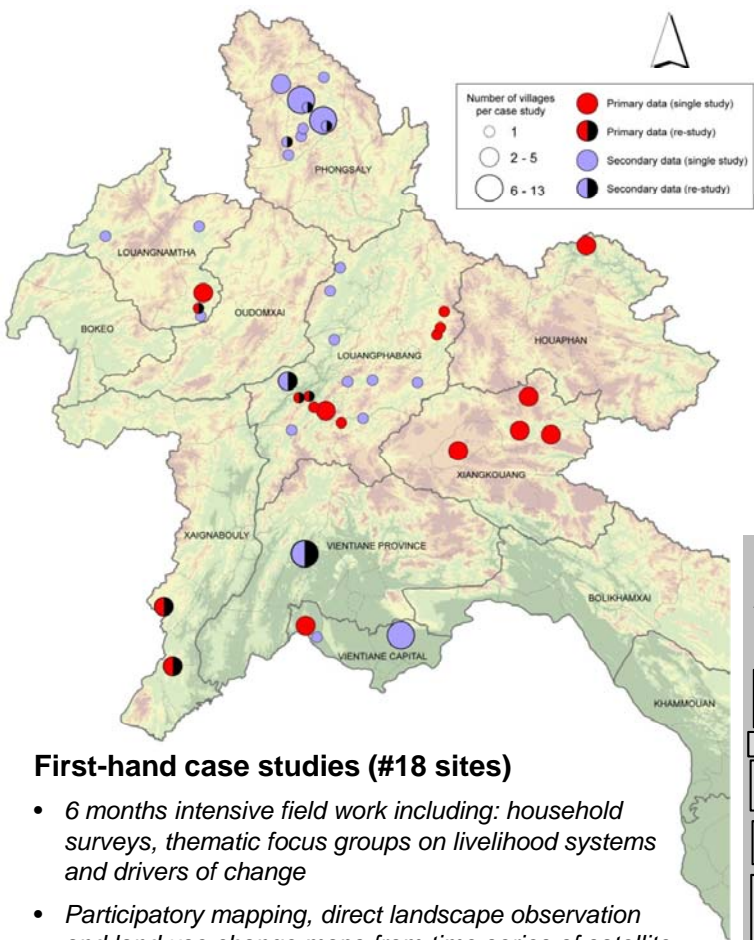# Policy implications of livelihood change in in landscape mosaics of northern Lao PDR

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1: IRD, 2: CIFOR, 3: AgroParisTech

Number of villages per case study
- ○ 1
- ○ 2 - 5
- ○ 6 - 13
- ● Primary data (single study)
- ◑ Primary data (re-study)
- ● Secondary data (single study)
- ◑ Secondary data (re-study)

What are the **drivers of livelihood change** in northern Lao PDR?

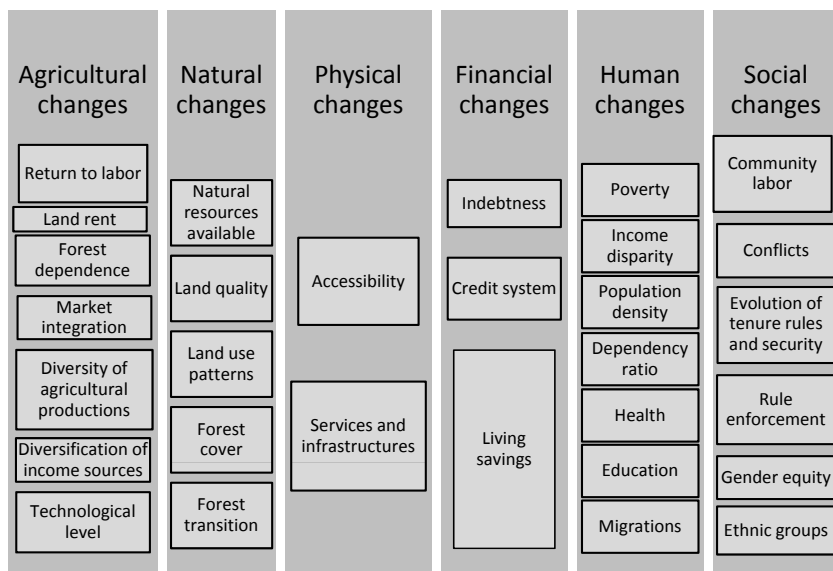What are the **impacts of livelihood change on landscape mosaics**?

A meta-analysis of case studies:
- *Development of a comparative framework*
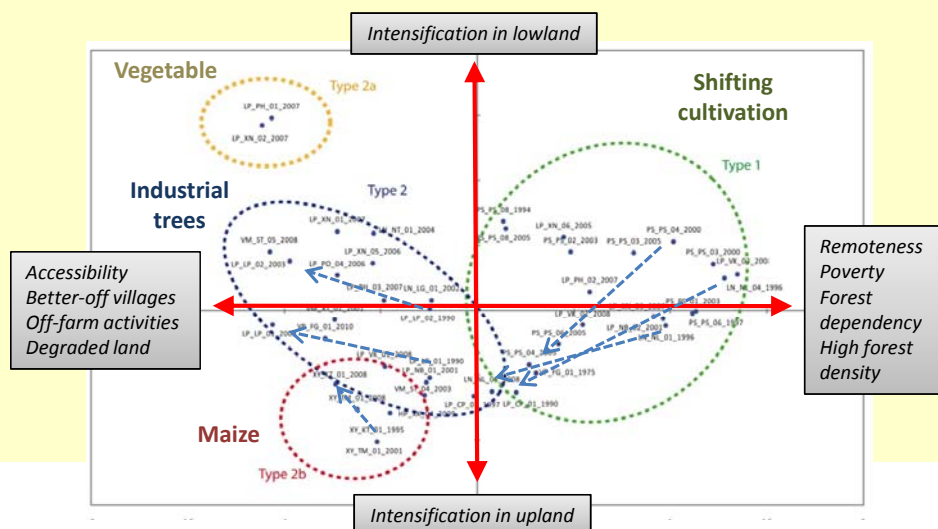- *Based on 30 livelihood and land use indicators*

First-hand case studies (#18 sites)

- *6 months intensive field work including: household surveys, thematic focus groups on livelihood systems and drivers of change*
- *Participatory mapping, direct landscape observation and land use change maps from time series of satellite images*
- *Workshops with local stakeholders: presentation and validation of results, scenario exploration*

+ Data from secondary sources (#25 sites)

Agricultural changes	Natural changes	Physical changes	Financial changes	Human changes	Social changes
Return to labor					Community labor
Land rent	Natural resources available		Indebtness	Poverty	
Forest dependence				Income disparity	Conflicts
Market integration	Land quality	Accessibility	Credit system	Population density	Evolution of tenure rules and security
Diversity of agricultural productions	Land use patterns			Dependency ratio	
				Health	Rule enforcement
Diversification of income sources	Forest cover	Services and infrastructures	Living savings	Education	Gender equity
Technological level	Forest transition			Migrations	Ethnic groups

➡ ***Key patterns of livelihood change*** *in northern Lao PDR*

- Intensification in lowland
- Vegetable — Type 2a
  - LP_PH_01_2007
  - LP_XN_02_2007
- Industrial trees — Type 2
- Shifting cultivation — Type 1
- Accessibility / Better-off villages / Off-farm activities / Degraded land
- Remoteness / Poverty / Forest dependency / High forest density
- Maize — Type 2b
- Intensification in upland

Conclusions

- No need to "force" the eradication of shifting cultivation… the practice will disappear anyway in most accessible landscapes,
- Better to invest resources in buffering negative consequences of rapid market integration on people (e.g. through education) and the environment (e.g. through soil and forest conservation),
- Land and forest policies and investment plans should be adapted to existing spatial patterns of livelihood change.

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