

## User guide to the VARHS 2008-2016 panel data

This document provides an overview of the Vietnam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS) panel database for the period 2008-2016.

### 1. Background: The VARHS survey

After a pilot survey across four provinces in 2001-02, we launched the regular bi-annual VARHS in 2006 across 12 provinces in Vietnam. The 12 provinces are: Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Dien Bein, Ha Tay, Khanh Hoa, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Lao Cai, Long An, Nghe An, Phu Tho, and Quang Nam. We chose the VARHS 2006 households such that they were a representative sample of the rural areas in the 12 provinces in 2006. As the households aged over time, they were no longer representative of the rural population in the surveyed provinces. To correct for this additional households were added in 2012 to the VARHS sample. Brandt and Tarp (2017) provide further details on the sample and comparability with other databases in Vietnam.

In addition to the household survey, the VARHS also includes a commune-level survey that is conducted with commune administrators where the VARHS households reside.

### 2. Details of files included

The following files are provided in this folder:

#### 1. Data Files:

All the household data files are in the folder "2008-16 Clean". The files are sorted into the sub-folders "#\_new" where "#" is the corresponding year of survey. In each of these sub-folders there are two types of data files. The first are the "phieu\_new" files, which contain information collected at the household-level (that require a single response per question). The others are files that contain information collected at the individual level, plot level, or crop level (i.e., multiple responses per household). These are named "Q#\_New" where "#" is the corresponding section number from the household questionnaire.

All the commune data files are in the sub-folder "Commune\_clean". The files are named commune\_#\_clean where the "#" stands for the corresponding survey year.

#### 2. Household identifiers:

a. Households can be identified and tracked over the various rounds using a combination of province id(tinh), district id(quan), commune id(xa) and household code (ma\_h0). Some of these identifiers changed over time (for example, due to splits/mergers of commune or districts, or other internal administrative requirements). To facilitate the construction of a panel dataset we have also provided a crosswalk file ("panelid.dta"). This can be used to link households over time.

b. A balanced panel across the years can be constructed using the variable "panel0816" that has been included in the "panelid.dta" file.

- c. Please note that the district and commune ids used in the VARHS data are not the same as those used in the census or other datasets. These ids should not be used to merge with other datasets.

3. Questionnaires:

All the household and commune questionnaires for 2008 – 2016 are (in English) in the folder “questionnaires”.

### **3. Important note on ethics**

We provide these data solely for the purpose of research. The anonymity of the respondents and the communities must be respected. No user should make any attempt to identify or contact any individual, household, or commune in the VARHS data.

References:

Brandt, K., Tarp, F., 2017. Characteristics of the VARHS data and other data sources. In: Tarp, F. (Ed.), Growth, Structural Transformation and Rural Change in Viet Nam: A Rising Dragon on the Move. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

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