

## Household Population Dynamics and Livelihood Changes in a Rice Farming Village in Central Laos

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### Abstract

Household undergoes the change of size and composition over time as its members come and go through birth, death and migration. Such household population dynamics is one of the important variables to see the process of population and migration change in small areas. This is true for rural society in Laos, where single households have great power to make livelihood decisions. Based on the retrospective survey of changes during the last fifty years in a rice farming village in central Laos, this study aims to identify the development process of household with the key demographic and livelihood factors affecting that process. The study village had 110 households with a population of 765 at the end of Y2014 while almost 300 people were temporarily away for work and study. There were 159 families of husband and wife both alive with children. Among them, 60 husbands and wives (37%) left their children at grandparents' care to go to work. Back in Y1970 when there were few opportunities for migrant labour, the village had 50 households with a population of 335. The average number of persons per household was almost the same between the two periods. But its composition and the form of cooperation between households was changed in response to the demographic and livelihood changes over the time. Acknowledgement: This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 25257004.

### Key words:

Household demography; Laos; Development Cycle; Kin Cooperation