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**Abstract**

**Household-level Relationships between Out-migration and  
Monetization of Rice Harvest Labor  
in Nang Rong District, Thailand**

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There is an ongoing paucity of attention from researchers to the consequences of migration for households in villages of origin. I examine one potential consequence that is central to both the cultural identity and the economic prosperity of households in developing country contexts: the monetization of local economies, and agriculture in particular, and the corresponding decline in the prevalence of traditional labour practices. Specifically, the relationship between migration and remittances on the one hand and the monetization of rice harvest labour on the other are explored in the context of Nang Rong District, Northeast Thailand. Theoretical linkages between migration and paid labour usage are described, and difficulties in characterizing the precise causal characteristics of the relationships are discussed. Results suggest that a widespread increase in the prevalence of wage labour use during the rice harvest occurred between 1994 and 2000 in the region. The percentage of households using paid extra labour doubled from roughly 20 to 40 percent, with a corresponding halving of the percentage relying only on household labour. Despite a number of simultaneous processes that created different contextual features over time, relationships between migration and agricultural practices, particularly paid labour use, are mostly consistent over time. The results support the contention that improved understanding of social and economic change processes necessitates considering both the determinants and consequences of migration concurrently, and not in isolation as is still the norm.