

TransRe: Building Resilience to Climate Change through Migration and Translocality

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TRANSIRE
ENVIRONMENT · MIGRATION · RESILIENCE

Background Migration and Climate Change

Migration and Climate Change

- ➔ Climate change and migration are drawing increasing interest from researchers, policy makers and the general public.
- ➔ One-sided focus on climate change as a push factor contributing to migration and on resulting conflicts and humanitarian crises.
- ➔ The potential of migration for social resilience against environmental risks is neglected

Migration and Climate Change in Thailand

- ➔ Rural livelihoods are exposed to various climate change related risks
- ➔ Internal and international migration (e.g. Singapore, Germany) is a driver of rural change
- ➔ Evidence of feed-back effects of migration on social resilience

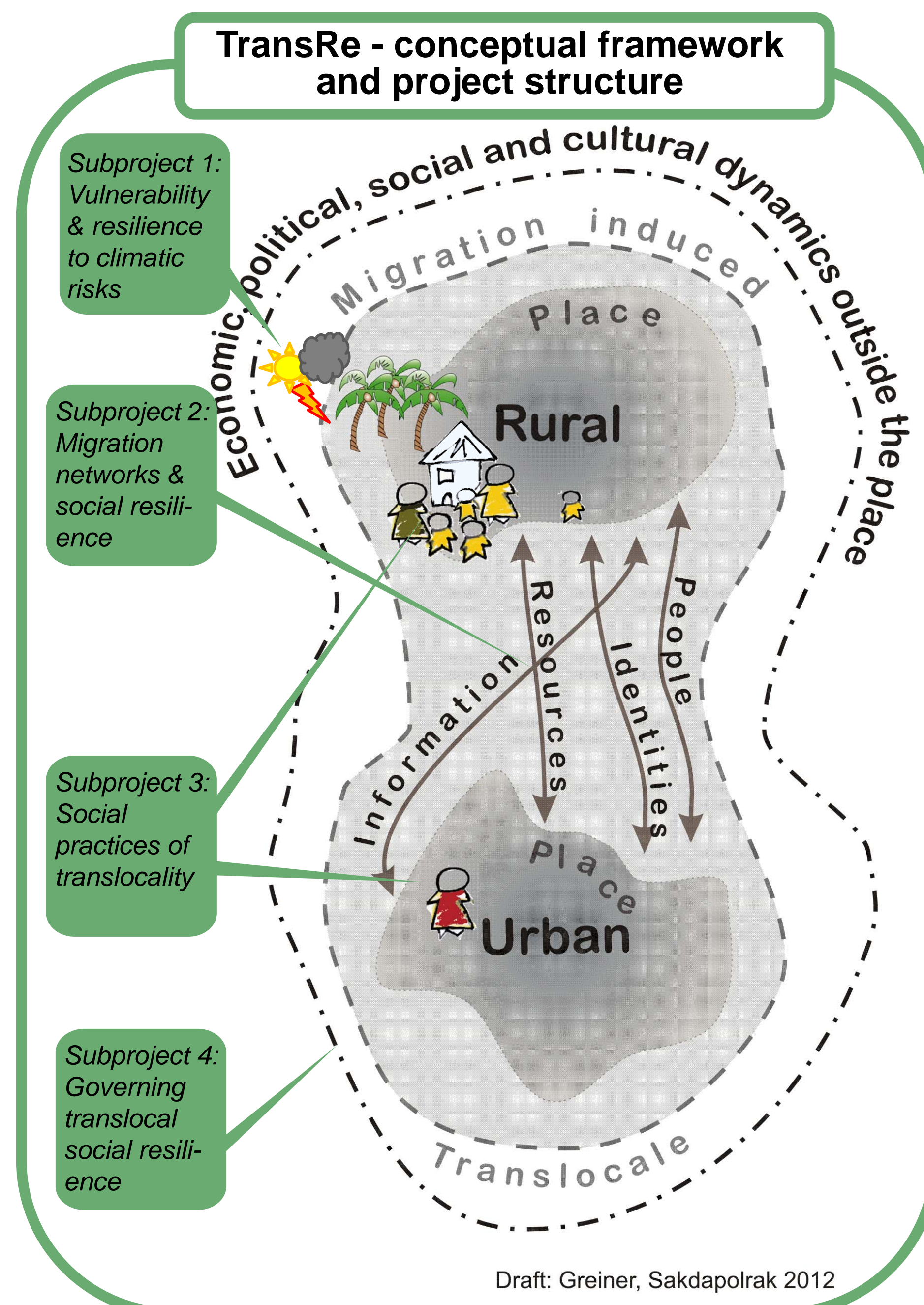
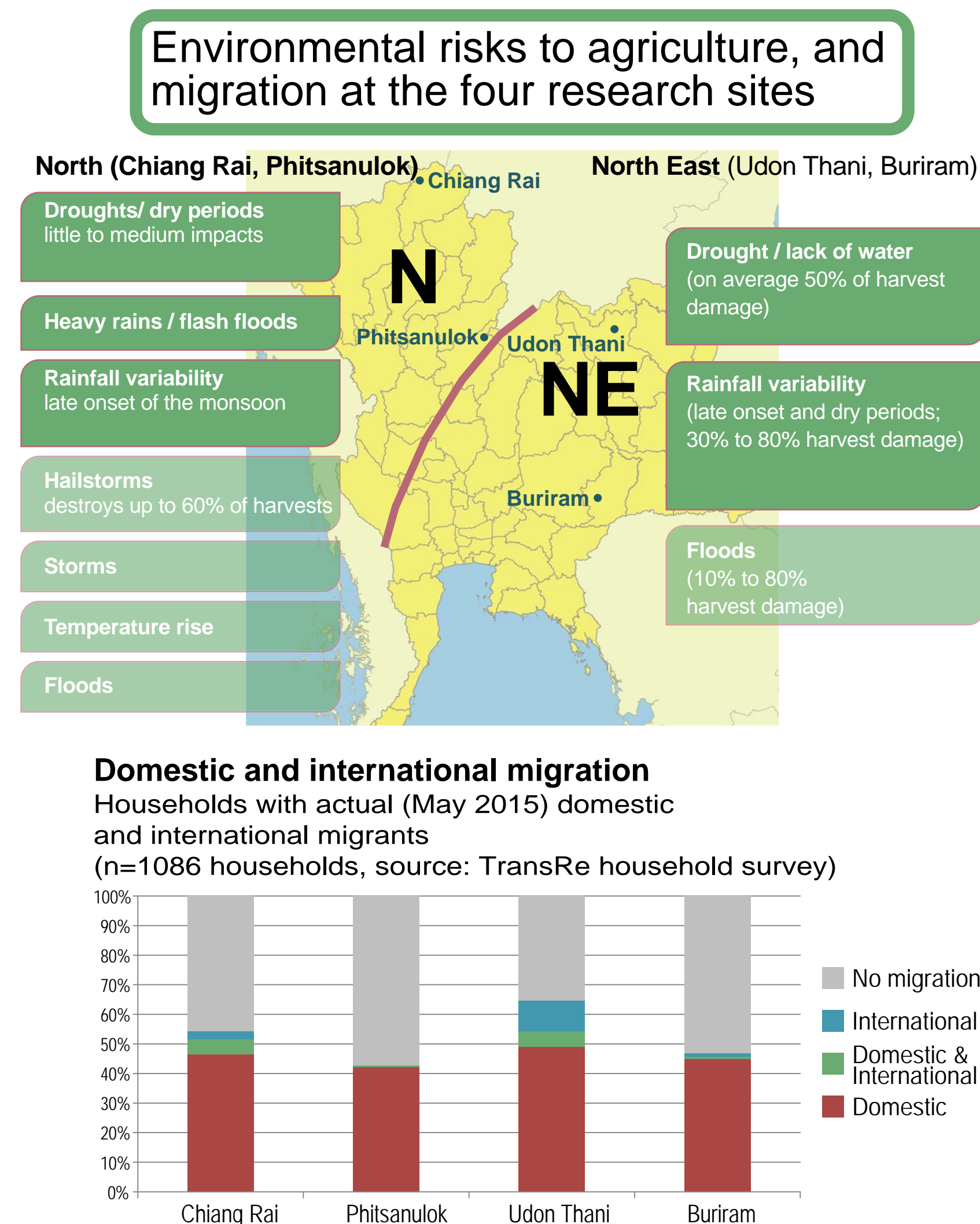


Agriculture in Thailand is highly dependent on sufficient rainfall and thus vulnerable to climate risks. (Image: Paumai)

Methods Mixed Methods, case studies

Qualitative and Quantitative, transdisciplinary

- ➔ Multi-method research design: combination of quantitative (panel survey) and qualitative (multi-sited ethnography, PRA) methods.
- ➔ Comparative & multi-sited: Data gathering in 4 places of origin with different vulnerability profiles and places of destination (urban areas, Singapore & Germany) of migrants.
- ➔ Action research: Research is carried out in close collaboration with practitioners and policy makers. Activities include pilot projects and toolkit development.
- ➔ Combination of dissemination modes, larger outreach: scientific publications & presentations, working & position papers, blog, facebook, youtube.



Conceptual Approach Translocality and Resilience

Translocality

- ➔ An actor-oriented perspective on spatial inter-connections and their social production.
- ➔ Translocal approach captures the situatedness during and after mobility and the simultaneous pluri-local embeddedness.

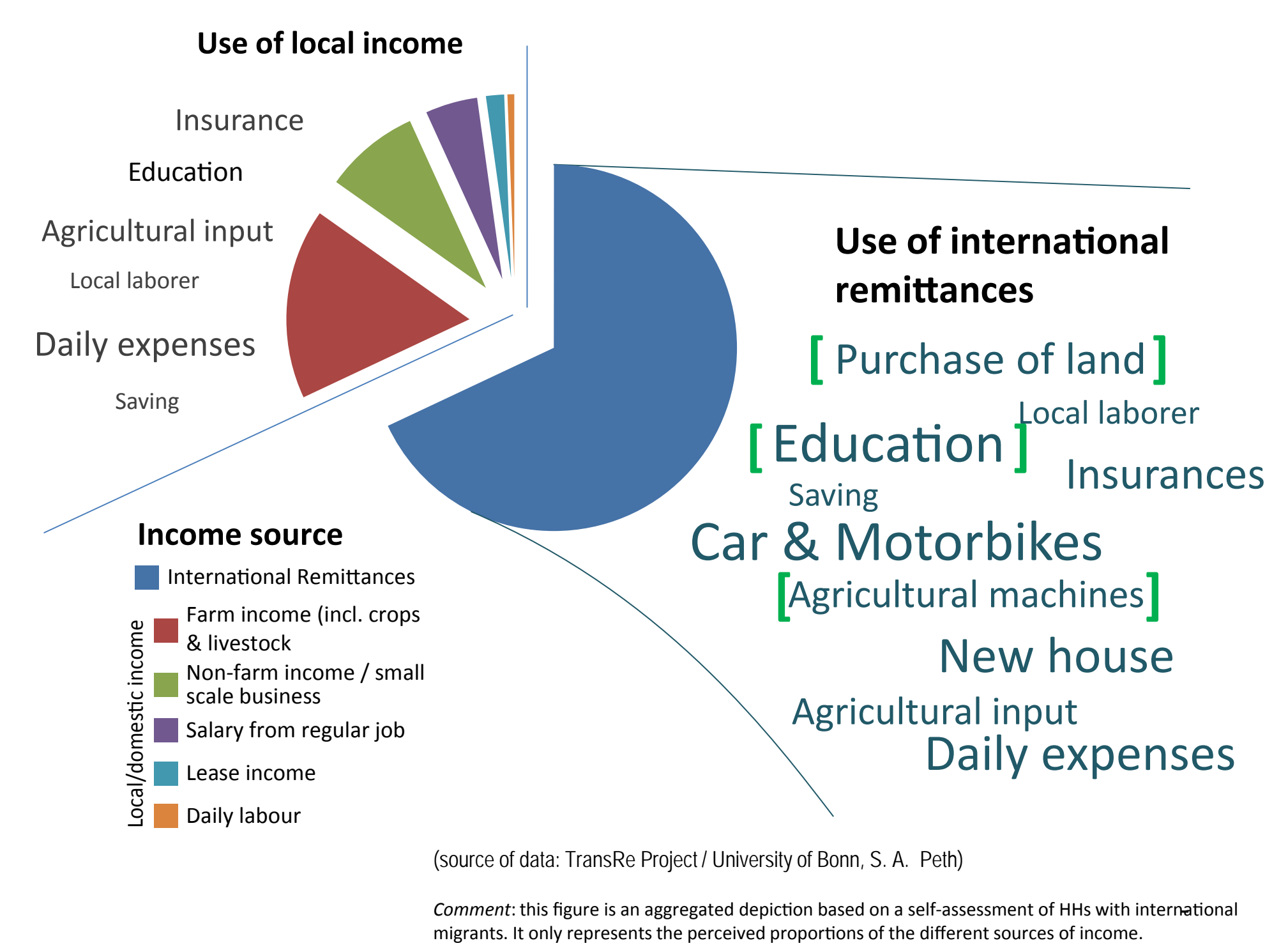
Social Resilience

- ➔ Ability to respond to climatic risks and sustain livelihoods and well-being.
- ➔ 3 capacities of social resilience: coping, adaptive and transformative capacities.

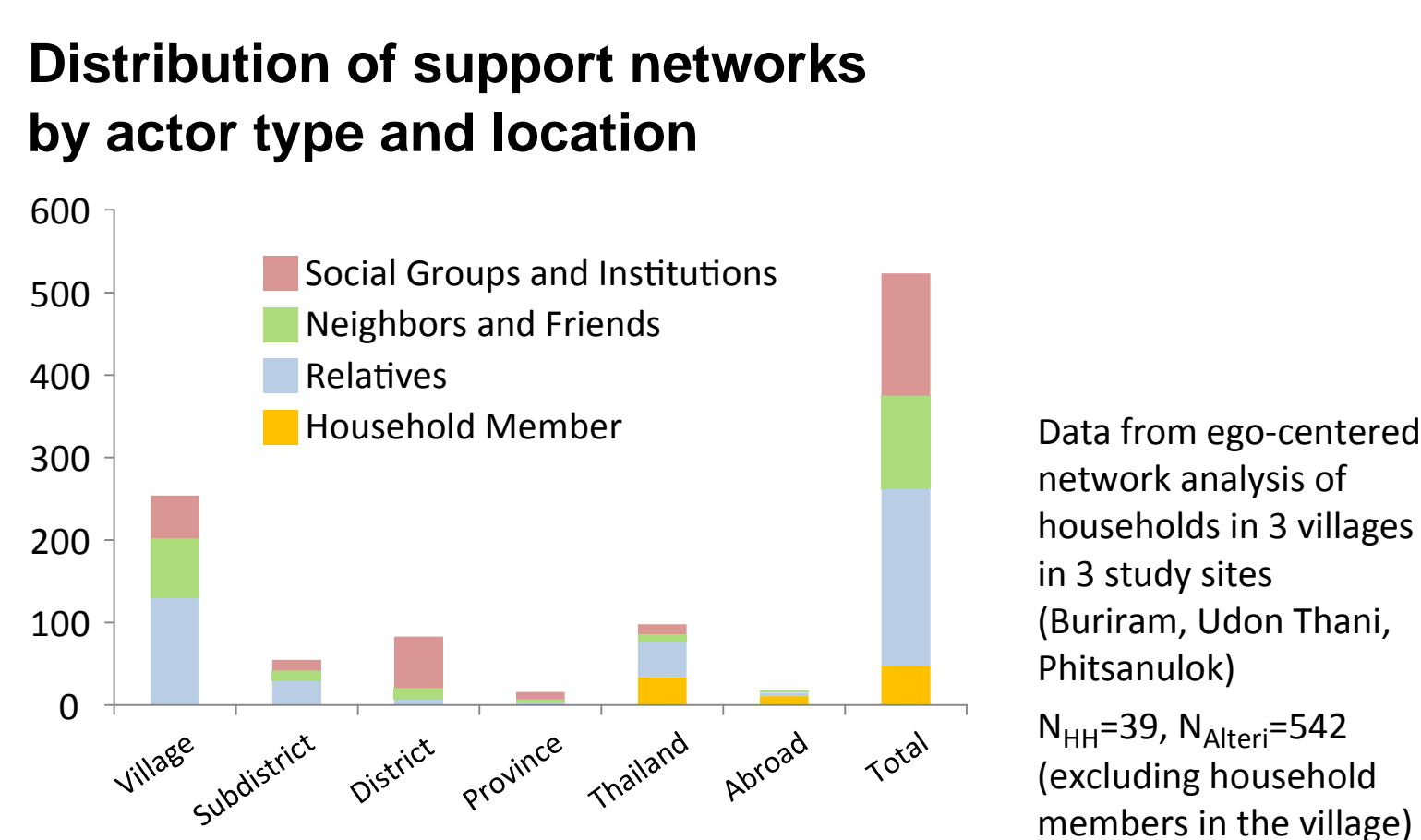
Translocal social resilience

- ➔ Social resilience against environmental risks; resulting from the multiple, translocal embedding of actors, the associated translocal structures and social practices.

Importance of international remittances for household income



Social support networks



Support network by households' land ownership

	Size of network	Share of translocal ties	Importance of translocal ties
No land	--	--	--
Small land	-	-	++
Medium land	+	+	+
Large land	++	++	-

(Source: TransRe Project / University of Bonn, T. Rockenbach)

Results

Major messages

- ➔ Migration - international, but especially domestic - is an important strategy to diversify risks and increase income.
- ➔ Geographical and sectoral diversification of income reduces household risks.
- ➔ Remittances contribute to adaptive and coping capacity (eg investments in agriculture and non-agriculture income, education, etc).
- ➔ The contribution of translocality to resilience is socially differentiated (e.g. by wealth and income, education).
- ➔ Resilience through translocality Migration and translocality are not yet considered in international, national or local adaptation policies, but there is considerable interest.

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