

Promoting Agricultural Technology through Social Networks in Nepal

Faculty Member: [Mushfiq Mobarak](#)

Proposal Description:

Increasing agricultural productivity in developing countries could have a huge impact on poverty there, as large parts of the population are farmers and many rely on subsistence agriculture. While improved technologies show great promise in increasing yields, finding a good technology is only the first step. Even technologies that have been shown to substantially improve agricultural outcomes in an experiment could fail to catch on in a larger population, and this especially depends on how this technology is communicated from the disseminators (e.g. the government) down to individual farmers.

To explore this, a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) was conducted in Nepal, for which data collection has recently been completed. Agricultural technological ideas, having already been shown to be effective at improving agricultural outcomes, were disseminated through different kinds of “communicators,” some of whom were also promised incentives if certain percentages of the farmers in their areas learned the technologies. One particular question is whether the technologies would be more effectively communicated through “lead” farmers, i.e. farmers who have higher social status and are more educated than the rest, or “peer” farmers, i.e. farmers who are representative of the general population of farmers and whose experiences should be similar to the average farmer’s.

Primary RA responsibilities for this project may include: data cleaning, data analysis, and translating analysis into clear and ordered graphs, tables, etc. RAs may also need to communicate directly with field teams in Nepal.

RAs demonstrating superior skill and motivation are encouraged to continue expanding their work with Professor Mobarak beyond the Spring semester.

Also copy your application to Meir Brooks (meir.brooks@yale.edu)

Requisite Skills and Qualifications:

Ability to work with STATA at a basic level is a must. A quantitative background, especially in statistics, data analysis or economics, is a strong plus, as is any experience with Randomized Control Trials. Although learning from and collaborating with more senior researchers is an important part of the job, RAs should also be motivated and independent problem solvers.

Award: Bibek Basnet

Tobin Application Link: [Tobin Application](#)

Project Type: Tobin RA

Project Year: 2018

Term: Spring 2018

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