

Is household production of food for own-consumption purposes a predictor of food security and dietary diversity?

Household survey results from rural Myanmar

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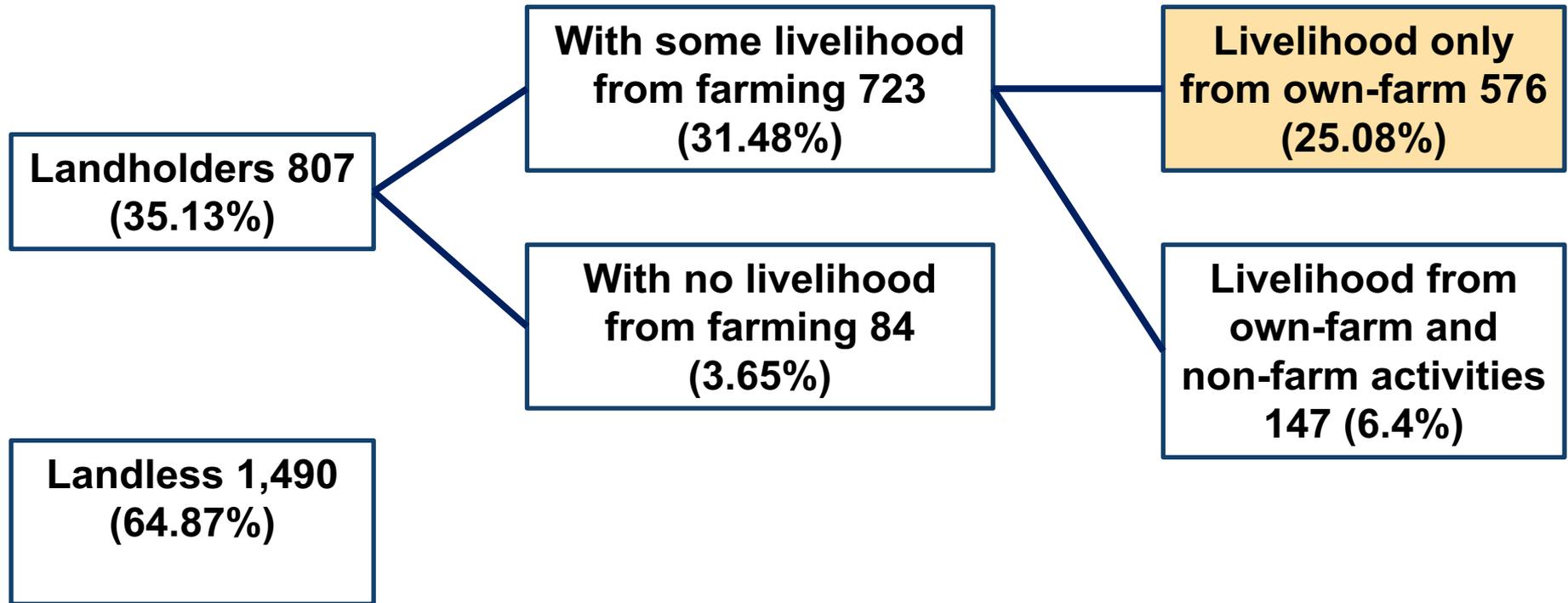
- › Herforth's PhD: "almost no research has tried empirically to answer the question of whether crop diversity matters for the nutritional well-being of small farmer households" (Herforth 2010: 216).
- › Laggard response of nutrition indicators to economic growth in India, 1991-2013, 'the Indian enigma'.
 - Pritchard, B., Rammohan, A., Sekher, M., Parasuraman, S. & Choithani, C. (2014) *Feeding India: Livelihoods, Entitlements and Capabilities*, Earthscan.
- › The agriculture-nutrition disconnect:
 - Gillespie, S., Harris, J. & Kadiyala, S. (2012) The agriculture-nutrition disconnect in India: What do we know? *IFPRI Discussion Paper 001187*

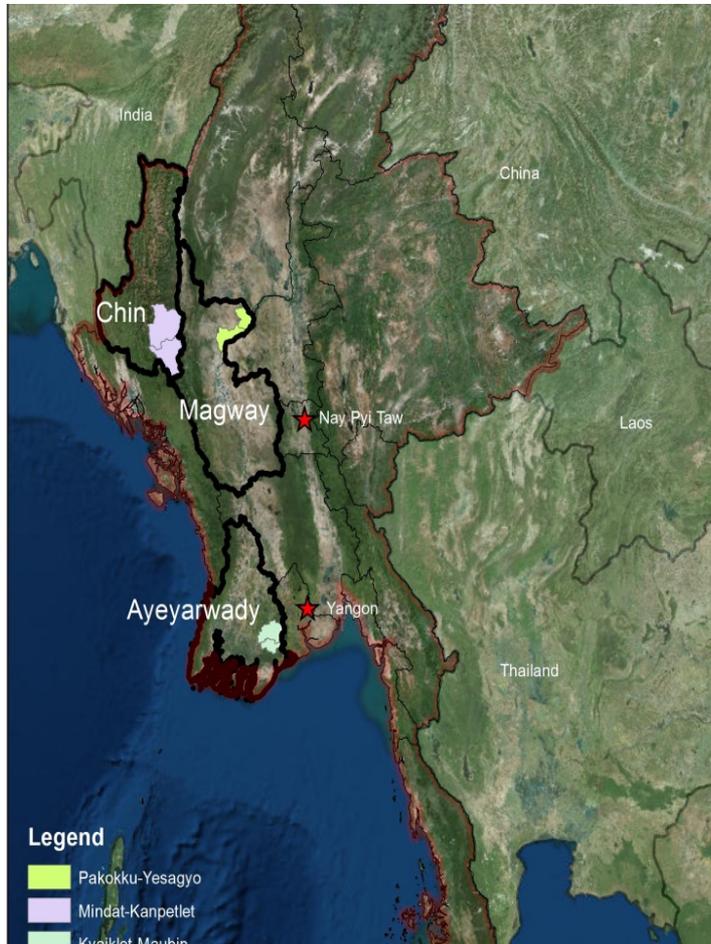
> Shortcomings in the existing evidence base:

1. Temporal disjuncture
2. Food own-consumption disjuncture
3. Livelihoods disjuncture



Land tenure and livelihoods of Delta and Central Dry Zone households, surveyed 2016 (N=2,297)



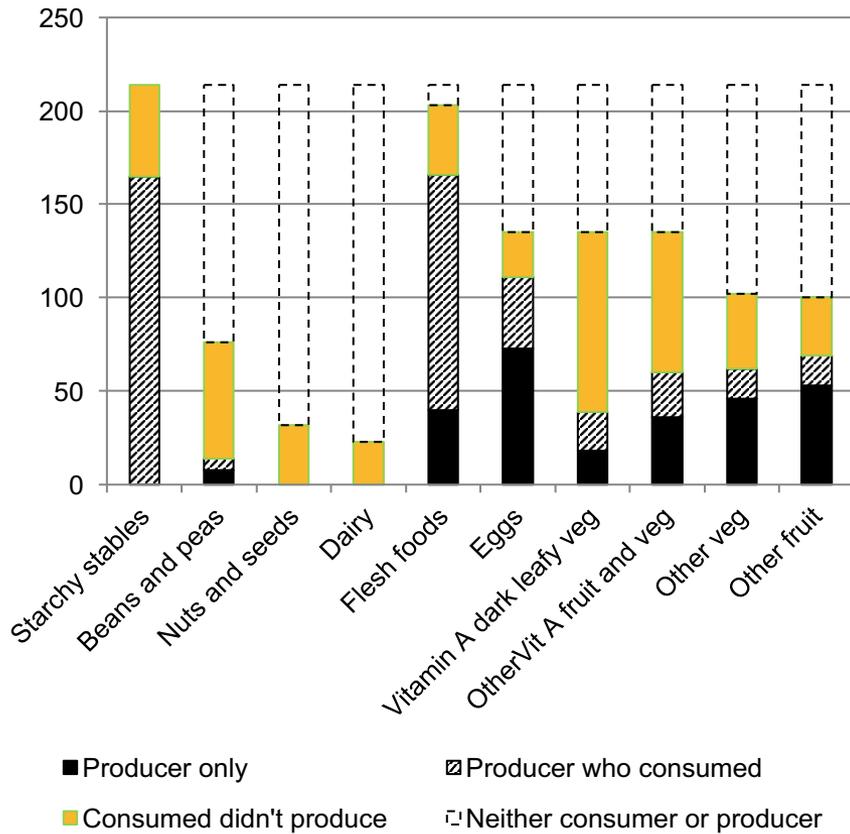


> Whole-source production estimates

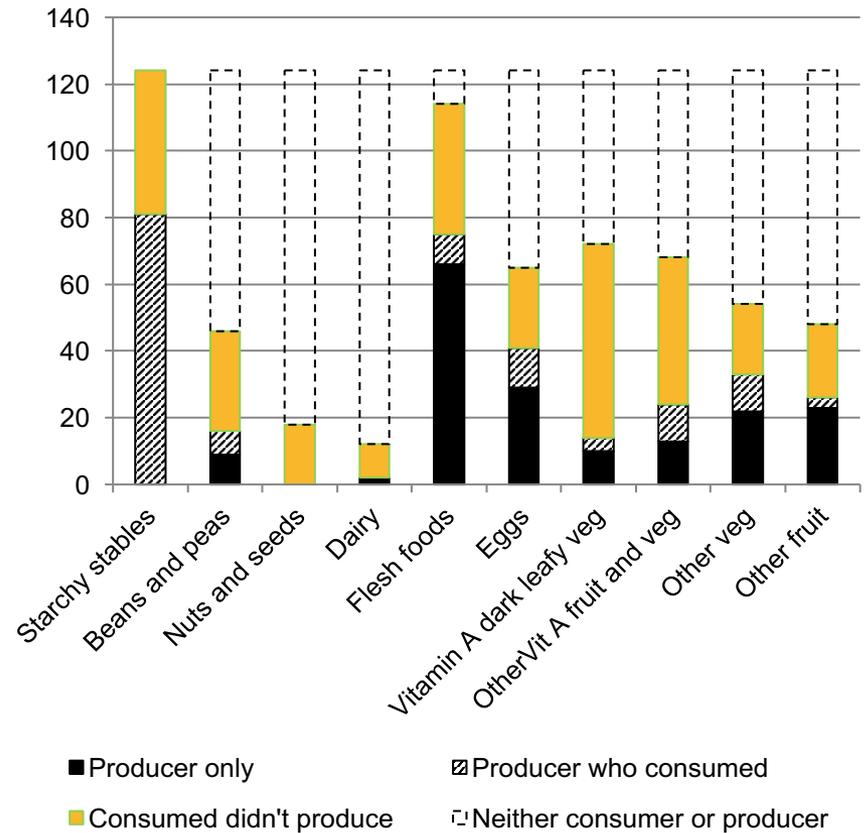
1. crops grown in fields (and the extent to which output was kept for own-consumption vis-à-vis market sale);
2. food grown in home gardens;
3. fruit trees or vines accessed on or adjacent to households' land;
4. livestock owned
5. wild foods (plants and animals) caught or foraged from forests, vacant land, rivers etc

Results, interpretations and conclusions

Kyaiklet

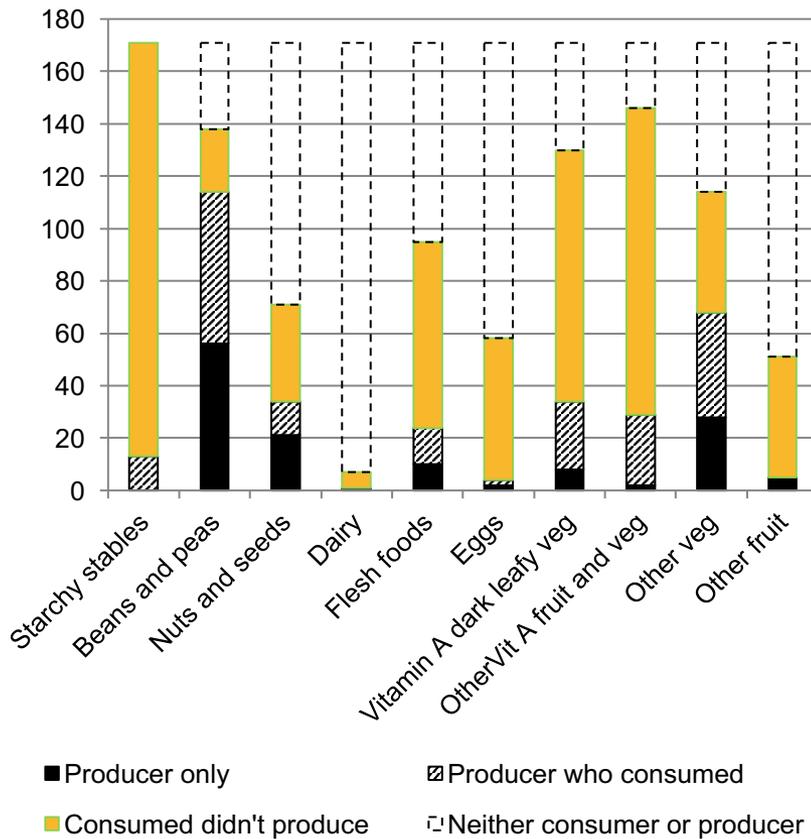


Maubin

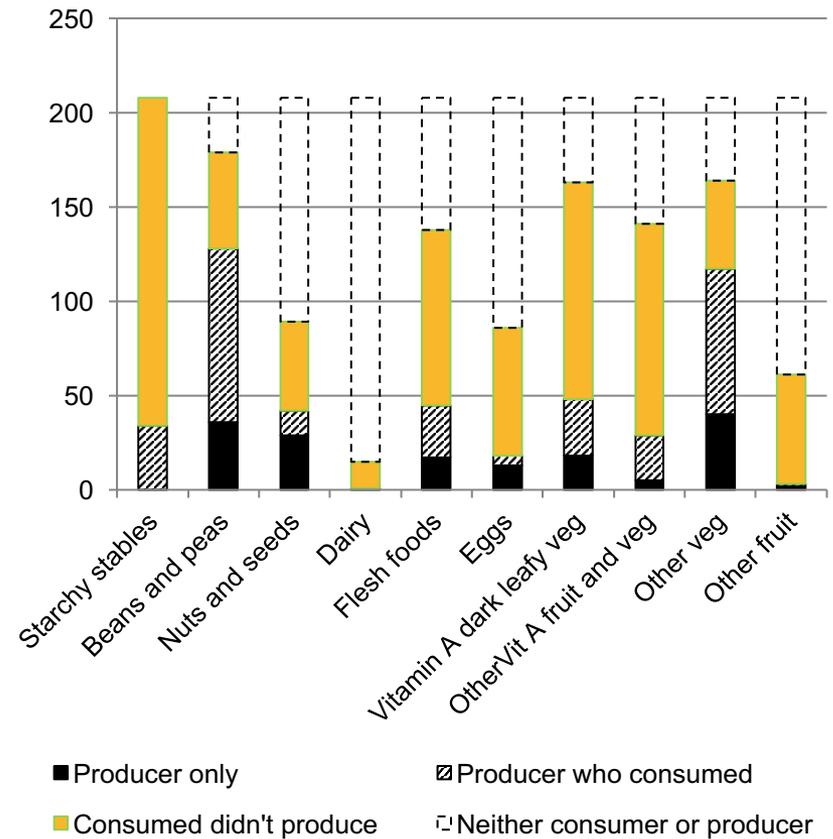


Results, interpretations and conclusions

Pakokku



Yesagyo



1. The yes/no question of whether a household produced food for own-consumption was found to be statistically significant for dietary diversity.

Marginal Effects from probit model on dietary diversity score

Variables	DDS = 2	DDS = 3	DDS = 4	DDS = 5
Ag_diversity = 1	0.00894	-0.0846**	0.0174	0.0327
	(0.0314)	(0.0356)	(0.0274)	(0.0235)
Ag_diversity = 2	-0.0550	-0.183***	0.143***	0.0896**
	(0.0445)	(0.0494)	(0.0472)	(0.0395)
Ag_diversity = 3	-0.0446	-0.203***	0.149***	0.0911**
Observations	3,159	3,159	3,159	3,159

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

2. Considering only those households which produced food for own consumption (which includes both landholding households and landless households with home gardens or capturing/ foraging wild foods), positive associations exist between the diversity of production, and the diversity of consumption.
3. Households that were landholders and had farm-based livelihood arrangements only were not found to have more diverse diets or greater food security than others.
4. Whether or not a household produces food for own-consumption exerts no influence on food security.

Policy implications: greater attention to rural non-farm livelihoods; use of mixed-methods research; caution with using aggregate data with making context-specific conclusions.