

Household Survey 2008

The survey in 2008 basically followed the same management approach as applied in 2007. Interviewer training was first conducted in Thailand prior to the Thai New Year holidays. The training took place at Kasetsart University (KU), TVSEP's collaborator in Thailand. The total duration of the training was five days, one day more than in 2007. In Vietnam, the training was carried out in Hanoi, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy and Social Studies for Agricultural Development (IPSARD), at the Centre of Agricultural Policy (CAP). The training was conducted between the 14th and 17th of April.

The survey in Thailand started at the end of April and was completed by early June. The survey in Vietnam took place from early June to early August with some differences among the three provinces due to administrative procedures.

The survey instrument was largely identical with 2007, with the exception that some questions on behavioural aspects of development, namely a survey risk item using an 11-point scale, were included. Also, no village head survey was administered.

Table 1: Basic Parameters of the 2008 Survey wave

Parameter	Thailand		Vietnam	
	Unit	Quantity	Unit	Quantity
Sample Size				
	Households	2,136	Households	2,143
	Individuals	11,049	Individuals	10,744
Reference Period	Month/year	05/07 – 04/08	Month/year	05/07 – 04/08
Survey Period	Week/month	04/04 – 01/06	Week/month	04/06 – 01/08
Survey Mode	PAPI		PAPI	
No. of Interviewers	persons	51	persons	37
Local Partner	KU		IPSARD/CAP	
Response Rate	%	97.71	%	97.86

Note: KU= Kasetsart University; IPSARD = Institute of Policies and Strategies for Agriculture and Rural Development; CAP = Centre of Agricultural Policies

Source: Own calculations.

Survey implementation followed the system applied in 2007, i.e., PAPI for data collection and data entry using laptops in the field. Prior to data entry, routine checking by field supervisors and random checks

during the frequent field visits of LUH headquarter staff together with national coordinators were carried out.

Attrition was still low with 2.29 % in Thailand and 2.14 % in Vietnam, i.e., round about 50 households less in both countries. Hence, as shown in Table 1, 2,136 households and 11,049 individuals were sampled in Thailand and 2,143 in Vietnam as well as 10,744 individuals. The wave-to-wave response rate was 97.71% in Thailand and 97.86% in Vietnam.

It must be noted that the 2008 survey fell into the period of the global food price crisis. World food prices had already increased in late 2007, i.e., after the reference period of 2007 and therefore were not captured in the 2007 wave. However, dramatic increases in agricultural commodity prices occurred during the first quarter of 2008, which therefore were measured in the 2008 survey. To some extent, the price spikes affected data quality as the plausibility ranges specified in the data entry program were often no longer valid.