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The Thailand Vietnam Socio Economic Panel (TVSEP)

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The Thailand Vietnam Socio Economic Panel (TVSEP)

- TVSEP is a long-term household and village panel data base representative for rural areas of Thailand and Vietnam following the basic idea of the German SOEP.
- TVSEP has emerged from DFG-FOR 756: "Vulnerability to Poverty in SE-Asia" (2007 – 2013).
- Panel has started in 2007 and includes data from around 22000 individuals from 4400 households in 440 villages located in 6 provinces of Thailand and Vietnam.
- TVSEP has also conducted tracking surveys of migrant members of the panel households in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang.
- Furthermore, case studies, economic experiments and randomized control trials complement the panel as add-on projects.
- TVSEP is now in its 2nd phase (2019 – 2021) and can be financed by DFG until 2027.

TVSEP survey locations



National Data Collection Center at Da Nang

National Data Collection Center at UBU

Objectives of TVSEP

1. To maintain a scientific panel data base representative for rural areas of two emerging market economies in Southeast Asia
2. Provide data for advanced research in development economics
3. Increase the international recognition of German development economics research
4. Advance research capacity in Thailand and Vietnam

The TVSEP family



Thailand Vietnam Socio Economic Panel

Project Coordination Team



International Advisory Panel



National Research Data Collection Centre - Thailand



Database Centre Germany



Junior Researchers



National Research Data Collection Centre - Vietnam



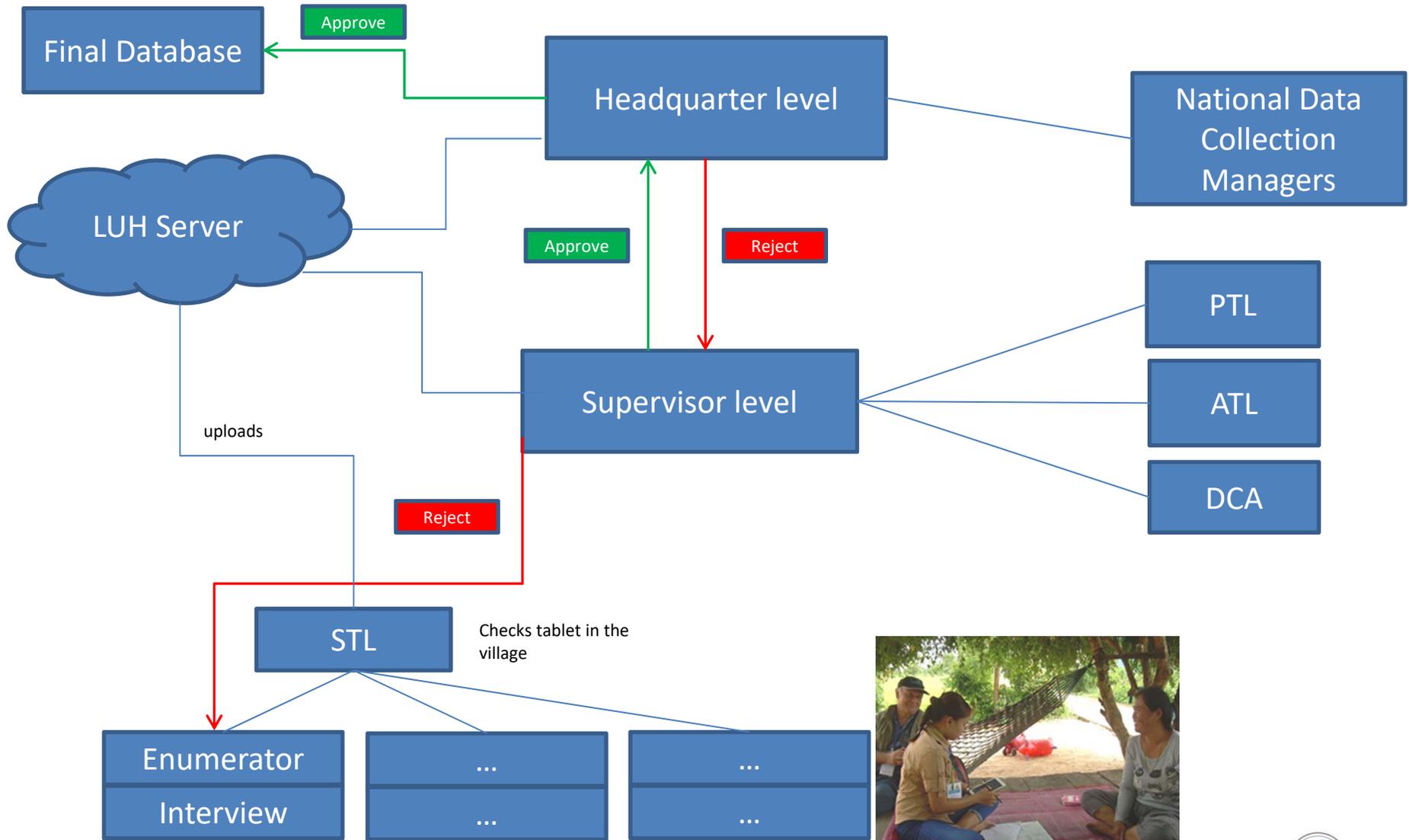
Project rationale and contributions

- TVSEP is a unique research panel for emerging market economies.
- Micro- level panel data for research on, e.g.:
 - Long-term dynamics of well being at individual, household and regional level,
 - Migration and labor mobility,
 - Role of risks and shocks, technological change,
 - Impact of policies,
 - Cross-cultural comparisons (e.g. BIG FIVE, risk attitudes)
- Link with other Data Bases (e.g. NASA, STAARS, Cross National Equivalent Files, e.g. SOEP, HILDA, SHARE etc.)
- Possibilities for Add-on projects
- Use Data for course work at BSc and Master level
- Field Experience for Master and PhD students (about 30 until now)

Survey implementation and data collection team



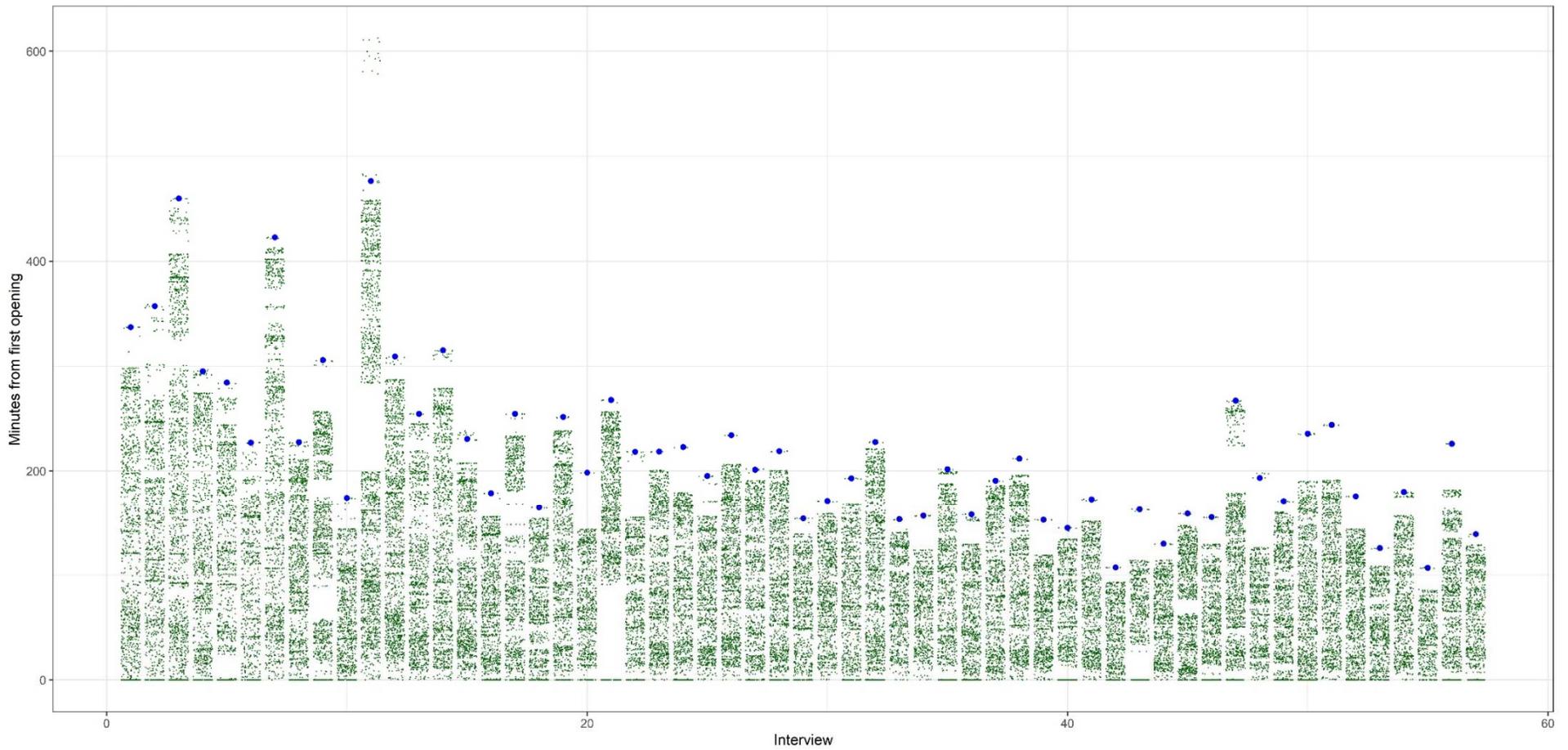
Organisation of data collection and quality control



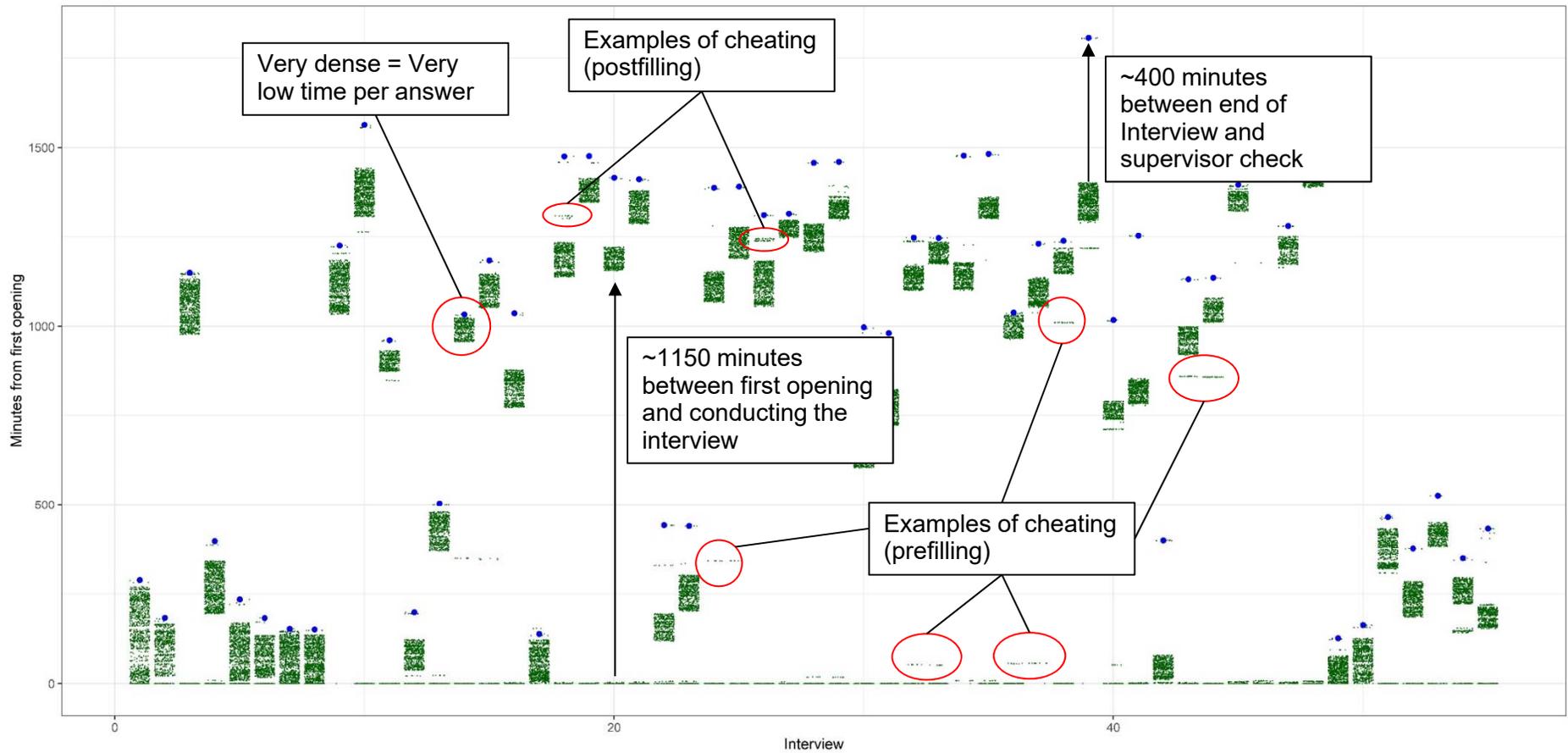
Challenging interview conditions



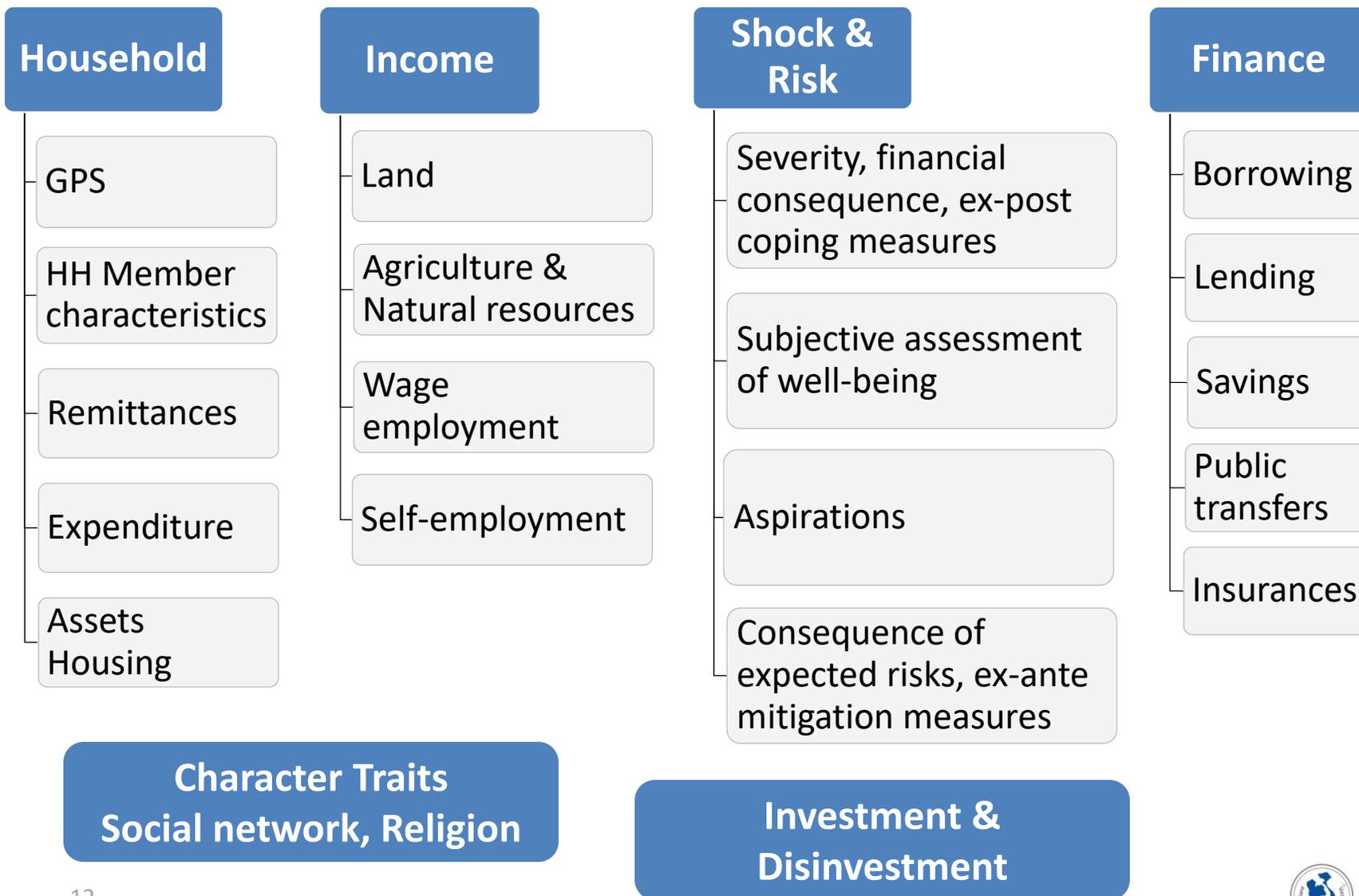
On-line monitoring: "a good enumerator"



On-line monitoring: "a bad enumerator"



Modules of HH questionnaire

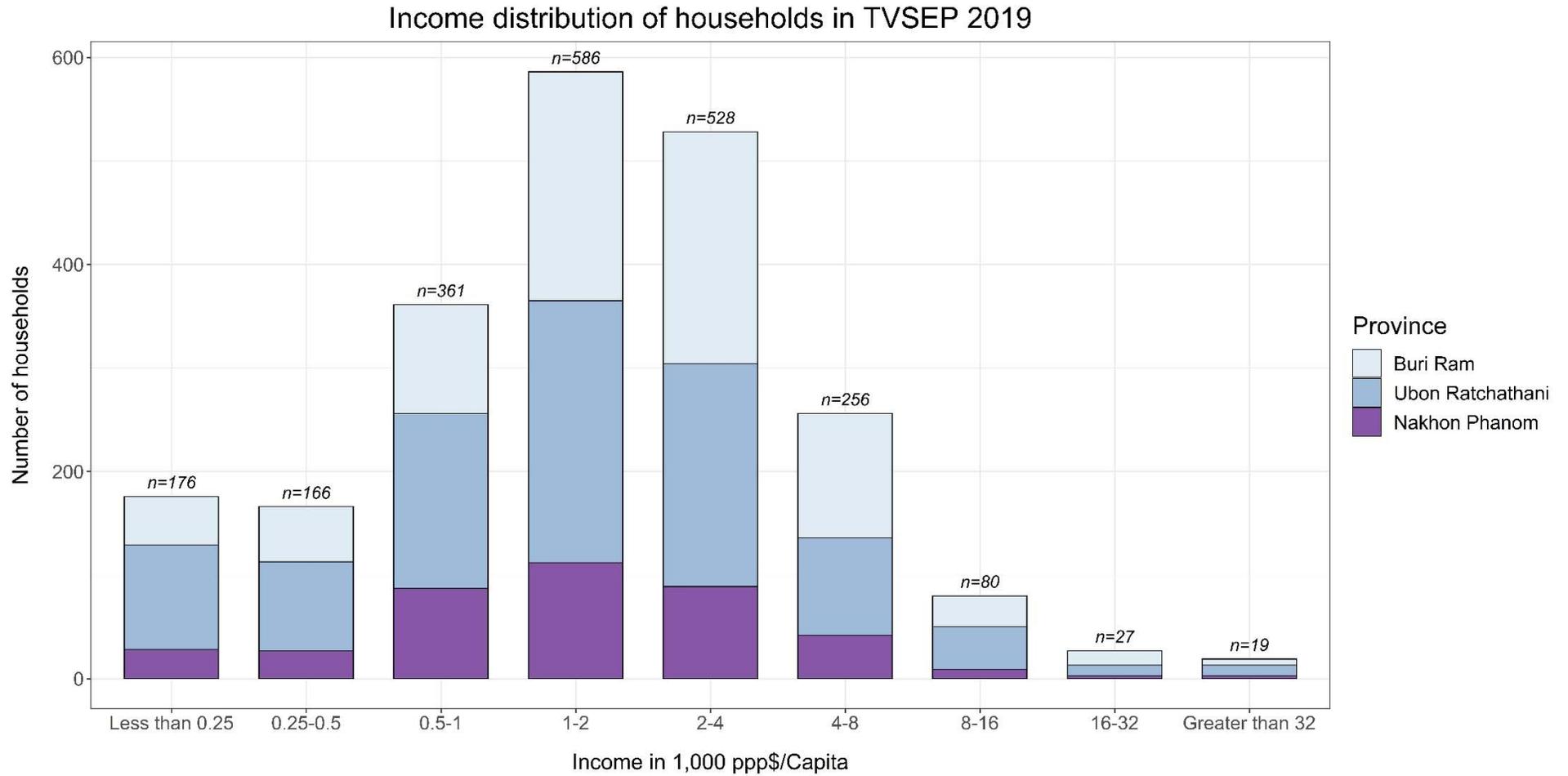


Data cleaning and management

Data cleaning procedure

1. Generate density and rug plots of the variables
2. Derive plausible ranges according to the distribution
3. Flag the values outside the plausible range and merge in comments
4. Manually check the flagged cases and assign one of four results
-> “correct”, “doubtful”, “error”, “recode”
5. Recode the applicable cases, consolidate the data set and export

Distribution of HH income 2019 wave TH



Services for data users

Data access

TVSEP data is available for scientific research purposes free of charge. Access to our datasets kindly proceed as follows:

- Interested scientists: Please submit a 1-2 page research outline to the TVSEP Research Database Manager (tvsep@ifgb.uni-hannover.de). Research outline shall include study objective(s), methodology, expected output, time plan, target country and panel wave(s). Household and village questionnaires of each wave can be downloaded from **website**.
- Graduate students: In addition to the research outline consent from your supervisor is required confirming that the proposed study will be accepted as part of your master/doctoral research. This can be sent via e-mail directly to the TVSEP Research Database Manager.
- Requested data files (in STATA or csv format) will be granted upon approval from TVSEP Project Management Team and signing a confidentiality agreement. Other data formats are available upon request.
- Former TVSEP data users: If you plan to use already downloaded data for a new research project, please submit a new outline and follow the steps described above before starting your work.
- Please acknowledge the TVSEP project for collecting the data available for your research in any of your papers using the TVSEP data.
- We appreciate, if you keep us informed about the progress of paper preparation. Please allow us to send you a kind reminding e-mail after one year from the date, that the data are given to you.

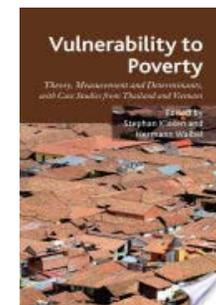
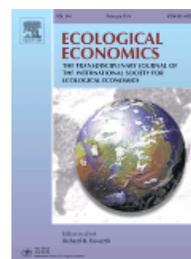
Source: www.tvsep.de

Research activities & Topics of relevance

Overall research output from TVSEP data

■ Publications:

- Palgrave McMillan Book
- Special Issue in *World Development* 2015
- > 60 Journal publications
- > 60 conference papers
- > 30 PhD theses
- TVSEP Working Paper Series: 16



American Economic Journal: Applied Economics



■ Selected Conferences with TVSP Sessions:

- Asian Agricultural Economics Conference January 2017
- “Agriculture and Rural Transformation in Asia”; with IFPRI (Washington) and TDRI (Thailand) 2018
- VFS Freiburg 2018
- Singapore 2019



Add-on projects / International cooperations

- Food Security in Laos and Cambodia (LUH; Grote/Waibel)
- Behavioral factors and perceptions in development (Menkhoff et al.)
- Individual risk attitudes in Rural Thailand and Vietnam (DFG; Menkhoff/Waibel)
- Long-term effects of risk and time preferences (DFG, Liebenehm)
- Behavioral insights and over-indebtedness (GLAD, Menkhoff et al.)
- Data Quality in long-term household panels (DFG, Waibel)
- Risk and collective action in Vietnam (Revilla-Diez, Cologne)
- Development of Tropical Uplands (BMBF, with Uni Hohenheim)
- Structural Change in Agriculture: Comparison between Asia and Africa (DFG, Parvathi with Cornell University)

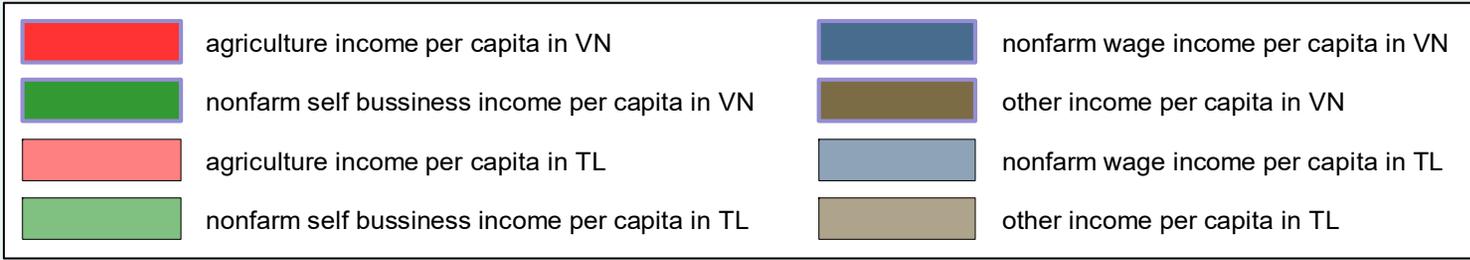
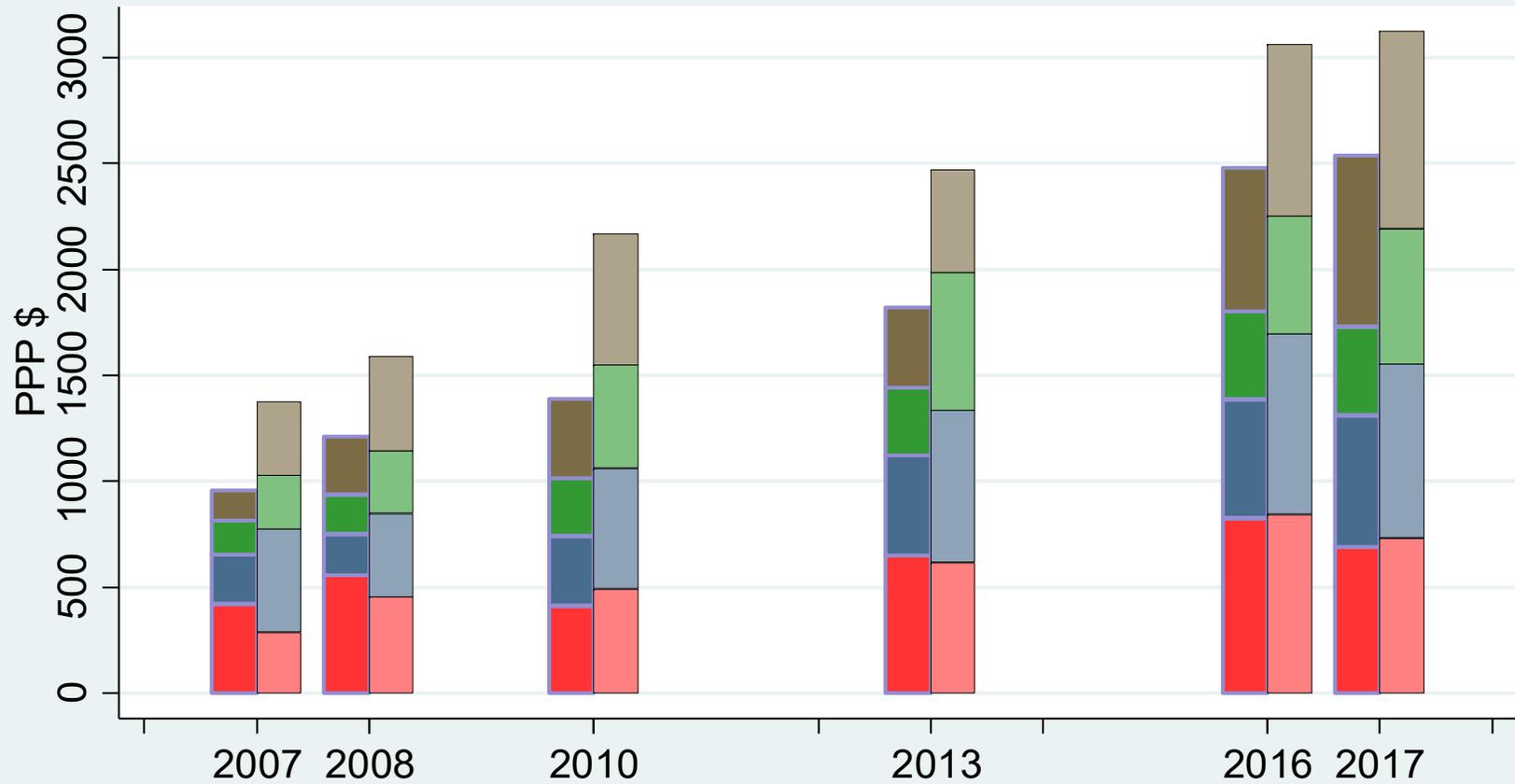
Research output

External Data Users

2016:	3
2017:	9
2018:	18
2019:	21

- 20 % of users from Germany
- 40 % from Thailand and Vietnam
- 40 % from other European countries, USA and Australia

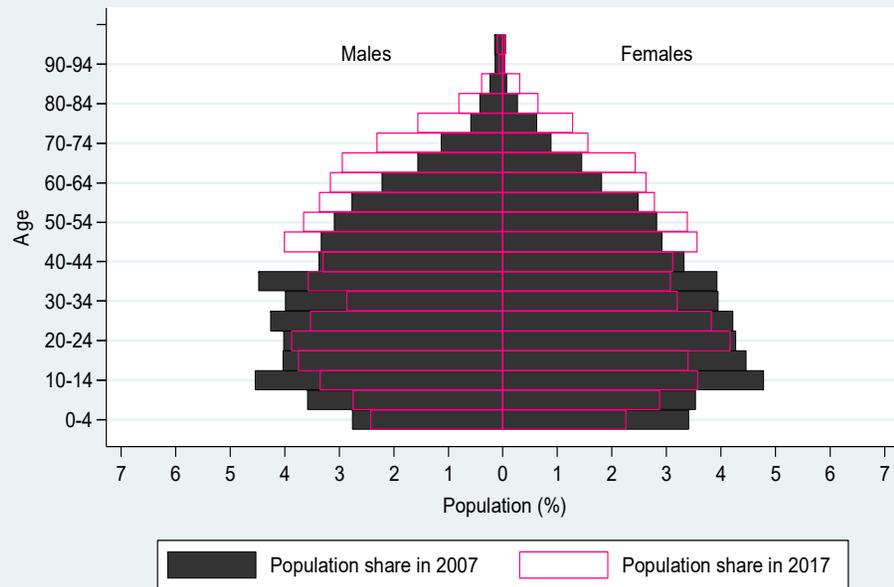
Income sources for Thailand and Vietnam, 2007 - 2017



Demographics in comparison, 2007-2017

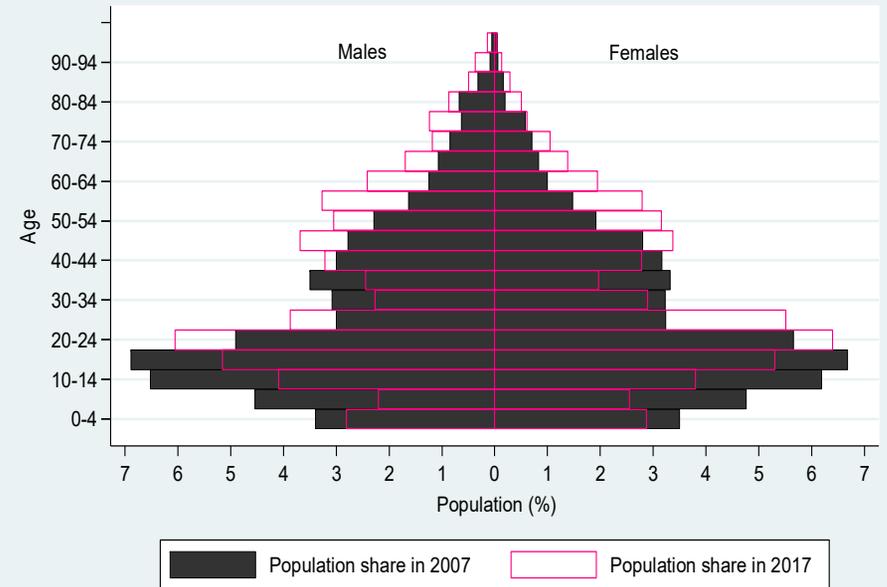
Age structure of rural household members in Thailand

Year 2007 and 2017

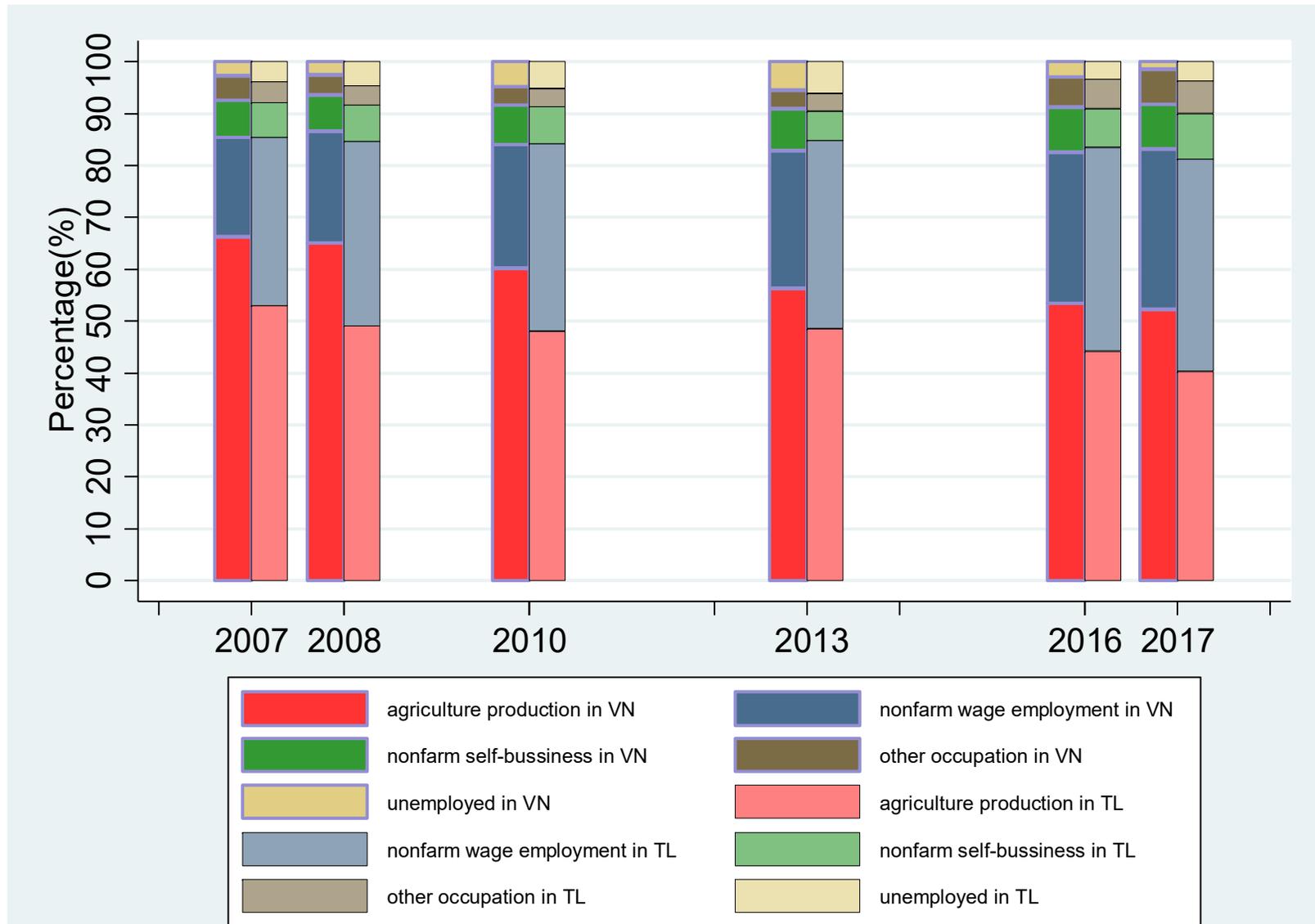


Age structure of rural household members in Vietnam

Year 2007 and 2017



Employment status in Thailand and Vietnam, 2007-2017



Farming, shocks and coping behavior

Data: TVSEP rural household panel data

Research output:

- Do, Nguyen and Grote, *Journal of Development Studies* (2019): Livestock contributes to reducing rural poverty and income inequality
- Nguyen, Nguyen, Lippe and Grote, *World Development* (2017): Crop diversification is a weather shock-coping strategy of rural households
- Nguyen, T.T., Do, T.L., Parvathi, P., Wossink, A., Grote, U., *Land Use Policy* (2018): A high share of income is derived from natural forest extraction: Evidence from Cambodia
- Nguyen, T.T., Do, T.L., Grote, U. *Land Degradation & Development* (2018): Natural resource extraction and household welfare in rural Laos

Rural urban migration and household welfare

Data: Rural household surveys linked with urban migrant tracking survey

Research output:

- Sharma and Grote, *Migration Research Series*, IOM (2019): Determinants of Internet Use Among Migrants in Thailand and Viet Nam
- Nguyen, Grote and Nguyen, *Economic Analysis and Policy* (2019): Rural households receiving remittances increase their land productivity and non-farm activities
- Hübler, *World Development* (2016): Domestic migration supports technology diffusion more than technology spillovers via international migration
- Nguyen, Grote and Sharma, *IZA Journal of Development and Migration* (2017): Migrants from households affected by covariate shocks, shorten the length of their stays in the cities

Overview by topics

- Vulnerability concepts
- Risk
- Migration
- Agriculture and environment
- Finance
- Rural non-farm economy

Vulnerability

TVSEP papers on vulnerability mainly focus on two broader topics:

- Theoretical concepts underlying the measurement of vulnerability to poverty or the design of surveys to accurately measure vulnerability to poverty (e.g. Klasen et al., 2013; Lechtenfeld, 2013; Phung et al., 2015).

For example, Phung et al. (2015) find that the gender and age of the interviewer or a certain timing of the interview potentially influences the survey results.

- Determinants for differences and/or similarities in vulnerability to poverty between countries or between different subgroups within a country (e.g. Klasen et al., 2015; Povel, 2015; Bühler et al., 2018).

For example, Klasen et al. (2015) find that while in Thailand female-headed households are less vulnerable to poverty than male-headed households, in Vietnam they are identified as particularly poor and vulnerable to poverty.

Risk

Research focuses especially on risk attitudes and their relation to shocks in Thailand and Vietnam as well as on the behavior of rural household members in risky situations.

- Generally, risk attitudes of Thai and Vietnamese people are characterized by temporal variability and change with the occurrence of shocks (e.g. Liebenehm 2018).
- Differences between Thailand and Vietnam exist concerning the types of shocks that have a greater impact on risk attitudes (e.g. Gloede et al. 2015).
- Moreover, Zenker et al. (2018) find that a better understanding of the risk of lotteries does not lead to an increasing degree of risk aversion in Thailand.

Migration

Papers in this area mainly focus on rural-urban migration behaviour and effects on consumption expenditure. They find labour migration to be a shock coping strategy. Moreover, migration influences consumption patterns.

- Nguyen et al. (2017) find that migration behavior differs depending on which type of shock the households experience. For idiosyncratic shocks, migrants mostly increase their stays in the cities, whereas for covariate shocks, migration decrease their stays in the cities.
- Amare & Hohfeld (2016) find that remittances are found out to have a positive impact on asset growth and therefore on structural poverty transitions.
- Nguyen et al. (2017) show that rural migrant households (households that receive remittances) increase their overall expenditures.

Agriculture and environment

Main topics covered: the impact of agricultural diversification (especially in relation to crop and livestock farming) on (vulnerability to) poverty, the effects of different types of shocks on rural households and their coping strategies, perceptions of climate change as well as livelihood strategies of rural households.

- Do et al. (2017) find for example that livestock production contributes to reducing poverty in the long run whereas giving up livestock increases poverty in the short run and in the long run.
- Waibel et al. (2017) find that farmers perceive climate change but describe it in different ways. Important factors influencing the perception of climate change is the geographic location and the respondent's characteristics for Vietnam.

Finance

Research in this field addresses the topic of over-indebtedness, the impact of local financial development on the household welfare, the impact of shocks on the financial situation and actions to cope with that, and the village fund system in Thailand.

- Chichaibelu & Waibel (2017, 2018) find that poverty, a large household size, a low level of education, and having multiple loans, increase the probability of being over-indebted.
- Gloede & Rungruxsirivorn (2013) and Tran et al. (2018) show that financial development has a positive impact on annual income, consumption and consumption smoothing of households and that it is associated with an increase of productive investments.
- Kemper & Klump (2010) and Kemper (2013) look at shock coping mechanisms. Shock-coping actions include the use of savings, the depletion of assets, increasing labor supply, credit taking, informal borrowing.

Rural non-farm economy

Studies focus for example on the potential of different non-farm segments to improve the livelihood situations of rural households, whether self-employed can help to reduce the vulnerability to poverty of rural households, and on country differences in the participation rates in non-farm wage-employment.

- Brünjes and Revilla Diez (2016) find that the most favorable jobs from a livelihood perspective are public service jobs as they offer the most stable incomes in the rural environment and are most likely to include social insurances.
- Sohns & Revilla Diez (2016) show that becoming self-employed indeed increases the likelihood of poor households escaping poverty in relatively well-developed regions. However, this is not the case for less developed regions.