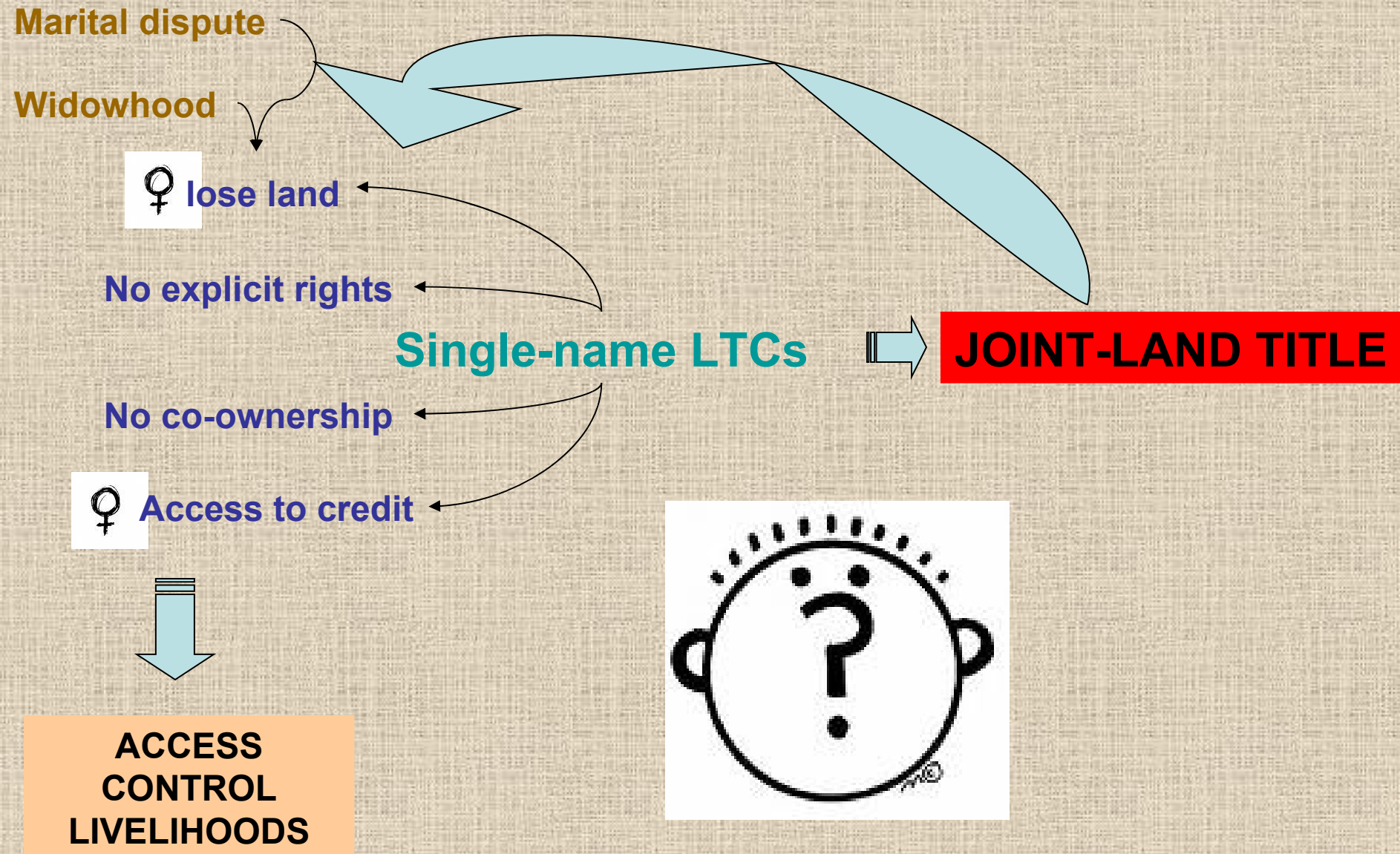




The Implication of Vietnam's Joint-land Title Policy on
Women and Their Empowerment

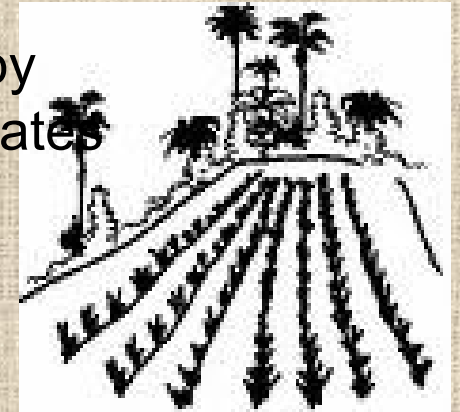
By Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha

Research Problem



Research Questions

1. Are women benefiting and being empowered by having their names in the Land Tenure Certificates (LTCs)?

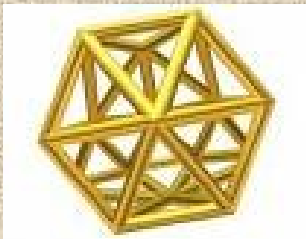


2. How do existing social and cultural norms mediate women's perceptions and capability in claiming for their land entitlements?

Research Objectives



To assess the implications of having formal land title on women's economic and social empowerment; and



To understand how certain social and cultural norms mediate women's perceptions and behaviour towards exercising land rights

Methodology

Phase 1:

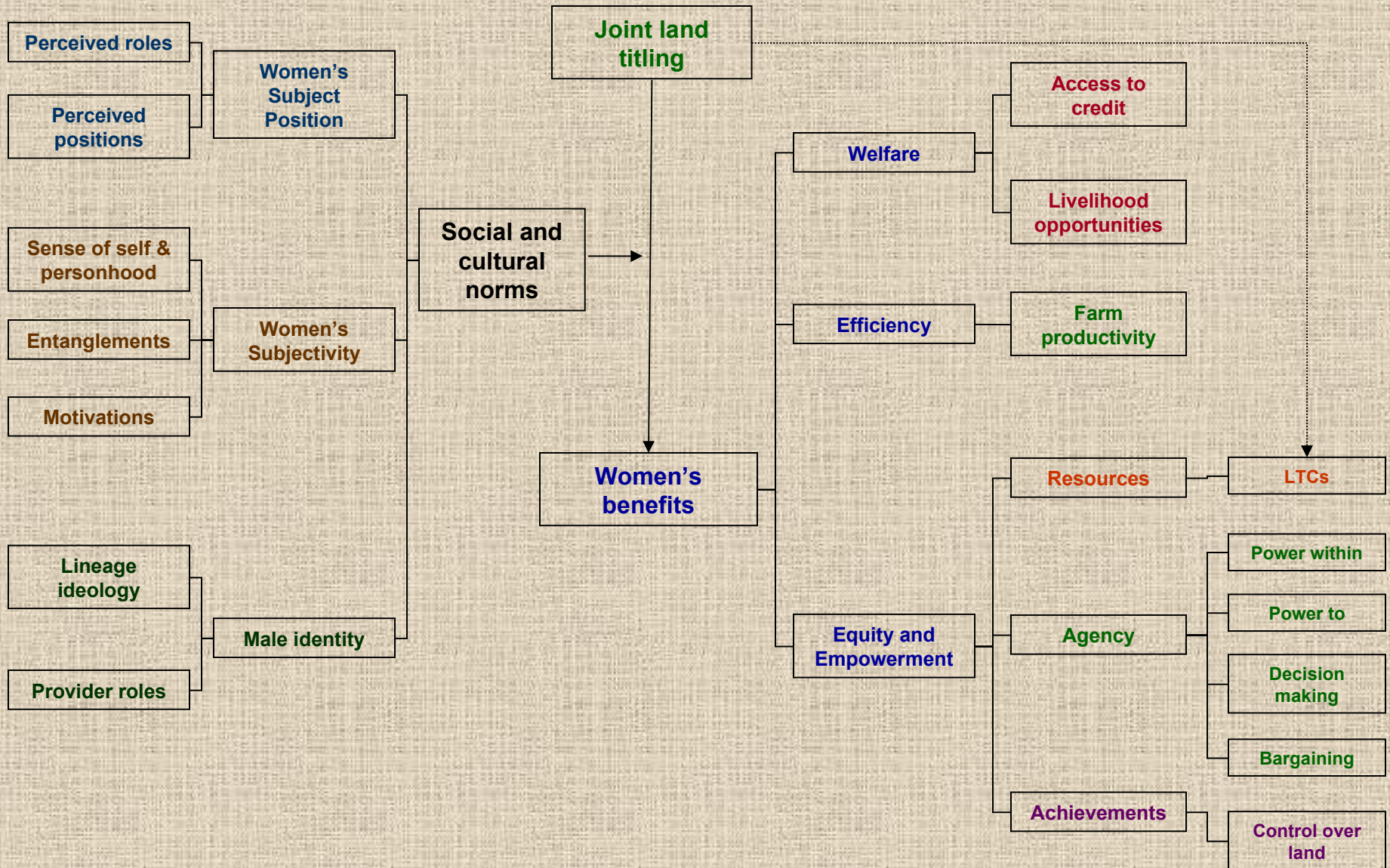
- Household survey
- Interview with key informants
- Focus group discussions (♂♀)

Phase 2:

In-depth interview with ♀



A. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Key Findings – The Bru-Van Kieu

- Patriarchal society:
 - Men headship
 - Patrilocal & patrilineal marriage
 - Customary ownership:
 - Communal: natural resources
 - Regulating, sanctioning, ritual
 - Private:
 - Use, management, (limited disposal/exchange)
- *Dual governing system*



Key Findings – Land Allocation

- 1997: Land allocating → Single-name LTCs
- 2004: Reissuing LTC → Joint-title



Joint-land titling & Women empowerment

- Women's **access to credit** is not increased by the joint-title LTCs because of the availability of non-collateral microfinance
- **Livelihood diversification**
 - cattle husbandry (credit programs)
 - paid labour (forest plantation programs)

WELFARE

Joint-land titling & Women empowerment

- Increase in paddy crop's productivity and intensity as the result of irrigation
 - Increase in cattle as the result of credit programs
- *Land title does not have impact in women's economic empowerment*

EFFICIENCY

Joint-land titling & Women empowerment

- **Resource:** Land title
- **Agency:**
 - **Women's awareness:** desire & concern, co-ownership, land rights (use, work, share of land, disposal), security, decision-making
 - Women's agenda: see no use of LTCs
 - Negotiation/decision-making: increased as the result of interactions, exposure..., not LTC
- **Achievement:** no change in access & control over land

EMPOWERMENT

Women's subject positions



Marginalised from property inheritance

Marriage out



Access to land through husband

Loss access to land if marriage is broken



Rely on male relative for land

LANDLESS
DEPENDENTS

Women's subject positions: Gender roles



Dominant



Subordinate

Productive:

♂: land claimant, main labour, decision maker
♀: dependent, light work

Reproductive:

♂: head, managing property & daily work, decision maker, ritual rites
♀: dependent, do the work

Communal

♂: land lord, ritual rites
♀: prohibited

Women's Subjectivities - Personhood

- Ability = Awareness + Perceived gains
- Perceived gains = aspirations/priorities ← land title
- Aspirations:
 - Conjugal Solidarity
 - Children's Education
 - Economic Well-off

- Need for security provided by marriage as wife and mother
- Production of subj. positions as dependents
- Obstacle to claim rights

Women's Subjectivities - Acquiescence

- REFLECTIONS on Divorce & Husband's death ← influence of SOCIAL NORMS
 - DILEMMAS → CHOICE
 - ♀ Land rights
 - Brothers' resistance
 - Parents' caring roles
- Women's acquiescence → SETBACK



Women's Subjectivities - Reproducing

- The need for **SECURITY** from marriage institution → pass land to sons
- Reinforce & Reproduce their **DEPENDENCY**

- **Welfare & Efficiency:** No benefits for ♀
- **Equity & Empowerment:**
 - Raise women's awareness (power within)
 - No effect on access and control over land
- **Traditional norms:**
 - ♀'s identity as dependents
 - ♀'s acquiescence & reproduction of ♀'s identity → ♀'s ability to claim land rights?

Reflections

Privatisation

Forest Plantation

**Commercial Value
of Land**

Land Scarcity

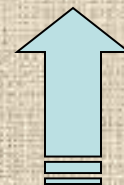
**Support
Communal
Kinship**

Access to Land

**Women
Independency**

HHD

**Women-headed
Labour Shortage**



Reflections

