When the 'strong arms' leave the farms

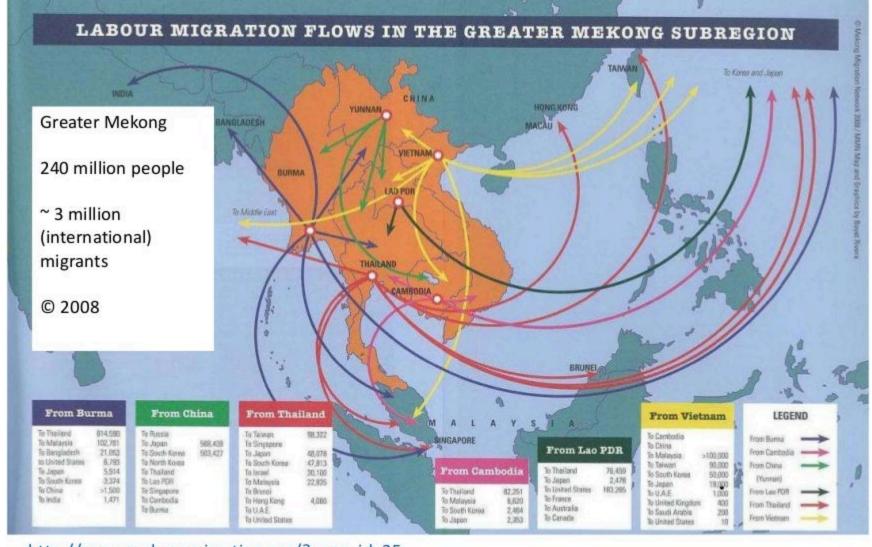
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Seeds of Change, Gender conference Canberra April 4, 2019







http://www.mekongmigration.org/?page_id=25

Rural transitions

Vietnam: 2011 - low to lower middle income country

New (economic) reasons to leave agriculture (full/part time)

Ag advice the same (technology changes, crops, farming systems, information sources, innovation....)

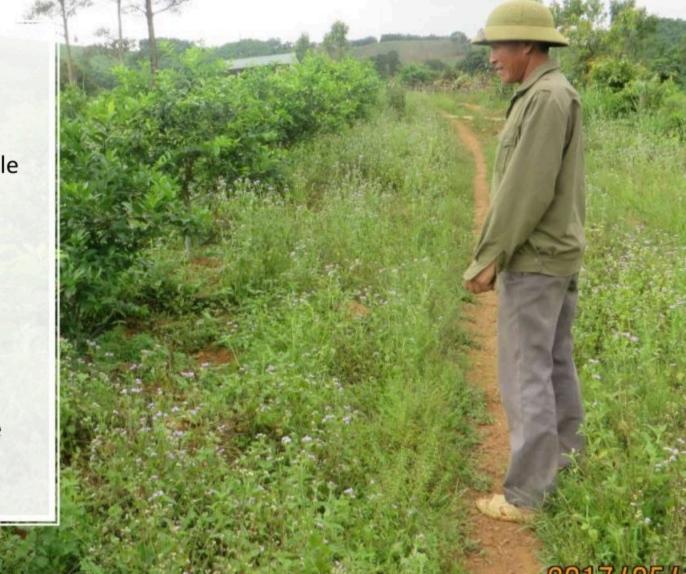
Gender roles and norms are changing

In the process of change, women and men have different opportunities/interests/capacities/needs

How do women and men respond to opportunities and challenges in small-scale farming?

How does offfarm/migration impact on farming strategies?

How do men and women experience migration while away?





Site description

Comparative study 2 regions in Vietnam with different migration trends

- Ethnic different gender norms (division of labour)
- Poverty vs unemployment
- Geography mountainous vs coast → different disasters → labour inputs
- Agriculture monocultures, scattered fields on slopes (travel distance to fields) vs diversified agriculture crops with home gardens (climate-smart village)



Methods

Households with ≥1 is/was working offfarm

- Focus group discussions (gender, age): 24
- In-depth interviews: 12 (6 M, 6 W)
- Participatory videos: 4 (2 M, 2 W)
 - Women's video
 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v
 fig-41tQ&t=21s)
 - Men's video: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= u00hv5bzgBQ&t=4s)
- Guideline: Kawarazuka 2017
 https://genderinagrilles.wordpress.com/2018/03/aguide-for-gender-responsive-participatory-video-final.pdf
- Community event: 50 (11 M, 39 W)
- Remaining:
 - Update questionnaire from 2011 (~600 households)
 - Household survey (n ~ 200) in 2 communities

When the 'strong arms' leave the farms

- Men migrate and women are left behind
- Male out-migration means men are absent in agriculture
- Women 'left behind' implies they are suffering

Who goes	Who manages farm	Invest in ag	Invest in non-ag
Wife to Saudi Arabia	Husband	Acacia, pigs, rice	Healthcare, education
(1) Both to HCMC (2) Husband to Malaysia	(2) Wife	(1) Start farm	(2) Grocery store
Wife to HCMC	(husband ill), daugther, husband's brother		Support family
Husband to Angola	Wife, husband's family	Acacia, orange	Butcher business (wife)
Widow (1) to Angola (1) HCMC	Her relatives rent land	2 pigs	Sons' education, daughter's wedding
Son to Malaysia	Parents	Inherits acacia (hired labour)	Own wedding, 2 shops
(1) As son to HCMC (2) As husband to Laos	(1) Parents (2) Wife	(1) Buys farm	(1) Own wedding (2) Truck for business
(1) Husband to Malaysia (2) Commute in district	Wife		Son's healthcare
Husband to Malaysia	Wife	0	0
Husband (carpenter) to Angola	Wife	0	0



Myth 1: Women are left behind

- · Women are not always left behind
- · Women are active agents
- · Sometimes men are left behind



Myth 2: Men are absent in agriculture

- Some men are invisible, while other male family members are visible
- Some family farms are managed in innovative ways, when men are absent – not necessarily depending on female labour force or labour shortage
- Women also have strong arms...



Myth 3: Men go away and have fun, women left home and 'suffering' – both have fun and suffer

- · Both have fun and both sacrifice and suffer
- Men are also suffering from risks and challenges
- The poor are suffering more (no collateral, debts)
- Men's sufferings are rarely highlighted in literature
- Women can also have 'fun' also not covered in literature

Implications for agriculture

 Reasons for doing agriculture: Some return later by choice/by force - for subsistence/for selling/for business/for fun - farm is a back-up solution for survival during economic pressure

 Remittance: survival, invested in agriculture/hiring labour/stepping stone out of agriculture

 Farms lack arms: Migration changes farming systems, needs for technology

 Missing: Sustainable farming system options for singleheaded households

· If labour shortage is compensated

 With machinery: Are machines designed for women, can they fix them, will they prioritise & use them?

 With hired labour/machinery: Implications for ag advise & climate services

 Risk taking capability vary → consequences in production / agriculture





Preliminary conclusion

'Nuclear household farms' are changing

Are our 'standard household survey/questionnaires' updated and capturing this?

- Notion of 'household', who lives on farm, and extended families
- Meaningless to compare % men / women participating, adopting, ...
- Use and decision over off-farm incomes
- Need for more dynamic questionnaires

We would like to acknowledge all CGIAR Research Programs and Centers for supporting the participation of their gender scientists to the Seeds of Change conference.



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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Roots, Tubers and Bananas









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