

WEALTH RANKING AND LAND USE PATTERNS – A CASE STUDY IN THREE VILLAGES OF O MON DISTRICT –CANTHO PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

A survey of nearly 2,000 farmers in 2003 was conducted at three villages namely Thoi Long, Thoi Lai and Phuoc Thoi, which belong to O Mon district, Cantho province. Information on farmers' wealth and farming diversification were collected. Wealth ranking was obtained by applying an indirect interview technique by the Gradin method (1994).

Inviting senior farmers and other concerned persons who relate to agricultural production and key informants, we expect to be able to answer questions on knowledge and behavior of others, especially operations of farming system. Key informants are accessible, willing to talk, and have great depth of knowledge about an area, certain crops, credit, marketing and other problems. The case study has been conducted by inviting the owners of tractors, threshers, senior farmers, farmer association representatives, security men, and financial men. The three persons for each category were interviewed, and then wealth ranking consisting of five categories were classified and described by each informant. The result obtained is the common idea of the three interview persons.

The obtained results show that different village communities varied very much in terms of wealth ranking, especially with respect of remote areas like Thoi Lai, which had better infrastructure as well as agricultural facilities as compared to Thoi Long that is nearby a main road. The total gross income of Thoi Lai was higher than the other ones. The average cultivated land area varied between categories. The characteristics of different categories in wealth ranking at the three villages are farm size, pump machines, plough machines, thresher, transportation facilities, refrigerator, television, permanent and semi permanent housing, total gross return from agriculture recorded for various wealth rank category. Wealth ranking is a simple technique that allows researchers to understand quickly the nature of wealth differences in a community.

RATIONAL

Surveying about economic aspects is usually facing difficulty, especially concerning wealth ranking for farmers. Psychologically, farmers seldom want to confide their own situation. Through many results obtained by direct interview, the method revealed that the rich and relatively rich farmers always accept them more than the average farmer because the latter hesitate to expose themselves to others. Poor farmers, finally, self-appoint themselves as relatively rich in order to get respect. Therefore, wealth-ranking method by indirect interview is applied to overcome this

situation. Wealth ranking is a simple field research technique through which a researcher, planner, or extension agent can learn in what ways rich and poor households are generally different from each other in an area, and relative wealth status of each household in specific communities (Gradin 1994).

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

A survey of nearly 2,000 farmers in 2003 was conducted at three villages namely Thoi Long, Thoi Lai and Phuoc Thoi, which belong to O Mon district, Cantho province in collaboration with Lund University (Sweden). Among other

things, information about farmer wealth was collected. Wealth ranking was obtained by applying indirect interview technique that consisted of several steps:

- Collection all farmers' names who need to be categorized
- Write each name of household on thick paper
- Check name and family name of each house owner to avoid same name between house owners while numbering

We invited senior farmers and other concerned persons who relate to agricultural production and key informants who are expected to be able to answer questions about the knowledge and behavior of others, especially operations of farming system. Key informants are accessible, willing to talk, and expressed knowledgeable answers on farm size, crops, credit, marketing and other problems

Wealth ranking is done unbiased, faithfully without influence of any other persons' ideas because interview is carried out in isolation.

To ensure an accurate appraisal and reliability, the ideas of wealth ranking is repeated three times for each group.

After getting wealth ranking result, the explained details about given reasons for each category from 1 to 5 of each informant was recorded carefully. The final ranking was established based on mean of three replications

Case study has been conducted by inviting owners of tractors, threshers; senior farmers, farmer association representatives; security and financial people. Three persons from each category were then informally interviewed after wealth ranking consisting of five categories had been made and described by each informant. Common idea /ranking of the three interviewed persons for each category were offered. In case each informant supplied different ideas, the result needed to be again checked in order to find correct conclusion. The results were presented on maps where the black color presented area (ha), blue for normal wealth ranking and green for sampled farmers with their I.D. No.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The obtained results shown that the different village communities varied very markedly in terms of wealth ranking, especially in remote areas like Thoi Lai village which had a better infrastructure as well as agricultural facilities as compared to Thoi Long village that is nearby a main road. The total gross income of Thoi Lai was higher as compared to other ones. The average cultivated land area varied between categories. The characteristics of different categories in wealth ranking at the three villages are furnished in table 1, 2 and 3 for Thoi Long, Thoi Lai and Phuoc Thoi, respectively.

Under the first category of the three villages, *viz.*, Thoi Long, Thoi Lai and Phuoc Thoi, the mean cultivated area varied between 0.60 – 1.12; 1.54 - 4.17 and 0.47-1.68 ha. The number of households having pump machines occurred as 51.61; 78.49 and 82.40 per cent for the villages. The number of households having ploughs was 2.15; 2.15 and 1.04 per cent, respectively. The number of households having thresher machines was 8.60; 10.75 and 9.69%, respectively. The number of households with rotovator power machines was 9.68, 1.61 and 8.30 per cent. In respect of transportation facilities, the number of households having engine boat was 5.38, 11.29 and 15.92 per cent, respectively. The number of households having a motorcycle was 93.55, 46.77 and 89.27 per cent. The number of households having a bicycle was 65.59, 47.31 and 84.08 per cent in the three villages. The number of households having a sprayer was 81.72, 91.94 and 87.89 per cent. The number of households having refrigerators was 36.56, 16.67 and 13.84 per cent, respectively. The number of households having black and white television sets was 22.58, 4.84 and 0.35 %, while the number of households having color television sets was 92.47, 88.71 and 96.19 percent, respectively. In respect of housing conditions, the number of households having a permanent house was 70.97, 66.67 and 18.69 per cent, while the number of households having a semi permanent house was 25.81, 27.96 and 79.93 per cent, respectively. The total gross return from agriculture recorded for the three villages, was 24.78, 54.78 and VND 52.61

million. The total gross return from non-agricultural activities was recorded as VND 5.65, 22.59 and 46.78 million (Tables 1, 2 and 3).

Table1. Characteristics of different categories in Wealth Ranking at Thoi Long village

Characteristics	Richest	Rich	Medium	Poor	Poorest
1. Cultivated are (ha)	0.60- 1.12	0.022- 0.65	0.021- 0.43	0.19	0.01
2. Pump (%)	51.61	31.44	8.26	5.55	0.91
3. Plough machine (%)	2.15	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Thresher (%)	8.60	5.69	1.65	0.00	0.00
5. Rotovator power (%)	9.68	4.35	2.75	0.00	0.00
6. Transport (%)					
a. Engine boat	5.38	1.00	1.10	0.00	0.00
b. Small boat	29.03	30.10	14.86	6.02	1.82
c. Motorcycle	93.55	52.51	8.26	1.83	0.00
d. Bicycle	65.59	42.81	23.67	33.25	1.82
8. Sprayer (%)	81.72	75.92	54.50	26.44	3.64
9. Refrigerator (%)	36.56	3.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
10. Television: Black and white (%)	22.58	21.74	13.76	21.47	10.91
(%) Color	92.47	62.88	32.48	10.99	0.91
11. House condition: (%)					
a. Permanent	70.97	14.05	0.55	0.00	0.00
b. Semi permanent	25.81	63.88	24.22	2.88	0.00
c. Temporary	0.00	22.07	80.37	97.12	100.00
12. Gross return: (Million VND)					
a. From agriculture	24.78	15.03	5.58	3.99	1.09
b. Non-farm	5.65	4.67	0.38	0.89	0.80

Table 2. Characteristics of different categories in Wealth Ranking at Thoi Lai village

Characteristics	Richest	Rich	Medium	Poor	Poorest
1. Mean cultivated are (ha)					
2. Pump (%)	78.49	71.28	53.53	29.95	1.90
3. Plough machine (%)	2.15	0.26	00.00	00.00	00.00
4. Thresher (%)	10.75	2.56	00.00	00.00	00.00
5. Rotovator power (%)	1.61	0.51	00.00	00.00	00.00
6. Transport (%)					
a. Engine boat	11.29	7.18	4.38	00.00	00.00
b. Small boat	55.91	56.15	44.77	25.12	9.52
c. Motorcycle	46.77	12.05	9.25	1.93	00.00
d. Bicycle	47.31	49.49	44.28	22.71	10.48
8. Sprayer (%)	91.94	86.41	66.91	24.15	7.62
9. Refrigerator (%)	16.67	1.79	0.49	00.00	00.00
10. Television: Black white (%)	4.84	12.56	23.11	45.89	9.52
(%) Color	88.71	78.21	57.18	23.67	00.00
11. House condition: (%)					
a. Permanent	66.67	26.92	4.38	0.48	0.00
b. Semi permanent	27.96	66.92	76.16	18.36	2.86
c. Temporary	1.08	2.31	19.46	71.98	97.14
12. Total return: (Million VND)					
a. From agriculture	54.78	21.89	19.10	7.71	0.83
b. Non-farm	22.59	5.69	3.53	1.15	0.86

Table 3 Characteristics of different categories in Wealth Ranking at Phuoc Thoi village

Characteristics	Categories	Richest	Rich	Medium	Poor	Poorest
1. Mean cultivated are (ha)		0.47-1.68	0.31-1.11	0.20-0.73	0.05-0.34	00.00
2. Pump (%)		82.70	64.98	38.02	10.37	00.00
3. Plough machine (%)		1.04	0.30	2.10	00.00	00.00
4. Thresher (%)		9.69	3.73	00.00	00.00	00.00
5. Rotovator power (%)		8.30	3.28	0.30	00.00	00.00
6. Transport (%)	a. Engine boat	15.92	8.94	5.69	00.00	00.00
	b. Small boat	58.13	46.50	24.85	10.05	5.80
	c. Motorcycle	89.27	43.96	16.47	8.82	2.90
	d. Bicycle	84.08	69.75	66.47	41.27	23.19
8. Sprayer (%)		87.89	67.36	57.19	38.10	00.00
9. Refrigerator (%)		13.84	1.64	00.00	00.00	00.00
10. Television: Black white (%)		0.35	8.49	26.05	13.76	18.84
	(%) Color	96.19	85.10	51.50	21.69	4.35
11. House condition: (%)						
	a. Permanent	18.69	5.51	0.60	00.00	00.00
	b. Semi permanent	79.93	81.82	40.42	9.52	5.80
	c. Temporary	00.00	12.97	58.38	89.95	99.62
12. Total return: (Million VND)						
	a. From agriculture	52.61	28.83	14.59	5.22	0.70
	b. Non-farm	46.78	17.93	6.63	1.86	0.34

REFERENCES

Gradin Barbara E.1994. Wealth ranking. Tool for the field. Methodology handbook for gender analysis in agriculture. Rumarian Press, page 21-35

Điều tra về khía cạnh kinh tế nhất là phương diện xếp loại giàu nghèo thường gặp khó khăn, về mặt tâm lý người nông dân ít chịu thổ lộ trung thực hoàn cảnh thực tế của mình. Qua nhiều kết quả điều tra phỏng vấn trực tiếp cho thấy người giàu, khá cũng tự nhận mình là ở mức trung bình vì ngại phô trương còn người nghèo lại tự nhận mình là thuộc cấp trung bình để khỏi bị coi rẻ. Vì vậy phương pháp nghiên cứu phân cấp giàu nghèo bằng phương pháp phỏng vấn gián tiếp được phát triển bởi Gradin (1994) được áp dụng để khắc phục hiện tượng này. Phương pháp phỏng vấn gián tiếp bao gồm các bước như thu thập tên của tất cả các nông hộ cần xếp loại, viết tên từng hộ lên giấy bìa cứng, kiểm tra tên họ giữa các chủ hộ, tránh bị trùng lặp bằng đánh số. Các lão nông tri điền và những người phụ trách sản xuất nông nghiệp được mời làm đại diện phỏng vấn và xếp loại cho các nông hộ ở khu vực mình. Việc xếp loại được thực hiện trên ở sở khách quan, trung thực không bị tác động ý kiến của người khác vì cuộc phỏng vấn được thực hiện ở môi trường cách ly với mọi người. Để đảm bảo độ tin cậy một cách chính xác, ý kiến về phân loại được lặp lại 3 lần cho mỗi tổ /khu vực. Sau khi đã có kết quả xếp loại, các chi tiết giải thích về lý do phân cấp giàu nghèo của từng cá nhân được phỏng vấn cần được ghi chép tỉ mỉ, chính xác của từng cấp phân loại từ 1 đến 5. Nghiên cứu về phân cấp giàu nghèo và hiện trạng bố trí cơ cấu cây trồng được tiến hành từ tháng 04 năm 2003 tại 3 ấp Thới Hoà C, Thới Phong và Thới Ngươn A đại cho cho 3 xã tương ứng là xã Thới Long, Thới Lai và Phước Thới huyện Ô Môn tỉnh Cần Thơ. Số lượng được mời để ghi nhận ý kiến là 78 người gồm các lão nông tri điền, chủ máy cày, chủ máy suốt, tổ trưởng tổ sản xuất, trưởng ấp, xã trưởng, ban chủ nhiệm hợp tác xã để đánh giá cho 2000 nông dân của 3 xã. Kết quả cho thấy các cộng đồng tại các địa phương chênh nhau nhiều về mức độ giàu nghèo. Ở vùng có điều kiện đa dạng hóa sản xuất, đa dạng hóa nguồn thu nhập hơn là thuần nông là chỉ làm lúa thì sẽ có tổng thu nhập cao hơn theo thứ tự Thới Lai > Phước Thới > Thới Long. Bằng phương pháp nghiên cứu này có thể tiết kiệm được chi phí, nhân lực và thời gian rất lớn.