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### Impacts of smallholder agricultural adaptation on food security: evidence from Africa, Asia, and Central America

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1                   **Impacts of Smallholder Agricultural Adaptation on Food Security:**  
2                   **Evidence from Africa, Asia, and Central America**

3  
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18

19 **Abstract:**

20

21 Understanding the efficacy of smallholder adaptation to changing environments is crucial to policy  
22 design. Past efforts in understanding whether, and to what extent, adaptation improves household  
23 welfare have faced some key challenges including: 1) endogeneity of adaptation; 2) localized results  
24 that are difficult to generalize; and 3) understanding whether the efficacy of adaptation depends on the  
25 reasons for adaptation (e.g. market conditions vs climate change). In this study we estimate effects of  
26 smallholder agricultural adaptation on food security, while addressing each of these three challenges.  
27 First, we identify and test instrumental variables based on neighbor networks. Second, we use a dataset  
28 that contains information from 5159 households located across 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and  
29 Central America. Third, we investigate whether adaptation that is motivated by changes in market  
30 conditions influences the efficacy of adaptation differently than adaptation motivated by climate  
31 change. Across our global sample, an average household made almost 10 adaptive changes, which are  
32 responsible for approximately 47 days of food security yearly; an amount nearly 4 times larger than is  
33 indicated if endogeneity is not addressed. But these effects vary depending on what is motivating  
34 adaptation. Adaptation in response to climate change alone is not found to significantly affect food  
35 security. When climate adaptation is paired with adaptation in response to changing market conditions,  
36 the resulting impact is 96 food secure days. These results suggest the need for further work on the  
37 careful design of climate change interventions to complement adaptive activities.

38

39 **Key Words:** Adaptation, Smallholder Agriculture, Food Security, Global Dataset, Instrumental  
40 Variables.

41

42 **Running Page Title:** Adaptation and Food Security in Smallholder Agriculture

43

44 **1. Introduction**

45 Changing market and climatic conditions can be a threat to food security (Lobel *et al.* 2008, IPCC  
46 2007, Peri 2017, Usman and Haile 2017), which are likely to be disproportionately felt among  
47 smallholder farming households in areas that already suffer high levels of hunger (Muller *et al.* 2011,  
48 Wheeler and von Braun 2013). The adaptive activities<sup>1</sup> that households undertake are thought to be an  
49 important means of coping with changing circumstances (e.g. Biggs *et al.* 2013). Accordingly, several  
50 studies have analyzed the determinants of these adaptation decisions in order for policymakers to  
51 facilitate adaptation and mitigate the losses arising, for instance, from climate impacts (e.g. Deressa *et*  
52 *al.* 2009, Bryan *et al.* 2009, Di Falco 2014, Chen *et al.* 2018). Typically, these papers attempt to  
53 identify elements of adaptive capacity, and find that household characteristics such as level of  
54 education, farm and non-farm income, wealth, access to information and credit, farming experience, as  
55 well as participation in government programs, are significant factors that influence farmers' ability to  
56 undertake adaptive activities.

57 As smallholder farmers are already undertaking adaptive farm-level changes, it is important to  
58 understand how these types of adaptive behavior affect their welfare. Policymakers and development  
59 practitioners can use this information to target interventions to given contexts, and to assess whether  
60 policies aimed at incentivizing farmers to undertake adaptive activities are able to mitigate the  
61 anticipated losses arising from changing climatic and economic conditions.

62 Despite the importance of understanding the welfare impacts of adaptation, due to a number of  
63 difficulties, empirical evidence of how smallholder adaptation impacts welfare is scarce.<sup>2</sup> The objective

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<sup>1</sup> Smallholder farming adaptation is typically defined along the lines of actions undertaken by households in order to better cope with or adjust to some changing condition, stress, hazard, risk or opportunity (e.g. Smit and Wandel 2006). Note that this concept of adaptation is similar to technology adoption, but different in at least two ways. First, while adaptation refers to a suite of potential actions that household can undertake, technology adoption is focussed on a particular activity. Second, while technology adoption focuses on a new activity that a household may try, adaptation can include ceasing activities, or reverting to old approaches that were temporarily abandoned

<sup>2</sup> We describe these difficulties briefly below, with a literature review supporting this statement in the next section.

64 of this paper is to investigate impacts of agricultural adaptation at the household level on food security,  
65 while addressing three types of difficulties.

66 First, estimates of how adaptation affects household welfare are plagued by empirical  
67 identification issues. In a typical (yet naïve) approach, the researcher would estimate a regression  
68 model using a welfare measure as a dependent variable, with an adaptation measure and a set of co-  
69 variates as independent variables. The challenge of such a regression is that adaptation is likely an  
70 endogenous variable. For instance, estimates could suffer from reverse causality because adaptation  
71 may influence welfare, but welfare may also influence adaptation. Therefore, there is a need to identify  
72 ways to consistently estimate the impacts of adaptation on welfare.

73 Our empirical strategy is to use an instrumental variable (IV) approach to address endogeneity  
74 of adaptation in welfare regressions. While numerous technology adoption papers have used IVs (e.g.,  
75 Adekambi et al. 2009, Arellanes, and Lee 2003, Dibba et al. 2017 Ogada et al. 2010), we are not aware  
76 of any IVs that have been developed for studying welfare effects of adaptation. Our method relies on  
77 the concept that information relevant to agricultural adaptation flows within a neighbor network. In  
78 order to identify an IV approach, we turn to a group of papers that find that neighbors in developing  
79 countries learn from each other and these interactions influence household behavior (Keil et al. 2017,  
80 Foster and Rosenzweig 1995, Ward and Pede 2014, Krishnan and Patnam 2014). The neighbor  
81 networks effects on farmers' decisions suggest a set of instruments to address the endogeneity of  
82 adaptation in welfare regressions. Specifically, our instrumental variables are weighted averages of  
83 adaptation and human capital characteristics of neighbors, with weights inversely proportional to the  
84 physical distance between farms. Under-identification and over-identification statistical tests provide  
85 support for the validity of these instruments.

86 Second, most studies attempting to link adaptation to welfare are limited by data collected from  
87 local case studies, which provide little information regarding the generalizability of results. Our dataset

88 contains socio-economic and agricultural practices information collected by Climate Change,  
89 Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) from more than five thousand households located in 15  
90 developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Central America. We use as our welfare measure the number  
91 of food secure days that households experience in a year, and we use the number of adaptive activities  
92 that households undertake as our measure of agricultural adaptation.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the CCAFS dataset  
93 contains farm-level Global Positioning System coordinates that allow us to build the neighbor networks  
94 required in our IV approach. The dataset also allows us to estimate adaptation effects controlling for  
95 various co-variates, including levels of education, farm characteristics, financial factors, productive and  
96 non-productive assets, demographics, farming experience, and participation in government programs.  
97 Our estimations also control for varying crop mix and site-specific effects.

98 Third, though adaptation to climate change is currently a widespread concern, there are  
99 numerous types of changes that could be spurring adaptation. Within this context, there is the potential  
100 that the impact of adaptation on food security could vary depending on the type of change to which  
101 smallholders are responding. In our study, we employ data that indicate whether adaptive activities are  
102 undertaken in response to climate change, changes in market conditions, or both. This data allow us to  
103 investigate whether smallholders are able to use adaptation to better cope with some types of changes,  
104 rather than others.

105 Overall, we find that smallholder adaptation is welfare improving with respect to food security.  
106 Our estimates indicate that, on average, undertaking one additional adaptive activity leads to  
107 approximately 5 additional days of food security in a year, or put differently, adaptive activities are  
108 responsible for 16% of the food security of smallholders. The effect is robust to the specification of  
109 crop mix, varying models of network effects (i.e. varying approaches to calculate the spatial weights of

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<sup>3</sup> We also consider two measures of adaptation that assign weights to different adaptive activities. Specifically, first we follow Shikuku et al. (2017) and estimate models where adaptation is measured using a food security-based index that assigns weights to activities based on their contributions to food security. Next, we used a principal component analysis and assign weights to different activities based on the first principal component.

110 our instrumental variables), and using weighted measurements of adaptation. We also show that  
111 spatially weighted network transformations of adaptation and human capital are well suited to estimate  
112 IV food security regressions, and that not correcting for the endogeneity of adaptation significantly  
113 underestimates impacts on food security benefits. Finally, we report empirical evidence suggesting that  
114 the food security impacts of adaptation are generally more effective in responding to changing market  
115 conditions than in responding to climate change.

116 This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the literature related to approaches for  
117 using observational data to estimate the impact of adaptation on welfare measures. Section 3 describes  
118 the sampling framework, the data, and the empirical model. Section 4 presents diagnostics tests for our  
119 IV approach, along with the model estimates. We offer some concluding remarks in section 5.

120

## 121 **2. Related Literature**

122 A number of studies have examined the link between smallholder farmers' adaptation activities and  
123 their welfare (e.g. Di Falco *et al.* 2011, Di Falco and Veronesi 2013). This section presents a discussion  
124 of this literature with a focus on the three challenges discussed above.

125 The first challenge is the endogeneity of adaptation in the estimation of welfare benefits.  
126 Scholars have adopted a number of approaches to address this difficulty. One group of papers employ  
127 switching regression approaches. For example, Di Falco and Veronesi (2013) use a multinomial  
128 endogenous switching regression model to estimate the effect of adaptation strategies on crop net  
129 revenues of farmers. These authors argue that both the decision to adapt and what strategy to use are  
130 endogenous as these factors may be influenced by unobservable characteristics and might, for example,  
131 lead to self-selection bias. Their approach consists of two stages. First, they use a multinomial selection  
132 to model farmers' strategy choices from a (relatively small) set of possible strategies. Second, they

133 estimate a net revenue model for each strategy in the choice set. They find that a combination of  
134 adaptation strategies is more effective than a single strategy in increasing crop revenues.

135 Several papers assume that farmers face a binary strategy set: to adapt or not to adapt. Di Falco  
136 *et al.* (2011) estimate a two-stage endogenous switching model and find that adaptation leads to  
137 significant increases in food productivity. In particular, they find that households who adapted would  
138 have produced 20% less if they did not adapt. Moreover, households who did not adapt would have  
139 produced 35% more if they had adapted. Huang *et al.* (2015) use a similar approach and show that  
140 households that implement farm-level changes in response to extreme weather events experience  
141 significant increases in yield. Using the same approach, Asfaw *et al.* (2012) find that adaptation in  
142 terms of adopting improved varieties generates a significant positive impact on consumption  
143 expenditures.

144 Other papers complement endogenous switching models with propensity score approaches.  
145 Khonje *et al.* (2015) examine welfare impacts of smallholder farmer adaptation using both a regression  
146 and propensity score matching (PSM). First they estimate a binary endogenous switching model.  
147 Second, they implement a PSM strategy as a robustness check. Their methods suggest that the adoption  
148 of improved maize varieties increases crop income, consumption expenditures, and food security.  
149 Shiferaw *et al.* (2014) use a similar approach, and in addition to endogenous switching regressions and  
150 PSM, they also use a two-step generalized propensity score (GPS) approach. The GPS approach differs  
151 from PSM in that it allows for varying intensities of treatment (e.g. varying adaptation levels as  
152 opposed to binary adaptation). Their GPS approach consists of two steps. They first estimate a GPS  
153 model to balance covariates, and follow this step with a regression model of the outcome (i.e. food  
154 consumption expenditures and a food security binary indicator) where treatment (adaptation) level is a  
155 right hand side variable. They find a positive relationship between intensity of adaptation (area devoted  
156 to improved wheat) and food security and consumption.



157 Most studies focus on a small set of farming changes. Di Falco and Veronesi (2013) focus on  
158 three types of changes (water strategies, changing crop varieties, and soil conservation) and their  
159 combinations, while Di Falco *et al.* (2011), Asfaw *et al.* (2012), and Huang *et al.* (2015) examine  
160 binary adaptation choice. In contrast, our approach allows us to explore the rich nature of our data to  
161 use information on 46 possible changes in farming practices (refer to section 3). Such a variety of  
162 adaptation strategies rules out the possibility of estimating multinomial choice models like in Di Falco  
163 and Veronesi (2013). In addition, as most households adopted at least one of the 46 possible strategies,  
164 the binary (to adapt or not) identification strategy used by Di Falco *et al.* (2011), Asfaw *et al.* (2012),  
165 and Huang *et al.* (2015) would be problematic with our data. For example, in our sample, all  
166 households from Ghana, Kenya, Niger, and Senegal adopted at least one new farming practice.

167 Also, note that the validity of PSM depends on the assumption that, controlling for the  
168 probability of adaptation, the outcome of interest (e.g. food security) and the adaptation status (adapted  
169 or not) are independent. The probability of adaptation is estimated using observable determinants, and  
170 therefore the matching approach controls for endogenous adaptation using observable heterogeneity,  
171 and is sensitive to selection based on unobservables. The literature refers to this assumption as the  
172 conditional independence assumption (CIA). As Angrist and Pischke (2009) explain, assuming  
173 consistency of matching estimators under the CIA is equivalent to assuming consistency of estimates  
174 from a regression of food security on adaptation and controls. Nevertheless, above we refer to this  
175 approach as the *naïve regression* because it is very likely that there are unobservable factors that are  
176 correlated to adaptation decisions, even after controlling for available co-variates. In fact, the  
177 attractiveness of the IV approach lies on offering a solution when the CIA is not reasonable. When a

178 valid instrument is available, the IV approach is able to address multiple sources of endogeneity of  
 179 adaptation.<sup>4</sup>

180 While PSM uses binary adaptation status, the GPS method (Shiferaw *et al.*, 2014) allows for  
 181 varying adaptation levels. Nevertheless, the method relies on the same independency assumptions as  
 182 the standard PSM methods. Moreover, Hirano and Imbens (2004) argue that the estimated coefficients  
 183 from the second stage regression do not have a causal interpretation. This weakness would be  
 184 problematic for us, as estimating the effect of adaptation intensity on food security is the primary goal  
 185 of our paper. As a result, we develop an instrumental variable approach to address the endogeneity of  
 186 adaptation and establish a causal relationship between farming practices changed and food security.

187 The second challenge is the limited spatial context of most studies. The findings reported by the  
 188 papers above are based on case studies with localized data, and as a result, they often reflect a focus on  
 189 a specific crop. Huang *et al.* (2015) focus on rice production of 1,653 households in five rice producing  
 190 provinces of China. The analysis of Khonje *et al.* (2015) is based on a sample of 810 households  
 191 located in major maize growing areas of eastern Zambia. Shiferaw *et al.* (2014) examine 2,017  
 192 smallholder wheat producers in the eight main wheat-growing agro-ecological zones of Ethiopia. Di  
 193 Falco and Veronesi (2013) and Di Falco *et al.* (2011) study adaptation of 941 smallholder farmers in  
 194 the Nile Basin of Ethiopia. The sampling of Asfaw *et al.* (2012) focus on chickpea and pigeonpea  
 195 production among 700 households in the Shewa region in the central highlands of Ethiopia, and 613  
 196 households in four districts of Northern Tanzania. Finally, Shikuku *et al.* (2017) offer a wider  
 197 investigation by focusing on East Africa; however, the work is limited to a sample of 500 households  
 198 from the CCAFS dataset (a subset of the data that we employ here). In contrast, our large dataset with  
 199 more than five thousand households allows us to investigate a broader link between smallholder farmer  
 200 adaptation and food security in developing countries, while controlling for crop and site effects. To this

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<sup>4</sup> We also note that matching approaches are often motivated by the fact that IVs are hardly available. Interestingly, PSM estimates would not benefit from having an IV available. Recent research shows that the inclusion of IVs in matching approaches actually *maximizes* inconsistency (Wooldridge 2016).

201 end, our estimates use data on more than five thousand households located in 15 countries (see Table  
202 1), which increases the external validity of our results.

203         The third challenge in the empirical estimation of impacts of adaptation is the possible  
204 dependence of welfare results to the *reasons* for adaptation. For example, welfare effects could depend  
205 on whether adaptation is spurred by changes in market conditions, or motivated by climate change.  
206 These differential effects could imply alternative policy approaches; say for example, if adaptation  
207 were effective in responding to changing market conditions, but not climate change. But, to our  
208 knowledge, there has been very little work on adaptation and welfare impacts in the context of market  
209 changes and climate change stimuli. Eakin et al. (2014) and Gandure et al. (2013) look at relative risk  
210 perceptions of market vs. climate change, and find that market changes were generally perceived as  
211 higher risks than climate change. But the focus of both of these studies was on risk perceptions, with  
212 little, if any, information on resulting adaptive behaviour. To our knowledge, only one study has  
213 considered both market and climate changes as reasons for change (Chen et al. 2018), and such  
214 information was used to explain adaptation rather than welfare impacts on households.

215         In summary, the literature review above discloses three primary contributions of our paper  
216 regarding estimating impacts of adaptation on household welfare. First, though a number of alternative  
217 approaches have been employed to address the potential endogeneity of adaptation, we are unaware of  
218 any studies that have used an IV approach. Our identification of an effective IV strategy provides an  
219 alternative approach for future studies. Second, our review discloses that studies that have addressed  
220 endogeneity concerns have been limited to localized sites or regions. To our knowledge, ours is the first  
221 study to investigate whether impacts of adaptation on welfare are generalizable over multiple countries,  
222 while addressing the endogeneity issue. Finally, we are unaware of any studies that have investigated  
223 whether the reason for changing farming practices has variable effects on household welfare. We

224 investigate this by using a split sample approach to estimate reason dependent food security gains from  
 225 adaptation.

226

### 227 **3. Methods**

#### 228 3.1. Data

229 We use a rich dataset from the CCAFS research program collected in West Africa, East Africa, South  
 230 Asia, and Central America.<sup>5</sup> Data were collected from late 2010 to late 2013 for the Africa and Asia  
 231 sites, and in 2014 for the Central America sites<sup>6</sup>. Households were sampled from randomly located  
 232 10x10 km sampling blocks; 30x30km sites were selected in West Africa and Ethiopia due to low  
 233 population densities. Within each block, 20 households in each of seven villages were randomly  
 234 selected. The dataset contains information from 5,314 households from 39 sites in 15 countries.  
 235 Incomplete data for some of these households leave us with 5,159 observations. Table 1 contains a  
 236 more detailed description of our sample and its distribution across regions, countries, and sites.  
 237 Kristjanson *et al.* (2010) contains more details on the sampling framework.

238

239 ⇒ **Table 1. Distribution of the CCAFS data set sample across Regions, Country and Sites.**

240

#### 241 3.2. Empirical Approach

242 We hypothesize that adaptation positively contributes to food security. To empirically investigate this  
 243 relationship, we estimate the following regression model:

244

$$245 \quad FS_{is} = \alpha A_{is} + X_{is}'\beta + Z_{is}'\gamma + \lambda_s + \varepsilon_{is} \quad (1)$$

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<sup>5</sup> Lobell *et al.* (2008) identify South Asia, East Africa, and West Africa, three regions where households in our sample are located, as major food-insecure regions in the world.

<sup>6</sup> The data are available online at Harvard Dataverse  
<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/IUJQZV>

246

247 where  $FS_{is}$  is the number of food secure days (in a year) of household  $i$  in site  $s$ ,  $A$  represents adaptation  
 248 (number of farming practices changed),  $X$  are control variables,  $Z$  are crop dummies (used to control for  
 249 variation in food security as a function of the household's crop mix),  $\lambda$  is a site fixed effect, and  $\varepsilon$  is an  
 250 idiosyncratic error term.<sup>7</sup> Our statistical tests allow for within site correlations by clustering standard  
 251 errors at the site level.

252 The potential endogeneity of adaptation is a challenge for econometric identification. To  
 253 address this challenge, we exploit the spatial information of households in our data. Literature shows  
 254 that the spatial position of neighbors may influence the formation of networks, which in turn could  
 255 affect adaptation decisions (e.g. Foster and Rosenzweig 1995). This observation suggests an IV  
 256 approach for the identification of model (1). Our proposed set of instruments to identify welfare  
 257 impacts are adaptation and human capital measures of a farmer's neighbor, weighted by their spatial  
 258 proximity. Let  $W$  represent a spatial weighting matrix. An element  $(i,j)$  of  $W$  captures the strength of the  
 259 spatial correlation between households  $i$  and  $j$ . As a result,  $W$  can be thought of as a neighbor network  
 260 where the strength of the link between two households is inversely proportional to their spatial  
 261 distance. Specifically,  $W$  is a row normalized inverse distance matrix, with truncation at 10km such that  
 262 the influence of households beyond the truncation point is set to zero. This truncation allows for a  
 263 simple specification of spatial effects, and the threshold of 10km matches the dimensions of the sites  
 264 for the vast majority of our sample.<sup>8</sup> Let  $X^*$  denote the portion of  $X$  that captures education levels. Our  
 265 set of instruments is  $WA$  and  $WX^*$ , where  $WA$  is the spatially weighted average adaptation of farmers'  
 266 neighbors, and  $WX^*$  is the spatially weighted average education of farmers' neighbors.

267 Our instrumental variable identification strategy is inspired by the spatial econometrics  
 268 literature where instruments are spatial lags of the right-hand side variables based on normalized

---

<sup>7</sup> We discuss these variables in detail in the next section.

<sup>8</sup> In the results that follow, we also do robustness checks for shorter and longer distances and show that results are not sensitive to the truncation point.

269 weighting matrices (Kelejian and Prucha 1998, Lee 2003). The strength of these instruments depends  
270 on the strength of their correlation with adaptation. There are several reasons for a strong correlation  
271 between our spatial and human capital spillover instruments and adaptation. First, as mentioned above,  
272 empirical research suggests that adaptation of new technologies (e.g., high-yielding seed varieties) is  
273 influenced by the adaptation behavior of neighbors (Foster and Rosenzweig 1995). This result suggests  
274 that neighbor adaptation  $WA$  is correlated with own adaptation  $A$ . Second, adaptation-related learning  
275 happens primarily in local networks because neighbors and close farmers experience similar economic  
276 and climactic conditions and are likely to have relevant information about adaptation. Indeed, farmers'  
277 networks have been shown to be more effective in influencing behavior than specialized extension  
278 services (Foster and Rosenzweig 1995, Conley and Udry 2010, Krishnan and Patnam 2014, Ward and  
279 Pede 2014). As a result, we expect the level of human capital of farmers' networks  $WX^*$  to be  
280 correlated with own adaptation  $A$ . Finally, the existence of human capital and adaptation spillovers is  
281 also in line with the fact that major adaptation programs (for example, the United Nations Climate  
282 Change program in Uganda)<sup>9</sup> focus on developing tools and enabling farmers to adapt, as opposed to  
283 other strategies with less spillover effects such as direct cash or food transfers. In addition to the  
284 economic arguments above, we use an F-test to statistically examine the correlation between our  
285 instruments and adaptation.

286         The validity of our instruments also relies on the assumption that neighbors' adaptation and  
287 adaptive capacity ( $WA$  and  $WX^*$ ) are not correlated with the unobservable determinants of food  
288 security, and does not affect food security directly but only indirectly through adaptation levels  $A$ .  
289 Therefore, this assumption may not hold if, for example, adaptation generated higher wealth, enhanced  
290 welfare, and allowed individuals to systematically share this higher wealth with neighbors. This would  
291 create a link between own adaptation and neighbors food security, weakening our instruments. Note,

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<sup>9</sup> Source: United Nations Climate Change. Available online at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/ict-solutions/enabling-farmers-to-adapt-to-climate-change> (Accessed on July 10, 2018).

292 however, that this triangulation is unlikely to be effective in poor rural regions of developing countries.  
293 The significant negative effect of household size on food security and other important adaptive  
294 constraints faced by poor households (e.g., Babatundea and Qaimb, 2010) make it unlikely that direct  
295 transfers between neighbors are an effective means of providing food security, especially in the most  
296 vulnerable and food insecure regions of the world, represented in our sample. In addition to F-tests, we  
297 also use under-identification and over-identification tests to check the validity of our instruments.<sup>10</sup>

298 Note that our approach is based on a linear model as opposed to a nonlinear count model. Our  
299 choice is motivated by difficulties in implementing instrumental variable strategies to nonlinear  
300 models. Instrumental variable approaches when directly applied to nonlinear models typically deliver  
301 inconsistent estimates. Wooldridge (2010) refers to this method as the ‘forbidden regression’. One  
302 estimation approach for nonlinear endogenous variable models is the control function approach.  
303 However, this approach is less reliable when the endogenous variable is not continuous, which is the  
304 case with our measure of adaptation. Deeper discussions of these issues are available in Lewbel et al.  
305 (2013), Lloyd-Smith et al. (2018), and Lloyd-Smith et al. (2019). In addition, maximum likelihood  
306 estimation of count models is inconsistent under heteroskedasticity of unknown form. These issues are  
307 mitigated by the specification of a linear regression model. Our GMM estimator is consistent and  
308 inference is based on robust standard errors clustered at the site level.

### 309 3.3. Variables

310 We measure welfare in terms of food security (i.e. *FS* from equation 1). Households were asked to  
311 identify, for a typical year, periods when they tend to struggle to find sufficient food, or experience  
312 shortages to feed their families. We measure the number of days in a year the household does not  
313 experience shortage to feed the family and use this number to capture the food security of households.  
314 This measure has been used in the literature (e.g. Kristjanson *et al.* 2012) and follows the definition of

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<sup>10</sup> The findings of all statistical tests are discussed in the results section.

315 Pinstrup-Andersen (2009) in which a household is food secure “if it has the ability to acquire the food  
316 needed by its members to be food secure” (p.6).<sup>11</sup> A summary of our variables, and their descriptive  
317 statistics, in Table 2 shows that on average, households in our sample experience 293 food secure days  
318 per year, with a standard deviation of approximately 84 days.

319

320 ⇒ ***Table 2. Variable Descriptions and Descriptive statistics (n=5159)***

321

322 Our measure of adaptation (i.e. A from equation 1) is based on responses of households  
323 regarding changes that were made in households’ farming activities within the past 10 years.

324 Households were instructed to select all alternatives that would apply from a list of 46 farming  
325 practices (Table 3). To measure adaptation, we count the total number of changes to farming practices  
326 made by each household. Households responses for the questions about changes in farming practices  
327 were captured with binary indicators (e.g. response =1 for yes, “stopped using manure/compost”).

328 Therefore, the mean values in the Table represent the proportion of the households in the sample that  
329 implemented the change.

330

331 ⇒ ***Table 3. Activities and descriptive statistics associated with changes in farming practices***  
332 ***(n=5159)***

333

334 In order to identify effects of adaptation on household welfare, it is also necessary to control for  
335 elements of adaptive capacity. Poor households in rural areas of developing countries face numerous  
336 economic constraints that help identify the adaptive capacity of households (e.g. Mendelsohn 2012).

337 These determinants include variables that capture various socio-economic characteristics of households  
338 (see for example, Smit 2001, Yohe and Tol 2002, Feder *et al.* 1985). Our model includes controls for

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<sup>11</sup> Our measure for food security primarily captures food access and is expected to be correlated with caloric availability. However, the concept of food security is thought to have a number of dimensions that are difficult to capture with any one measure (FAO et al. 2018). Nevertheless, for our study, we are limited to the data collected as described above. .



339 these socio-economic factors, as they may influence smallholder farmers' welfare (i.e.  $X$  from equation  
340 1). The CCAFS survey provides us with a number of variables that capture human capital, access to  
341 information, financial and physical assets, farm and household characteristics, and farming and climate  
342 crises experience. The variables that we employ for each of these categories are described in Table 2.

343 We also include in our model controls for the types of crops that each household grows.  
344 Dummy variables for 10 crops (see Table 4) are included to control for possible differential effects of  
345 crop mix on food security (i.e.  $Z$  from equation 1). These crops represent the most important crops of  
346 our sample as they are grown by at least 5% of our households. Our estimation also controls for local  
347 characteristics (e.g. weather) of each of the 39 sites shown in Table 1 (i.e. site fixed effects).

348

349 ⇒ **Table 4. Crop Summary Statistics (n=5159)**

350

351 Finally, we investigate differential effects of alternative stimuli for adaptation by segmenting  
352 our sample. In addition to asking households about their changing farming practices, farmers were also  
353 asked whether the changes were caused by climate variability and/or market conditions. We split our  
354 sample into four groups to estimate models targeting different motivators for changing farming  
355 practices. The first group contains 1,036 households (20% of the sample) that did not adapt in response  
356 to climate or market; this is our baseline group whose adaptation was not in response to either of these  
357 two factors. The second group contains 483 households (9% of the sample) that adapted due to climate  
358 variability only. The third group has 1,286 households (25% of the sample) that adapted due to market  
359 conditions only. Finally, the fourth group contains 2,354 households (46% of the sample) whose  
360 agricultural adaptation was in response to both climate variability and market conditions. For each of  
361 these segments, we run separate models and compare the impacts of adaptation on food security.

362

**363 4. Results**

364 Table 5 shows the results of four estimated models, which explore potential differences in results of  
365 using instrumental variables and fixed effects. OLS1 is an ordinary least squares model that does not  
366 include instrumental variables or crop fixed effects. The OLS2 model adds crop fixed effects. The next  
367 two models employ the widely utilized two step generalized method of moments instrumental variable  
368 approach. IV/GMM1 includes instrumental variables, but not crop fixed effects, while IV/GMM2 adds  
369 crop fixed effects.

370 We begin with results of statistical tests regarding the validity of the instruments we employ in  
371 our IV/GMM models, presented in the bottom of Table 5. First, we test whether the instruments are  
372 correlated with the endogenous variable. The F statistic of the auxiliary regression of  $A$  on  $WA$  and  $WX^*$   
373 is equal to 979.18 ( $p < 0.001$ ), which indicates that the correlation between the instruments and  
374 adaptation is statistically significant. Next, we use the Kleibergen-Paap test of under-identification to  
375 examine whether the excluded instruments (neighbors' adaptation and education) are correlated with  
376 the endogenous variable (own adaptation) under the assumption of site-level clustering (Kleibergen and  
377 Paap 2006). Table 5 shows that we reject the null, that the equation is under-identified, with  $p < 0.05$  in  
378 both instrumental variable models. Finally, we perform a test of over-identifying restrictions. The test  
379 uses Hansen's J test statistic (Hansen 1982). It is based on the joint null hypothesis that the excluded  
380 instruments are uncorrelated with the error term of the food security regression, and that they are  
381 correctly excluded from the food security equation. If the test statistic is significant, the instruments  
382 may not be valid. We fail to reject the null hypothesis with p-values of 0.16 and 0.17 for, respectively,  
383 the IV/GMM1 and IVGMM2 models. These results provide support that our proposed set of  
384 instruments is valid.

385 We now turn to the estimates of equation 1. Our central concern is to quantify the impact of  
386 agricultural adaptation on food security, which is captured by our estimate of  $\alpha$  in equation 1. Our

387 preferred (IV/GMM) estimates indicate a positive and statistically significant relationship between  
 388 adaptation and food security. We find that one additional farming practice changed increases food  
 389 security of smallholder farmers by 4.8 days. Interestingly, this effect does not depend on crop effects  
 390 (i.e. the estimates of  $\alpha$  in IV/GMM1 and IV/GMM2 are very similar). The IV/GMM estimates that  
 391 account for the endogeneity of adaptation are approximately 4 times larger than estimates obtained  
 392 through a standard OLS regression. This result underscores the importance of correcting for  
 393 endogeneity when estimating the impacts of adaptation on welfare.

394 The magnitudes and significance of the control coefficients in Table 5 indicate that the results  
 395 are generally robust across the four models. In particular, variables that increase food secure days,  
 396 which are consistent across all specifications of the model, include having a bank account (approx. 11  
 397 more food secure days), having rental income (approx. 10 more food secure days), and having more  
 398 non-productive assets (approx. 5 more food secure days for each asset). Conversely, variables that  
 399 decrease food secure days include having more people in a household (approx. 1 less food secure day  
 400 per additional person) and having faced a climate related crisis (approx. 14 less food secure days).

401 There are, however, two control variables whose coefficients are substantially different when  
 402 the model is estimated with instrumental variables. First, whether a family has been farming in the  
 403 same locality for 10 years is highly significant and large in the OLS models, while it is insignificant  
 404 and much smaller in the IV/GMM models. Second, whether the farm has access to running water is  
 405 also highly significant and large in the OLS models, but smaller and marginally significant when crop  
 406 effects and instruments are used.

407

#### 408 ⇒ **Table 5: Model Results**

409

410 We further investigate the robustness of our IV/GMM models by running additional IV  
 411 specifications. We are interesting in the sensitivity of results to two key aspects of the weighting matrix

412  $W$ ; distance truncation and normalization. In Table 5, we defined neighbor networks as having potential  
413 impacts to a distance of 10 km. In addition to the 10 km truncation, the spatial weights of our IVs were  
414 based on row normalization of inverse distances. Both row and spectral normalizations are common in  
415 spatial analysis. While row normalization makes the row sum of the weights in  $W$  equal to 1, with  
416 spectral normalization the weighting matrix is normalized so that the largest eigenvalue of  $W$  is equal to  
417 1. Table 6 shows results where we modify our instruments. Estimates reported in the first two columns  
418 keep row normalization but vary the spatial designations of neighbor networks (i.e. a 5 km truncation  
419 for IV/GMM3 and a 50 km truncation for IV/GMM4). Estimates of the last column use our standard 10  
420 km truncation but the IVs are based on spectral weights.

421         Estimates of models IV/GMM3 and IV/GMM4 are similar to those IV/GMM estimates in Table  
422 5. Moreover, across all of the distance truncations, the instrumental variables tests again provide  
423 evidence in favor of our spatial identification strategy. This suggests that our instrumental variable  
424 approach based on row normalized weights is not sensitive to the specification of spatial truncation.  
425 The final model, IV/GMM5, investigates whether spectral normalization of the weighting matrix  
426 influences the results. The IV/GMM5 model is estimated with 10km truncation, so is comparable to the  
427 models IV/GMM1 and IV/GMM2. The estimate of the effect of adaptation on food security is larger in  
428 model IV/GMM5. In this model, the instrumental variables statistical tests offer mixed empirical  
429 support for the identification strategy (contrary to the case of row normalized instruments).  
430 Specifically, while we are not able to reject the null in the Hansen over-identification test (which is  
431 evidence in favor of the strategy as a rejection generates uncertainty on the validity of the instrumental  
432 variables), the Kleibergen-Paap under-identification test indicates that we cannot reject the null of no  
433 correlation between the instruments and the endogenous variable. We conclude that spatial effects  
434 based on row normalized spatial weights generate better instrumental variables for use in estimating  
435 welfare regressions.

436

437       ⇒ **Table 6: Robustness Checks Regarding Distance and Spatial Matrix Properties**

438

439       Note that our approach is based on an adaptation measure that counts adaptive activities and  
440       implicitly assumes equal weights to each activity. Previous works warrant caution regarding this  
441       assumption (e.g. Below et al 2012; Shikuku et al 2017). As another robustness check, we estimate  
442       model IV/GMM2 using two different methods to incorporate activity weights. The first is to use  
443       principal component analysis to determine weights. Specifically, we implement a weighting scheme  
444       based on the first principal component (which explains 16% of the total variance) and measure  
445       adaptation as the weighted sum of adaptive activities. The second method computes a food security-  
446       based index where weights are given by the marginal contribution of each adaptive activity to food  
447       security. Specifically, we follow Shikuku et al (2017) and regress our outcome variable, food secure  
448       days, on the set of activity indicators. The predicted level of food security is used as a weighted  
449       adaptation index. While regressions using these adaptation indices make the magnitudes of the effects  
450       not comparable to the estimates in Table 5, both methods confirm previous results; adaptation  
451       significantly increases food security.

452       Our estimates with IVs indicate that changing an additional farming practice increases food  
453       security, on average, by 4.8 days (see Table 5). For the mean household, that made approximately 9.8  
454       farming practices changes (see Table 2), the effect of adaptation is approximately 47 additional days of  
455       food security in a year. These results imply that policies aimed at fostering smallholder farm  
456       agricultural adaptation can significantly improve the welfare of farmers.

457       We further explore our data by examining the effects of adaptation that is motivated by market  
458       conditions and climate change. Table 7 shows the average number of farming practices changed by  
459       each of the four segments of the sample; changes due to: i) neither reason (n=1036), ii) both reasons

460 (n=2354), iii) climate reason only (n=483), or iv) market reason only (n=1286). Households in the  
 461 baseline group (i.e. neither reason) changed approximately 2 farming practices while households that  
 462 respond to climate and market conditions changed 13.5 practices. Interestingly, households that  
 463 respond to climate (but not to market conditions) only adapt with approximately half as many activities  
 464 as those that respond to the market (but not to climate variability).

465

466 ⇒ **Table 7: Average number of farming practices changed, by reason for adaptation**

467

468 For each subsample, we estimate equation 1 using instrumental variables based on row-normalized  
 469 weighting matrices with 10km truncation, and with site and crop fixed effects (i.e. the specification  
 470 followed in model IV/GMM2). Table 8 shows, for each group, the estimate of the marginal effect of  
 471 adaptation of food security ( $\hat{\alpha}$ ) and its 95% confidence interval.<sup>12</sup> We estimate that an increase in one  
 472 adaptive activity from the baseline group increases food security by 5.6 days; however this estimate is  
 473 not statistically significant. The marginal effect estimate for the climate variability group is 4.4;  
 474 however, again we cannot reject the null of no effect. Households that adapt due to market conditions  
 475 increase their food security, on average, by 7.5 days per farming practice changed ( $p < 0.01$ ). Similarly,  
 476 those who adapt to both market conditions and climate variability increase their food security by 7.1  
 477 days per practice changed.<sup>13</sup> For the households that adapt with double motivation, the average  
 478 contribution of adaptation to food security is an impressive 95.6 days (i.e., 7.09 per practice changed  
 479 times 13.48 changes, on average). These households have, on average, 295.6 days of food security in a  
 480 year; hence, agricultural adaptation provides 32% of their yearly food security.

481

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<sup>12</sup> Full model estimates are available upon request.

<sup>13</sup> The confidence intervals of these two estimates (i.e. 7.51 and 7.09) significantly overlap indicating that they are not statistically different from one another.

482 ⇒ **Table 8: Marginal effect of adaptation on the number of food secure days, by reason for**  
483 **adaptation**

484

## 485 **5. Summary of Contributions, Limitations, and Concluding**

### 486 **Remarks**

487

488 This paper offers several contributions to the literature on the welfare impacts of adaptation. Overall,  
489 we find that adaptation, in terms of an additional farming practice changed, increases food security by  
490 approximately 5 days. For an average household that makes almost 10 adaptive changes, adaptation is  
491 responsible for approximately 47 more days of food security. Put differently, our results indicate that  
492 approximately 16% of the food security of smallholder farmers in our sample comes from their  
493 adaptive activities. Other factors that increase food security include having: a bank account, income  
494 from renting land or machinery, larger numbers of non-productive assets, running water, and 10 or  
495 more years of farming experience. Factors that decrease food security include larger household sizes,  
496 and having experienced a climate-related crisis in the last 5 years. Our finding, that adaptation is  
497 welfare improving, is in line with a number of empirical studies that address the endogeneity issue in  
498 analyzing the welfare impacts of adaptation at the household level (e.g. Di Falco *et al.* 2011; Di Falco  
499 and Veronesi 2013).

500 These results also reflect a number of more specific contributions of this study. First, our study  
501 employs spatial or neighbour network effects to construct instrumental variables to address endogeneity  
502 of adaptation in food security models. Our proposed set of instruments (that are validated by under-  
503 identification and over-identification tests) offers researchers an additional identification strategy to  
504 analyze the welfare impacts of adaptation. We also show the importance of correcting for endogeneity  
505 in adaptation, in that our IV/GMM estimates of impacts of adaptation on food security are up to 4 times  
506 larger than estimates derived from models that do not correct for endogenous adaptation. The larger

507 impact of adaptation on number of food secure days, after instrumenting for adaptation, demonstrates  
508 the importance of addressing endogeneity. Our results show that ignoring this identification challenge  
509 can underestimate the welfare contribution of adaptation.

510         Second, while earlier work has focused on case studies or farmers living in localized  
511 geographical regions, this paper uses a dataset that contains information on more than five thousand  
512 households located across 3 continents (Africa, Asia, and Central America) and 15 countries  
513 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal,  
514 Nicaragua, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda). This dataset substantially enhances the external  
515 validity of our findings and allows us to provide robust and generalizable estimates of welfare impacts  
516 of household-level adaptation.

517         Third, we investigate whether the impact of adaptation on household welfare differs depending  
518 on whether adaptation is motivated by changes in market conditions or climate change. Results indicate  
519 that adaptation motivated by climate change alone does not significantly impact food security, while  
520 adaptation done in response to market conditions is welfare enhancing. When adaptation is done in  
521 response to both climate variability and market conditions, our results indicate that an additional  
522 farming practice changed increases food security by approximately 7 days, which, when extrapolated  
523 over an average of approximately 13 activities, leads to an average effect of 96 food secure days (or  
524 32% of their food security). These results suggest that households have been more successful at  
525 adapting to changing market conditions than in responding to climate change. Therefore, as impacts of  
526 climate change increase, in addition to policy approaches designed to increase adaptive capacity, it may  
527 be necessary to design targeted interventions (e.g. irrigation schemes, information dissemination) that  
528 complement the adaptive capacities of households.

529         Despite the robustness of our results, some cautionary notes are in order. First and foremost, our  
530 study (like most adaptation studies) relies on data derived from recall regarding behavioral changes



531 over long periods. An alternative approach could be to design a randomized control trial, or a natural  
532 (quasi) experiment, that would measure more immediate changes in behavior (e.g. Duflo *et al.* 2011).  
533 However, the implementation of such methods in 15 countries would be challenging, and a smaller  
534 sample would limit the external validity of these approaches. Though we believe that the breadth of our  
535 sample is a strength, this contribution comes at a cost of lower resolution. For example, understanding  
536 heterogeneity in results across geographic regions and types of farming systems would provide useful  
537 information for policy development. Though initial inquiries into regional differences in adaptive  
538 behaviour have been investigated (Chen et al. 2018) much more work is needed.

539 In assessing food security effects on adaptation, it is challenging to develop econometric  
540 approaches for identifying causal impacts, such as finding valid instrumental variables to control for  
541 endogeneity. Several studies have used detailed data on social networks, and used social learning  
542 variables as instruments in identifying causal impacts of agricultural innovations. Unfortunately, our  
543 dataset has no social networks information. Instead, our approach is to construct instruments based on  
544 neighbor networks as defined by GPS coordinates. The outcome of such an approach is a general  
545 network variable - one that includes social learning and other types of networks. In our developing  
546 country settings, networks can play several roles, from information exchange to borrowing and risk  
547 sharing. Our use of this general network variable as an IV is only valid to the extent that memberships  
548 in such networks do not directly influence food security. Otherwise, our results represent correlations  
549 rather than causations.

550 Our approach requires spatial information. We use Global Positioning System coordinates to  
551 calculate distances between households, which is needed to build the weighting matrices and hence the  
552 instrumental variables. This requirement limits the application of this approach to existing datasets that  
553 contain spatial markers. Given Global Positioning System technology, which makes it increasingly  
554 cheaper and easier to collect such information, we suggest that collecting these coordinates could

555 become standard practice when applying survey instruments, not only for network analysis, but for  
556 other uses such as maintaining options of relocating households to collect panel data. We also have  
557 little information about how changing market conditions and adaptation affect food security. Changing  
558 market conditions could include new market opportunities for smallholders that may require  
559 adaptation. But changing market conditions could also imply more volatility and price risks that could  
560 cause smallholders to adapt by moving away from activities involved with volatile prices. Both of these  
561 circumstances might encourage adaptive activities, but could result in different impacts on the food  
562 security of households. Future research could unpack more specific scenarios regarding changing  
563 market conditions, and investigate how different types of responses lead to differences in food security.  
564 Understanding these behaviours in the context of climate change risks would provide valuable  
565 information for understanding local behaviour and policy design.

566 Overall, our findings support economic concepts of rational households, who can be effective in  
567 adapting to changing circumstances in ways that attempt to ameliorate negative changes, thereby  
568 improving welfare. But for some types of newly emerging threats, such as climate change, these  
569 abilities to adapt may need to be complemented with carefully designed interventions, as data indicate  
570 that historic adaptation has not been clearly welfare improving. With further research in this area, we  
571 are hopeful that governments will be in a better position to design policies that not only promote better  
572 adaptive capacity, but also complement such capacity with developments that better enable the  
573 effectiveness of adaptation.

574

## 575 **Conflict of Interest**

576 The authors declared that they have no conflict of interest.

577

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579 **References**

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783 **Table 2. Distribution of the CCAFS data set sample across Regions, Country and Sites.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Sites</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
West Africa	Ghana	1	140
	Burkina Faso	1	139
	Mali	1	141
	Niger	1	140
	Senegal	1	138
East Africa	Mozambique	2	266
	Ethiopia	1	140
	Kenya	2	279
	Tanzania	1	134
	Uganda	2	280
South Asia	Bangladesh	7	783
	India	10	1362
	Nepal	5	668
Central America	Costa Rica	1	132
	Nicaragua	3	417
<b>Total</b>	15	39	5,159

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794 **Table 2. Variable Descriptions and Descriptive statistics (n=5159)**

Variable	Description	Mean	Standard Deviation
<b>Dependent Variable</b> ( <i>FS In Equation 1</i> )			
<i>Food Security</i>	number of days in a year that the household does not experience a shortage of food to feed the family	292.7	84.121
<b>Measure of Adaptation</b> ( <i>A In Equation 1</i> )			
<i>Count of Adaptive Activities</i>	Number of adaptive activities undertaken by a household in the past 10 years (see Table 3)	9.790	6.479
<b>Human Capital</b> ( $X^*$ – <i>Part of X In equation 1</i> )			
<i>Education – primary</i>	1 if the highest level of education attained by any household member is primary	0.373	0.484
<i>Education – secondary</i>	1 if the highest level of education attained by any household member is secondary	0.333	0.471
<i>Education – post-secondary</i>	1 if the highest level of education attained by any household member is post-secondary	0.192	0.394
<b>Access to Information &amp; Finance</b> ( <i>Part of X In equation 1</i> )			
<i>Access to weather information</i>	1 if any "Yes" to question "Did you receive any information?"	0.731	0.443
<i>Bank account</i>	1 if household has a bank account	0.329	0.470
<i>Cash from the government</i>	1 if "Yes" to question "Any cash income during the last 12 months?" with source from projects/government	0.325	0.469
<i>Income from renting out land or machinery</i>	1 if "Yes" to question "Any cash income during the last 12 months?" with source from renting out machinery/land	0.143	0.350
<b>Assets</b> ( <i>Part of X In equation 1</i> )			
<i>Count of production-related assets</i>	Count of ownership of the following items: mechanical plough, mill, generator, battery, water pump, biogas digester, thresher, LPG, fishing nets, and solar panel	0.756	1.172
<i>Count of nonproduction-related assets</i>	Count of ownership of the following items: radio, television, cell phone, bicycle, computer, improved stove, refrigerator, air conditioning, electric fan, and internet access	2.639	1.837
<i>Livestock</i>	1 if household owns large or small livestock	0.865	0.342
<i>Motorcycle</i>	1 if household owns a motorcycle	0.160	0.367
<i>Boat</i>	1 if household owns a boat	0.008	0.091
<b>Farm &amp; Household Characteristics</b> ( <i>Part of X In equation 1</i> )			
<i>Running water</i>	1 if household has running/tap water	0.170	0.375
<i>Storage facility for crops</i>	1 if household has improved storage facility for crops	0.227	0.419
<i>Planted trees</i>	1 if household has planted at least one tree on his farm	0.369	0.483
<i>Household size</i>	Number of people living in a household	6.058	3.042
<i>Household is female-headed</i>	1 if the gender of household head is female	0.101	0.301
<b>Farming &amp; Crisis Experience</b> ( <i>Part of X In equation 1</i> )			
<i>Farming experience is at least 10 years</i>	1 if "Yes" to question "Have you or your family been farming or keeping animals or fish in this locality for 10 years or more?"	0.923	0.267

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Variable	Description	Mean	Standard Deviation
<i>Experienced climate crisis in the last 5 years</i>	1 if "Yes" to question "Have you faced a climate related crisis in the last 5 years?"	0.701	0.458
795	Note: Detailed descriptions for each variable are available from CCAFS Baseline Household Level		
796	Questionnaire (Available at		
797	<a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/IUJQZV">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/IUJQZV</a> )		
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819 **Table 3. Activities and descriptive statistics associated with changes in farming practices (n=5159)**

Changes in Activities undertaken within the past 10 years	Mean	Standard Deviation
<b><i>Crop management Activities</i></b>		
1. Introduced any new crop	0.338	0.473
2. Are you testing any new crop	0.093	0.290
3. Stopped growing a crop (totally)	0.457	0.498
4. Stopped growing a crop (in one season)	0.231	0.421
5. Introduced intercropping	0.439	0.496
6. Introduced rotations	0.228	0.420
7. Earlier planting	0.271	0.445
8. Later planting	0.172	0.378
9. Started using or using more pesticides/herbicides	0.384	0.486
10. Stared using integrated pest management	0.043	0.202
11. Started using integrated crop management	0.036	0.185
<b><i>Changing Crop Variety Activities</i></b>		
12. Introduced new variety of crops	0.714	0.452
13. Planting higher yielding variety	0.619	0.486
14. Planting better quality variety	0.449	0.497
15. Planting pre-treated/improved seed	0.346	0.476
16. Planting shorter cycle variety	0.388	0.487
17. Planting longer cycle variety	0.159	0.366
18. Planting drought tolerant variety	0.193	0.395
19. Planting flood tolerant variety	0.059	0.235
20. Planting salinity-tolerant variety	0.016	0.127
21. Planting toxicity-tolerant variety	0.004	0.065
22. Planting disease-resistant variety	0.206	0.405
23. Planting pest-resistant variety	0.162	0.369
24. Testing a new variety	0.123	0.329
25. Stopped using a variety	0.475	0.499
<b><i>Soil, Water and Land Management Activities</i></b>		
26. Expanded area	0.474	0.499
27. Reduced area	0.404	0.491
28. Started irrigating	0.109	0.312
29. Stopped irrigating	0.010	0.098
30. Stopped burning	0.090	0.286
31. Introduced crop cover	0.051	0.220
32. Introduced micro-catchments	0.034	0.182
33. Introduced/built ridges or bunds	0.082	0.274
34. Introduced mulching	0.065	0.246
35. Introduced terraces	0.050	0.217
36. Introduced stone lines	0.020	0.140
37. Introduced hedges	0.045	0.207
38. Introduced contour ploughing	0.049	0.217
39. Introduced improved irrigation (water efficiency)	0.104	0.305
40. Introduced improved drainage	0.023	0.150
41. Introduced tidal water control management	0.014	0.116
42. Introduced mechanized farming	0.258	0.437

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Changes in Activities undertaken within the past 10 years	Mean	Standard Deviation
43. Earlier land preparation	0.390	0.488
44. Started using or using more mineral/chemical fertilizers	0.515	0.500
45. Started using manure/compost	0.337	0.473
46. Stopped using manure/compost	0.063	0.242

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**Table 4. Crop Summary Statistics (n=5159)**

Crop*	Mean	Standard Deviation
Rice	0.405	0.491
Maize	0.388	0.487
Wheat	0.333	0.471
Beans	0.200	0.400
Millet	0.116	0.320
Sorghum	0.102	0.303
Cowpeas	0.082	0.274
Banana	0.069	0.254
Cassava	0.066	0.249
Peanuts	0.066	0.249

\* Dummy variable that equals one if the crop is cultivated by the household, zero otherwise.

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846 **Table 5: Model Results**

	OLS1	OLS2	IV/GMM1	IV/GMM2
<i>Count of adaptive activities</i>	1.709*** (0.400)	1.243*** (0.410)	4.766*** (1.369)	4.759*** (1.343)
<i>Education – primary</i>	4.052 (4.360)	3.162 (4.218)	-0.689 (4.135)	-0.668 (3.980)
<i>Education – secondary</i>	5.048 (5.276)	3.576 (5.008)	-3.565 (5.831)	-3.190 (5.394)
<i>Education – post-secondary</i>	8.417 (5.262)	6.584 (5.032)	-2.214 (6.246)	-1.752 (5.487)
<i>Access to weather information</i>	-1.995 (4.292)	-2.489 (4.304)	-3.139 (4.447)	-2.963 (4.158)
<i>Bank account</i>	12.691*** (3.015)	12.222*** (2.867)	10.678*** (2.752)	10.980*** (2.649)
<i>Cash from the government</i>	4.874 (3.447)	5.592 (3.370)	4.575 (2.951)	4.205 (2.895)
<i>Income from renting out land or machinery</i>	10.333*** (3.428)	9.877*** (3.305)	9.739** (3.707)	9.642** (3.607)
<i>Count of production-related assets</i>	2.184 (1.735)	2.181 (1.816)	0.502 (1.840)	0.608 (1.867)
<i>Count of nonproduction-related assets</i>	5.616*** (1.292)	5.701*** (1.313)	5.289*** (1.205)	5.397*** (1.220)
<i>Livestock</i>	5.464 (4.369)	4.844 (4.285)	1.552 (4.033)	1.572 (3.939)
<i>Motorcycle</i>	-0.600 (2.873)	-0.653 (2.851)	0.005 (2.736)	-0.142 (2.608)
<i>Boat</i>	1.636 (9.394)	0.247 (9.408)	1.152 (7.597)	1.869 (7.517)
<i>Running water</i>	10.924** (4.630)	11.181** (4.316)	7.131 (4.350)	7.534* (4.056)
<i>Storage facility for crops</i>	-0.862 (3.467)	-1.746 (3.540)	-6.235 (4.490)	-6.543 (4.236)
<i>Planted trees</i>	0.458 (2.604)	0.903 (2.641)	-2.810 (3.062)	-2.455 (3.117)
<i>Household size</i>	-0.788* (0.453)	-0.897* (0.444)	-1.186*** (0.426)	-1.163*** (0.428)
<i>Household is female-headed</i>	-2.916 (3.715)	-3.199 (3.625)	-1.004 (3.955)	-1.061 (3.997)
<i>Farming experience is at least 10 years</i>	14.269*** (4.689)	9.983** (4.503)	3.483 (5.538)	4.151 (4.571)
<i>Experienced climate crisis in the last 5 years</i>	-14.040*** (5.155)	-13.905** (5.299)	-14.533*** (4.669)	-14.244*** (4.738)
Site Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crop Effects	No	Yes	No	Yes
Kleibergen-Paap Under identification test (p-value)	-	-	0.0342	0.0295
	-	-	0.1559	0.1674

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Hansen Over  
identification test (p-  
value)

$R^2$	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38
$N$	5,159	5,159	5,159	5,159

847 Notes: Cluster-robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Standard errors are clustered at the  
 848 site level.  
 849 For the IV/GMM models, the instrumental variables are the spatial lags of adaptation and education  
 850 levels. The weighting matrix uses a 10km spatial truncation and is row normalized. \*  $p < 0.1$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.05$ ;  
 851 \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

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882 **Table 6: Robustness Checks Regarding Distance and Spatial Matrix Properties**

	IV/GMM3	IV/GMM4	IV/GMM5
Spatial Matrix Specification:			
<i>Truncation</i>	5 km	50 km	10 km
<i>Normalization</i>	Row	Row	Spectral
<i>Count of Adaptive Activities</i>	4.655*** (1.309)	4.991*** (1.390)	6.364* (3.448)
<i>Access to weather information</i>	-3.236 (4.126)	-3.083 (4.278)	-9.609 (6.750)
<i>Education – primary</i>	-0.509 (3.999)	-1.211 (3.963)	0.855 (4.585)
<i>Education – secondary</i>	-2.742 (5.411)	-4.215 (5.314)	0.793 (6.463)
<i>Education - post-secondary</i>	-1.279 (5.504)	-2.790 (5.402)	1.840 (6.953)
<i>Bank account</i>	11.015*** (2.650)	10.839*** (2.636)	13.255*** (3.167)
<i>Cash from the government</i>	4.279 (2.922)	4.146 (2.895)	0.181 (3.542)
<i>Income from renting out land or machinery</i>	9.675** (3.589)	9.235** (3.651)	8.518* (4.255)
<i>Count of production-related assets</i>	0.672 (1.855)	0.405 (1.866)	1.336 (2.104)
<i>Count of nonproduction- related assets</i>	5.436*** (1.196)	5.443*** (1.227)	5.121*** (1.337)
<i>Livestock</i>	1.997 (3.970)	1.633 (3.931)	-1.266 (4.377)
<i>Motorcycle</i>	-0.184 (2.614)	0.033 (2.599)	-2.236 (2.593)
<i>Boat</i>	1.539 (7.625)	2.739 (7.451)	-4.289 (8.402)
<i>Running water</i>	7.789* (4.069)	7.197* (4.040)	6.755 (4.177)
<i>Storage facility for crops</i>	-6.363 (4.143)	-6.968 (4.316)	-8.754 (7.162)
<i>Planted trees</i>	-2.321 (3.094)	-2.524 (3.134)	-3.256 (3.989)
<i>Household size</i>	-1.158** (0.429)	-1.192*** (0.425)	-0.907* (0.459)
<i>Household is female-headed</i>	-1.365 (3.982)	-0.870 (4.004)	-2.115 (4.818)
<i>Farming experience is at least 10 years</i>	4.262 (4.537)	4.027 (4.587)	6.090 (5.949)
<i>Experienced climate crisis in the last 5 years</i>	-14.206*** (4.730)	-14.365*** (4.738)	-15.904*** (4.943)
Site Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crop Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kleibergen-Paap Under	0.0174	0.0331	0.4007

identification test (p-value)

Hansen Over identification test (p-value) 0.2039 0.1288 0.5170

$R^2$  0.38 0.38 0.35

$N$  5,159 5,159 5,159

883 Notes: Cluster-robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. Standard errors are clustered at the  
884 site level.

885 \*  $p < 0.1$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

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**Table 7: Average number of farming practices changed, by reason for adaptation**

	Climate Variability (No)	Climate Variability (Yes)
Market Conditions (No)	2.28 (3.59)	5.93 (4.32)
Market Conditions (Yes)	10.47 (4.07)	13.48 (5.61)

893 Note: Standard deviations are in parenthesis.

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896 **Table 8: Marginal effect of adaptation on the number of food secure days, by reason for**  
897 **adaptation**

	Climate Variability (No)	Climate Variability (Yes)
Market Conditions (No)	5.64 [-9.63 , 20.91]	4.43 [-7.70 , 16.56]
Market Conditions (Yes)	7.51*** [1.91 , 13.12]	7.09*** [2.12 , 12.06]

898 Note: Squared brackets show 95 % confidence interval. \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

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