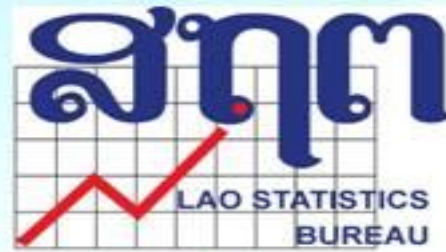




MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY



LAO STATISTICS BUREAU



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ກອງປະຊຸມ ຂອງຄະນະກຳມະທິການ ສະຖິຕິກະສິກຳ  
ປະຈຳພາກພື້ນອາຊີ ແລະ ປາຊີຟິກ ຄັ້ງທີ 25

25<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION  
ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (APCAS 25)

18-21 February 2014

Don Chan Palace Hotel

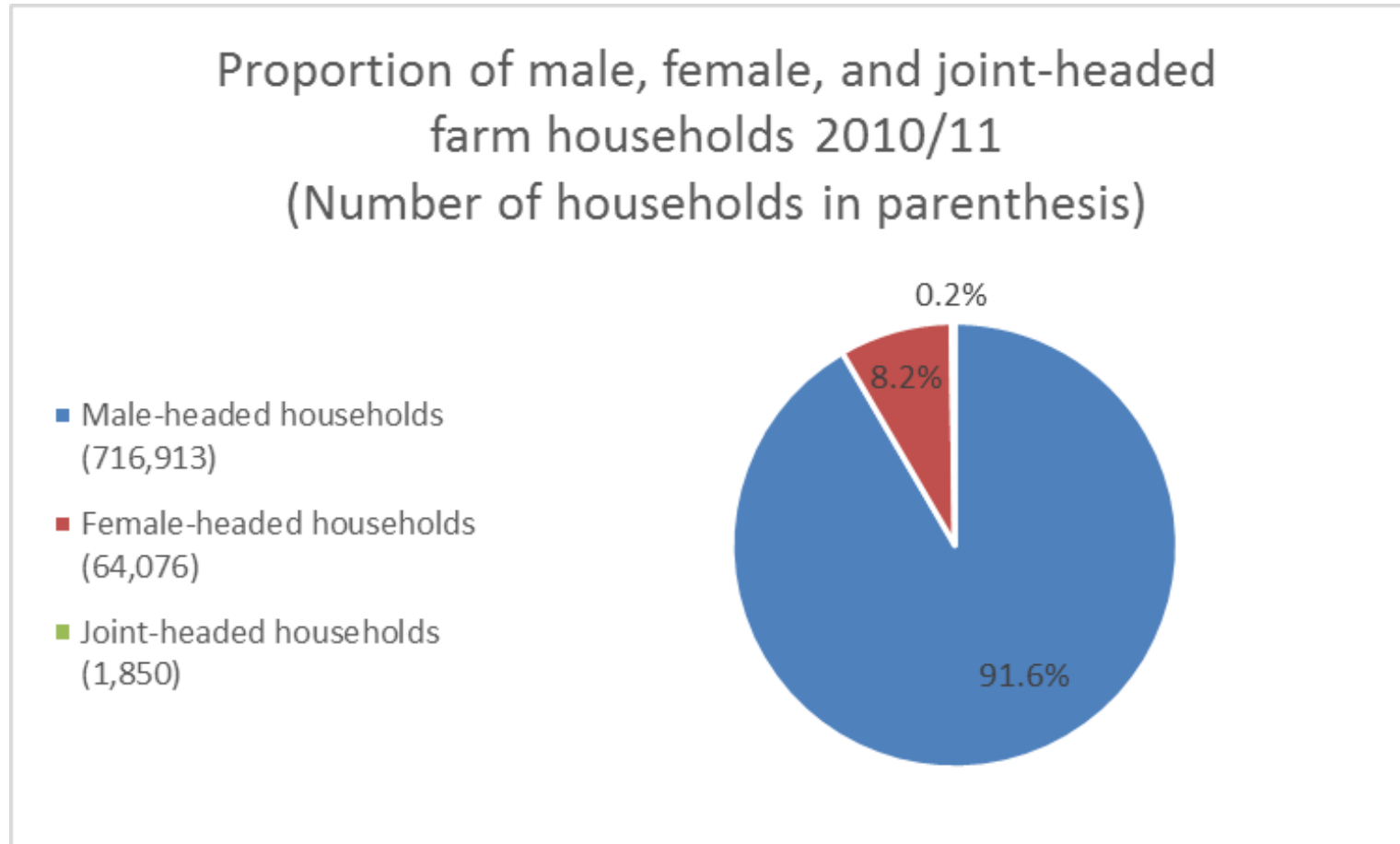
# Gender Aspects of the Lao Agricultural Census 2010/11

**Ms. Nami ISHIHARA**

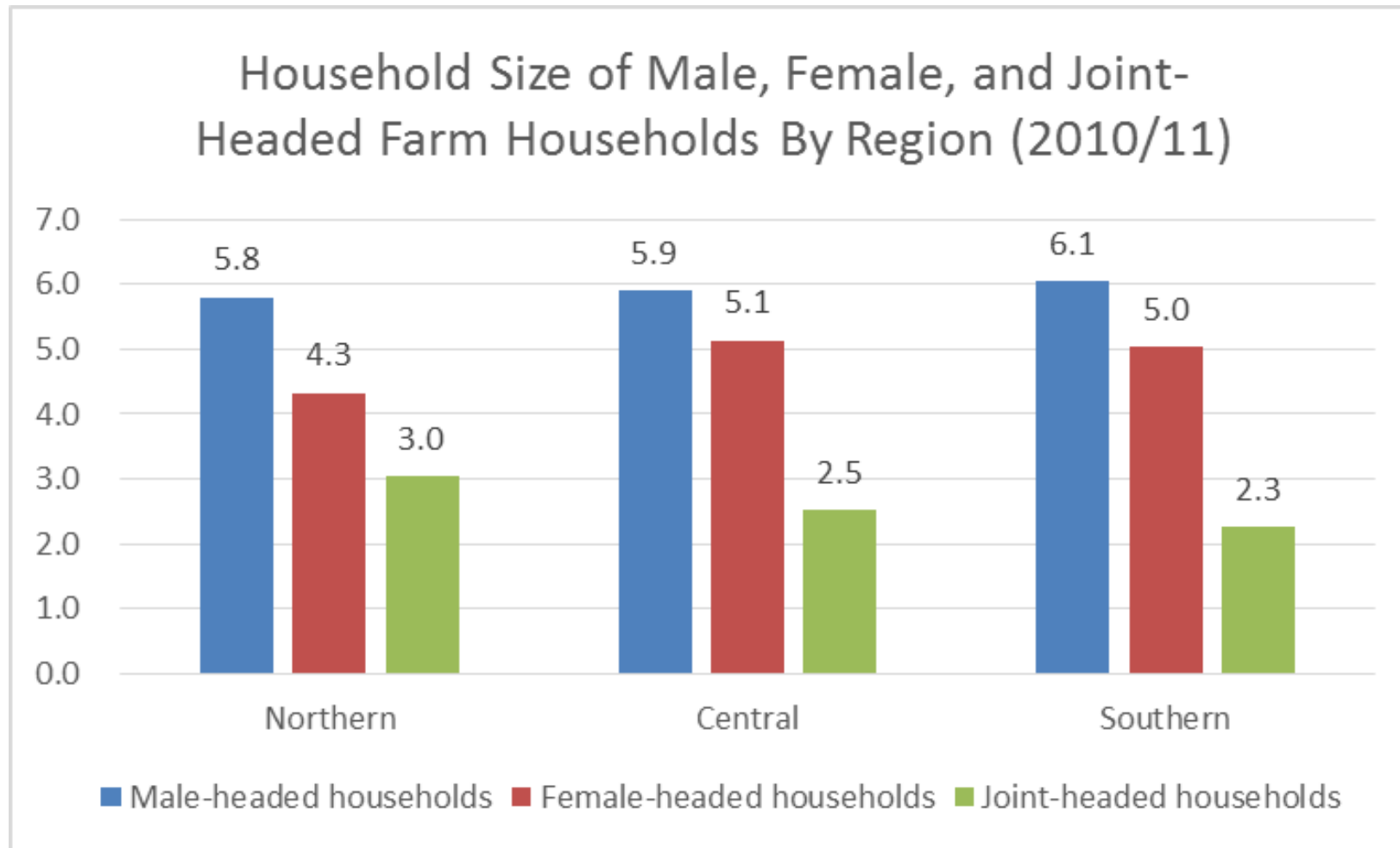
**International Consultancy for the Gender in Agriculture**

**E-mail: [namiando5@hotmail.com](mailto:namiando5@hotmail.com)**

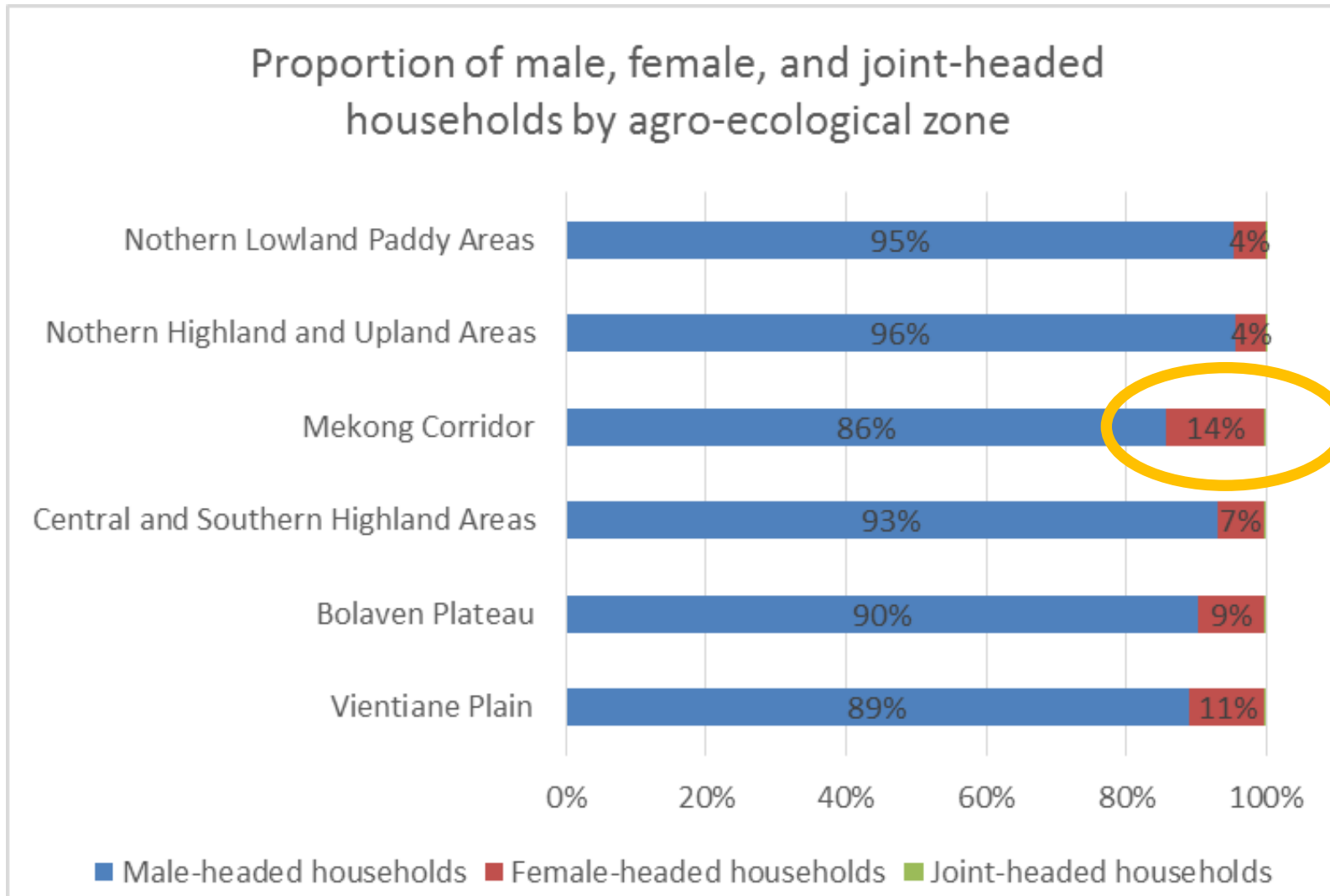
# 8% of farm households are headed by women



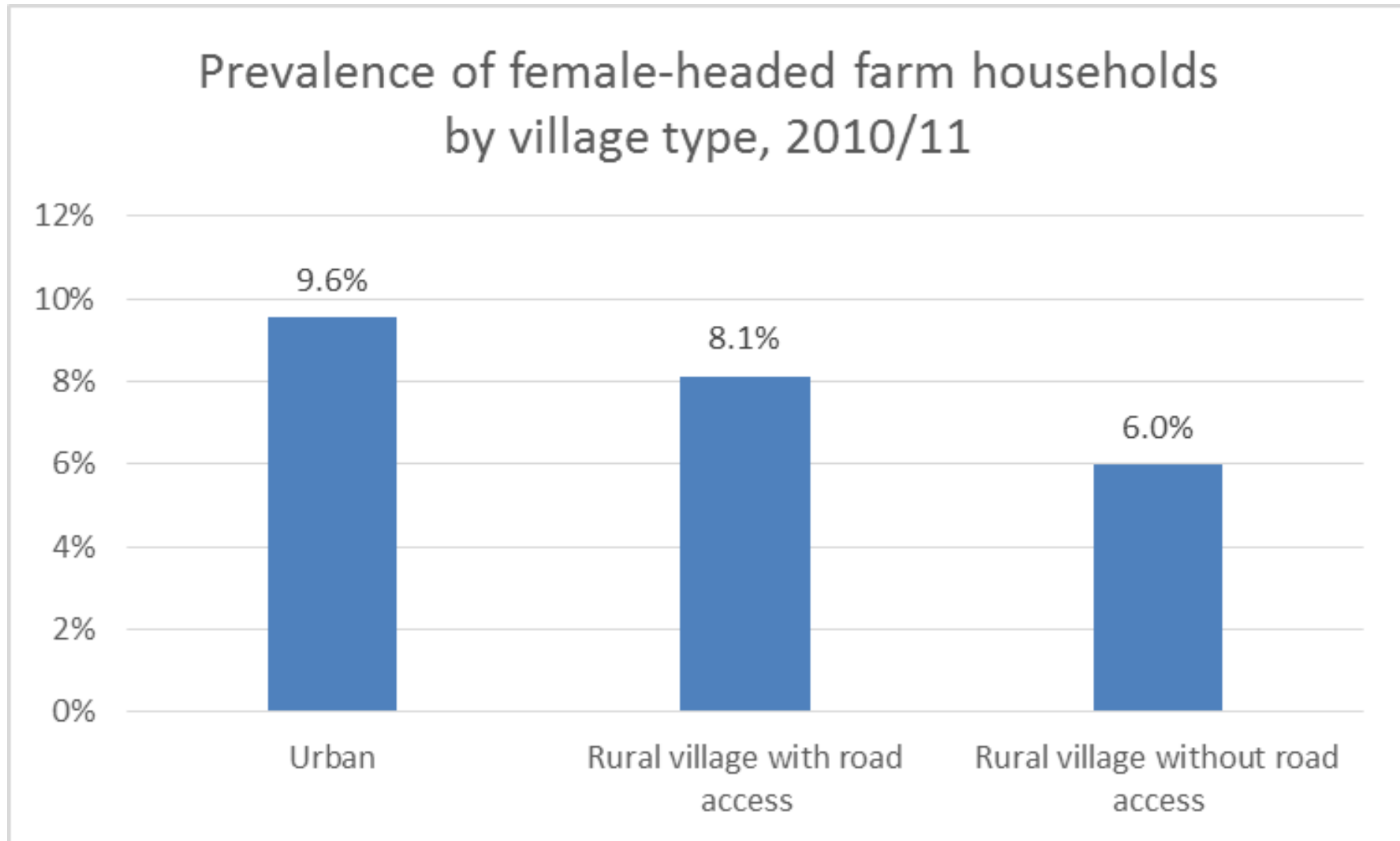
# Female-headed households are smaller than male-headed households, by one person



# Female-headed households are most prevalent in the Mekong Corridor

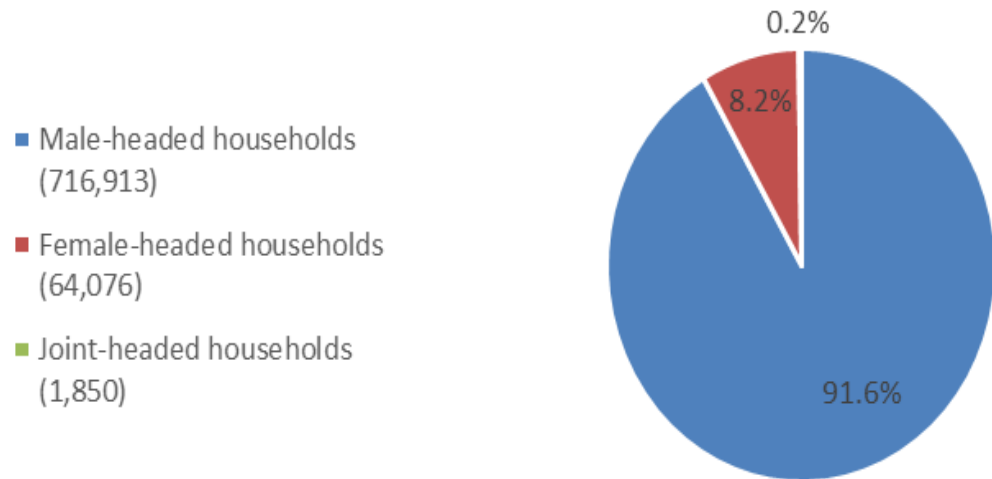


...and more prevalent in urban villages

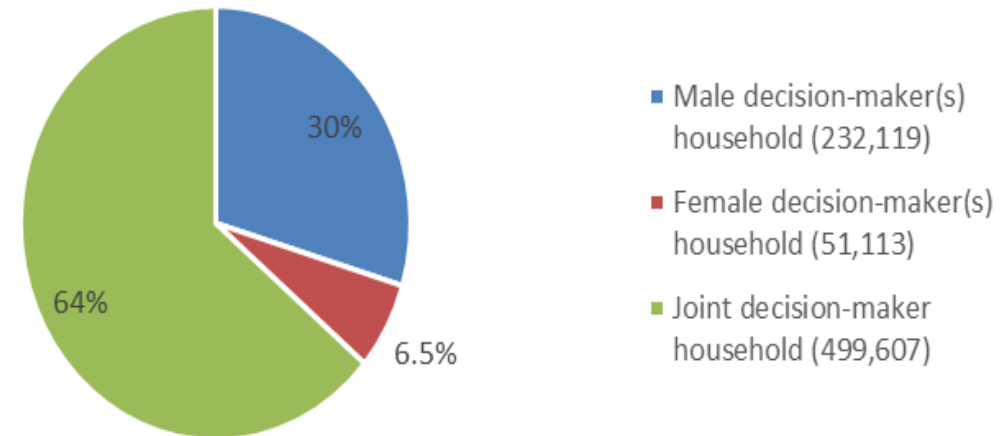


The household head is not necessarily the one making the main decisions in the household. Joint decision-maker households are the majority.

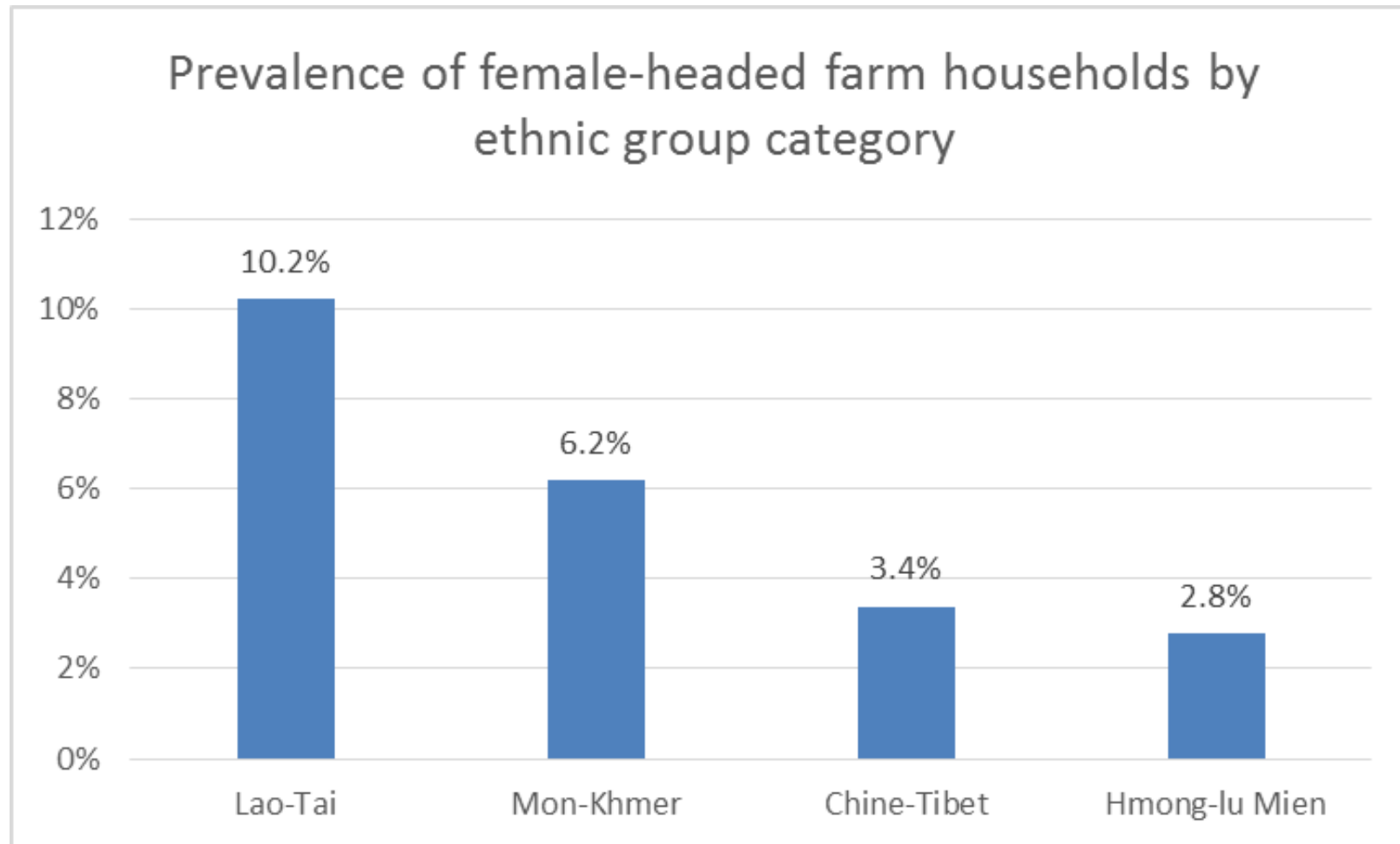
Proportion of male, female, and joint-headed farm households 2010/11  
(Number of households in parenthesis)



Proportion of male, female, and joint decision-maker farm households 2010/11  
(Estimated number of households in parenthesis)



# Female-headed households are most prevalent among Lao-Tai groups...



...but there is considerable variation among individual ethnic groups, so generalizations can be problematic

Highest prevalence groups

Ethnic group	Language family	Number of female-headed farm households	prevalence within the ethnic group
Lao	Lao-Tai	41,899	11.0%
Tai	Lao-Tai	3,429	13.1%
Makong	Mon-Khmer	1,835	9.1%
Yru	Mon-Khmer	718	10.1%
Xuay	Mon-Khmer	698	10.5%
Brao	Mon-Khmer	458	10.3%
Nhahern	Mon-Khmer	145	12.2%
Xaek	Lao-Tai	66	12.4%

Lowest prevalence groups

Ethnic group	Language family category	Number of female-headed farm households	Prevalence within the ethnic group
Hmong	Hmong-lu Mien	1,881	2.8%
Phoutai	Lao-Tai	1,048	3.4%
Leu	Lao-Tai	1,003	4.5%
Akha	Chine-Tibet	317	1.9%
Tri	Mon-Khmer	169	3.6%
Phong	Mon-Khmer	153	4.0%
Katu	Mon-Khmer	132	4.2%



# Female-headed households operate smaller areas of agricultural and irrigated land compared with other types of households

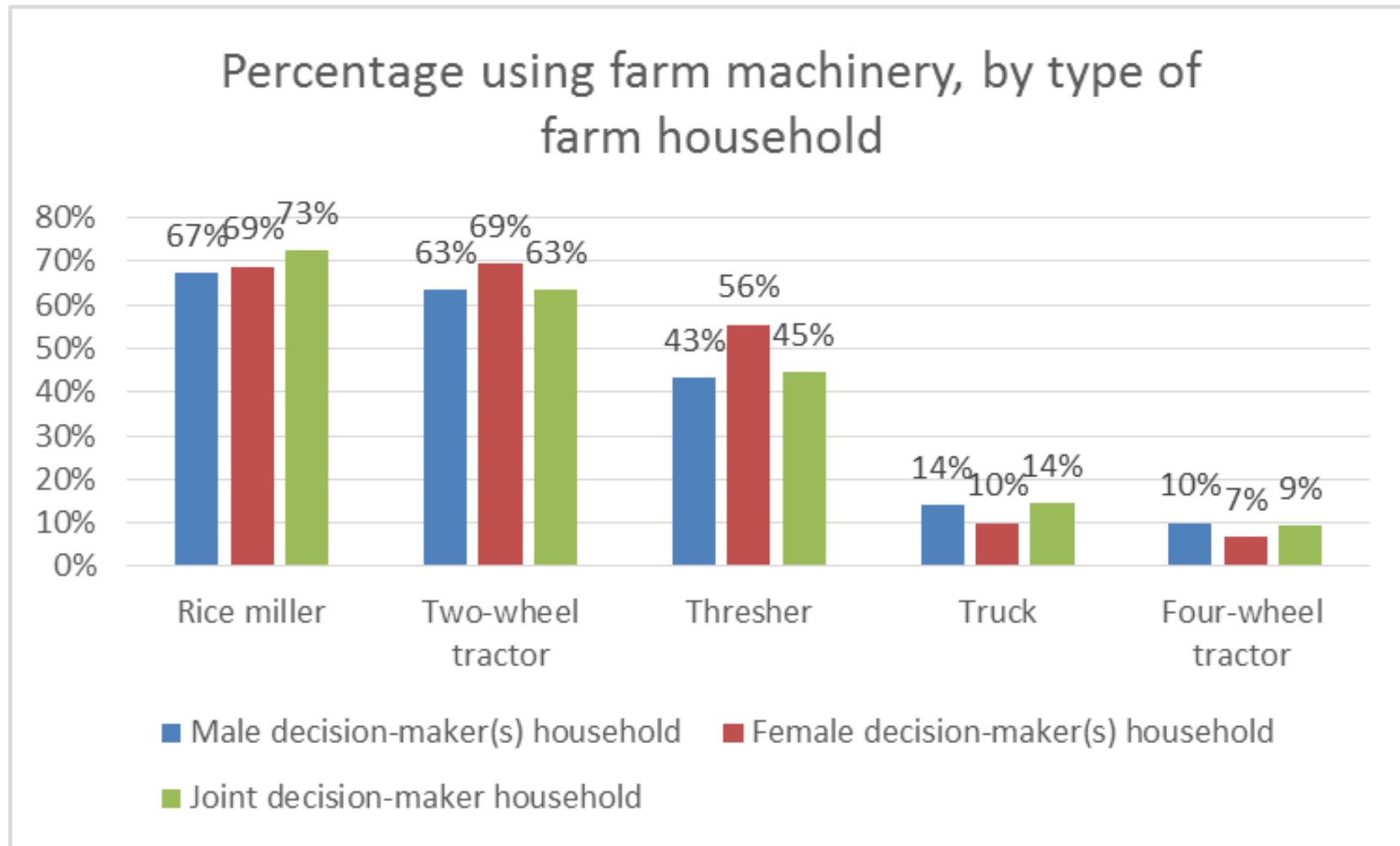
	male-headed farm households	female-headed farm households	joint-headed farm households
Average area of agricultural land holding (ha)	1.96	1.89	1.97

	male-headed farm households	female-headed farm households	joint-headed farm households
Average area of irrigated land holding (ha)	0.75	0.71	1.09

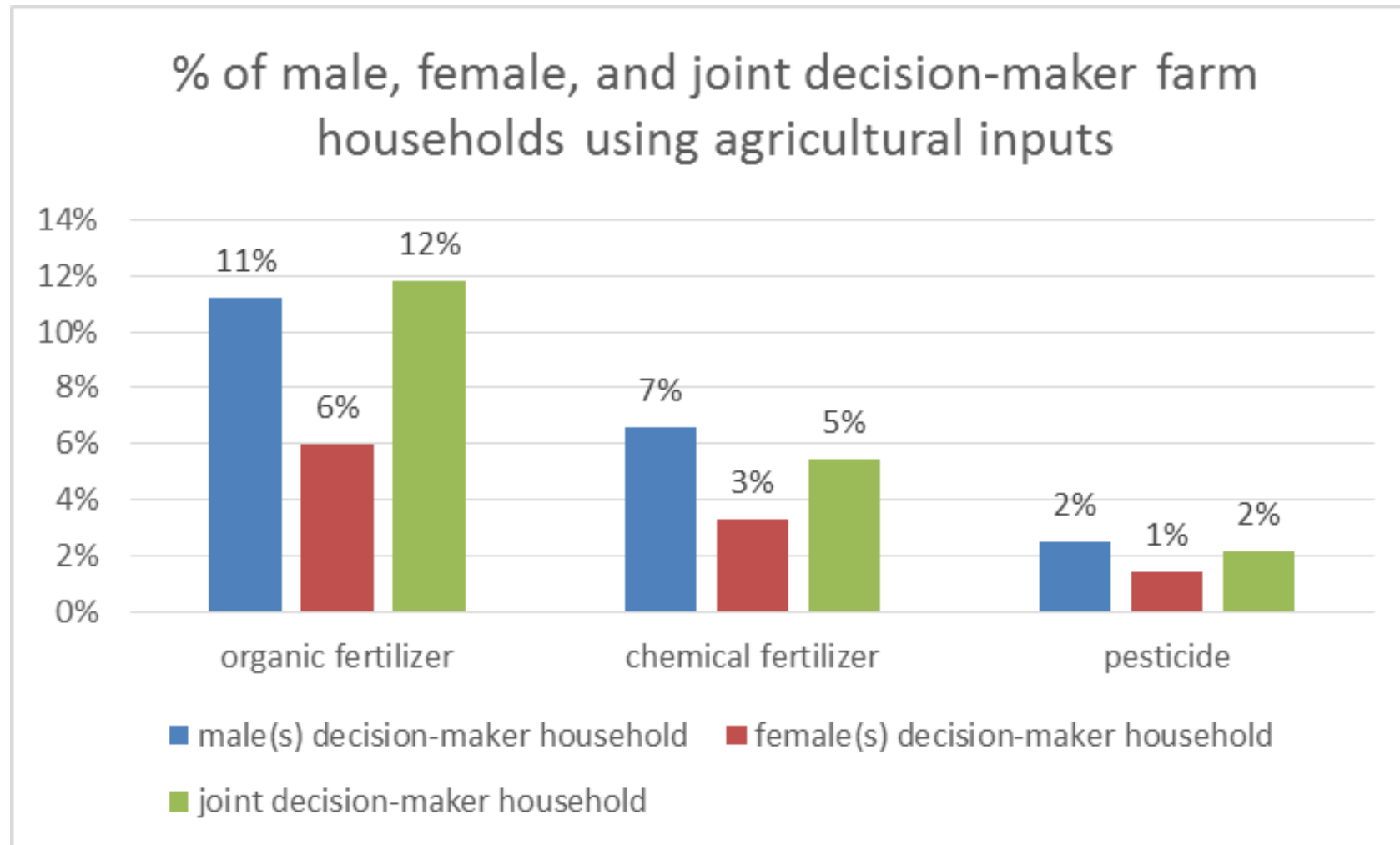
...but the difference is relatively small compared with neighboring countries

- Difference in average size of agricultural land between female-headed and male-headed farm households:
  - In Cambodia: 29%
  - In Vietnam: 27%
  - In Lao PDR: 3.5%

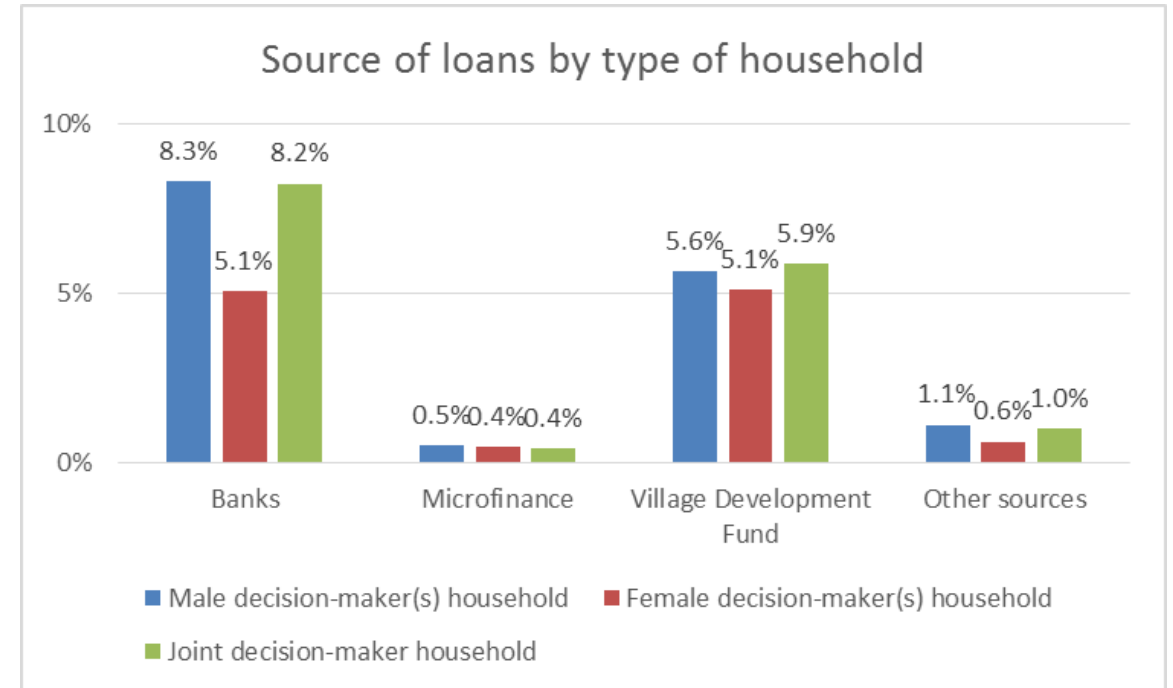
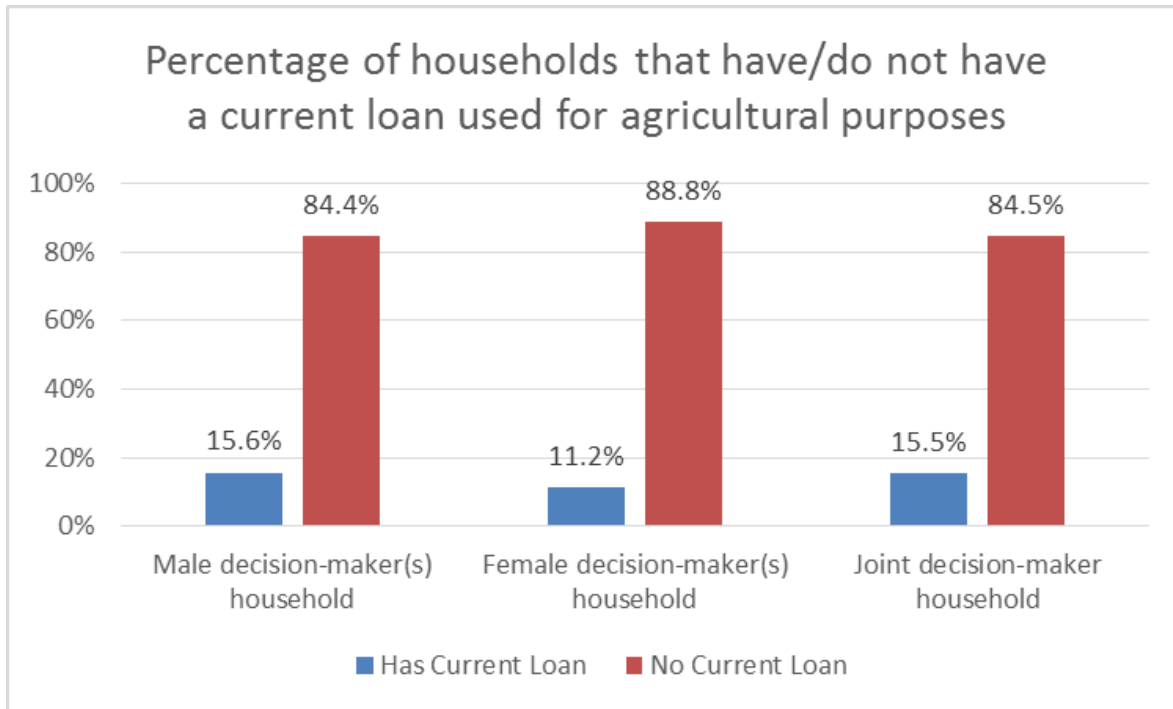
Female decision-maker households use “small” machinery at the same, or higher rates than male decision-maker households, but use “big” machinery less



# Rates of usage of agricultural inputs are much lower among female decision-maker households



# Female decision-maker households borrow less, especially from banks



# There is no wage inequality between men and women for agricultural work in 95% of villages

Agro-Ecological Zones	Males = Females		Females > Males		Males > Females	
	%	no. of villages	%	no. of villages	%	no. of villages
Vientiane Plain	94.9%	648	3.8%	26	1.3%	9
Bolaven Plateau	100.0%	88	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Central and Southern Highland Areas	98.4%	873	1.4%	12	0.2%	2
Mekong Corridor	95.0%	2143	3.5%	78	1.5%	34
Northern Highland and Upland Areas	95.8%	2442	2.5%	64	1.7%	44
Northern Lowland Paddy Areas	95.5%	2100	3.0%	67	1.5%	32
Total	95.8%	8294	2.9%	247	1.4%	121

Female-headed households grow most of the same crops as male-headed households, but tend to concentrate more on growing rice

Top 10 wet season temporary crops grown by male-headed farm households, in order of total area planted (ha)						Top 10 wet season temporary crops grown by female-headed farm households, in order of total area planted (ha)					
		Area (ha)	No. of farm holdings growing crop	Average area (ha) planted per holding	% of male-headed households			Area (ha)	No. of farm holdings growing crop	Average area (ha) planted per holding	% of female-headed households
1	Lowland Rice/Irrigation rice	658,480.17	518,353	1.27	72.3%	1	Lowland Rice/Irrigation rice	77,702.97	49,190	1.58	76.8%
2	Upland Rice	150,217.11	158,892	0.95	22.2%	2	Upland Rice	6,283.96	7,492	0.84	11.7%
3	Cereals used as fodder crops (maize, oats, etc.)	91,258.88	68,914	1.32	9.6%	3	Cereals used as fodder crops (maize, oats, etc.)	3,080.28	2,379	1.29	3.7%
4	Makdeay	36,785.21	35,992	1.02	5.0%	4	Cassava	1,227.10	896	1.37	1.4%
5	Sweet Corn	28,372.40	49,975	0.57	7.0%	5	Sweet Corn	1,039.11	1,786	0.58	2.8%
6	Cassava	12,454.58	23,443	0.53	3.3%	6	Makdeay	1,016.87	1,289	0.79	2.0%
7	Sesame	9,626.25	16,573	0.58	2.3%	7	Groundnut (peanut)	359.07	892	0.40	1.4%
8	Groundnut (peanut)	6,531.85	17,218	0.38	2.4%	8	Sesame	264.88	506	0.52	0.8%
9	Sugar cane	3,021.32	4,920	0.61	0.7%	9	Sugar cane	98.07	144	0.68	0.2%
10	Chilli	1,406.99	9,486	0.15	1.3%	10	Grasses	86.15	140	0.62	0.2%

(Continued)

Top 10 dry season temporary crops grown by male-headed farm households, in order of total area (ha) planted					Top 10 dry season temporary crops grown by female-headed farm households, in order of total area (ha) planted						
	Dry season temporary crops	Area (ha)	No. of fam holdings growing crop	Average area planted (ha) per holding	% male-headed households		Dry season temporary crops	Area (ha)	No. of farm holdings growing crop	Average area planted (ha) per holding	% female-headed households
1	Lowland Rice/Irrigation rice	47,199.79	73,534	0.64	40%	1	Lowland Rice/Irrigation rice	5,399.50	8,122	0.66	55%
2	Cereals used as fodder crops (maize, oats, etc.)	6,742.07	9,484	0.71	5%	2	Cassava	916.78	177	5.18	1%
3	Cassava	4,243.61	4,560	0.93	3%	3	Sugar cane	357.46	90	3.97	1%
4	Sweet Corn	3,228.22	9,310	0.35	5%	4	Cereals used as fodder crops (maize, oats, etc.)	320.23	485	0.66	3%
5	Tobacco	3,138.16	7,573	0.41	4%	5	Sweet Corn	184.34	659	0.28	4%
6	Sugar cane	2,925.83	2,393	1.22	1%	6	Tobacco	149.84	443	0.34	3%
7	Watermelon	1,668.97	4,030	0.41	2%	7	Watermelon	90.35	232	0.39	2%
8	Groundnut (peanut)	1,290.66	4,817	0.27	3%	8	Onion	63.22	340	0.19	2%
9	Chilli	1,059.65	7,551	0.14	4%	9	Chilli	61.90	541	0.11	4%
10	Chinese cabbage	997.56	10,776	0.09	6%	10	Groundnut (peanut)	61.40	265	0.23	2%

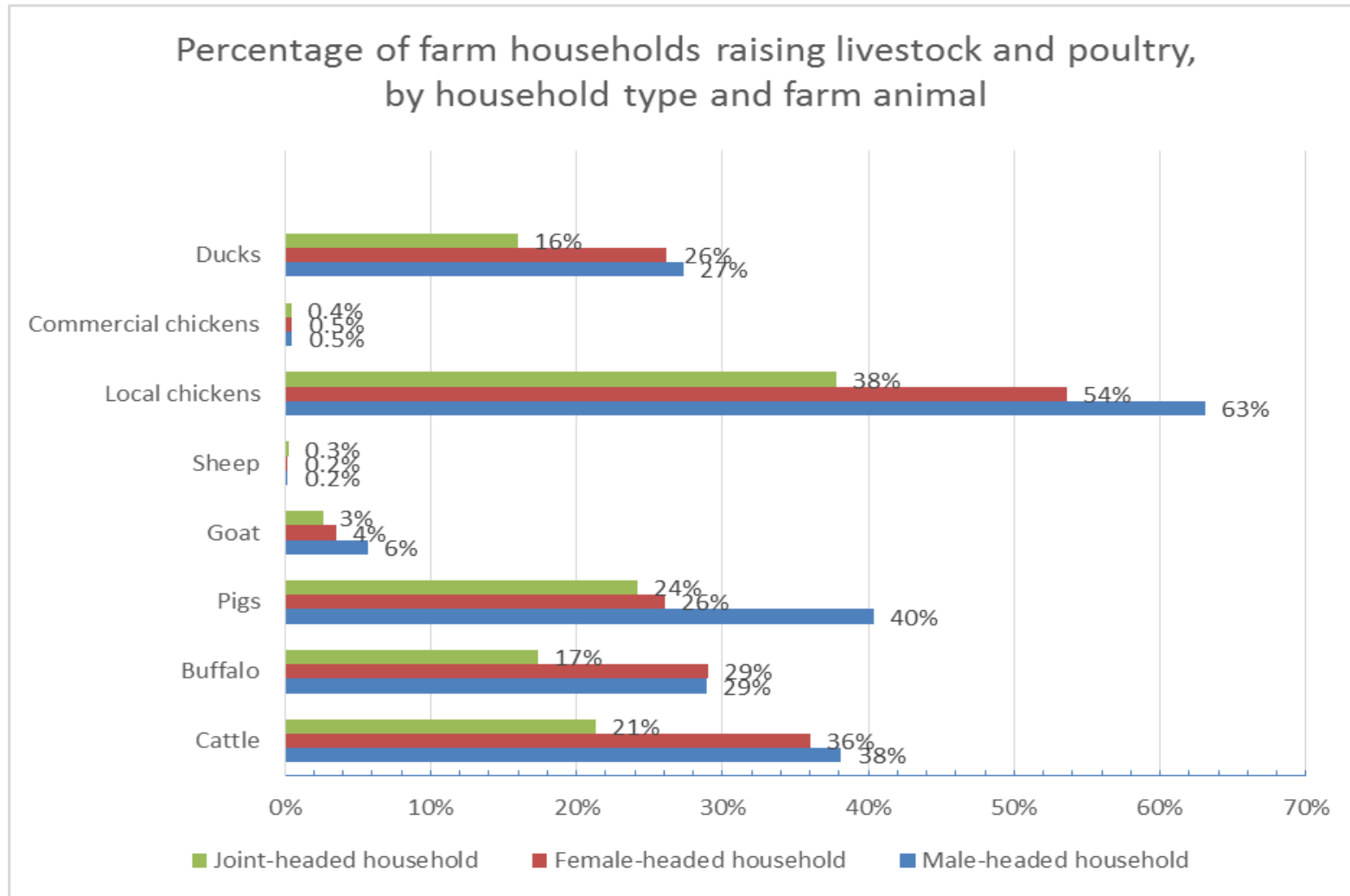


Coffee is the no.1 permanent crop for female-headed households, while rubber is the no.1 permanent crop for male-headed households

Top 10 permanent crops grown by male-headed farm households, in order of total area (ha) planted					
	Permanent crops	Area (ha)	No. of farm holdings growing crop	Average area planted (ha) per holding	% male-headed households
1	Rubber	64124.11	46175	1.39	33%
2	Coffee	42267.47	22221	1.90	16%
3	Banana	8780.32	17469	0.50	12%
4	Cinnamon	6154.59	12185	0.51	9%
5	Mango	3085.21	8638	0.36	6%
6	Tea	2389.06	5331	0.45	4%
7	Pineapple	2003.88	4798	0.42	3%
8	Other permanent crops	1347.93	2203	0.61	2%
9	Mandarin and tangerine	1059.15	2376	0.45	2%
10	Lemon	979.82	1435	0.68	1%

Top 10 permanent crops grown by female-headed farm households, in order of total area (ha) planted					
	Permanent crops	Area (ha)	No. of farm holdings growing crop	Average area planted (ha) per holding	% female-headed households
1	Coffee	3546.31	2091	1.70	29%
2	Rubber	2318.83	1496	1.55	21%
3	Banana	550.33	1089	0.51	15%
4	Cinnamon	266.12	439	0.61	6%
5	Mango	171.37	347	0.49	5%
6	Tea	143.84	338	0.43	5%
7	Pineapple	104.36	231	0.45	3%
8	Makyau	75.95	42	1.81	1%
9	Coconut	65.93	97	0.68	1%
10	Other permanent crops	63.92	104	0.61	1%

The percentage of farm households raising livestock and poultry doesn't differ much between male- and female-headed households, except for pigs and local chickens.

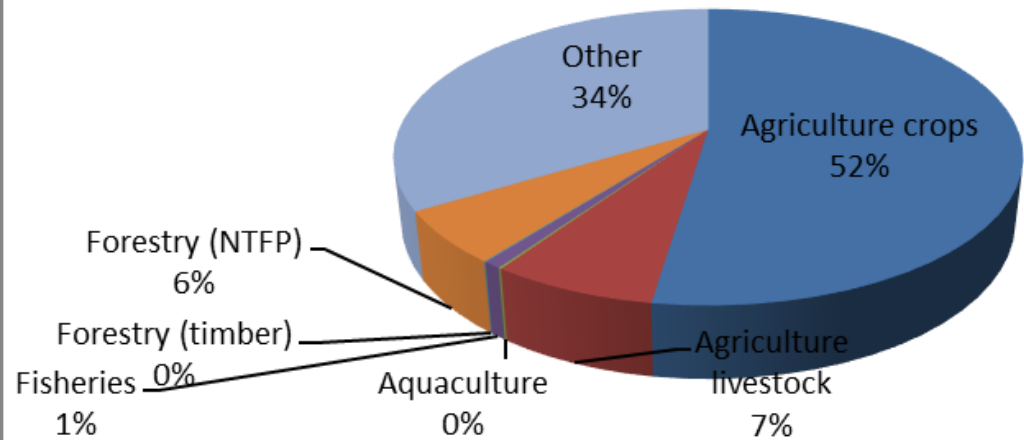


However, female-headed households raise less heads of livestock and poultry per household, especially commercial chickens.

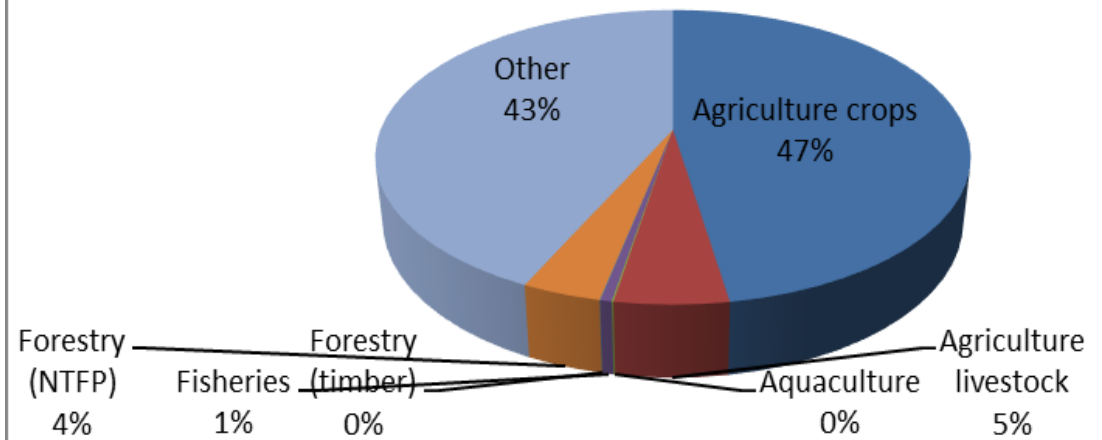
Average head of livestock and poultry raised per farm household			
Livestock and poultry	Male-headed household	Female-headed household	Percentage-point difference
Cattle	5.4	4.7	12%
Buffalo	3.5	3.0	12%
Pigs	3.2	2.8	13%
Goat	5.0	4.8	3%
Sheep	13.4	11.1	18%
Local chickens	18.0	14.5	19%
Commercial chickens	171.0	62.3	64%
Ducks	8.5	7.7	9%

# Female-headed households rely more on non-agricultural sources of income

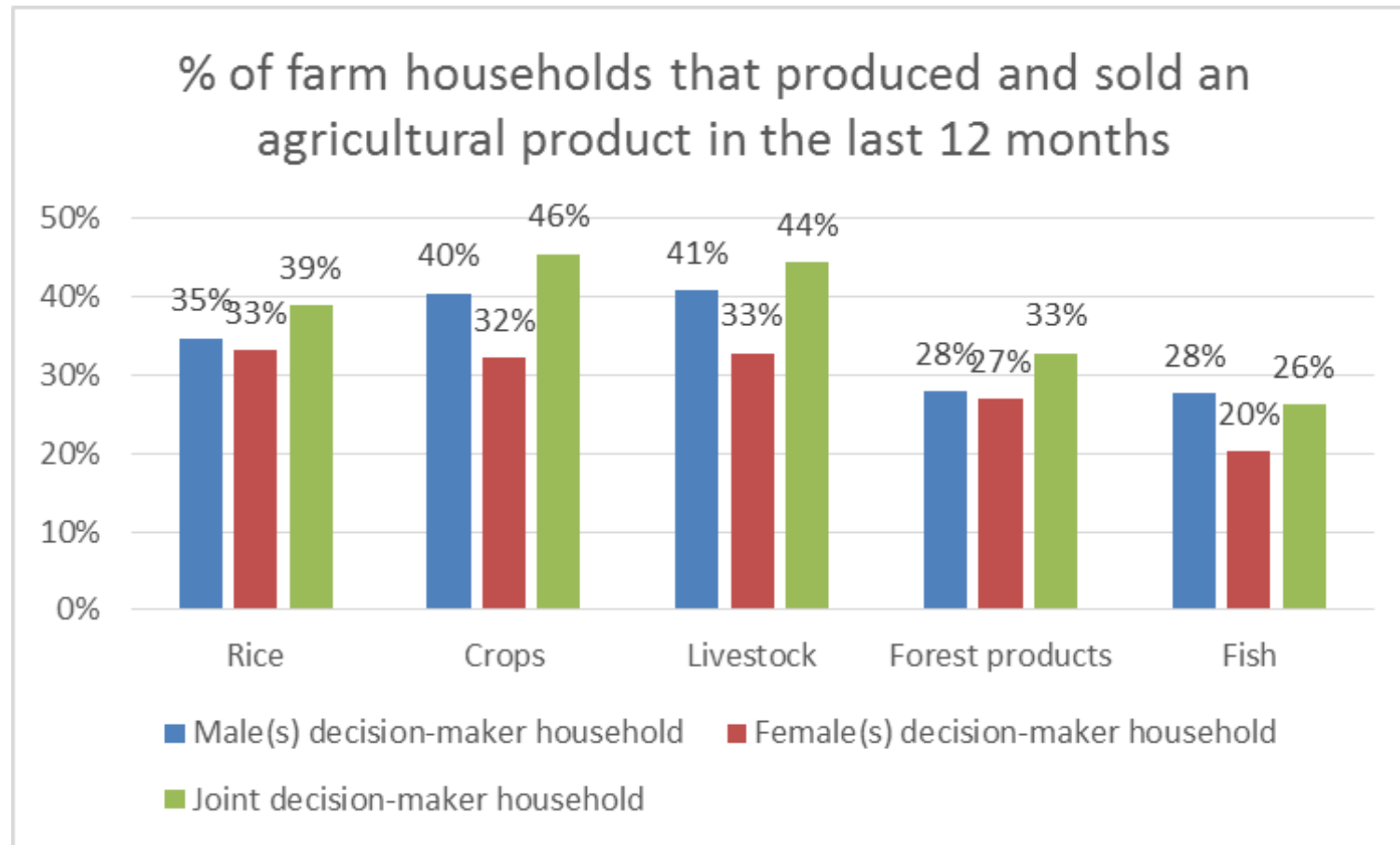
**Main source of income for male-headed farm households, 2010/11**



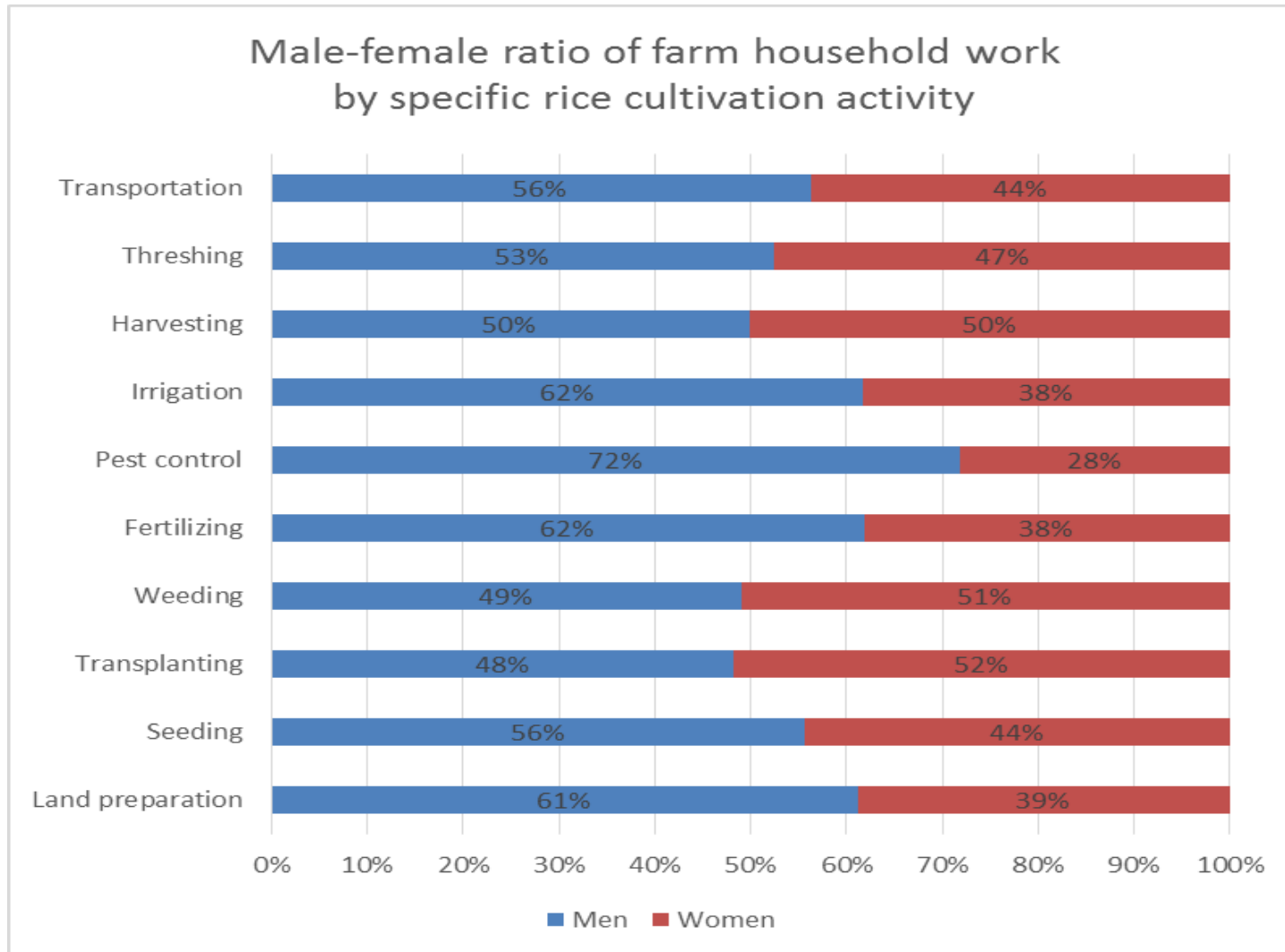
**Main source of income for female-headed farm households, 2010/11**



Female decision-maker households have lower rates of production and sale of agricultural products, especially for non-rice crops, livestock, and fish



Women and men share in all the rice cultivation activities in the household, but a higher percentage of men do the tasks requiring heavy equipment and specialized inputs.





Thank you all