

Profile of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

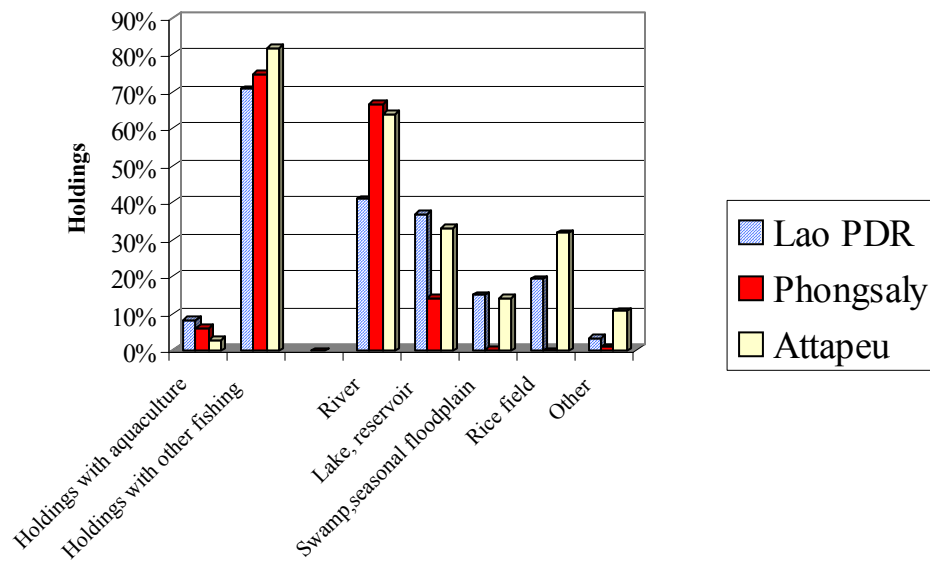
IV. Other characteristics:

Fishing:

Fishing is an important secondary activity for many farm households. It is a source of extra income or a supplement to the family's food supply. In all, 55,500 holdings, 8% of the total holdings in the Lao PDR, have some aquacultural facilities, usually pond fish culture. The total area under aquaculture is 6.396 ha.

Over 70% of farm households in Lao PDR engage in fishing other than in aqua-culture. Two fifths fish in rivers, 37% in lakes, 19% in rice fields and 15% in swamps or seasonal flood plains. Fishing is widespread throughout the Lao PDR: In Phongsaly in the far north, 75% of farm households fish; and in Attapeu in the far south, 82% of farm households fish.

Figure 44: Percent of holding doing fishing and engaging in aquaculture



Ethnic groups and livestock:

Of the 667,895 individual holders in the whole country 50.1% were Lao, 12.2% Kmu, 9.0% Phutai, 7.5% Hmong, 3.2% Leu, 2.1% Katang, 2.0% each of Makong and Kor, 1.2% Laven, 0.9% each of Xuay, Nhuane and Phounoy, 0.8% Taoey, 0.61% each of Lamed, Lavae, Talieng and Tri, 0.5% Yao, and 4.3% others (including Katu, Pako, Alack, Ngae, Oey, Thin, Musir, Phong, Nham, Hor, Kui, Yae, Yang, Xingmoon, Lolo, Toum, etc.)

Ethnic groups raising cattle:

According to the 1998/99 Lao Agricultural Census about 53.5% of the holdings raising cattle belonged to the Hmong group. This was followed by Katang (48.1%), Kor (33.8%), Phutai (32.0%), Lao (30.9%), Makong (29.9%), Leu (26.9%), Kmu (21.5%), and others (25.3%).

Ethnic groups raising buffalo:

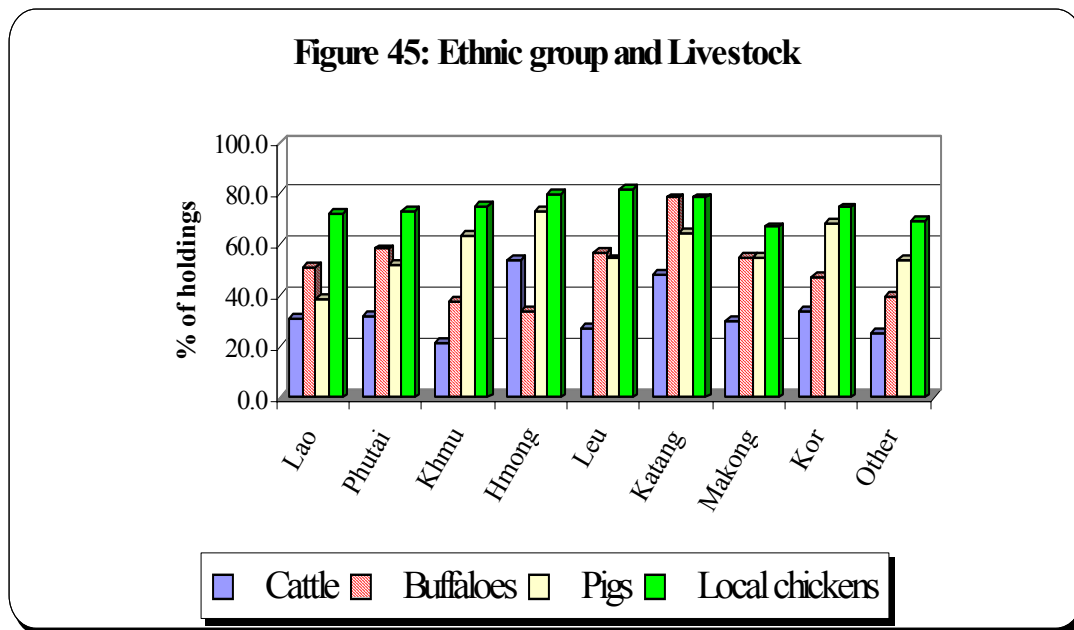
About 78.1% of the Katang group reared buffalo, followed by Phutai with 58.1%, and Leu with 57.0%, then Makong with 54.7%, Lao with 51.2%, Kor with 47.3%, Kmu with 37.6%, Hmong with 33.9%, and others with 39.6%.

Ethnic groups raising pigs :

72.9% of the holdings rearing pigs were Hmong, followed by Kor with 68.4%, Katang with 64.1%, Kmu with 63.6%, Makong with 55.0%, Leu with 54.4, Phutai with 51.8%, Lao with 38.3%, and others with 53.6%.

Ethnic groups raising local chickens:

The largest number of holdings raising local chickens were Leu at 81.4%, followed by Hmong with 79.8%, Katang with 78.3%, Kmu with 74.6%, Kor with 74.3%, Phutai with 72.9%, Lao with 71.7%, Makong with 66.6%, and others with 69.0%.



Men and women as agricultural holders:

Women manage 9% of agricultural holdings in the Lao PDR. There were 667,900 holdings, 91% of which were under male management. Females managed the remaining 9%. Most of these managers were in the 25-44 year age group (53%). 36% were aged between 45 to 64 years. There were 8% in the age group of 65 years and over and 4% in the age group of less than 25 years. The average age of the holder was 43.4.

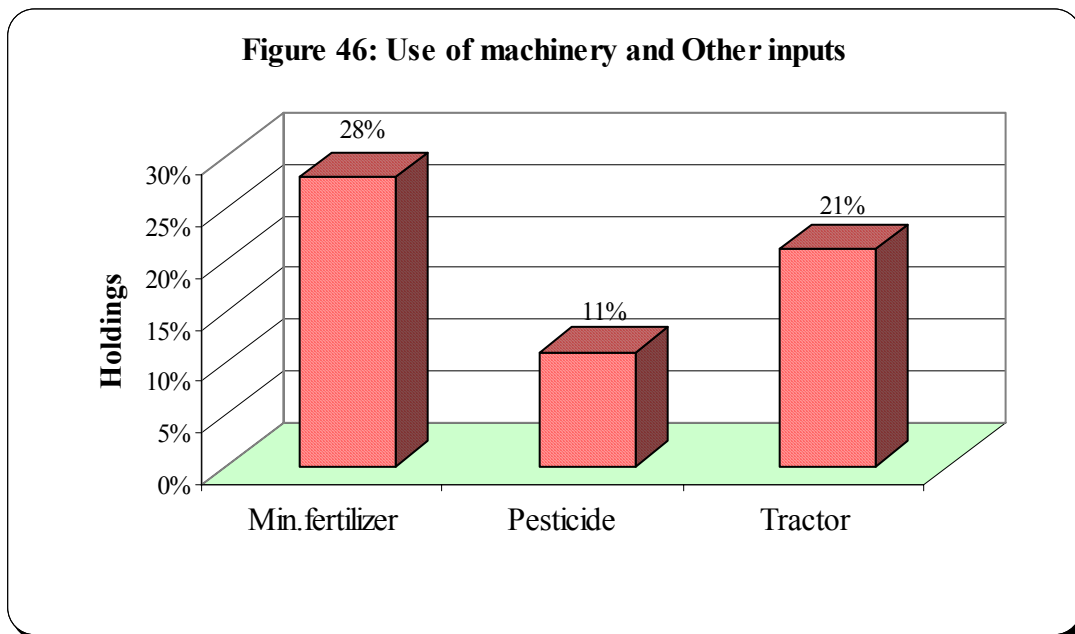
The majority of the female holders, 50%, were in the age group of 45-64 and 37% were in the age group of 25 to 44 years. The age groups of less than 25 years and 65 years and over were 3% and 11% of the total female holders respectively.

Use of Machinery and Other Inputs:

In the Lao PDR the use of mineral fertilizer is quite small. For example in 1998/99, mineral fertilizers were used by only 28% of farm households. Only 11% of the holdings in this same period used any pesticides at all.

Farms in the Lao PDR are generally not highly mechanized. In 1998/99 only 29% of farmers used machinery. 21% of the holdings used a tractor.

Two-thirds of holdings in Vientiane Municipality and half the holdings in Savannakhet and Champasack used mineral fertilizer. Fewer than 10% did so in the northern provinces.

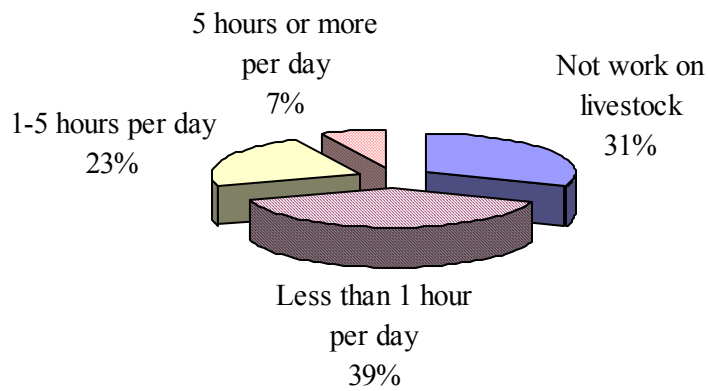


Labour Input for Livestock Rearing

In the Lao PDR, farms employed 2,103,500 workers. 91% of these were aged 15 years or more. 69% of these workers were engaged in rearing livestock.

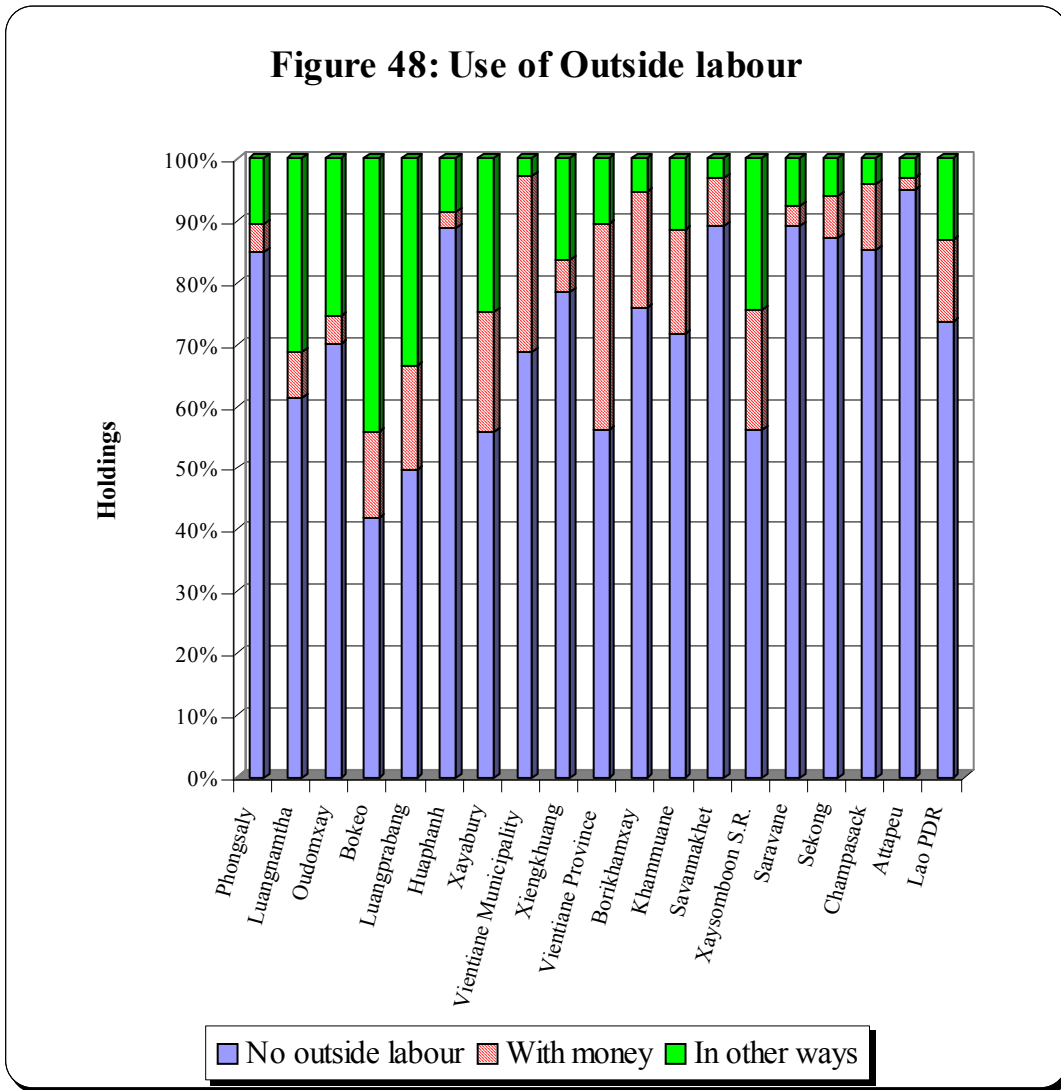
In Lao PDR, about 39% of farm workers work for less than 1 hour per day. 23% of those aged 15 years or more work for 1-5 hours per day. 7% of farm workers work for 5 hours or more per day.

Figure 47: Labour Input for Livestock Rearing, Lao PDR



Use of Outside Labour:

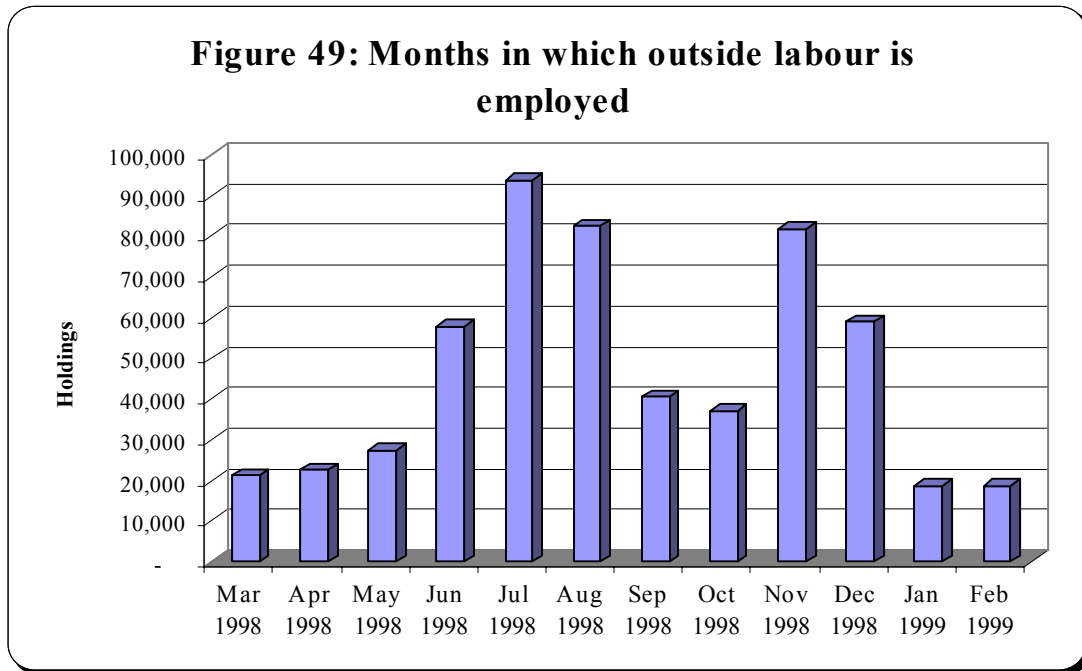
Household members provide most farm labour. In 1998/99 only 26% of farms used outside labour. In the north, most farmers employ farm labourers on a labour exchange basis, rather than for payment in cash. In Xayabury only 20% paid farm labourers in cash. In the centre and south, payment in cash is more common: In Vientiane province 33% paid in cash. Payment with farm produce is not common.



Months in which Outside Labour is Employed:

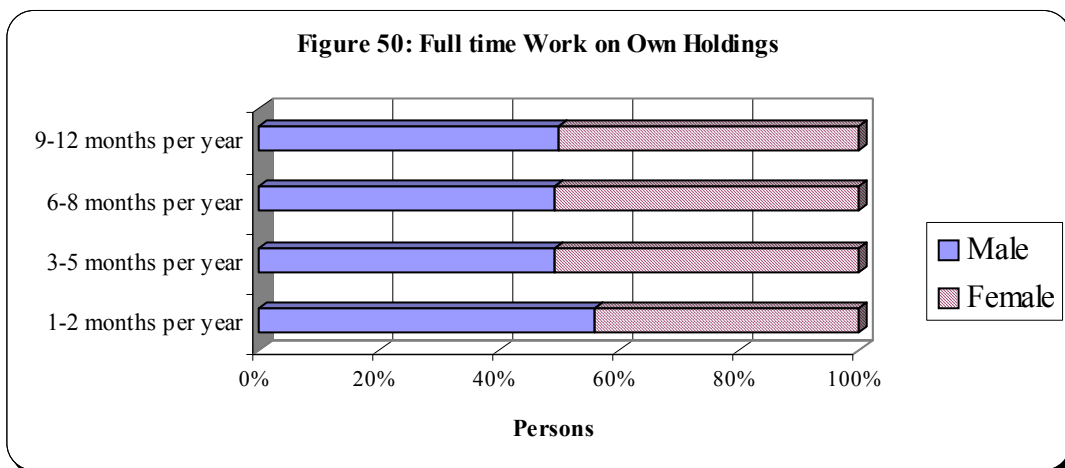
Throughout the country, the demand for outside labour is highest at the time of planting and harvesting the main rice crop: June-August and November-December. In upland areas, labour is needed in March-May to help with land preparation.

In areas growing dry season rice, there is also a demand for labour in January and February.



Full and Part time Work on Own Holdings:

Farm work is seasonal and does not usually provide “full-time” work: only 18% of household farm workers work 9-12 months a year on the family farm; 30% work for less than half the year.



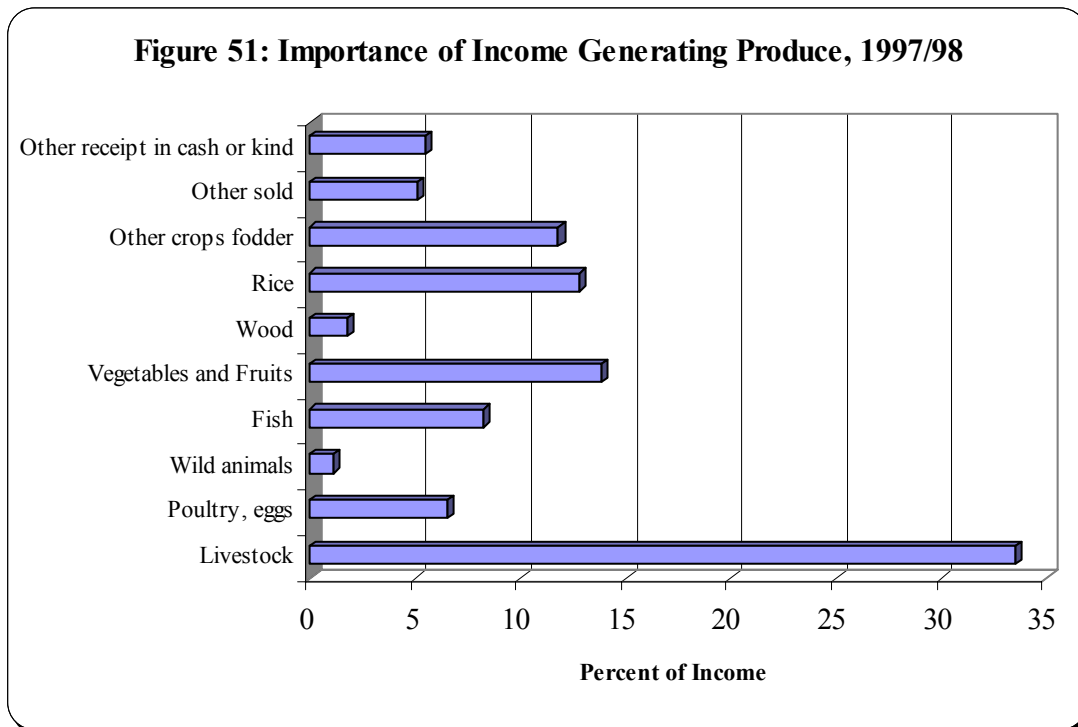
Households with Forestry Trees:

In Lao PDR, forestry is not yet an important activity on agricultural holdings. Forestry areas amount to only 54,000 ha. Forested land makes up only 5% of the area of holdings. Only 8.5% of agricultural holdings have some forested land.

Importance of Income Generating Produce:

According to the 1997/98 Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey, (LECS, 1997/98) livestock rearing, not rice production, generates the most cash revenue throughout the country.

In the Lao PDR, 33.5% of all agricultural revenue comes from livestock. Rice production generates about 12.8% of all revenue, and poultry/eggs 6.5%. All in all fruit and vegetables accounted for 13.8% of the cash income, and fish for 8.2%.



Importance of Products in Rural Villages:

According to LECS, 1997/98 glutinous rice is the most important output in 69% of the rural villages in the Lao PDR. Livestock and meat are the second most important in 8.0% of the villages.

Figure 52: Importance of Products in rural villages, 1997/98

