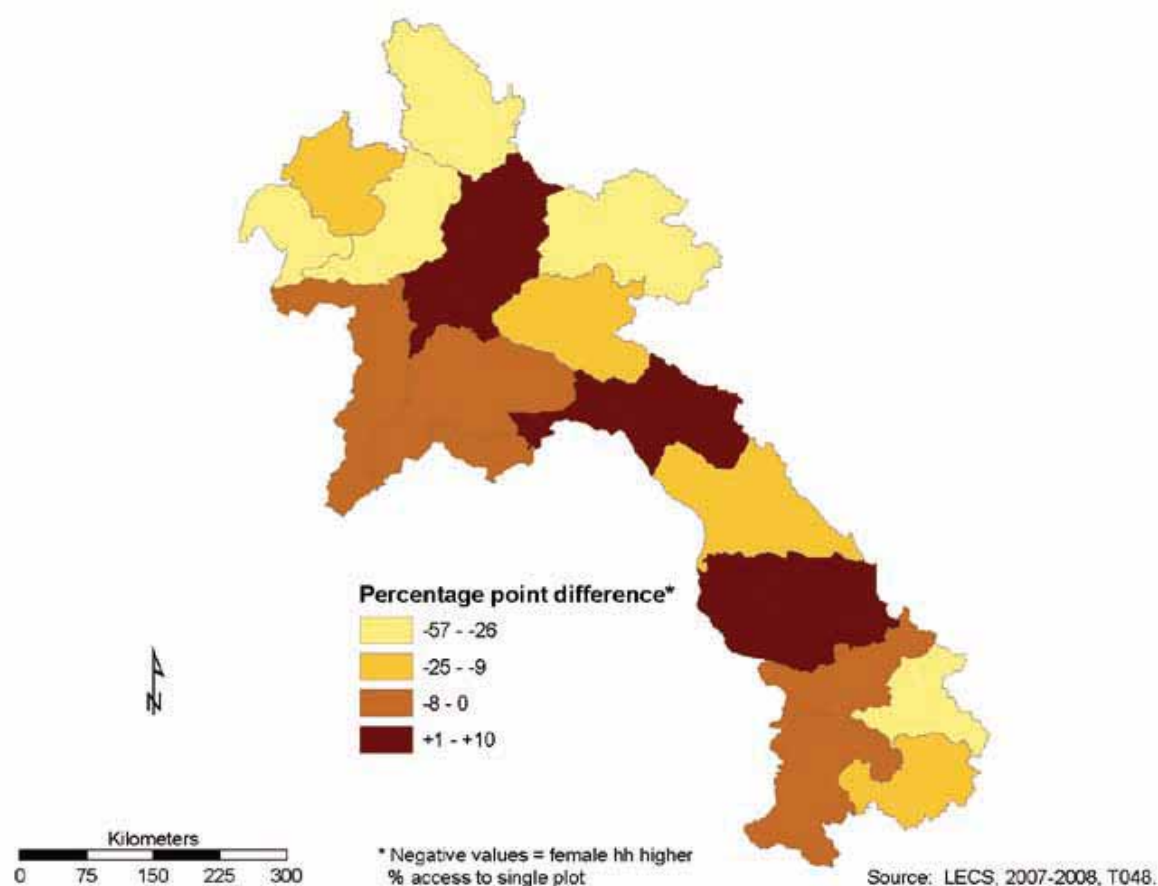


TABLE 4.5 | Number and percentage of agricultural households that own/lease land by sex of household head and number of plots owned/leased

	All households		Female headed		Male headed	
	Number of households reporting	Percentage (%)	Number of households reporting	Percentage (%)	Number of households reporting	Percentage (%)
Lao PDR	787 406	100.0	35 083	100.0	752 323	100.0
One plot	485 861	61.7	27 311	77.8	458 550	61.0
2 - 3 plots	267 723	34.0	7 328	20.9	260 395	34.6
4 - 5 plots	29 948	3.8	444	1.3	29 503	3.9
6 - 9 plots	3 642	0.5	0	0.0	3 642	0.5
10 - 14 plots	233	0.0	0	0.0	233	0.0
15 plots or more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

MAP 4.2 | Percentage point difference between male and female headed agricultural households in proportion of access to one plot of land



4.2.2 Land size and land type

At national level, male headed agricultural households have an average of 1.9 ha agricultural land compared to 1.6 ha for female headed households, which is about 16 percent more land per household. Particularly in the North, male headed agricultural households have more (i.e. 28% more) agricultural land available than female headed households. In the Southern region this is 14 percent more land for male headed households (Map 4.3). The difference in land size is smallest in the Center region where male headed households have only 6 percent more agricultural land per household compared to female headed households.

TABLE 4.6 | Average agricultural land area for male and female headed agricultural households by region (ha)

Region	Female headed households		Male headed households		Percentage difference
	Number of households reporting	Average land size (ha)	Number of households reporting	Average land size (ha)	
Lao PDR	35 083	1.6	752 323	1.9	15.8
North region	70 69	1.3	270 628	1.8	27.8
Center region	19 719	1.7	320 822	1.8	5.6
South region	8 217	1.8	157 693	2.1	14.3

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009).

MAP 4.3 | Percent and hectareage difference in mean land area between male and female headed agricultural households

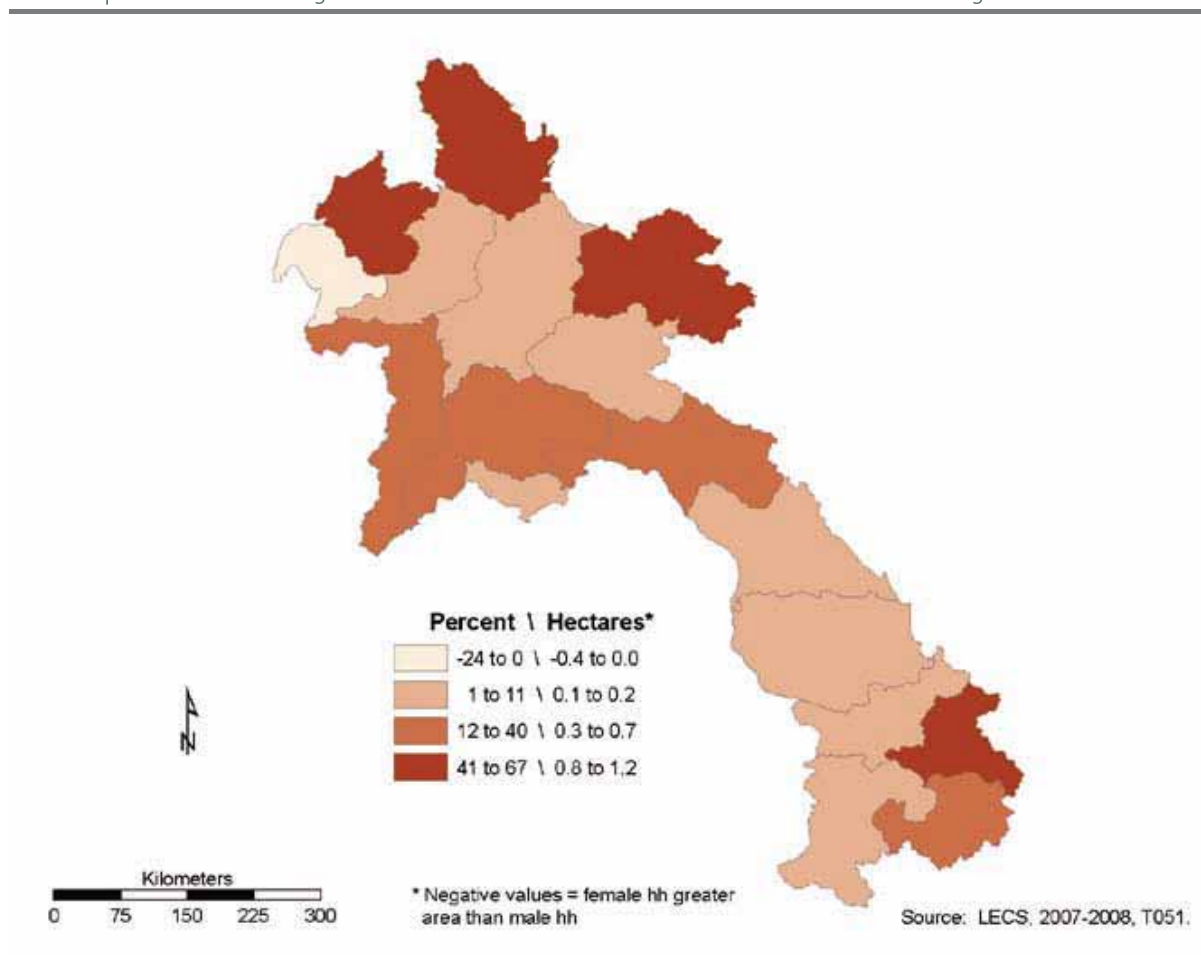


TABLE 4.7 | Land use as percentage of total agricultural land base (%)

Region	Percentage of total land area	
	Female headed households	Male headed households
Total	100.0	100.0
Arable land for temporary crops	93.4	89.6
Arable land for permanent crops	4.6	6.4
Grazing land	0	0
Forest land	2.0	4.0

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

Table 4.7 shows the percentage of total land area of agricultural households that is used for temporary crops, permanent crops, grazing or forest. Most of the agricultural land is used for temporary crops. About 93 percent of all agricultural land owned or leased by female headed households is used for temporary crops and only a very small portion of their total agricultural land base is used for permanent cropping or as forest land. For male headed households, 90 percent of the total agricultural land base is used for temporary cropping.

4.2.3 Land tenure

Generally, land is a national heritage and the State ensures the rights to use, transfer and inherit it in accordance with the laws. The main land tenure in Lao PDR is categorized into three types: private, communal and state ownership. LECS4 (2009) collected data on the tenure status of plots over a 12 months reference period. It distinguishes 2 types of land tenure: owned/free disposal and leased. Land ownership means the owner has a land certificate, which is an official document certifying the right to use of agricultural land or forest land. This certificate is issued by the district or municipal administration to an individual or organisation that has the right to use such land¹. Land lease means the holder rents the agricultural land from an individual, organization or the state.

Over 95 percent of all agricultural households own or have free disposal to land and only a small proportion of households lease agricultural land (Table 4.8). There are no notable differences between male and female headed

TABLE 4.8 | Percentage of agricultural households that owned/leased any land by tenure status of the plot

Tenure status of the plot and region	All households	Female headed	Male headed
Lao PDR			
Owned/Free disposal	95.4	95.6	95.3
Leased	4.6	4.4	4.7
North			
Owned/Free disposal	97.0	100.0	96.9
Leased	3.0	-	3.1
Center			
Owned/Free disposal	94.6	92.8	94.7
Leased	5.4	7.2	5.3
South			
Owned/Free disposal	94.0	97.1	93.9
Leased	6.0	2.9	6.1

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

¹ Land Law, 2003.

TABLE 4.9 | Number and percentage of agricultural households renting land, by sex of household head and renting conditions

Major conditions	All households		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total agricultural households	667 895	-	52 937	-	614 957	-
Total households renting land	32 996	4.9	2 233	4.2	30 763	5.0
Cash	4 813	14.6	226	10.1	4 587	14.9
Products	21 454	65.0	1 601	71.7	19 853	64.5
Exchange of labor	3 458	10.5	158	7.1	3 300	10.7
Other conditions	3 271	9.9	248	11.1	3 023	9.8

Source: DoS/LAC, 2000

households nor regional variations. Unfortunately, LECS data do not provide data on land certificates nor in whose name land certificates are registered.

The 1998-1999 LAC collected data on land renting and renting conditions (Table 4.9). Out of a total of 667 895 agricultural households, only 32 996 or 5 percent rented agricultural land. There are no notable differences between male and female headed households in the proportion of households renting land. Overall, the rent is mostly paid in kind. About 72 percent of all female headed households renting land pay their rent in kind (with products) compared to 65 percent of all male headed households; a slight difference of 7 percentage points.

4.3 IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES

4.3.1 Irrigation

LECS4 collected basic data on the number and area of irrigated plots by type of plot. At national level the average area of irrigated land is 1.2 ha per household. Male headed households have 1.2 ha irrigated land per household and female headed households have an average of 1.3 or 7 percent more (Chart 4.3).

CHART 4.3 | Average area irrigated land (ha)

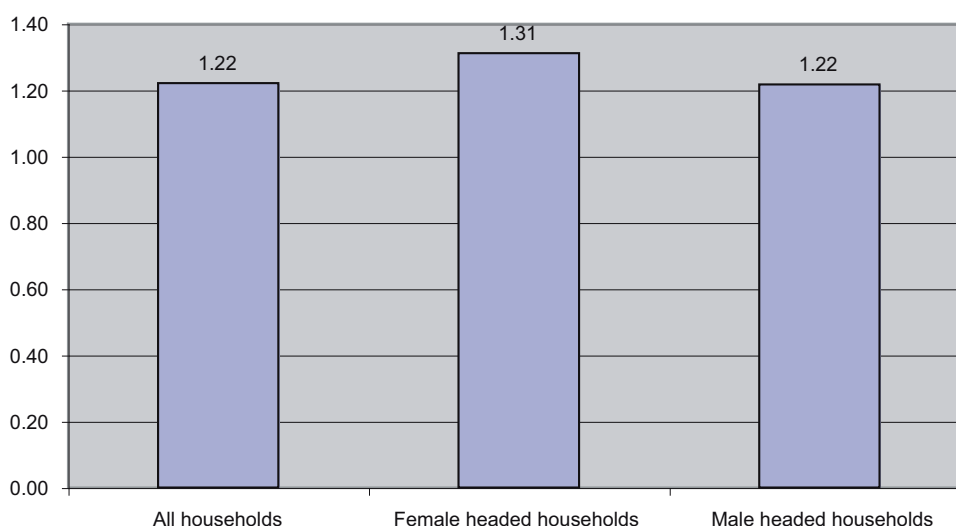


TABLE 4.10 | Percentage of land irrigated by the State, by sex of household head and tenure category

Tenure category	All households		Female headed households		Male headed households	
	By state	By others	By state	By others	By state	By others
Total	34.8	65.2	32.7	67.3	35.0	65.0
Owned lands	32.5	67.5	33.7	66.3	32.6	67.4
Rented lands	68.8	31.2	83.1	16.9	68.5	31.5
Other lands	54.9	45.1	32.1	67.9	73.0	27.0

Source: DoS/LAC, 2000

The 1998-1999 LAC collected data on whether irrigation was provided by the State or by own means (Table 4.10). Overall, 35 percent of all irrigated land is under a Government regulated irrigation scheme with no real differences between male and female headed households. Especially, rented irrigated land of female headed households is part of government irrigation schemes.

4.4. CREDIT

4.4.1 Access to loans

The LECS3 2002-03 survey collected data on households that owned money or goods to anyone over the past 12 months, including the sources of loans, the reason for borrowing, kind of security provided for the loan, and the rate of interest charged. At national level, only 15 percent of all male and 10 percent of all female headed agricultural households owned money or goods to anyone at the time of the census. Among those households owning money and goods to others, the neighbor is the main source for borrowing. This is particular for female headed agricultural households: almost 74 percent of all female headed households with outstanding loans borrowed from neighbors compared to 52 percent of male headed households. A second important source of borrowing is the bank (state enterprise bank), particularly for male-headed households: 22 percent of male headed agricultural households had outstanding loans with the bank compared to 14 percent of female headed households (Table 4.11). The proportion

CHART 4.4 | Percentage of agriculture households owing money or goods to anyone

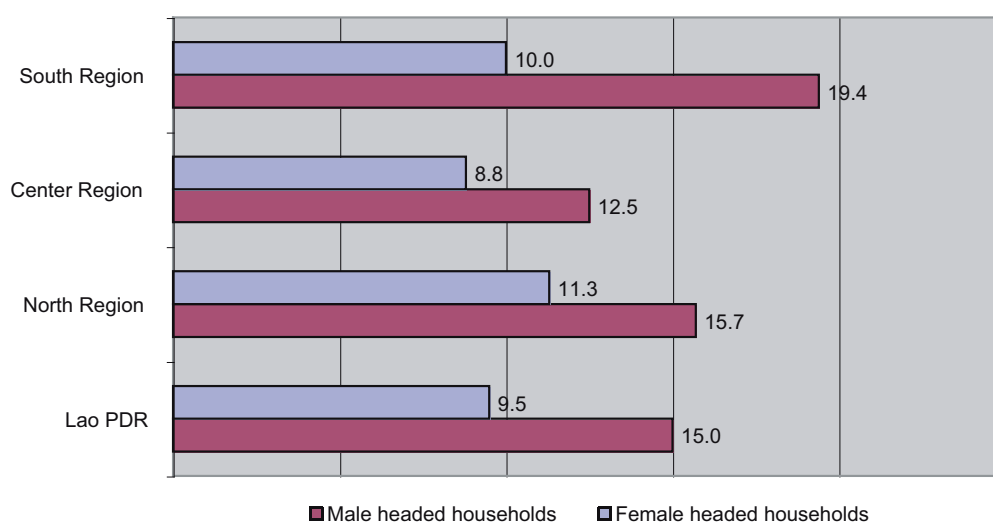


TABLE 4.11 | Number and percentage of agricultural households owing money or goods to anyone, by sex and source of loans

	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total households	753 605	-	32 040	-	721 565	-
Total households owing money	111 403	14.8	3 049	9.5	108 354	15.0
Source of loans:						
Neighbors	58 051	52.1	2 240	73.5	55 811	51.5
Friend	7 319	6.6	268	8.8	7 051	6.5
Moneylender	6 492	5.8	65	2.1	6 427	5.9
Bank	24 110	21.6	411	13.5	23 699	21.9
Private bank	555	0.5	-	0.0	555	0.5
Other sources	14 876	13.4	65	2.1	14 811	13.7

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004)

of outstanding loans among male and female headed agricultural households is similar across the regions (Chart 4.4).

LECS3 also included data on the reasons for borrowing. Table 4.12 presents data on reasons for borrowing among those male and female headed agricultural households who own money or goods to anyone during the reference period. Investment in agriculture is the main reason for both male (36%) and female headed households (28%) with outstanding loans. Other main reasons for outstanding loans for male headed agricultural households are cash needs for health-related expenses and consumption. Among female headed agricultural households, the main reasons for outstanding loans other than investment in agriculture include consumption (18%), house repairs (16%) and health-related expenses (14%).

Among all agricultural households owing money or goods to anyone during the reference period, 20 percent reported to have provided security for the loan, of which 21 percent are male headed and 6 percent female headed – a difference of 16 percentage points (Chart 4.5). The main kind of security provided is land: all female headed households who reported to have provided security for the outstanding loan used land as collateral compared to 41 percent of male headed households (Table 4.13). Other collateral sources for male headed households besides land included livestock (23%) and house (16%).

CHART 4.5 | Percentage of households reporting security provided for the loan

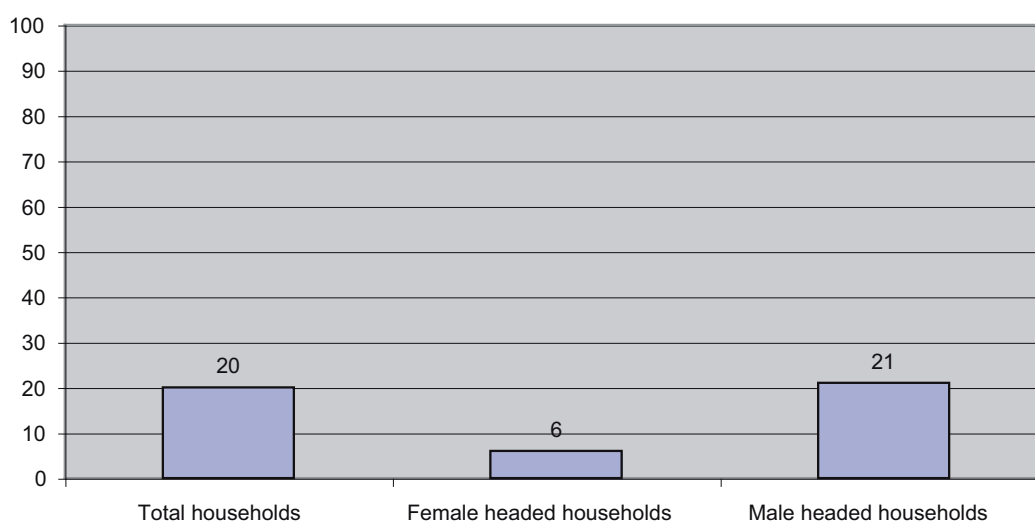


TABLE 4.12 | Number and percentage of agricultural households owing money or goods by reason for borrowing

Reason for borrowing money	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR		100		100		100
Investment in agriculture	39 578	35.6	871	27.7	38 707	35.9
Investment in industry	3 511	3.2	175	5.6	3 336	3.1
Investment in service	8 908	8.0	294	9.3	8 614	8.0
Repay loan	944	0.8	-	0.0	944	0.9
Relend	229	0.2	-	0.0	229	0.2
Buy dwelling/repair	5 642	5.1	485	15.5	5 156	4.8
Health treatment	19 008	17.1	445	14.2	18 563	17.2
Education	2 409	2.2		0.0	2 409	2.2
Buy food/other consumption	18 317	16.5	552	17.6	17 765	16.5
Other reasons	12 508	11.3	319	10.2	12 189	11.3

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004).

TABLE 4.13 | Number and percentage of agricultural households owing money or goods to anyone, by kind of security provided for the loan

Kind of security provided	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR		100		100		
Land	9 455	41.5	183	100	9 272	41.0
House	3 693	16.2	-	-	3 693	16.3
Durable	1 359	6.0	-	-	1 359	6.0
Paddy	1 298	5.7	-	-	1 298	5.7
Livestock	5 278	23.1	-	-	5 278	23.3
Other security	1 723	7.6	-	-	1 723	7.6

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004)

TABLE 4.14 | Number and percentage of agricultural households owing money or goods to anyone, by rate of interest charged to the loan

Rate of interest	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR		100		100		100
Less 5%	5 137	10.5	0	0	5 137	10.7
5% - 9%	10 638	21.7	183	21.1	10 455	21.7
10% - 14%	13 826	28.2	292	33.8	13 534	28.1
15% - 19%	5 467	11.1	167	19.4	5 299	11.0
20% and over	13 998	28.5	223	25.8	13 776	28.6

Source: DoS/LECS3(2004)

LECS3 also collected data on the rate of interest charged. Among male headed agricultural households with outstanding loans, 44 percent reported to be charged interest. For female headed households this is 28 percent. The rate of interest charged is mostly above 5 percent but varies greatly among the households (Table 4.14 and Chart 4.6).

LECS3 also provided information on agricultural households lending money or goods to others during a 12 months reference period. Only 110 764 households lend money or goods to any one at the time of the Census, which represents 15 percent of all agricultural households. Out of this 15 percent were male headed and 9 percent were female headed households (Table 4.15). More than two-thirds of the male and female headed households that lend money or goods gave these loans to neighbours.

Among agricultural households that provided loans, about 24 percent charged interest (almost half as which that reported by households who had taken the loans). Among male headed agricultural households lending money and goods to others, 25 percent reported to charge interest (Chart 4.7). For female headed households this is 21 percent. Male headed households charged higher interest than female headed households. About 53 percent of male headed households that charged interest, rates of 20 percent and more were applied. Among female headed households charging interest, 40 percent charged these high rates; a difference of 13 percentage points.

TABLE 4.15 | Number and percentage of agricultural households lending money or goods to anyone, by type of borrowers

	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total agricultural households	753 605	-	32 040	-	721 565	-
Total households lending money or goods to anyone	110 764	14.7	2 927	9.0	107 837	14.9
Source of lending:						
Neighbors	77 399	69.9	2 119	72.4	75 279	69.8
Private person	30 347	39.2	736	34.7	29 611	39.3
Organization	3 019	9.9	72	9.8	2 947	10.0

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004)

TABLE 4.16 | Number and percentage of agricultural households lending money or goods to anyone by rate of interest charged

	All household heads		Female-headed		Male-headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total households lending money or goods to anyone	27 005	24.3	613	20.9	26 391	24.5
Rate of interest:						
Less 5%	3 049	11.3	-	-	3 049	11.6
5% - 9%	2 106	7.8	170	27.8	1 935	7.3
10% - 14%	4 922	18.2	92	15.0	4 830	18.3
15% - 19%	2 751	10.2	108	17.6	2 643	10.0
20% and over	14 177	52.5	243	39.6	13 934	52.8

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004)

CHART 4.6 | Percentage of households with outstanding loans that are charged interest

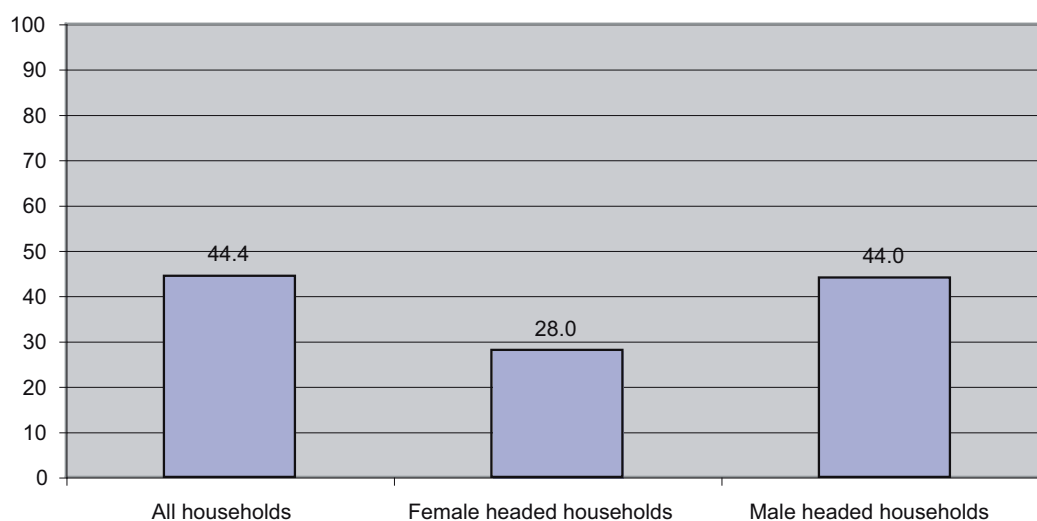
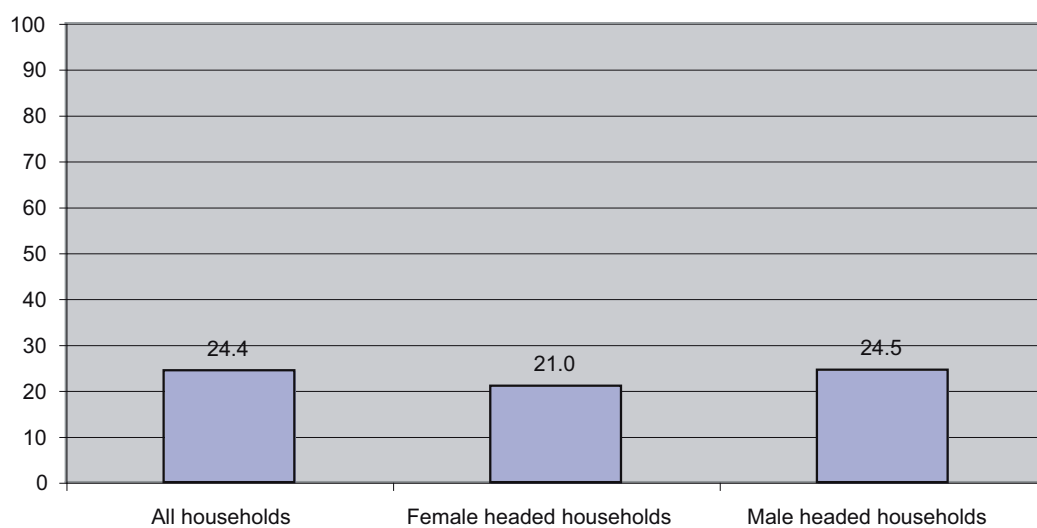


CHART 4.7 | Percentage of households providing loans that charge interest



CHAPTER 5

Livelihood strategies

This chapter presents gender statistics on livelihood strategies, i.e. the combination of different activities male and female headed agricultural households undertake on the basis of their assets (Chapters 3 and 4). In particular, the chapter focuses on crop production, livestock and poultry production, fisheries, forestry and off-farm employment.

5.1 CROP PRODUCTION

LECS4 included data on crop production. Glutinous rice is the most common crop for both male and female headed agricultural households. Among female headed households almost 82 percent of all land is cultivated with glutinous rice. For male headed households this is 67 percent or 15 percentage points less (Table 5.1). Besides glutinous rice, the difference between male and female headed households in area cultivated with certain crops is small (less than 6%). Table 5.1 also presents yield data for some crops. Besides maize, for which male headed households have 20% more yield than female headed households, the yield difference between male and female headed households is very small.

LECS4 data also shows that male headed agricultural households have a more diversified cropping pattern in terms of area cultivated than female headed households. On average, about 85 percent of agricultural land belonging to male headed households is planted with cereals (including rice), 8 percent with industrial crops, and 3 percent with fruits and other permanent crops (Chart 5.1). Female headed households cultivate larger proportions of their land with cereals (92%), thus leaving less land available for industrial crops (4%), vegetables (2%) and fruits and other permanent crops (2%).

5.1.2 Marketing and rice utilisation

Male and female headed households only sell small proportions of the total production (i.e. less than 3 percent). Glutinous rice and maize are an exception. Female headed agricultural households sell 13 percent of their total

TABLE 5.1 | Area planted (%) and yield, by sex of household head and type of crops (rainy season)

Crops	Male headed		Female headed		Difference between male and female headed households	
	Area planted (%)	Harvest (kg/ha)	Area planted (%)	Harvest (kg/ha)	Area planted (%)	Harvest (kg/ha)
Glutinous rice	66.5	2 197	81.5	2 024	-15.0	172
Ordinary rice	9.9	2 131	7.6	2 212	2.2	-81
Corn/maize	8.9	4 422	2.7	3 544	6.2	879
Tobacco	0.1	6 443	-	-	-	-
Other industrialized crops	0.5	1 339	-	-	-	-
Coffee	3.6	-	2.9	2 373	0.7	-
Tea	0.1	634	0.3	652	-0.3	18
Rubber	3.2	23	0.6	-	2.6	23
Other permanent crops	1.9	1 230	1.0	-	0.9	-

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

CHART 5.1 | Percentage of planted area by crop type, by sex of the household head (last completed season): 2007-2008

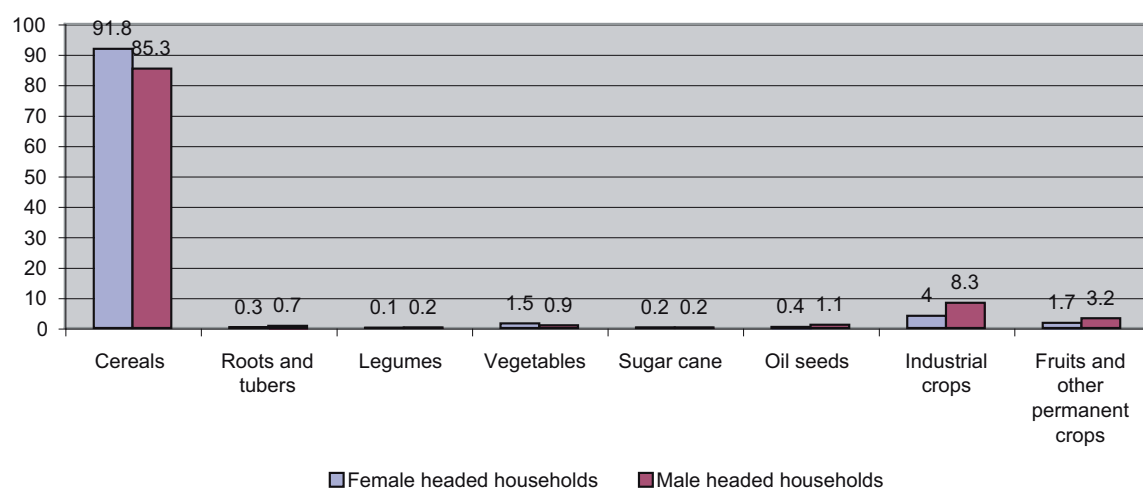


TABLE 5.2 | Percent of total household production sold by sex of household head

	Female headed	Male headed
Glutinous rice	12.9	17.2
Maize	8.6	26.3

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

TABLE 5.3 | Utilisation (%) of glutinous rice as percentage of total production (rainy season – excluding consumption)

	Female headed	Male headed
Quantity sold	12.9	17.2
Quantity lost to insects, rodents and other problems	10.1	3.8
Quantity used for payments (labour and other)	5.0	5.3
Quantity used for animal feeds	0.6	3.4
Quantity used to produce processed foods for sale	0.1	0.2
Quantity given away as gift	2.6	3.0
Quantity used for seed	5.2	8.0
Quantity still being stored by the household	10.6	9.9

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

glutinous rice production (Table 5.2). For male headed households this is 17 percent; a slight difference of only 4 percentage points. The difference between male and female headed households is greater for maize production. Female headed households sell 9 percent of their total maize production while male headed households sell 26 percent of their maize production (i.e. 18 percentage points more).

In addition to selling crops, LECS4 collected data on different means of utilising crops, including crop loss, payments, animal feeds, agro-processing, gifts, seeds and storage. Table 5.3 presents data on the utilisation of glutinous rice (excluding consumption). According to LECS4 data, female headed households experience greater

crop loss problems than male headed households: 10 percent of the total glutinous rice production is lost compared to 4 percent among male headed households. Both male and female headed households use 5 percent of their total rice production to pay labour and other expenses. Further, male headed households use 3 percent of their production rice for animal feed, while for female headed households this is less than 1 percent. In addition, both male and female headed households use small quantities (less than 1 percent of total production) to produce processed foods for sale and about 3 percent of their total production of male and female headed households is given away as a gift. Further, female headed households used about 5 percent of their total production for seed; for male headed households this is 8 percent. Last, at the time of the survey, male and female headed households had about 10 and 11 percent of their total production still stored.

5.2. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Following LECS4 data, 57 percent of all agricultural households in Lao PDR raised livestock (excluding poultry). More male headed agricultural households are engaged in livestock production: 58 percent (455 627) of all male headed agricultural households raise livestock compared to 39 percent (15 684) of all female headed households; a difference of 19 percentage points (Table 5.4). At provincial level (Chart 5.2), in all provinces, proportionally more male headed households than female headed households are engaged in livestock production. For both male and female headed agricultural households engaged in livestock production, local pigs, buffaloes and cattle are the main livestock raised: 62 percent of male headed households engaged in livestock production keep local pigs, 55 percent keep buffaloes and 52 percent cattle. For female headed agricultural households these numbers are 58 percent, 58 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

The difference in the average number of livestock owned between male and female headed agricultural households engaged in livestock production varies per type of livestock and region (Table 5.5). At national level, male headed households have an average of 5.1 cattle compared to 4.5 among female headed households (i.e. 11 percent more). Further, male headed households have 23 percent more local pigs per household and 15 percent more commercial pigs. Female headed households, on the other hand, have 6 percent more buffaloes per household and 27 percent more goats compared to male headed households.

In the North, male headed households own 69 percent more cattle, 21 percent more buffaloes and 25 percent more local pigs compared to female headed households. Likewise, in the South, male headed households own more cattle (27% more) and commercial pigs (56% more) compared to female headed households.

In both the North and the South, female headed household own greater number of goats; 37 percent more in the North and 76 percent more in the South. Livestock ownership in the Center region is more equal between male and female headed households.

TABLE 5.4 | Number and proportion of agricultural households that raised any livestock during the past 12 months, 2007-08

Kind of livestock	All households		Female headed		Male headed	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lao PDR	47 1311	57.1	15 684	39.3	455 627	58.0
Cattle	244 499	51.9	7 325	46.7	237 175	52.1
Buffaloes	259 799	55.1	9 018	57.5	250 781	55.0
Pigs, local	292 203	62.0	9 020	57.5	283 183	62.2
Pigs, commercial	18 571	3.9	516	3.3	18 055	4.0
Goats	53 159	11.3	1 954	12.5	51 205	11.2
Horse	5 593	1.2	-	-	5 593	1.2
Other Livestock	4 584	1.0	625	4.0	3 959	0.9

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

5.2.1 Selling livestock

Following LECS4, not many livestock were sold during a 12 months reference period (2007–2008). Among those agricultural households engaged in livestock production, male headed households sold on average three times more cattle and one-and-a-half times more local pigs than female headed households. Female headed households, on the other hand, sold on average more buffaloes, commercial pigs and goats compared to male headed households (Table 5.6).

The average value of animal sold (in Kip) is higher for male headed households than female headed households, regardless of the kind of livestock sold. Especially the difference in value per animal sold is large for cattle (269 116 Kip or equivalent of USD 32), buffaloes (431 236 Kip or equivalent of USD 51), and commercial pigs (174 467 Kip or equivalent of USD 21).

5.2.2 Poultry production

In Lao PDR, poultry production is mainly restricted to keeping local chickens and to a lesser extent ducks (Table 5.7). About 62 percent of all male headed and 59 percent of all female headed households engaged in poultry production keep local chickens. The average number of local chickens differs slightly between male and female headed agricultural households: male headed households have an average of 14 local chickens per households compared to an average of 12 among female headed households. In addition to raising chickens, 17 percent of all male headed households keep small breed ducks and 18 percent large breed ducks. For female headed households this is 15 and 23 percent, respectively. The average number of large breed ducks is almost similar for male and female headed households but male headed households keep about 27 percent more small breed ducks (average of 11 ducks) per household compared to female headed households (average of 8 ducks).

5.2.3 Selling poultry

The average number of poultry sold during a 4-week period prior to implementing LECS4 is low for all agricultural households, without notable differences between male and female headed households – except for ducks (Table 5.8). Female headed households sold over three times as many small breed ducks and almost twice as many large breed ducks during a 4-week period than male headed households.

Overall, male headed households get better prices for their poultry compared to female headed households. This might be due to the location where poultry was sold, however no data on type of buyers and markets was included in LECS4. The amount received by male headed households for selling one turkey is 47 percent more than female

CHART 5.2 | Percentage of agricultural households engaged in livestock production by province

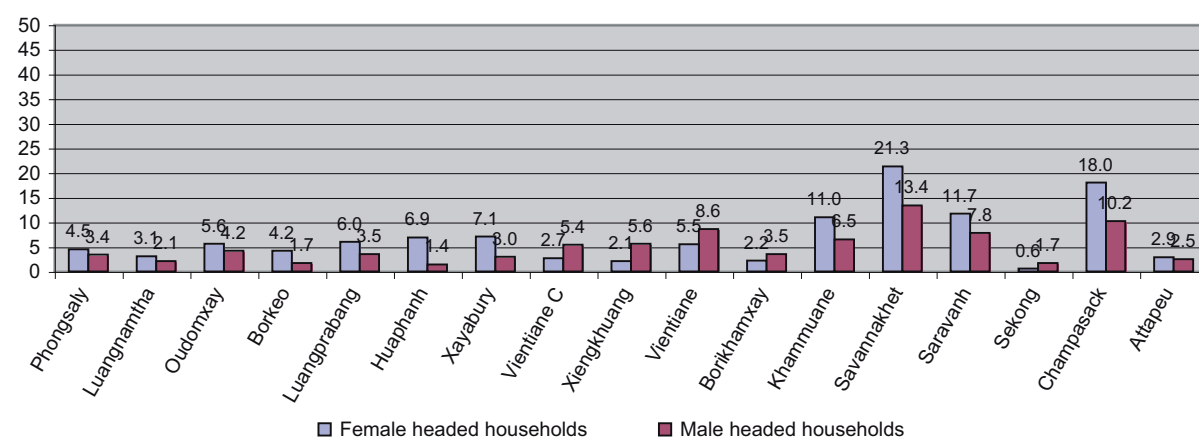


TABLE 5.5 | Average number of livestock owned, by sex of household head

Animals	Female headed			Male headed		
	Number of households	Total number of livestock	Average number of livestock	Number of households	Total number of livestock	Average number of livestock
Cattle	7 325	32 778	4.5	237 175	1 215 772	5.1
Buffaloes	9 018	31 168	3.5	250 781	814 501	3.3
Pigs, local	9 020	20 824	2.3	283 183	862 066	3.0
Pigs, commercial	516	1 119	2.2	18 055	47 353	2.6
Goats	1 954	14 243	7.3	51 205	273 432	5.3
Horses	0	0	0	5 593	11 727	2.1
North Region						
Cattle	608	885	1.5	65 234	321 737	4.9
Buffaloes	754	1 954	2.6	83 747	276 445	3.3
Pigs, local	2581	6 675	2.6	140 870	489 325	3.5
Pigs, commercial				3 013	5 920	2.0
Goats	435	3 797	8.7	17 512	93 871	5.4
Horses				3 299	5 892	1.8
Center Region						
Cattle	4 564	24 046	5.3	128 123	671 074	5.2
Buffaloes	4 182	13 973	3.3	95 873	313 091	3.3
Pigs, local	3 982	9 849	2.5	82 384	237 030	2.9
Pigs, commercial	350	953	2.7	7 410	22 938	3.1
Goats	1 380	8 342	6.0	25 057	148 528	5.9
Horses				1 621	5 161	3.2
South Region						
Cattle	2 152	7 847	3.7	43 819	222 961	5.1
Buffaloes	4 082	15 241	3.7	71 161	224 965	3.2
Pigs, local	2 458	4 300	1.8	59 929	135 710	2.4
Pigs, commercial	166	166	1.0	7 999	18 495	2.3
Goats	138	2 104	15.2	8 683	31 032	3.6
Horses				259	674	2.6

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009).

headed households received. Similarly, male headed households received 20 percent more cash for selling small and large breed ducks than female headed households.

5.3 FISHERY

In Lao PDR, 455 325 or 58 percent of all male headed and 15 684 or 40 percent of all female headed agricultural households are engaged in any form of fish culture; a difference of 19 percentage points (Table 5.9). For both male and female headed households, fish culture is more practiced in the North and South regions, with the South region having the lowest percentage point difference between male and female headed households (Chart 5.3).

The main type of fish culture for both male and female headed agricultural households are fish ponds followed by rice fields. About 59 percent of all male headed households engaged in fish culture have a fish pond and 21 percent

TABLE 5.6 | Number of livestock sold during the past 12 months, by sex of household head and kind of livestock

Kind of animals	Female headed households			Male headed households		
	Total animals sold	Average number sold	Average value per number livestock sold (Kip)	Total animals sold	Average number sold	Average value per number livestock sold (Kip)
Cattle	1 251	0.17	1 481 365	145 652	0.61	1 750 481
Buffaloes	3 878	0.43	2 374 490	88 004	0.35	2 805 726
Pigs, local	6 770	0.75	359 524	336 728	1.19	401 472
Pigs, commercial	1 907	3.69	600 000	40 342	2.23	774 467
Goats	2 733	1.40	276 656	60 576	1.18	312 989
Horses	-	-	-	1 681	0.30	1 168 844

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

use rice fields to catch fish. Among female headed households engaged in fish culture 72 percent have a fish pond and 21 percent use rice fields to catch fish (Table 5.9).

5.4 FORESTRY

5.4.1 Exploiting communal forest

In Lao PDR, 52 percent (411 344) of all male headed agricultural households exploit forest in the surrounding villages compared to only 34 percent (13 679) of all female headed households; a difference of 18 percentage points (Table 5.10). In the Center region, fewer male and female headed households are engaged in forestry as a livelihood activity compared to the South and North regions. Especially, in the South region a higher proportion of female headed households are engaged in forestry activities (Chart 5.4).

Agricultural household engaged in forestry exploit the forest for different products, including fuel wood (97 percent of all households engaged in forestry), bamboo (82 percent of all households engaged in forestry), tubers (93 percent of all households engaged in forestry), other forestry vegetables (90 percent of all households engaged in forestry) and to a lesser extent timber (18 percent of all households engaged in forestry). There are no notable differences in type of products exploited between male and female headed agricultural households (Table 5.10).

TABLE 5.7 | Number of agricultural households that raised poultry during the past 4 weeks and average number of poultry, by sex of household head and kind of poultry

Kind of poultry	Female headed			Male headed		
	Number of households	Percent	Average number of poultry	Number of households	Percent	Average number of poultry
Lao PDR	26 208	100.0		717 863	100.0	
Local chicken	15 443	58.9	12	441 486	61.5	14
Commercial chicken	-	-	-	1 654	0.2	8
Turkeys	861	3.3	4	18 904	2.6	5
Duck, small breed	3 835	14.6	8	119 908	16.7	11
Duck, large breed	5 940	22.7	8	131 379	18.3	7
Geese	128	0.5	3	1 965	0.3	4
Other poultry	-	-	-	2 566	0.4	10

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 5.8 | Number of poultry sold and an average value per number poultry sold in the last 4 weeks, by head of household

Kind of poultry	Female headed households		Male headed households	
	Average number sold	Average value (Kip) per poultry sold	Average number sold	Average value (Kip) per poultry sold
Local chicken	1.18	57 728	1.12	57 714
Commercial chicken	-	-	0.03	20 185
Turkeys	0.27	40 000	0.40	75 383
Duck (small breed)	1.88	23 205	0.53	28 885
Duck (large breed)	1.01	31 063	0.60	38 963
Geese	-	-	0.09	49 880
Other poultry	-	-	0.74	14 981

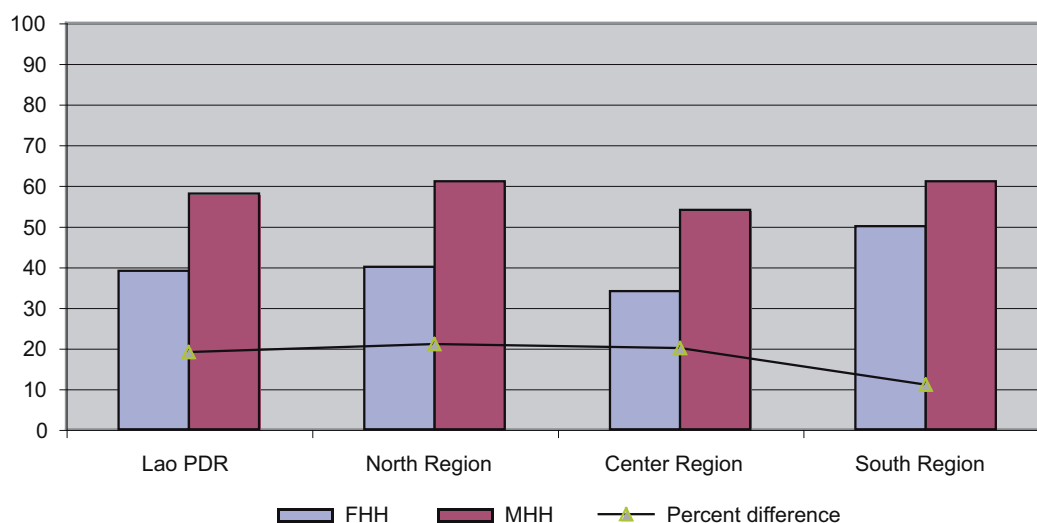
Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 5.9 | Number and percentage of agricultural households engaged in any fish culture, by sex of household head and kind of fish culture

Kind of fish culture	Female headed		Male headed	
	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR	15 684	39.3	455 325	57.9
Rice field	687	20.8	36 022	21.2
Pond	2 380	72.1	99 467	58.6
Cage	113	3.4	12 726	7.5
Integrated pond	122	3.7	8 701	5.1
Community fish	0	0.0	6 646	3.9
Fish seed production	0	0.0	1 890	1.1
Other kinds of fish culture	0	0.0	4 349	2.6

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

CHART 5.3 | Percentage of male and female headed households engaged in fish culture as a livelihood activity, by region



5.4.2 Owning and exploiting own forest

Only a small proportion of agricultural households own forest land. At national level, 7 percent of all male headed and 6 percent of all female headed households exploit owned forest (Table 5.11 and Map 5.1). Among those male and female headed households owning forest land, fuel wood is the main product exploited: all female headed and 93 percent of all male headed households owning forest land exploit their forest for fuel wood. Bamboo is a second important product for 84 percent of female headed households owing forest land and 71 percent of male headed households.

5.4.3 Income from forestry

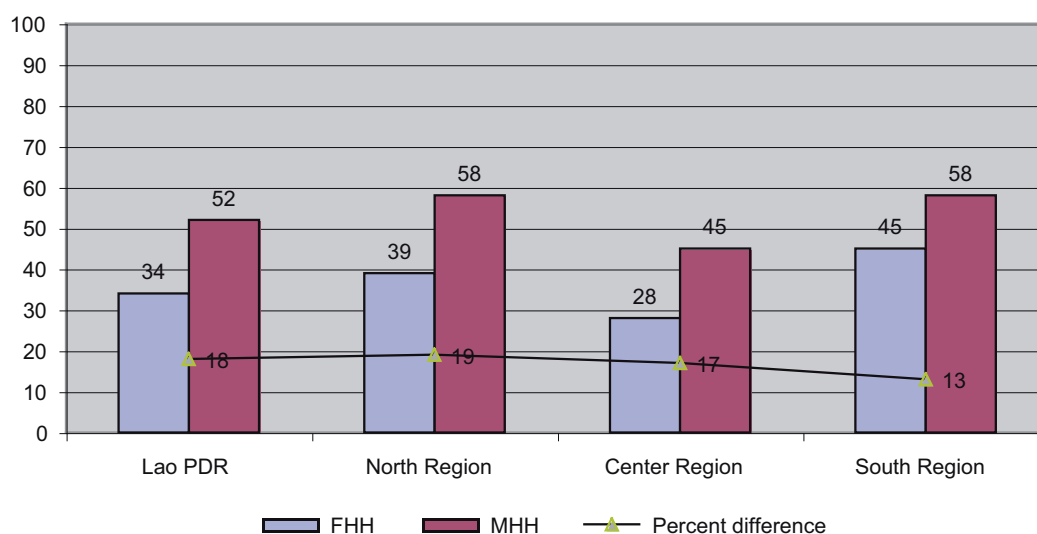
LECS4 also collected data on income received from selling forest products and hunted animals during a four-week reference period (Table 5.12). Overall, the average income for agricultural households from selling forest products (during a 4 week reference period) is about 337 638 Kip. Income gained through selling hunted animals in a 4-week period is 161 915 Kip. Few female headed households sell hunted animals. Further, female headed household receive less income from selling forest products than male headed household, probably because female headed household use forest products more for own consumption rather than selling, or female headed households collect

TABLE 5.10 | Number and percentage of agricultural households exploiting communal forest during 12 months, by sex of household head and by kind of forest products

Kind of forest products	All households		Female headed		Male headed	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR	425 023		13 679		411 344	
Timber	74 523	17.5	2 201	16.1	72 322	17.6
Fuelwood	410 510	96.6	12 542	91.7	397 969	96.7
Bamboo	350 289	82.4	11 351	83.0	338 938	82.4
Tuber	396 707	93.3	12 696	92.8	384 011	93.4
Other forest vegetables	382 963	90.1	12 259	89.6	370 703	90.1

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

CHART 5.4 | Agricultural households exploiting forest in surrounding village, by sex and region



MAP 5.1 | Percent point difference in male and female headed agriculture households owing and exploiting owned forest

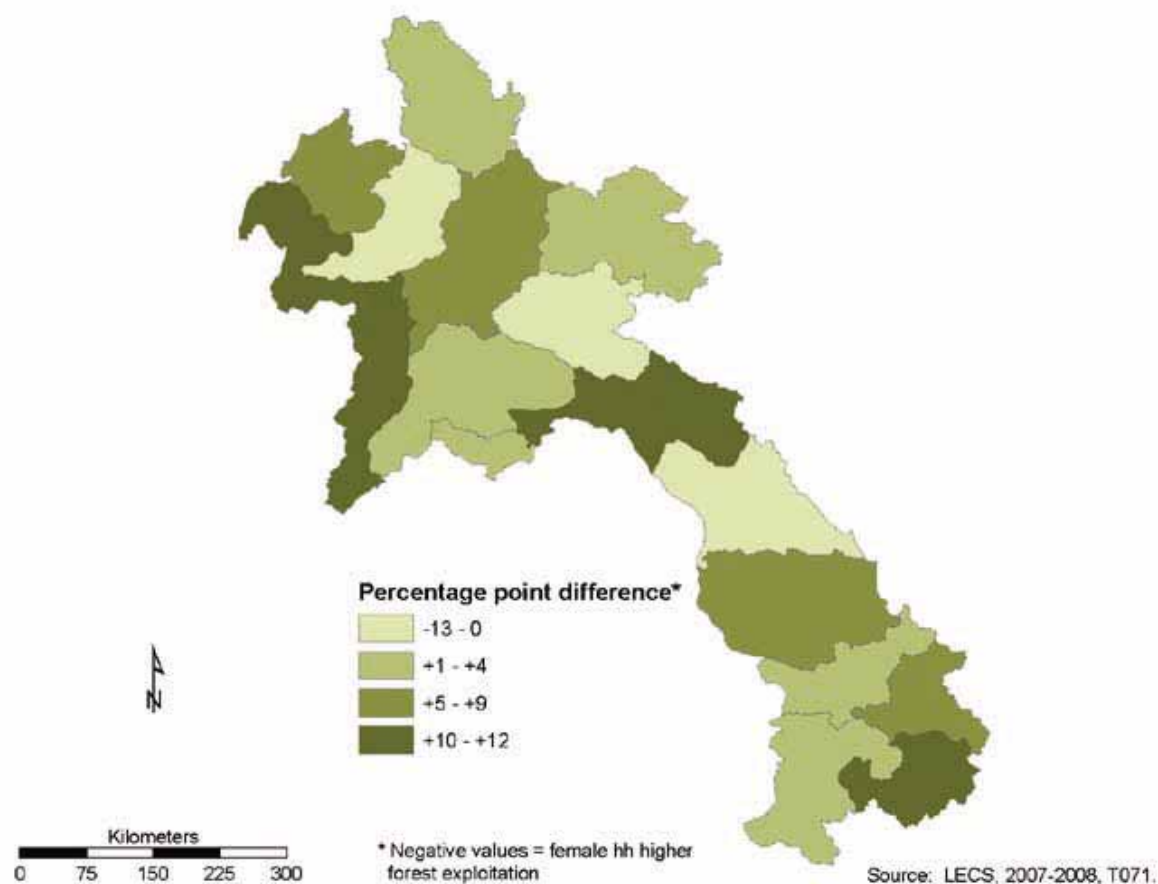


TABLE 5.11 | Number and percentage of agricultural households owning and exploiting own forest during past 12 months, by sex of household head and kind of forest products

Kind of forest products	All households		Female headed		Male headed	
	Number of households	%	Number of households	%	Number of households	%
Lao PDR	54 231	6.6	2 388	6.0	51 843	6.6
Timber	15 486	28.6	664	27.8	14 821	28.6
Fuel wood	50 429	93.0	2 388	100.0	48 041	92.7
Bamboo	38 994	71.9	2 000	83.8	36 994	71.4

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

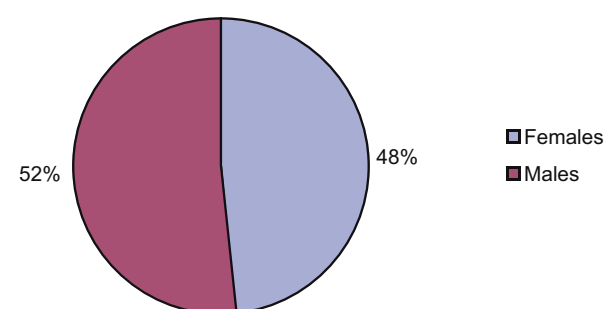
less forest products as they have fewer productive labour available compared to male headed households. While female headed households earned about 101 154 Kip (equivalent of USD 12) per household during the reference period, male headed households earned more than three times as much per household (341 488 Kip or about USD 40). The difference in income from selling forest products is greatest in the South region where male headed households earn over 95 percent more per household during a 4 week period than female headed households.

TABLE 5.12 | Number of agricultural households engaged in forest activity and value of sales of forest products and animals in a 4-week period, by sex and region

	All household heads		Female headed		Male headed	
	Number of households reporting	Average value of sales (Kip)	Number of households reporting	Average value of sales (Kip)	Number of households reporting	Average value of sales (Kip)
Lao PDR						
Forest products	69 718	337 638	1 117	101 154	68 601	341 488
Animals hunted	13 134	161 915	117	10 000	13 017	163 281
North Region						
Forest products	43 980	310 875	747	61 880	43 233	314 626
Animals hunted	6 779	113 789	117	-	6 662	115 612
Center Region						
Forest products	17 894	375 560	295	140 679	17 599	379 497
Animals hunted	4 455	212 018	-	-	4 455	212 018
South Region						
Forest products	7 844	401 185	75	20 000	7 769	404 875
Animals hunted	1 899	216 165	-	-	1 899	216 165

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

CHART 5.5 | Agricultural household members involved in non-agricultural business



5.5 NON-AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

LECS4 included data on non-agricultural businesses as a source of livelihood activity. In Lao PDR, a total of 211 641 household members are involved in non-agricultural businesses of which 102 425 (48%) are female and 109 216 (52%) are male (Chart 5.5). Overall, wholesale/retail trade and manufacturing are the most common sectors for non agricultural income, especially for women (Table 5.13). Over 77 percent of all female members employed outside the agricultural sector are employed in the wholesale and retail sector and 20 percent work in manufacturing. Among male members engaged in non-agricultural businesses, 41 percent earn income from wholesale and retail; about 36 percentage points less than

female headed households. Male members have more diversified employment sources compared to female headed households. In addition to wholesale/retail trade, manufacturing (32%), transport and communication (15%), and to a lesser extent other service activities (9%) are important employment sources for male members.

Among all female headed agricultural households, 7 183 or 18 percent reported to have at least one member who was employed outside the agricultural sector (Table 5.14). Among male headed agricultural households 78 834 or 10 percent reported to have regular income from non-agricultural businesses. Among female-headed households, manufacturing is the most important non-agricultural income source (56%) in terms of number of households reporting it as an income sources, followed by wholesale and retail trade (44%). Male headed households are more diversified in terms of non-agricultural employment. Most male headed households reported wholesale and retail trade as a non-agricultural income source (45%), followed by manufacturing (36%) and transportation and communication (15%).

TABLE 5.13 | Number and percentage of agricultural household members engaged in non-agricultural business, by sex of the household members and kind of non-agricultural business

Non-agricultural business	Both sexes		Female		Male	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lao PDR	211 641	100.0	109 216	100.0	102 425	100.0
Manufacturing	54 432	25.7	21 456	19.6	32 976	32.2
Construction	3 180	1.5	114	0.1	3 066	3.0
Wholesale and retail trade	126 186	59.6	84 502	77.4	41 683	40.7
Hotel and restaurants	745	0.4	388	0.4	357	0.3
Transportation and communication	15 289	7.2	199	0.2	15 090	14.7
Banking, insurance and financial intermediaries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Real estate activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other service activities	11 810	5.6	2 557	2.3	9 253	9.0

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

Table 5.14 | Number and percentage of male and female headed agricultural household with member(s) employed in the non-agricultural sector

Non-agricultural business	Female headed		Male headed	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lao PDR	7 183	100.0	78 834	100.0
Manufacturing	4 015	55.9	28 466	36.1
Construction	0	0.0	2 461	3.1
Wholesale and retail trade	3 168	44.1	35 630	45.2
Hotel and restaurants	0	0.0	357	0.5
Transportation and communication	0	0.0	11 920	15.1

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

5.6 TIME USE

Table 5.15 shows the average daily time spent by members in male and female headed households by type of activities. Members within female headed households spent on average 7 hours per day on productive and reproductive tasks compared to an average of 5.7 hours daily for members of male headed households - a difference of 1.3 hours. Further, members of female headed households spent an average of 3.4 hours per day on leisure compared to an average of 3.9 hours per day among members in male headed households.

Table 5.15 | Average daily time spent by agricultural household members, by sex of household head and type of activities done by members (hours per day)

Type of activities	All households	Female-headed	Male headed
Lao PDR	24	24	24
Sleeping	8.8	8.7	8.8
Eating, drinking, personal care	2.7	2.6	2.7
School (also homework)	1.0	0.9	1.2
Work as employed	0.4	0.3	0.6
Own business work	0.6	0.7	0.5
Tending rice	1.4	1.4	1.4
Tending other crops	0.6	0.7	0.5
Tending animals	0.5	0.4	0.6
Fetching water	0.2	0.3	0.1
Collecting firewood	0.2	0.2	0.1
Hunting	0.2	0.0	0.3
Fishing	0.4	0.1	0.6
Buying/shopping	0.1	0.1	0.1
Construction	0.1	0.0	0.1
Weaving, sewing, textile care	0.2	0.4	0.0
Handicraft (not textile)	0.1	0.1	0.2
Cooking	0.5	0.9	0.2
Washing, cleaning	0.3	0.4	0.1
Care for children/elderly	0.7	1.0	0.3
Travel	0.6	0.5	0.7
Leisure time	3.6	3.4	3.9
Other activities	0.9	0.8	1.0

Source: DoS/LECS 3 (2004)

CHAPTER 6

Livelihood outcomes

This chapter concentrates on the outcomes of livelihood strategies agricultural households pursue (Chapter 5) on the basis of their assets (Chapter 3 and 4). People often pursue a range of livelihood outcomes such as improved food and nutrition security, good health, high status, reduced vulnerability, and so forth. This chapter presents sex-disaggregated data on a number of livelihood outcomes included in the LECS4. These are: food consumption expenditure, housing conditions, access to safe drinking water, and access to electricity.

6.1 FOOD CONSUMPTION

Table 6.1 shows the consumption of goods and services as reported by agricultural households in Lao PDR. Out of the total of consumption expenses, expenditure on food constitutes 46 percent, including both product purchases (23%) and the value of consumption from own production or household stocks (23%). Other main sources of expenditure among agricultural households are housing (13%) and transport and communications (20%).

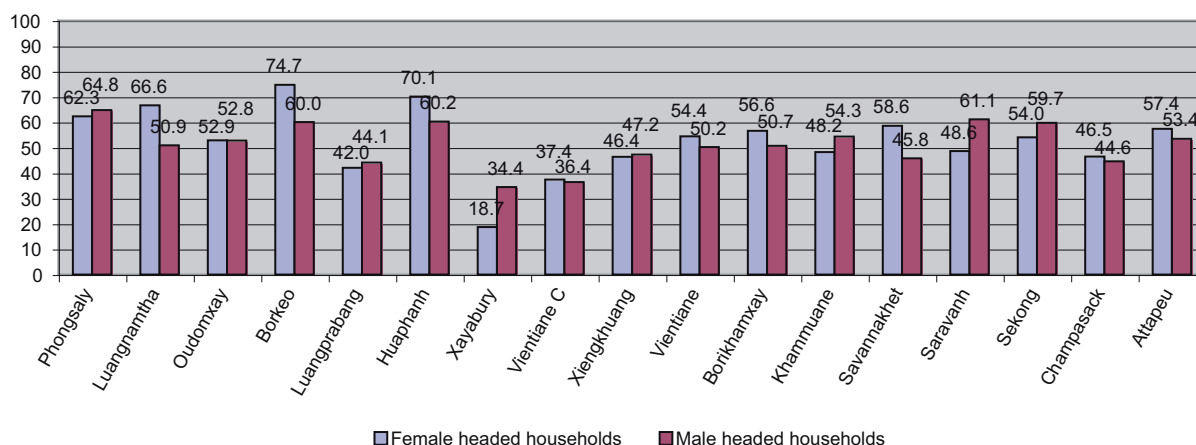
The total monthly expenses among male headed agricultural households are about 4 percent larger than female headed households. Female headed households, on the other hand, spend a larger proportion of their total expenses on food in terms of product purchase: 31 percent of all expenses are spent on purchasing food products compared to 22 percent for male headed households. Food consumption expenditure for female headed households is particularly high in Borkeo (75%) and Huaphanh (70%) provinces (Chart 6.1). For male headed households food consumption expenditure is especially high in Phongsaly province (65%). Further, female headed households have greater housing expenses compared to male headed households. About 19 percent of all expenses were spent on housing in female headed households compared to 12 percent among male headed households.

TABLE 6.1 | Monthly consumption of agricultural households, by sex of household head and group of goods and services (in Kip)

Group of goods and services	Amount			Proportion of overall expenses (%)		
	All households	Female-headed	Male-headed	All households	Female-headed	Male-headed
Lao PDR	2 170 681	2 092 970	2 176 077	100	100	100
Food expenditure	492 518	649 551	481 613	22.7	31.0	22.1
Consumption of own-produced food	506 959	294 332	521 725	23.4	14.1	24.0
Clothing and footwear	43 721	38 137	44 109	2.0	1.8	2.0
Housing	273 730	398 304	265 079	12.6	19.0	12.2
Household utensils and operations	93 305	86 753	93 760	4.3	4.1	4.3
Medical care	38 893	46 630	38 356	1.8	2.2	1.8
Transport and communications	429 894	324 131	437 238	19.8	15.5	20.1
Education	27 886	21 034	28 362	1.3	1.0	1.3
Personal care	56 325	53 863	56 496	2.6	2.6	2.6
Recreation	105 890	78 055	107 823	4.9	3.7	5.0
Alcohol and tobacco	49 186	39 375	49 867	2.3	1.9	2.3
Other items	52 374	62 804	51 650	2.4	3.0	2.4

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

CHART 6.1 | Percentage food consumption expenditure (purchases + own-produced food), by sex of household head



6.2 HOUSING CONDITIONS

LECS4 included data on the housing conditions of the main house. About 73 percent of male headed and 71 percent of female headed agricultural households live in houses with external walls constructed from brick, concrete, unbaked brick or wood (Table 6.2). Further, 83.7 percent of male headed and 89.2 percent of female headed agricultural households used concrete, wood, metal sheets/zinc, or tiles as the major material for the roof of the housing unit (Table 6.3).

6.3 ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Following LECS4, about 57 percent of all agricultural households have access to safe/improved water sources (piped water or protected well/boreholes) during the dry season, leaving a large proportion of agricultural households with no access to safe drinking water sources. Further, about 58 percent of all male headed agricultural households have access to improved drinking water sources compared to 48 percent of all female headed households: a difference of 10 percentage points. Other important sources of drinking water in the dry season are unprotected wells/boreholes and natural water sources like rivers, dams and lakes. Among male headed agricultural households, 18 percent obtain water from unprotected wells/boreholes and 14 percent from rivers, dams or lakes. For female headed agricultural households, this is 20 and 12 percent, respectively (Table 6.4).

6.4 ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Access to electricity for lighting through the public network is common among 55 percent of all agricultural households in Lao PDR. A further 6 percent have access to electricity through a generator or battery, thus leaving about 39 percent of all agricultural households with no access to electricity. Female headed agricultural households have greater access to electricity for lighting (77%) than male headed households (60%): a difference of 17 percentage points.

There is a slightly difference in access to main sources of electricity for lighting. Male headed households have more access to electricity from generator and battery (6.3%) compared to female headed households (4.4 %), while female headed households have more access to electricity through the public network. Less than 1 percent

TABLE 6.2 | Number and percentage of agricultural households, by sex of the household head and first major construction material of the external wall of the housing unit

	All agricultural households		Male-headed		Female-headed	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	785 952	100.0	39 940	100.0
Brick	163 184	19.8	154 514	19.7	8 670	21.7
Concrete	2 492	0.3	2 300	0.3	192	0.5
Unbaked brick	9 568	1.2	9 335	1.2	233	0.6
Wood	429 001	51.9	409 672	52.1	19 330	48.4
Bamboo	193 465	23.4	184 722	23.5	8 743	21.9
Tin	761	0.1	761	0.1		
Mud	4 411	0.5	2 969	0.4	1 442	3.6
Other construction materials	2 324	0.3	2 266	0.3	58	0.1
Missing	20 686	2.5	19 414	2.5	1 272	3.2

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009)

TABLE 6.3 | Number and percentage of agricultural households, by sex of the household head and major material of the roof of the housing unit

Major material of the roof of the housing unit	All agricultural households		Male-headed		Female-headed	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	785 952	100.0	39 940	100.0
Concrete	1 045	0.1	1 045	0.1	-	-
Wood	40 777	4.9	39 891	5.1	886	2.2
Metal sheets/zinc	511 198	61.9	480 543	61.1	30 655	76.8
Tile	141 005	17.1	136 931	17.4	4 075	10.2
Grass	102 096	12.4	98 580	12.5	3 515	8.8
Leaves	7 590	0.9	7 509	1.0	81	0.2
Other materials	22 182	2.7	21 454	2.7	728	1.8

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009)

of all agricultural households have access to electricity for cooking. The main source used by both male and female headed agricultural households is wood: 80 percent of male headed agricultural households use wood as the source of energy for cooking compared to 68 percent of female headed households. Further, 16 percent of male headed and 25 percent of female headed households use charcoal as a source of energy for cooking.

TABLE 6.4 | Number and percentage of agricultural households, by sex of the household head and main source of drinking water in dry season: 2007-2008

Main source of drinking water in dry season	All households		Male-headed		Female-headed	
	Number of household reporting	(%)	Number of household reporting	(%)	Number of household reporting	(%)
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	785 952	100.0	39 940	100.0
Piped water in/outside	58 207	7.0	55 177	7.0	3 030	7.6
Well/Borehole protected	414 617	50.2	398 437	50.7	16 180	40.5
Well/Borehole unprotected	147 277	17.8	139 374	17.7	7 902	19.8
River, dam, lake, etc.	113 399	13.7	108 468	13.8	4 931	12.3
Rain water from tank/jar	943	0.1	943	0.1	-	-
Other drinking water sources	91 449	11.1	83 553	10.6	7 896	19.8

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009)

CHART 6.2 | Access to safe drinking water in dry season, by sex of household head and region

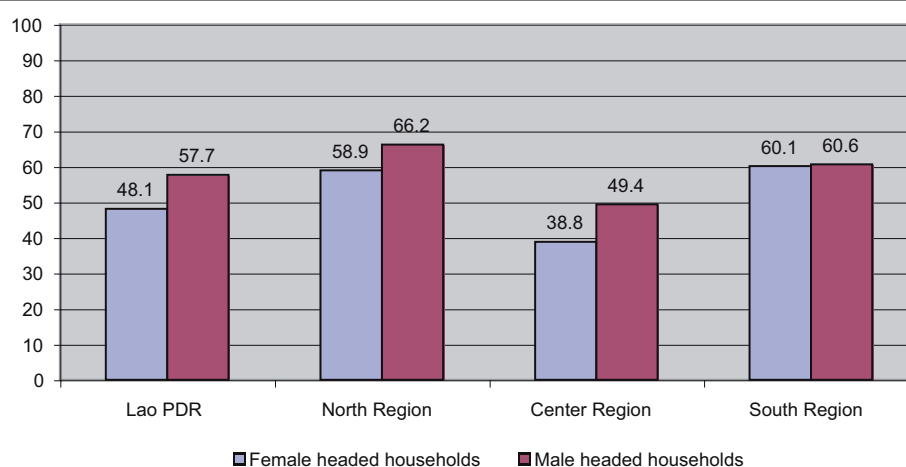


TABLE 6.5 | Number and percentage of agricultural households, by sex of the household head and main source of energy for lighting

Main source of energy for lighting	Male-headed		Female-headed	
	Number of household reporting	(%)	Number of household reporting	(%)
Lao PDR	785 952	100.0	39 940	100.0
Electricity from public network	427 968	54.5	29 185	73.1
Electricity from generator	15 869	2.0	843	2.1
Electricity from battery	33 439	4.3	861	2.2
Kerosene lamp	209 919	26.7	6 374	16.0
Candle	29 183	3.7	1 446	3.6
Other sources of energy	68 744	8.7	1 133	2.8
Missing	830	0.1	98	0.2

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009)

TABLE 6.6 | Number and percentage of agricultural households, by sex of the household head and main source of energy for cooking

Main source of energy for cooking	Male-headed		Female-headed	
	Number of household reporting	(%)	Number of household reporting	(%)
Lao PDR	785 952	100	39 940	100
Electricity	4 996	0.6	460	1.2
Paraffin	3 217	0.4	284	0.7
Wood	635 583	80.9	27 543	69.0
Coal	13 637	1.7	1 560	3.9
Charcoal	126 755	16.1	10 025	25.1
Sawdust	814	0.1	-	-
Gas	655	0.1	67	0.2
Missing	295	0.0	-	-

Source: DoS/LECS4(2009)



CHAPTER 7

Conclusions

7.1 GENDER INEQUALITY

This National Gender Profile presented a range of sex-disaggregated data in order to analyse differences between male and female headed households in rural areas. Only a small proportion of all rural households in Lao PDR are headed by women. Widowhood is the main reason for female headship, but about a fifth of all female heads became *de facto* head mainly due to migration of spouses. Overall, female heads are older and less literate than male heads. Female headed households are smaller and subsequently have a smaller household labour force than male headed households.

A **significant source of gender inequality** between male and female headed households in the agricultural sector that could be identified on basis of LECS3, LECS4, and 1998-99 LAC data, is **agricultural land**, especially land size and the number of plots. National level results show that the average size of land that female headed households have access to is 16 percent smaller than land of male headed households. Further, the proportion of female headed households that have access to more than 1 plot is almost half that of male headed households. Consequently, female headed households have less diversified cropping patterns than male headed households.

A second but very important **source of gender inequality** in the agricultural sector is **livelihood diversification and income**. National level data show that female headed households are less able to engage in livestock production as livelihood source compared to male headed households. Female headed households catch lower process for selling livestock, regardless of the type of livestock. Also, substantially fewer female headed households are able to market cereals compared to male headed households. Further, female headed households are less engaged in fishery and forestry as income sources. Related, female headed households have less access to loans, especially formal loans to invest in businesses.

Last but not least, female headed households spent a larger proportion of their total **expenses on purchasing food products** than male headed households and have less access to **safe/improved drinking water sources**.

7.2 THE WAY FORWARD

With this National Gender Profile a first important step towards gender statistics for the agricultural sector has been taken. Through re-tabulating and analysing existing data, important differences between male and female headed households have been identified. But still important gender statistics are lacking due to unreliable data, missing totals disaggregated by sex needed to compute for averages and percentages, and the type of data items included in the LEC surveys and agricultural census. Gender and rural livelihoods cover a wider range of topics than what can be captured by an agricultural census alone. Notable data items not adequately covered by the different data sources are those related to multiple income sources and their respective importance for livelihood security, total income, social capital, and food security. Other important aspects of gender inequality not adequately captured include the terms of access to assets and intra-household allocation of, and control over, the different assets.

Some of these data gap might be adjusted by adopting the concept of sub-holder in the census. At present, comparison is made between male and female headed households and little is known about the role and contribution of rural women within male headed households or the decision-making processes and the different levels of management that exist within a household. A sub-holding refers to a single agricultural activity or a group of activities (e.g. plot, field, kitchen garden, or a livestock operation) that on behalf of the agricultural holder is managed by a particular person or group of persons in the holder's household – the sub-holder. The introduction of the sub-holder allows for analysis of intra-household labour division and decision-making, and the specific roles and contributions of male and female household members to the holding's overall production (FAO, 2007). For example sub-holder data give

information on the number of women responsible for specific agricultural activities and their characteristics, time spent on holding, division of managerial responsibility, women's role in decision-making, and so forth. Sub-holder data is particularly important in the context of Lao PDR where less than five percent of the households are headed by women and thus a large proportion of rural women remain invisible.



ANNEX 1

Provincial Data

TABLE 1 | Agricultural population, by sex of agricultural household members and ratio of male population over female population, by province

Province	All population		Female members		Male members		Sex ratio (males)
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Lao PDR	4 800 800	100.0	2 420 181	50.4	2 380 619	49.6	98.4
Phongsaly	171 634	100.0	87 991	51.3	83 643	48.7	95.1
Luangnamtha	161 040	100.0	82 271	51.1	78 768	48.9	95.7
Oudomxay	273 522	100.0	134 519	49.2	139 003	50.8	103.3
Borkeo	130 973	100.0	66 407	50.7	64 566	49.3	97.2
Luangprabang	344 480	100.0	179 881	52.2	164 599	47.8	91.5
Huaphanh	307 928	100.0	155 602	50.5	152 326	49.5	97.9
Xayabury	325 358	100.0	159 484	49.0	165 874	51.0	104.0
Vientiane C	283 837	100.0	147 802	52.1	136 035	47.9	92.0
Xiengkhuang	242 531	100.0	122 970	50.7	119 561	49.3	97.2
Vientiane	396 842	100.0	199 659	50.3	197 183	49.7	98.8
Borikhamxay	177 878	100.0	88 487	49.7	89 391	50.3	101.0
Khammuane	294 679	100.0	149 382	50.7	145 298	49.3	97.3
Savannakhet	655 945	100.0	327 031	49.9	328 914	50.1	100.6
Saravanh	342 656	100.0	171 058	49.9	171 598	50.1	100.3
Sekong	88 858	100.0	43 763	49.3	45 095	50.7	103.0
Champasack	500 371	100.0	251 809	50.3	248 561	49.7	98.7
Attapeu	102 268	100.0	52 064	50.9	50 204	49.1	96.4

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 2 | Median age of male and female heads, by province

Province	All agricultural household heads		Female heads		Male heads	
	Number	Median age	Number	Median age	Number	Median age
Lao PDR	825 892	46.0	39 940	52.0	785 952	45.0
Phongsaly	28 802	50.0	1 361	53.2	27 441	49.8
Luangnamtha	27 347	43.3	718	48.9	26 629	43.1
Oudomxay	42 491	42.6	1 213	48.3	41 278	42.4
Bokeo	25 848	42.7	395	39.0	25 453	42.8
Luangprabang	57 538	43.8	1 838	59.3	55 700	43.6
Huaphanh	43 964	43.7	662	54.0	43 302	43.3
Xayabury	61 044	44.0	1 304	43.3	59 740	44.0
Vientiane Capital	55 712	44.4	4 433	49.6	51 279	44.2
Xiengkhuang	38 191	43.9	808	49.6	37 383	43.8
Vientiane	70 197	45.3	2 352	52.3	67 845	45.0
Borikhamxay	33 207	45.3	1 607	48.5	31 600	45.1
Khammuane	54 144	46.1	3 504	53.7	50 640	45.6
Savannakhet	110 174	48.0	9 361	51.4	100 813	47.7
Saravanh	55 794	47.7	3 900	55.6	51 895	47.1
Sekong	12 981	44.0	484	43.2	12 496	44.1
Champasack	90 403	47.3	4 857	50.3	85 546	47.2
Attapeu	18 055	46.3	1 143	48.3	16 912	46.2

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 3 | Number and percentage of agriculture households, by sex of household head, by province

Province	All households		Female headed		Male headed	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Lao PDR	825 892	100.0	39 940	4.8	785 952	95.2
Phongsaly	28 802	100.0	1 361	4.7	27 441	95.3
Luangnamtha	27 347	100.0	718	2.6	26 629	97.4
Oudomxay	42 491	100.0	1 213	2.9	41 278	97.1
Borkeo	25 848	100.0	395	1.5	25 453	98.5
Luangprabang	57 538	100.0	1 838	3.2	55 700	96.8
Huaphanh	43 964	100.0	662	1.5	43 302	98.5
Xayabury	61 044	100.0	1 304	2.1	59 740	97.9
Vientiane C	55 712	100.0	4 433	8.0	51 279	92.0
Xiengkhuang	38 191	100.0	808	2.1	37 383	97.9
Vientiane	70 197	100.0	2 352	3.4	67 845	96.6
Borikhamxay	33 207	100.0	1 607	4.8	31 600	95.2
Khammuane	54 144	100.0	3 504	6.5	50 640	93.5
Savannakhet	110 174	100.0	9 361	8.5	100 813	91.5
Saravanh	55 794	100.0	3 900	7.0	51 895	93.0
Sekong	12 981	100.0	484	3.7	12 496	96.3
Champasack	90 403	100.0	4 857	5.4	85 546	94.6
Attapeu	18 055	100.0	1 143	6.3	16 912	93.7

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 4 | Percentage of male and female heads that can read and write without difficulty, by province

Province	All agricultural household heads	Female heads	Male heads
Lao PDR	78.4	48.7	79.9
Phongsaly	47.7	30.4	48.5
Luangnamtha	47.4	2.1	48.6
Oudomxay	67.8	25.9	69.0
Bokeo	71.6	23.3	72.3
Luangprabang	76.6	22.1	78.4
Huaphanh	77.0	43.6	77.5
Xayabury	88.6	46.0	89.6
Vientiane Capital	94.8	79.0	96.2
Xiengkhuang	78.4	91.8	78.1
Vientiane	85.8	55.1	86.9
Borikhamxay	85.1	78.4	85.5
Khammuane	76.8	24.8	80.4
Savannakhet	76.2	50.5	78.6
Saravanh	67.0	20.2	70.5
Sekong	73.1	79.2	72.9
Champasack	89.5	59.7	91.2
Attapeu	92.1	75.7	93.2

Source: DoS/LECS4 (2009)

TABLE 5 | Credit characteristics at provincial level

Province	All household heads	Female-headed	Male-headed
Phongsaly			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owing Money or Goods to Anyone	21.8	34.8	21.6
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	1.4	-	1.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	9.6	0.3	9.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	3.7	-	3.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	15.8	34.8	15.5
Luangnamtha			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owing Money or Goods to Anyone	16.9	-	16.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	4.4	-	4.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	5.5	-	5.6
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	2.0	-	2.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	7.0	-	7.1
Oudomxay			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owing Money or Goods to Anyone	14.8	22.2	14.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	0.4	-	0.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.4	22.2	2.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	0.7	-	0.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	2.2	-	2.3
Borkeo			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owing Money or Goods to Anyone	6.6	-	6.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	1.2	-	1.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	4.7	20.5	4.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	1.2	-	1.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	6.1	20.5	5.9
Luangprabang			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owing Money or Goods to Anyone	10.8	-	11.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owing Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	1.8	-	1.9

TABLE 5 | Credit characteristics at provincial level

Province	All household heads	Female-headed	Male-headed
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.1	-	3.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	3.2	-	3.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	3.4	-	3.6
Huaphanh			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	12.5	-	12.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	4.0	-	4.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	5.7	-	5.7
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	1.1	-	1.1
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	4.8	-	4.8
Xayabury			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	23.2	24.9	23.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	7.7	11.7	7.7
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	12.2	11.7	12.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	4.9	-	4.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	15.8	11.7	15.9
Vientiane Capital			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	16.9	10.6	17.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	4.0	4.3	3.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	5.7	4.3	5.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	5.0	4.3	5.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	10.8	7.5	11.0
Xiengkhuang			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	9.0	11.1	8.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	3.7	-	3.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.3	-	3.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	2.8	-	2.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	5.5	-	5.6

TABLE 5 | Credit characteristics at provincial level

Province	All household heads	Female-headed	Male-headed
Vientiane			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	11.1	-	11.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	2.8	-	2.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	4.3	-	4.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	3.4	-	3.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	4.7	-	4.8
Borikhamxay			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	6.5	-	6.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	1.5	-	1.6
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.7	-	4.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	1.1	-	1.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	2.7	-	2.9
Khammuane			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	9.1	5.0	9.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	0.5	-	0.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	1.8	-	1.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	1.3	-	1.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	2.2	-	2.3
Savannakhet			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	14.6	13.4	14.7
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	2.3	-	2.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.9	-	4.1
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	2.9	-	3.1
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	3.9	-	4.2
Saysomboun			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	12.5	-	13.2
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	6.4	-	6.8

TABLE 5 | Credit characteristics at provincial level

Province	All household heads	Female-headed	Male-headed
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	7.8	-	8.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	1.7	-	1.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	8.3	-	8.8
Saravanh			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	12.8	9.2	13.1
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	0.9	-	1.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	1.6	2.2	1.6
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	2.1	-	2.3
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	2.2	2.5	2.2
Sekong			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	26.1	-	26.8
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	2.6	-	2.7
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	3.6	-	3.7
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	3.3	-	3.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	8.6	-	8.8
Champasack			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	24.0	13.6	24.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	7.4	3.4	7.6
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	10.1	3.4	10.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	5.2	-	5.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	11.0	3.4	11.4
Attapeu			
Percentage of Agricultural Households Owning Money or Goods to Anyone	7.2	-	7.5
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed from bank	1.8	-	1.9
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that borrowed to invest in agriculture	1.4	-	1.4
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that provided security	2.9	-	3.0
Percentage Agricultural Households Owning Money/ Goods to Anyone that was charges interest	3.9	-	4.1

Source: DoS/LECS3 (2004)

