

SEEING IS BELIEVING



How we are wasting resources if farm managers with poor vision do not wear glasses: Evidence from rural Cambodia

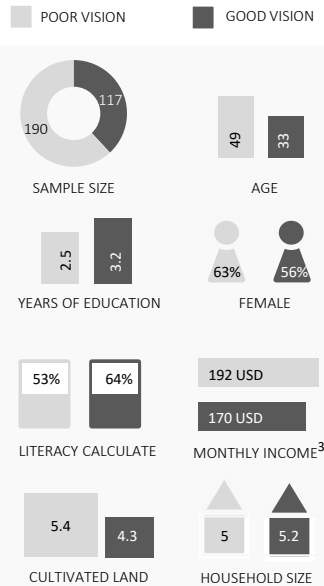
RESEARCH IDEA



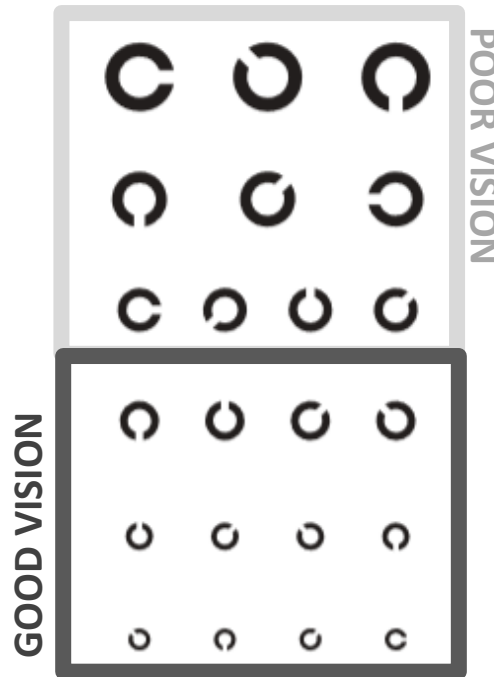
Through observation we recognize that the rural population in Cambodia does not wear glasses. Therefore we ask ourselves:

- 1) Does vision vary among the rural population?
- 2) If so, does poor vision influence economic performance of farm managers?

HOUSEHOLDS



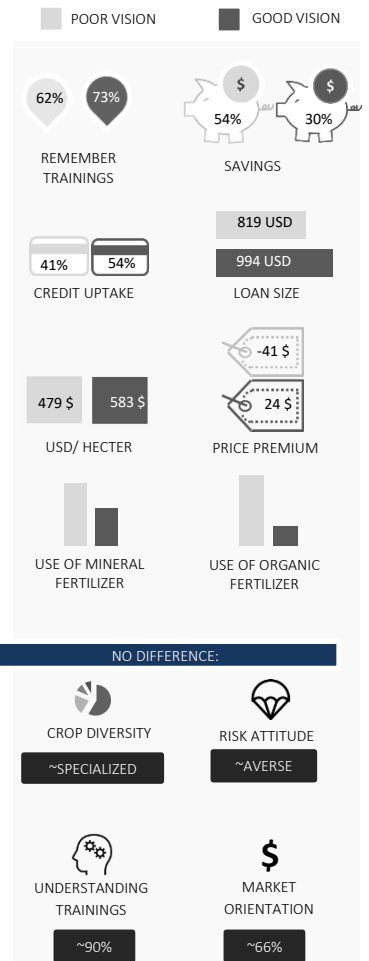
METHOD EYE TEST²



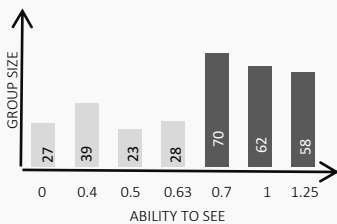
STUDY AREA

The data collection took place in fall 2018 with **309 smallholder farmers**, in Ratanakiri, **north eastern Cambodia**. While poor eyesight, not corrected by glasses, can be a worldwide problem, **Cambodia presents a special case**. During the Genocide in the 1970s, those wearing glasses were assumed to be part of the upper class and thus targeted by the Khmer Rouge.¹

RESULTS



DETAILED OVERVIEW OF OUR SAMPLE:



CONCLUSION

Our data suggests that poor vision impairs farm managers in their daily business activities. The analysis puts forward that farmers with good vision have a **higher productivity** per hectare and that they get **higher prices** for their produce. Thus, treating poor vision can stop farmers from **blindly wasting resources**. Policies and extension that do not take vision into account will not support all farmers equally and leave those most burdened behind.

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