

Review of the dissertation work

Name of the work: Impact Of Producer Groups on the Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Farm Performance of Small Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Case study of Ghana

Author: Ing.Ebenezer Donkor

Reviewer: doc. Ing. Oto Potluka, Ph.D. (University of Basel, Switzerland)

Thank you for the opportunity to review your dissertation on impact evaluations. Given the constraints of public budget resources, I consider the focus on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions to be of significant importance.

Major Comments:

My primary observations are twofold. Firstly, readers who are not knowledgeable in the economics of cocoa farming in Ghana may find the thesis challenging to navigate due to its dense content. Incorporating a diagram that maps out the relationships and roles of stakeholders on the market in the Ghanaian cocoa sector could greatly aid comprehension.

Secondly, relating the tested model, there are two main concerns. Initially, it appears that variables from Table 2 are directly employed in the regression analysis. Caution is advised here, as these variables, derived from survey data and scored on a one-to-five scale, may not have equidistant values, potentially skewing the analysis. Additionally, with the data set limited to the year 2022, there's no insight into the potential actions or economic outcomes of farmers outside cooperative memberships, undermining any assertions of impact or causality. A simple revision in the text from 'causality' and 'impact' to 'correlation' could rectify this issue.

Minor Comments:

On a lesser note, the dissertation could benefit from clarifying abbreviations, ensuring thematic consistency, and refining minor textual issues (detailed feedback has been provided directly to the author). The discussion section, while partly reiterating results, could be enriched by a deeper analysis. For instance, exploring the implications of the findings on the theory of rational behavior, which underpins the study, would be insightful.

Questions for Discussion:

Can the purposive sampling for the impact evaluation cause a selection bias in the sample? What if there are two clusters of farmers and you start your purposive sampling only in one of them without a knowledge about the existence of the second one?

Done in Basel, 29th of January, 2024

