Thailand

Sources:
Jain 1975
Chiswick 1977
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
Kansal 1982
Dowling and Soo 1983, Table 2 in the appendix
Lecaillon et al. 1984, Table 4 p. 26-27
Ikemoto and Limskul 1987, Tables II, III and VI
Fields 1989
Ikemoto 1991, Table 2.2 p.14 and Table 2.3 p. 17
Ikemoto 1993
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
Thailand CSO, website 2005
2009, 2011:Household socio economic survey report (executive summary on the website) and the tables from the statistical tables (Thailand folder)

Surveys:
Household Expenditure Survey 1962, 1970
This survey is used by several sources. It was conducted by the National Statistical Office.

Socio-Economic Survey (SES) 1969, 1971, 1975, 1981, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998-2001
The survey is conducted by the National Statistical Office. The first one was conducted in 1957, and since 1988, the survey began to be undertaken every two years. The sample size has varied over the years including 12250 households in 1981, 15920 households in 1990, 31203 households in 1994, and 23549 households in 1998. In 1999, the NSO conducted a special (periodic) SES to gauge the effects of the economic crisis on household income and consumption. This survey had a much smaller sample size than the usual surveys including only 7789 households. It was exceptionally conducted during only four months of the year (June-September 1999).

The later survey uses a stratified two-stage sampling design, with the primary sampling units being blocks for municipal areas and villages for non-municipal areas and the secondary sampling units being households within each of these blocks/villages. The earlier surveys, at least those for 1981 and 1986 adopted stratified three-stage sampling. The number of strata also changes over time: in 1981, 12 strata were used based on sub-regions, in 1990 only 5 strata were used based on regions and in 1994, 76 strata were used based on provinces.

The SES is normally undertaken throughout the year. All sample households are divided into twelve sub-samples, and the households of one sub-sample are interviewed during each month. During the first two weeks, questions about household composition, demographic and economic characteristics of household member, income and work,

housing facilities, expenditure on non-food goods and services are asked. Then, for a week, consumption of food, beverage and tobacco made the day before is asked each day. Each completed interview is subjected to a field edit, and followed by a follow-up interview if the information is found incomplete or internally inconsistent. Moreover, a balance sheet is prepared for each household for the preceding month, if it is more than 15% out of balance; the household is re-interviewed to reconcile the difference.

SES changed the definition of household between 1975 and 1981. The definition of household is otherwise a standard one (pooling of resources) but the difference relates to the treatment of married children. Starting from 1981, these are treated as separate households if one of the spouses has income. This increases the number of households and decreases the average household size and reduces both average income and income inequality.

The SES 1981 (at least) collected information on the following income items:

1. Monetary income including wages and salaries, entrepreneurial income, farm income, land rent, other rent (including interest and dividends) and transfer receipts (assistance and remittances, pensions and annuities, scholarships and grants etc).
2. Imputed income in-kind including items received as pay, home-produced goods, imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings, crops received as rent and other things received for free.
3. Other monetary receipts including proceeds from casualty insurance, life insurance, lottery winnings and the sale of durable goods, inheritance, bequests etc.

According to Deininger & Squire (2004), withdrawals from savings and borrowings are also included in the income concept.

Consumption of food, alcohol and tobacco are collected by interviewing households each day during one week inquiring about the consumption during the previous day. Other items are collected on a monthly or a yearly basis. The consumption aggregate includes items purchased, received in-kind and home-produced. In Deininger & Squire (2004) it is a bit unclear what kind of expenditure concept finally has been used. The following items have at least been summed up: consumption on food, education, medical care, private transfer, clothing/shoes, housing, energy, minor household equipment, purchase of durable, estimated value of owned house or free house. It is also possible that purchase of land/house and valuable (gold, jewelry) and deposit to saving & investment, payback of loan or loan given to others are included.

The survey suffers from underreporting of both income and consumption. Especially property income is heavily underreported. In comparison with the national accounts, the underreporting is 32-42%.

In Ikemoto and Limskul (1987), the 1975 and 1981 estimates are from data tapes whereas the 1962 and 1969 are cited from other sources with grouped data. The Gini coefficients were calculated from the decile data that was estimated using both lognormal and Pareto

distributions. Most of the estimates in Ikemoto (1991) are based on several different authors. This might weaken the comparability.