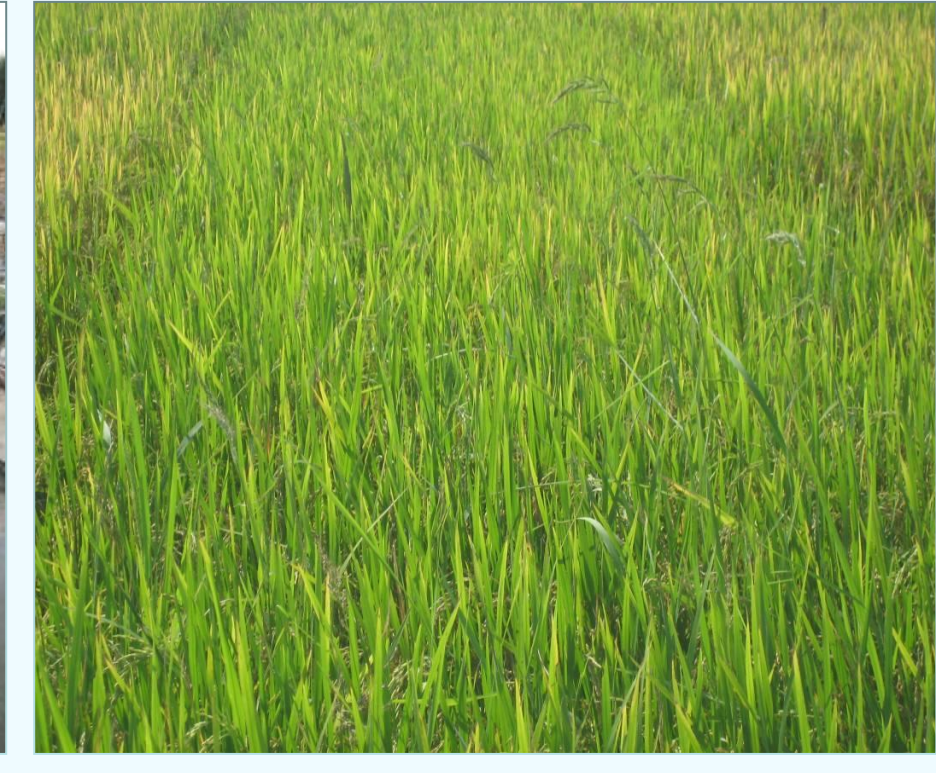
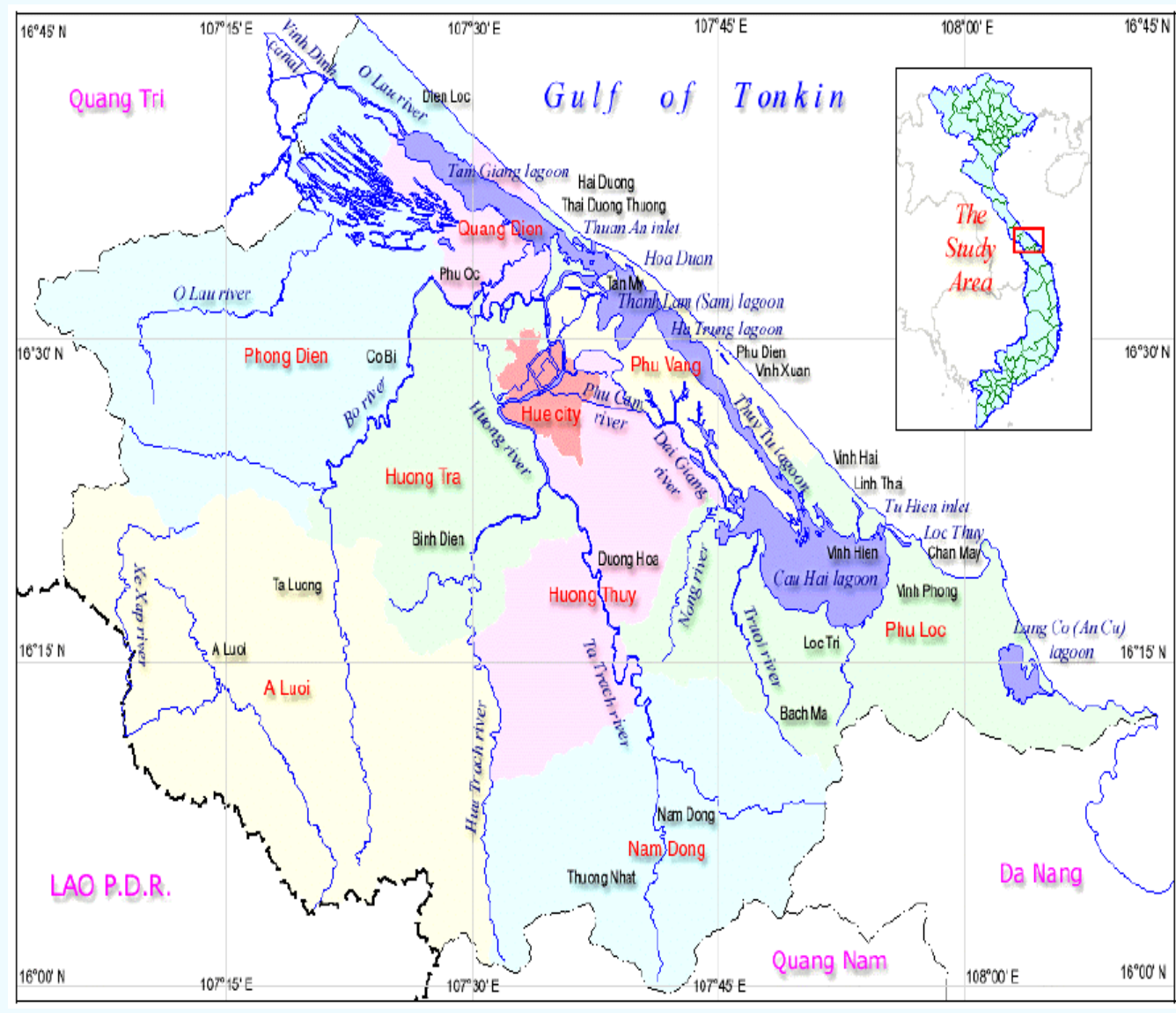


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Thua Thien Hue Province

Objective : to evaluate the socio-economic issues leading to gender gap; to identify the challenges and possible policy to improve gender issues in the rice-based farming communities in the context of rural development in the region.

Results

1. Socio – economic conditions

Rice-based farming communities in the coastal area is well-known as the most crowded with the big size of family. About 90% of the population are living in the rural area and most of them strongly depending on agriculture for their livelihood.

Due to an increasingly depleted and degraded resource, overexploitation, resource access conflicts and inadequate resource management, their livelihood is among the most insecure and vulnerable.

Traditionally cultural beliefs give overestimated value to the men generate many disadvantages are still specific to women, the poor women in particular since they are responsible for birth giving and overload of housework and economic activities. But their voice is limited in process of decision making in family as well as societies due to traditional beliefs and stereotypes.

2. Rice production

Farm size is relatively small and mainly allocated to rice production and increasingly concentration to the better-off households. Women is increasingly responsible for farm works due to the men's migration for cash income activities.

Due to low quality of land, flood, drought, poor irrigation, invasion of salination, rice yield and its economic efficiency is low. In many sites, the households are insecurity of food, the women poor in particular

3. The households income

Agriculture contributes importantly to the households income in which rice is one of the most important income sources. The households income is relatively low compared to other regions, although there is considerably increased over period 2003-2008. Consequently, the incidence of the poverty in the rice-based communities is relatively high, the women in particular.

Table 1. Family size by the typologies of the households

	2003-2004			2007-2008		
	Poor	Average	Better-off	Poor	Average	Better-off
Household size (persons)	6.3	6.7	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.9
< 12 years (%)	32.5	19.3	14.8	20.0	13.6	11.1
12 to 18 years (%)	23.3	24.9	24.7	24.6	17.6	15.7
18 to 55 years (%)	36.0	48.8	51.9	43.6	57.6	60.8
> 55 years (%)	8.1	7.0	8.6	11.8	11.2	12.4

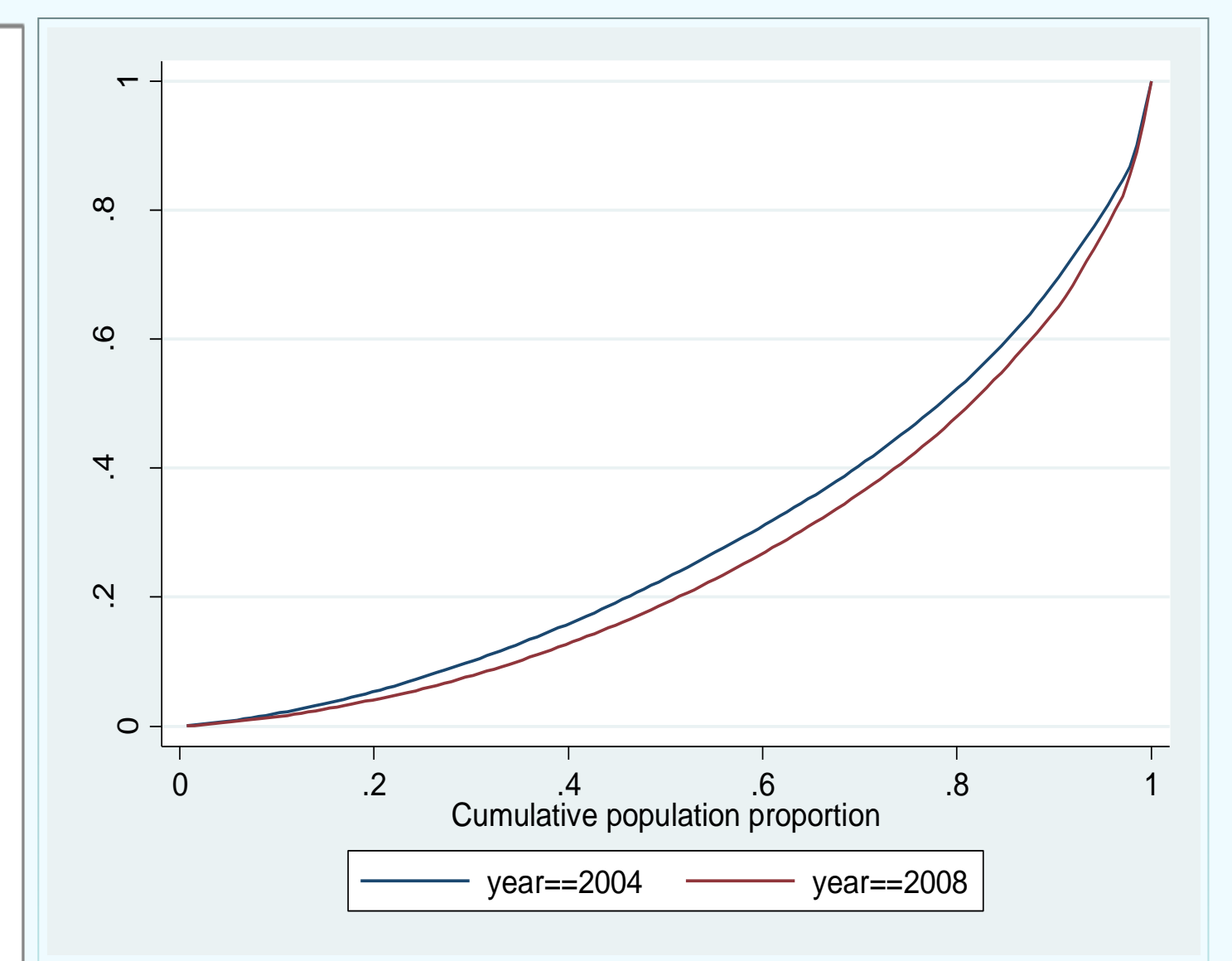
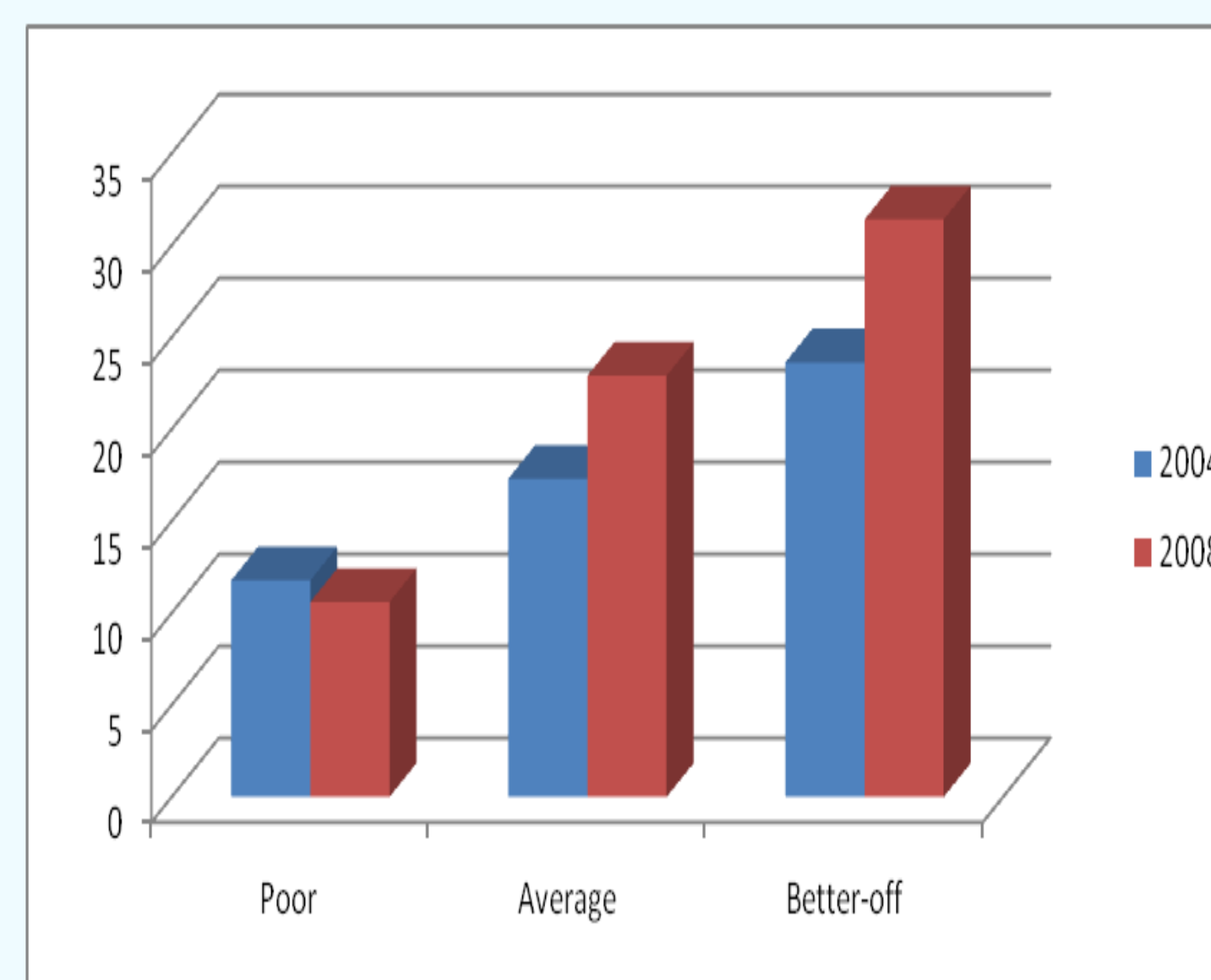


Figure 1. Farm size (sao /hh) and land allocation among the households

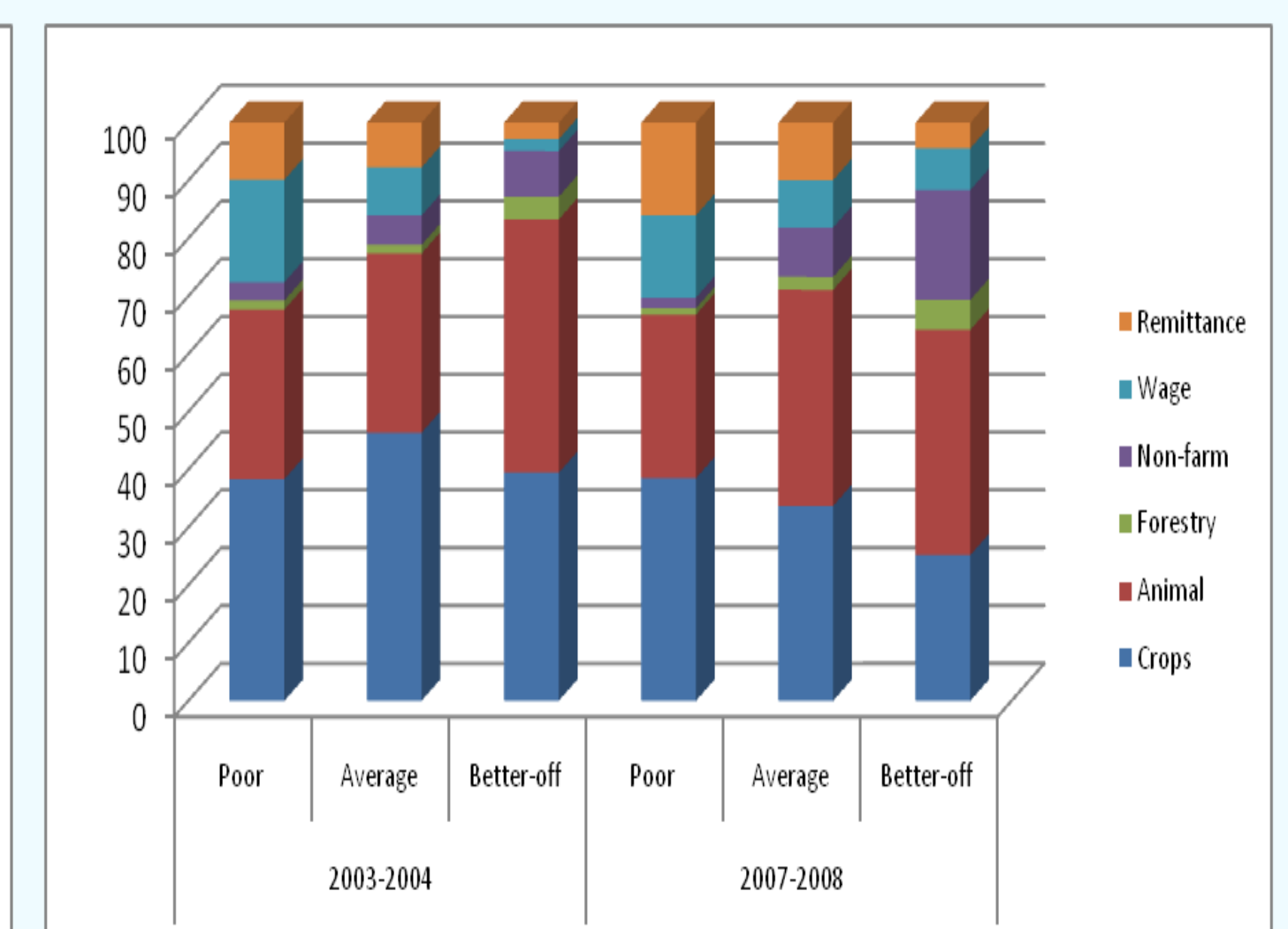
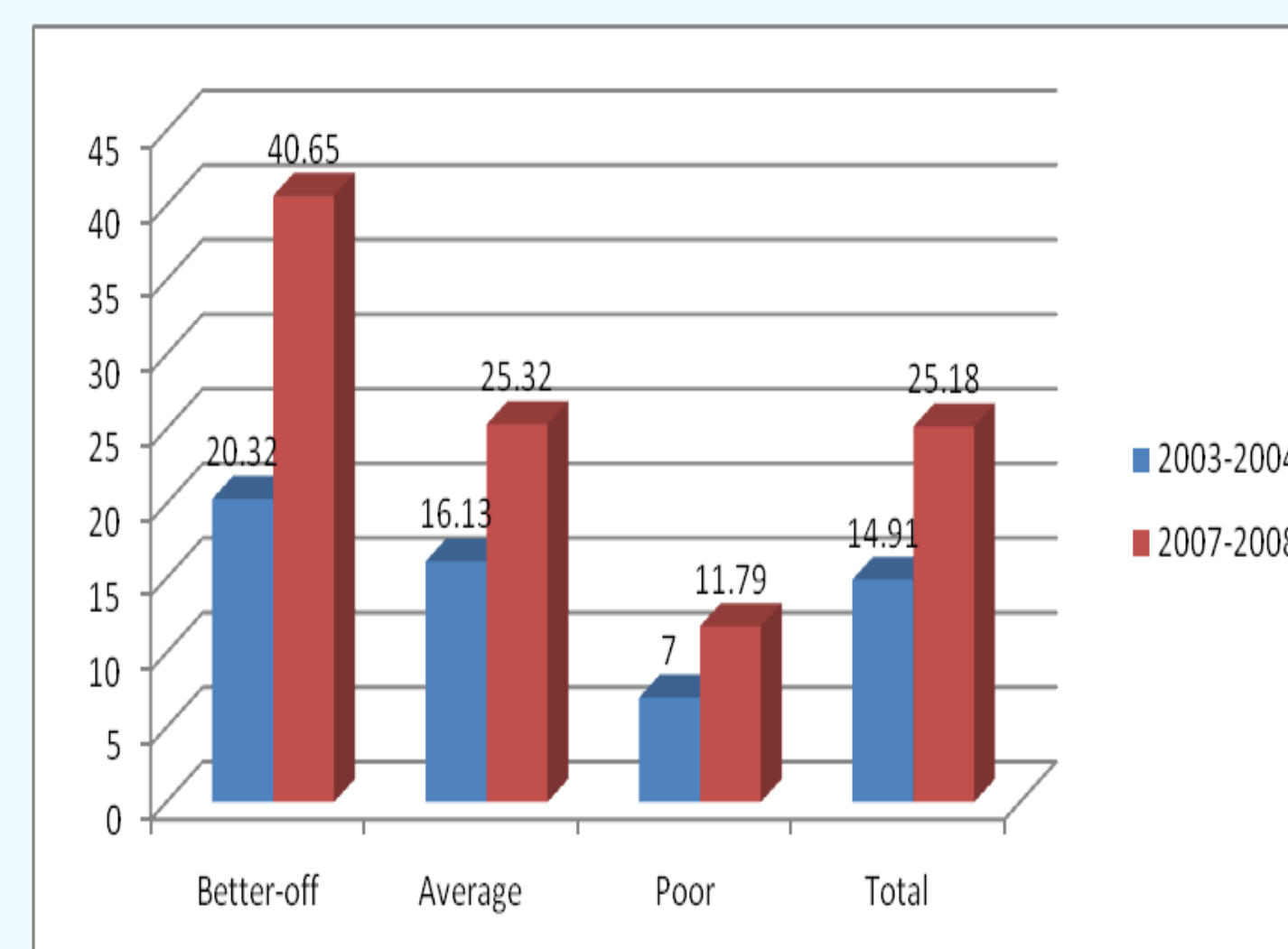


Figure 2. Households income and its structure, over period 2003-2008

Conclusions: Rice sector plays an important role in the livelihood of the households in the coastal area. Unfavourable socio-economic and natural conditions give much challenge for the development of rice sector which is highly involved by rural women. It implicates that 1) gender equality should be taken account in rural development policies related to access to resources, income generation, development planning, trainings and decision making process; 2) more support policies for women in economic activities such as credit, alternative income activities, trainings on business skills and transferring technology and 3) raising awareness about gender for local authorities.