



Rapid pace of change in East Africa driven by off-farm income in tandem with agricultural intensification

James Hammond, Tim Pagella, Simon Fraval, Jannike Wichern, Nils Teufel, Esther Kihoro, Mario Herrero, Todd S. Rosenstock, and Mark T. van Wijk



The degree to which rural households in East Africa have benefited from agricultural intensification and macro-economic development is not well known.

RHoMIS was used to re-survey in 4 CCAFS sites in East Africa: Lushoto, Tanzania; Rakai, Uganda; Nyando and Wote, Kenya.

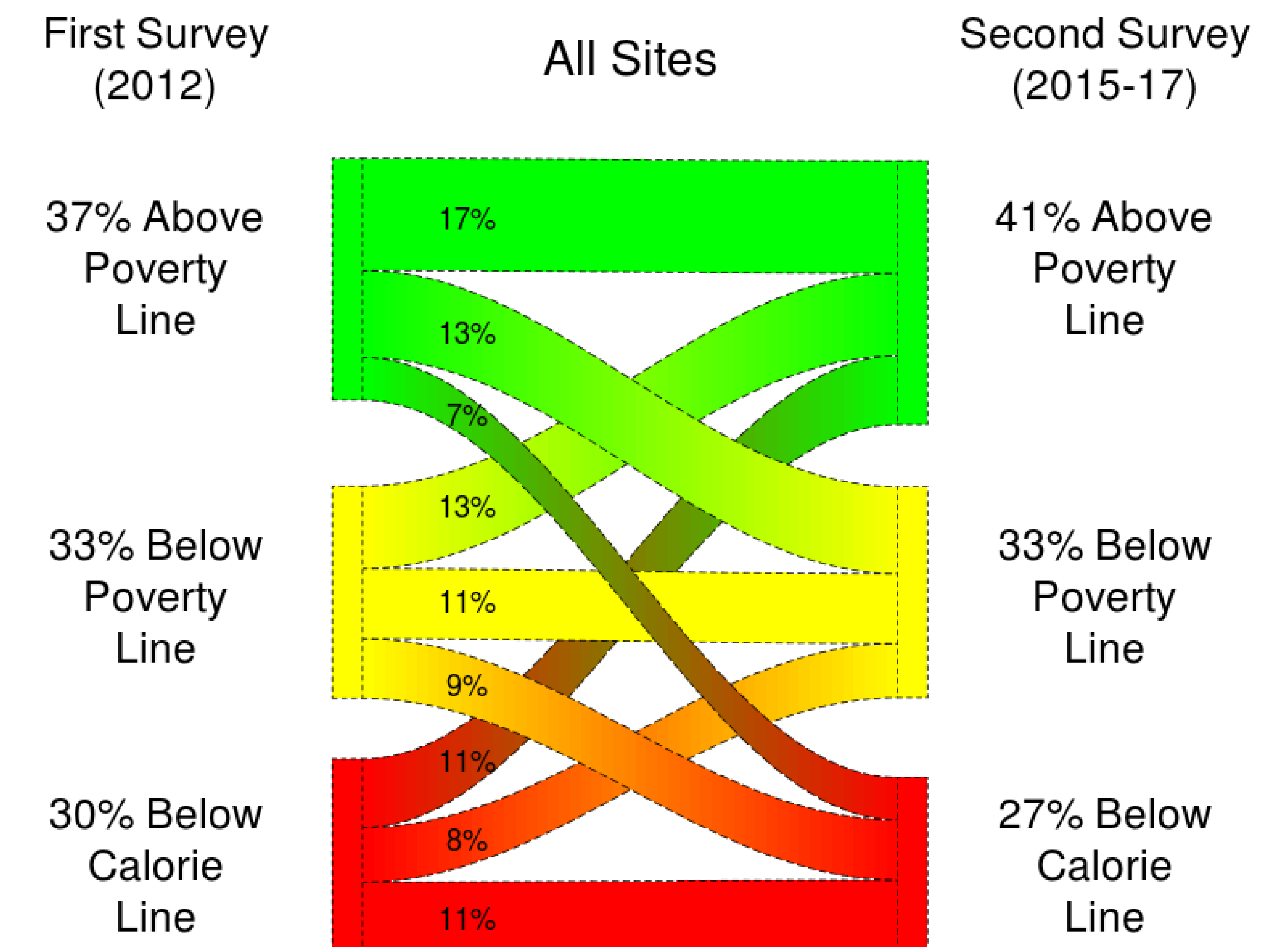
The first survey was in 2012 and the latter rounds between 2015 and 2017, depending on location.

Prosperity Levels

Three prosperity strata were defined: above the \$1.90 poverty line, below the poverty line, and below the poverty line and unable to afford sufficient calories of food at local market prices.

The overall proportions of households in each strata did not change between panels.

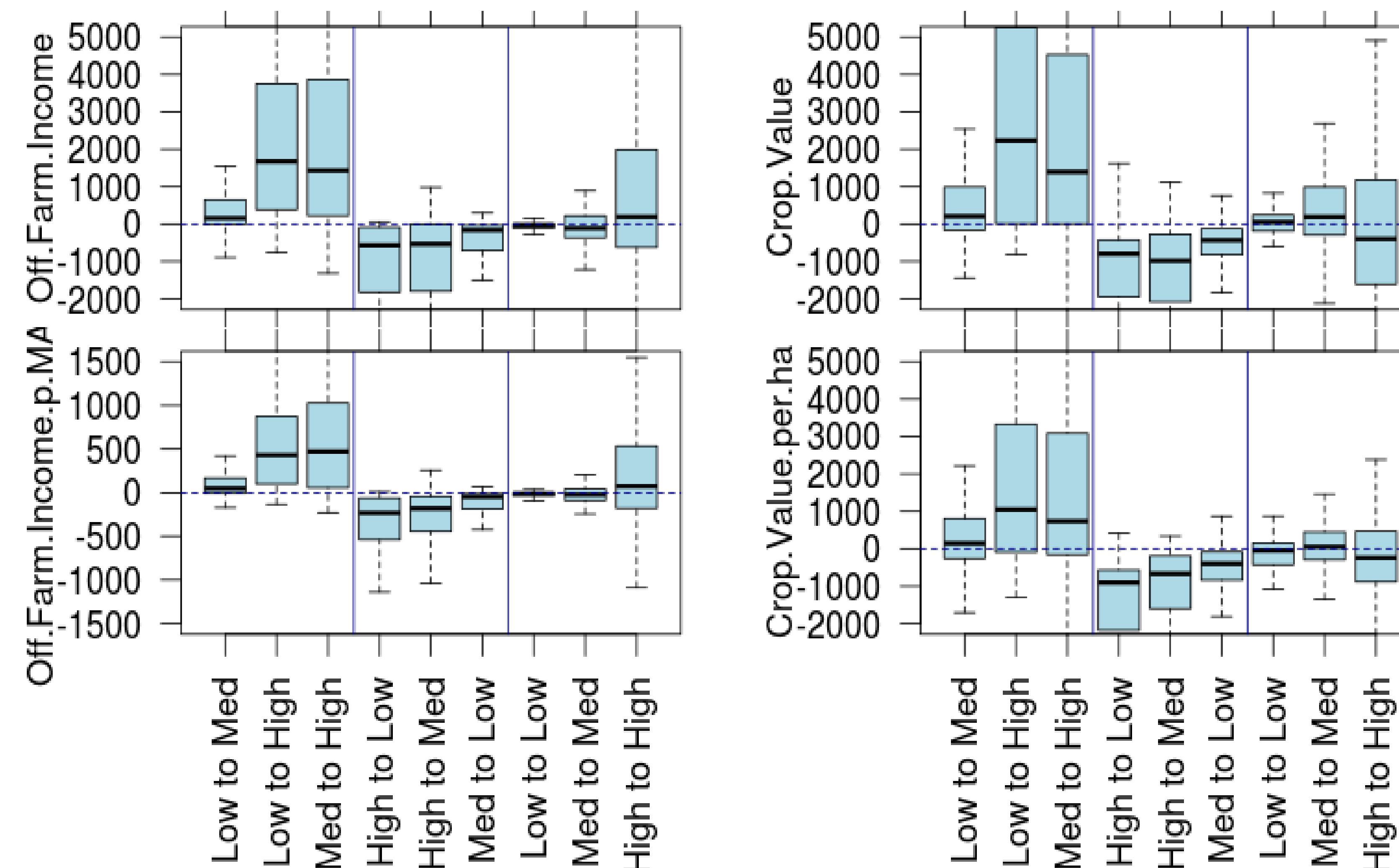
The individual positions of households in the strata changed significantly. More than two-thirds of households moved between strata.



Comparing household trajectories

Households who rose in prosperity increased agricultural productivity per unit of land, but they could only do so when they had access to adequate levels of off farm income.

Households who fell in prosperity tended to lose both off farm income and farm produce value.



Panel survey datasets allow for powerful investigation of dynamics – but comparability between surveys can hamper analysis.

Repeated use of RHoMIS surveys as baseline and endline would allow greater comparability.

In this study, agricultural intensification as a route out of poverty was observed mainly in tandem with off farm incomes. In order to impact overall poverty rates the quantity of households “falling back” need to be reduced.