

SUMMARY

Jie Bai, Class 2011

Household, Land Right and Agriculture in Burkina Faso

Professor Christopher Udry

Brief Description of the research project: The first part of the research is to conduct a literature review on household organization, land tenure system and agriculture in Burkina Faso. The second part is to analyze data obtained from International Crop Research Institute for 6 villages in the country from 1981 to 1985.

Major research findings: We first successfully replicated the results found from previous paper and then repeated the regression analyses on data from 1984 & 1985. We confirmed that gender differential in agriculture productivity do after controlling for household-year-crop fixed effects. However, when regress plot output per hectare at the plot-level on various land tenure variables (and others including soil quality, crop type, plot location, gender, etc), we found that most of the tenure variables appear not statistically significant. Similarly, when regress fertilizers applied per hectare at the plot-level (organic & inorganic) on tenure variables, no interesting and consistent pattern was found. Thus we came to the conclusion that the situation for Ghana is different from Burkina Faso and the results found in Ghana cannot be applied in the case of Burkina Faso.

Activities student was responsible for: I worked through the whole project under the guidance of Professor Udry who has given me so much advice and encouragement. The first two weeks were mostly concentrated on the literature review. In the 3rd and 4th week, I replicated the results obtained for the previous paper and prepared the dataset for further analysis. The second month was focused on regression analyses. I used STATA and GAUSS and got the above-mentioned results.

What has student learned? I learned a lot of useful skills in data analysis, including many essential and useful programming techniques on STATA and GUASS. I have also grasped some debugging techniques by performing systematic data check. In future, when I get a raw dataset, I know how to transform it into a particular data format and then perform sensible data analysis on it. More importantly, I learnt how to systematically think through an economic issue and formulate the next step based on the results obtained.

Opinions of the SRO experience: I am really grateful to this research opportunity and I have totally enjoyed this experience. It is indeed my first experience of serious advanced economic research and I am more than ever ready to launch myself into this field. The

SRO is really a valuable experience for students interested in economic research and advanced economic study.