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## Estimating Farmers' Internal Value of Crop Residues in Smallholder Crop-Livestock Systems: A South Asia case study

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1  
2 Estimating Farmers' Internal Value of Crop Residues in  
3 Smallholder Crop-Livestock Systems:  
4 A South Asia case study  
5

6 Introduction

7 Crop Residues (CR) are an important, internally produced by-product from crop  
8 production with several uses on smallholder, mixed crop-livestock farms. CR includes straw  
9 from small grains such as rice and wheat, stover from large grains such as maize, and residual  
10 plant material from other crops. Traditionally and currently in much of the developing world, CR  
11 are used for livestock feed, mulch, fuel, and construction material (Erenstein et al., 2015; Rao  
12 and Hall, 2003). CR are sometimes exchanged or traded, potentially providing additional  
13 income. In many areas, surplus CR are removed or burned so planting can be done in soil  
14 traditionally seen as clean and ready for planting.<sup>1</sup> Recent interest in Conservation Agriculture  
15 (CA) increases the pressure for retaining CR as mulch (i.e., soil cover) instead of other uses. In  
16 CA, CR are left in the field as mulch on the soil surface to improve soil productivity as measured  
17 by nutrient balance, water retention, erosion control, and soil health (Giller et al., 2009;  
18 Valbuena et al., 2012; Erenstein, 2002; Jat et al., 2020). These competing uses create internal  
19 tradeoffs for households: the short-term benefits of using CR to feed livestock, sell in the market,  
20 and use at home for fuel and construction material versus the long-term benefits of leaving CR in

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<sup>1</sup> Burning clears the field quickly before the next crop is planted and releases some of the nutrients in the residue for use by the next crop.

1 the field as mulch (Tittonell et al, 2015). This study develops a method for estimating the internal  
2 value for these uses of residues.

3         Increasing global demand for meat and milk products due to population growth and rising  
4 incomes (especially in developing countries) has increased the interest in and calls for attention  
5 to the mixed crop-livestock systems prevalent in developing countries (Herrero, et al., 2010;  
6 McDermott et al., 2010; Thornton, Herrero, and Ericksen, 2011; Wright et al., 2011; Tarawali et  
7 al., 2011; Delgado et al., 1999a, 1999b). In such work, livestock is seen as a critical source of  
8 food both for the immediate household and for many others connected by local and distant  
9 markets. Even with the development and growth of larger intensive livestock operations, these  
10 authors and proponents contend that smallholder livestock operations will continue to be an  
11 important part of the meat and milk supply chain and contribute significantly to the supply of  
12 food in the developing world. Thus, these authors contend, the demand for CR as feed will  
13 continue.

14         In an early study, Owen and Jayasuriya (1989) show the benefits of CR as livestock feed  
15 and the need to utilize CR more fully in developing countries to meet food needs. More recently,  
16 Herrero et al. (2010) discuss the need for investment in mixed crop-livestock systems in general  
17 and specifically more research for the livestock side of that mix and the need to improve dual-  
18 purpose crops for both grains for humans and CR for feed. The potential for such dual-purpose  
19 crops has been variously analyzed – e.g. in the case of maize (Blummel et al, 2013; Erenstein et  
20 al., 2011) and sorghum and millets (Hall et al., 2004).

21         Some crop research has focused on the benefits of using CR as mulch in CA and on the  
22 promotion of CA to smallholder, mixed crop-livestock farms (Derpsch et al., 2010; Kassam et

1 al., 2009; Hobbs, 2007; Lal, 2006; Larbi et al., 2002; Thiombiano and Meshack, 2009). Other  
2 crop research has identified the potential benefits of adopting CA as well as the problems and  
3 constraints slowing the widespread adoption of CA (Duncan et al., 2016; Akinola et al., 2016;  
4 Homann-Kee Tui et al., 2015; Valbuena et al., 2015; Erenstein et al., 2012; Jat et al., 2012;  
5 Valbuena et al., 2012; Umar et al., 2011; Erenstein et al., 2011; Erenstein and Thorpe, 2010;  
6 Giller et al., 2009, 2011; Gowing and Palmer, 2008; Erenstein, 1999, 2002, 2003). While early  
7 studies concentrated on the comparison of CA management systems relative to traditional crop  
8 management without including livestock in their analyses, others describe the complexity of and  
9 the need to understand the use and allocation of CR within the mixed crop-livestock system  
10 (Erenstein and Thorpe, 2010; Herrero et al, 2010; Moritz, 2010; and the more recent studies cited  
11 above). Giller et al. (2011) identify a research agenda needed to develop a fuller understanding  
12 of the smallholder, mixed crop-livestock system in Africa. Tittonell et al. (2015) synthesize some  
13 of the tradeoffs around crop residue biomass use in smallholder crop-livestock systems. The  
14 production and use of livestock manure in smallholder crop-livestock system has also received  
15 attention (Wang et al., 2020 and Castellanos-Navrrete, 2015).

16         These two uses of CR (i.e., as feed and as mulch) are competing uses also for researchers  
17 and development agencies promoting either livestock production or CA. Those interested in  
18 livestock production promote the need for CR as feed for livestock to produce food and  
19 improved nutrition and livelihood for households over CR as mulch. Those interested in crop  
20 production, soil productivity, environmental quality, and CA, promote CR as mulch over CR as  
21 feed.

1 Even though positive economic and environmental benefits of CA have been variously  
2 reported and CA has been variously promoted, the uptake of CA particularly by smallholder  
3 farmers in the Global South has been relatively modest. CA benefits may not have been obvious  
4 and large enough and farmers still predominantly use CR as feed versus as mulch in many areas  
5 (Giller et al., 2009). The reasons for this lack of change include tradition, culture, and the value  
6 of livestock for the family, and thus, CR as feed (Erenstein et al., 2012; Jat et al., 2012; Umar et  
7 al., 2011; Giller et al., 2009; Gowing and Palmer, 2008; Erenstein, 2002, 2003). The presence of  
8 free grazing may affect the ability to leave and retain CR in situ. This is an important constraint  
9 in many rainfed mixed systems, but less relevant in irrigated systems (like those that prevail in 2  
10 of our study sites, Karnal and Dinajpur), since irrigation allows multiple cropping with free  
11 grazing limited to the off-season. In addition, the limited grazing window and productivity  
12 means that even when grazed, abundant CR will remain in the field. In instances where CR have  
13 recognized (monetary) value and can be traded, active CR markets and trading can develop. Such  
14 an increasing (monetary) value of stover and associated markets may increase the removal of  
15 crop residue from the field. Duncan, Samaddar and Blümmel (2020) surveyed rice and wheat  
16 straw traders in northern India and found market price differences based on quality. Earlier work  
17 had surveyed CR trade in southern India (Blümmel and Rao, 2006). The findings of increased  
18 CR value has increased the attention of plant breeders on stover as well as grain. Erenstein and  
19 Thorpe (2010) note that the complexity of CA management and the need for in situ adjustments  
20 versus simple, common recommended practices also inhibit the adoption of CA and conclude  
21 that traditional research on straw feeding “neglected farmers’ perceptions of their agro-  
22 ecosystems” (p.687).

1           A few studies have searched for socio-economic and agro-ecological determinants that  
2 explain farmers allocation of CR (Jaleta, Kassie, and Shiferaw, 2013; Valbuena et al. 2012;  
3 Moritz, 2010). Using survey data from Kenya, Jaleta, Kassie, and Shiferaw (2013) found that  
4 more intensive farming led to higher use of CR as feed while extensive management was  
5 associated with higher use of CR as mulch; larger livestock holdings and higher numbers of  
6 cross-bred and exotic dairy animals led to higher use of CR as feed; and better knowledge about  
7 alternative uses of CR and plot steepness were associated with higher use of CR as mulch.

8           Little work has been done to estimate the economic value that individual households  
9 perceive in their use and allocation of CR as feed or as mulch. Magnan, Larson, and Taylor  
10 (2012) is one study that values stubble (leftover CR in the field) and found it to be a substantial  
11 part of a farm’s total value of (rainfed) cereal production. This was especially true in a drought  
12 year when grain production was very low. While they did not estimate the benefits of switching  
13 to alternative production methods, they were concerned about efforts to encourage farmers to  
14 move away from methods that would use stubble as feed.

15           The objective for this study was to develop a method to estimate the internal shadow  
16 value of CR as feed and as mulch for smallholder households—as measured by the shadow  
17 prices of CR in these uses. Since both casual observation and, as will be shown, the data in this  
18 study show higher use of CR as feed than as mulch, the null hypothesis is that the internal  
19 shadow value of CR as feed is higher than as mulch.

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## Methods

1           Although we cannot directly measure the value the household places on CR for internal  
 2 uses, we can estimate these internal values or shadow prices following the methods for  
 3 estimating the value of labor in agricultural households (Jacoby 1993, Skoufias 1994, Shively  
 4 and Fisher 2004), of stubble (Magnan, Larson, Taylor, 2012), and of farmyard manure  
 5 (Teklewold, 2012). In these methods, the first step is to estimate Cobb-Douglas agricultural  
 6 production functions for the sub-sample of households using a given CR as an input. The  
 7 general specification of the production functions for crops and livestock are:

8  $Q_M = g^M(R_L, L_L, X_L, A_L)$  (1a)

9  $Q_C = g^C(R_C, L_C, X_C, A_C)$  (1b)

10  $Q_M$  and  $Q_C$  are the household's physical production of milk and crops (rice, wheat, and maize in  
 11 this study) which are described as a function of CR used as livestock feed ( $R_L$ ) and as mulch for  
 12 crops ( $R_C$ ), (household and hired) labor allocated to livestock ( $L_L$ ) and to crops ( $L_C$ ), inputs  
 13 purchased off the farm for livestock ( $X_L$ ) and crops ( $X_C$ ), and fixed assets represented by  
 14 livestock ( $A_L$ ) and land ( $A_C$ ).

15           The functions are estimated in log-linearized representations of a Cobb-Douglas function,  
 16 written generally as:

17  $\ln Q_M = \beta_{RL} \ln R_L + \beta_{LL} \ln L_L + \beta_{XL} \ln X_L + \beta_C \ln A_L + \varepsilon_L$  (2a)

18  $\ln Q_C = \beta_{RC} \ln R_C + \beta_{LC} \ln L_C + \beta_{XC} \ln X_C + \beta_A \ln A_C + \varepsilon_C$  (2b)

19           From (2a) and (2b) we can calculate the marginal value product for each CR use in the  
 20 sub-sample of households engaging in given CR uses, based on the estimated coefficients, the  
 21 predicted value of production for each household in the sub-sample, and the actual amount of CR  
 22 used. Making use of the fact that the estimates of  $\beta_{RL}$  and  $\beta_{RC}$  in (2a) and (2b) are the CR's

1 elasticities of production in the log-linear form of the Cobb-Douglas function, the elasticity  
2 formula can be rewritten and the marginal value products for CR use are defined as:

$$3 \quad p_M^* = (Q^M / R_L) * \beta_{RL} \quad (3a)$$

$$4 \quad p_C^* = (Q^C / R_C) * \beta_{RC} \quad (3b)$$

5 where  $Q^M$  and  $Q^C$  are, respectively, the livestock and crop outputs estimated using the  
6 estimated production function,  $R_L$  and  $R_C$  are household CR uses available in the data set, and  
7  $\beta_{RL}$  and  $\beta_{RC}$  are estimated coefficients.

8 In this analysis, these methods are used to estimate the shadow price of CR in the  
9 production of a single product (i.e., milk, rice, wheat, and maize) in South Asia.

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#### Data

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The data were obtained from a set of village and household surveys performed in South  
Asia in 2010 and 2011 from three survey sites: Karnal, in the state of Haryana, north of New  
Delhi in India; Dinajpur in northern Bangladesh; and Udaipur in the state of Rajasthan in western  
India. This selection accounts for sites with contrasting agro-ecologies and levels of agricultural  
intensification (Valbuena et al., 2012; Table 1).

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Quantitative household level surveys were conducted in a total of 480 households in 48  
villages in 2011. Since the survey was cross-sectional for one production year, the CR  
production and allocation was assumed to be indicative of previous production and allocation  
decisions and thus used as explanatory variables in the estimated production functions. In South  
Asia, the limited number of crops, the common production of one (sole) crop per season and only



1 two (irrigated) growing seasons per year in this dataset allowed the allocation of CR to specific  
2 crops.

3 CR uses in the survey were aggregated for analysis in this study. CR grazed by the  
4 household's animals, grazed by others, and collected for stall feeding were combined into  
5 livestock feeding. CR used as mulch was not aggregated with any other use. CR sold in the  
6 market was the total of CR sold to village members and others, stored for sale later, and given as  
7 payment in kind. Household consumption of CR was the total used for household fuel and for  
8 roofing and construction material. Burning and collecting by others for free, and other uses were  
9 not aggregated.

10

## 11 Results

### 12 Descriptive Statistics of Survey Data

13 The allocation of each CR to different purposes varied among the three main cereal crops  
14 in the South Asia study sites (Table 2). The overall importance of CR as feed, especially stall  
15 feeding, was obvious with 75% of wheat residue, 59% of maize residue and 51% of rice residue  
16 being used for stall feeding; whereas *in situ* stubble grazing was very limited. Rice residue was  
17 more likely used for mulch or burnt compared to maize and wheat. More maize and wheat  
18 residue was marketed. More maize residue was used for household fuel compared to rice residue  
19 and especially wheat residue.

20 CR used for feed and mulch were the dominant uses of CR at all sites measured by the  
21 estimated<sup>2</sup> kg per household and the number of households reporting each use (Table 3). The

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<sup>2</sup> CR amounts are farmer estimates and indicative. CR are byproducts and in contrast to main products are not often marketed or measured.

1 highest level of CR as feed in South Asia was at Karnal with an estimated average of 23.7 ton  
2 per year for the 155 households that fed CR. The highest level of CR used as mulch was also at  
3 Karnal with an estimated average of 7.7 ton per household using CR as mulch per year; the  
4 lowest level was at Udaipur with 48 kg. CR sold per household was the highest at Karnal with an  
5 average of 17.2 ton per household selling CR per year, but only 27 households sold CR in the  
6 market (out of 160 surveyed at Karnal). Household CR consumption was highest at Dinajpur  
7 estimated at 3.2 ton per household consuming CR per year and considerably lower at other sites.  
8 Sixty-three households in Karnal reported burning an estimated average of 39.2 ton of CR per  
9 year. Burning, collecting by others for free, and other uses of CR were relatively small uses at  
10 other sites. The high absolute CR quantities per household for Karnal reflect a combination of  
11 intensive irrigated agriculture (typically double cropped, rice-wheat) and substantially larger  
12 farm sizes (2.9 ha) compared to the other 2 study sites (0.3-0.5 ha, Table 3).

13         The value of livestock and crop production varied considerably across sites (Table 4).  
14 The highest values were in Dinajpur and Karnal which are closer to markets and have irrigated  
15 water available in contrast to the drier, rainfed, and more distant site of Udaipur. The average  
16 value of livestock production per household was highest at Dinajpur with US\$1,982 per  
17 household per year followed closely by Karnal at US\$1,567. The highest average value of crop  
18 production per household was at Karnal, a major irrigated intensive system producing rice and  
19 wheat near major transportation routes, with an average of US\$4,509 per household per year.  
20 The average value of crop production per household was considerably lower at other sites, in part  
21 reflecting the small farm sizes. The intensity and importance of livestock versus crop production

1 can be seen in the share of the household's total value of agricultural production coming from  
2 livestock - being highest in the drier production site at Udaipur with an average of 58%.

3         Based on the households' estimates of labor used for livestock production, Udaipur had  
4 the highest average livestock labor hours with an average of 2,594 hours per year per household  
5 reporting. Crop labor costs included the value of household labor (based on the households'  
6 estimates of labor used in crop production and the reported village wage rates) as well as the cost  
7 of hired cropping operations (e.g., planting and harvesting) which were very common in South  
8 Asia. Crop labor costs were the highest at Karnal with US\$800 per household per year and  
9 affected inter alia by farm size and labor rates.

10         Farm size proxies included total land cultivated and herd size (in tropical livestock units,  
11 TLUs). Total land cultivated included the land owned by the household and rented from others  
12 but not land rented to others. The amount of land cultivated per household ranges from an  
13 average of 0.3 ha per household in Udaipur, 0.5 ha in Dinajpur to 2.9 ha in Karnal. TLUs per  
14 household ranged from 1.5 in Udaipur to 1.7 in Dinajpur and 3.0 in Karnal.

15         Almost all the surveyed households in Karnal produced milk, totaling 1,883 kg per  
16 household per year. Only some 40% produced milk in Dinajpur and Udaipur, and at substantially  
17 lower production levels (316 and 345 kg, respectively - Table 5). Karnal households fed  
18 considerably more CR, green forage, and concentrates than the other two sites, but the Karnal  
19 households did not feed grass to their cattle and buffalo while the animals did graze for some of  
20 their feed in the other two sites. The average labor for milking was similar across the three sites,  
21 but it was much more variable in Karnal. (Milking hours was used as an indicator for total

1 livestock labor since it was entered more reliably than estimates for other labor needs for  
2 livestock.)

3 In crop production, the major crop for Dinajpur was rice which was produced in each of  
4 the two growing seasons (Tables 6 and 7). The major crop in Karnal was rice in the first  
5 (monsoon) season and wheat in the second (winter) season. Udaipur planted mainly maize in the  
6 first (monsoon) season and wheat in the second (winter). Average production per household in  
7 Karnal was much higher reflecting higher input use and more than quadruple the amount of land  
8 planted to the crop. Average production per household in Udaipur was particularly low,  
9 associated with the small farm size, limited irrigation and rainfall, and lower input use. Karnal  
10 households used more CR as mulch than the households at Dinajpur and Udaipur.

11

## 12 Estimated Production Functions

13 Separate production functions for milk, rice, wheat, and maize were first estimated for  
14 each of the South Asia study sites, with the estimated coefficients then used to calculate the  
15 shadow prices of CR.

16 In South Asia, milk production per household was described as a function of feed (CR,  
17 grass, green forage, and concentrate); labor (with milking labor used as an indicator of total  
18 labor); and herd size (adult TLUs; Table 8). Grass was dropped from the estimation in Dinajpur  
19 and Karnal, green forage in Udaipur, and concentrate in Dinajpur and Udaipur because of limited  
20 use of these inputs.

21 The (positive) coefficient for CR as feed for milk was not statistically significant  
22 ( $p > 0.10$ ) in any of the functions for the three sites in South Asia (Table 8). The amount of

1 concentrate fed had a positive impact in Karnal. The amount of milking labor had a positive  
2 impact in Dinajpur. Herd size had a positive impact in Karnal and Udaipur. Explanatory power  
3 as indicated by  $R^2$  was low at all three sites. The milk function in Karnal was most robust, inter  
4 alia reflecting the prevalence of milk production and the highest number of useable observations.

5 Crop production per household for each crop and South Asian site was described as a  
6 function of CR used as mulch, the amount of land planted to each crop, and the level of seed and  
7 urea (except for Udaipur) inputs (Table 9). Other inputs such as manure, di-ammonium  
8 phosphate (DAP) fertilizer, herbicide, and fungicide had very few households using them and  
9 were dropped.

10 The coefficient for CR as mulch in crop production in South Asia was positive in most  
11 sites, except for boro rice (second season) in Dinajpur (Table 9). The amount of land had a  
12 positive impact for all crops and sites. The level of seed had an impact only for rice in season 1  
13 at Dinajpur and for wheat in season 2 at Udaipur. The amount of urea did not have a significant  
14 impact at any site. Explanatory power, as indicated by  $R^2$ , was high for these crops and sites with  
15 the lowest  $R^2$  being 0.75 for wheat in season 2 at Udaipur.

16

17 Estimated shadow prices

18 Using the methods developed in this study, estimated shadow prices were found to be  
19 higher for CR as mulch than for CR as feed at all three sites (Table 10). At Dinajpur, the  
20 estimated shadow price for CR as mulch was greater than the reported market price which was,  
21 in turn, greater than the estimated shadow price for CR as feed. At Karnal, the reported market  
22 price was greater than the estimated shadow price of CR as mulch which was, as seen in

1 Dinajpur, greater than the estimated shadow price for CR as feed. In Udaipur, the estimated  
2 shadow price of CR as mulch was much higher than for CR as feed. (Market prices were not  
3 reported for Udaipur.)  
4

## 5 Discussion and Conclusions

6 The internal values that a household places on intermediate products and resources  
7 influence how those products and resources are used within the household. This study adapted a  
8 method to estimate the internal values of resources provided by the household. This paper  
9 estimated the internal values that households place on CR in alternative uses. As an example of  
10 using this method and the survey data from South Asia, the observed deviations from this  
11 expectation indicate that farmers are including more information in their decision process.

12 At all three sites, the estimated shadow prices (as our estimate of the internal value) of  
13 using CR as mulch were greater than the estimated shadow prices for CR as feed for livestock.  
14 At Dinajpur, the shadow values of CR as mulch and as feed were both higher than the reported  
15 market price for CR. At Karnal, the reverse was found; the reported market price was greater  
16 than the estimated shadow prices of CR used as mulch and as feed. This difference in relative  
17 rankings of market prices and shadow prices for CR between Dinajpur and Karnal indicate that  
18 farmers may be making rational economic decisions since, as shown in Table 3, Karnal had the  
19 highest level of CR sold in the market as farmers have better market access and high alternative  
20 uses. The relative shadow prices of feed and mulch reflect that crops generally responded  
21 positively to CR as mulch in our study sites whereas milk production was not significantly  
22 affected by CR as feed. The weak relationship between CR feeding and milk yield is not wholly

1 surprising. CR is a basal feed needed to maintain animals rather than necessarily boosting yield.  
2 We would expect a much stronger relationship between concentrate use and milk yield.  
3 However, the weak relationship does not mean CR are not important. They are needed for  
4 maintenance of livestock, to ensure they survive into the next season. Their role is therefore  
5 more like a fixed cost than a variable cost. An additional contributing factor to the divergent  
6 shadow valuation may well be the robustness of the estimated production functions, which were  
7 found to be substantially more robust for the studied crops than for milk. Further empirical  
8 research is needed to confirm the robustness of crop and milk production response to CR use  
9 with even more detailed and robust production functions.

10         These results reject the null hypothesis that the estimated shadow price for CR as feed is  
11 greater than the shadow price for CR as mulch. However, the predominant use of CR was still as  
12 feed for livestock. Farmers (especially poor farmers) often focus on short term gains at the  
13 expense of long-term objectives. They would rather ensure their livestock (and family) survive  
14 the next season than think about increased crop yields in some unknown future. Since the null  
15 hypothesis was formed based on observing household behavior, the rejection of the null  
16 hypothesis implies that other reasons explain why more households use CR as feed versus as  
17 mulch. Another reason may be that the data and the quantitative model used need to be improved  
18 to reflect the household decision process more accurately by incorporating more information. As  
19 noted earlier, the reasons for the lack of adoption of CA and CR as mulch have been associated  
20 with tradition, culture, value of livestock for the family, and thus, CR as feed to maintain  
21 livestock, and the complexity of CA management. Smallholders' continued reliance on livestock  
22 as part of their farming system can also be a reason for continued use of CR as feed. Jaleta,

1 Kassie, and Shiferaw (2013) found that more intensive farming led to higher use of CR as feed  
2 while extensive management was associated with higher use of CR as mulch. Due to the lack of  
3 livestock availability from other sources, farmers may feed more CR even though the shadow  
4 price is lower as feed. Magnan, Larson, and Taylor (2012) showed the value of stubble was  
5 substantial in a drought year when grain production was very low, so stubble (and other forms of  
6 CR) was likely a form of insurance for obtaining a stable feed supply. Tradition may also play a  
7 large part; as Moritz (2010) observed, the peri-urban pastoralists were not considering only the  
8 economic or business side of their decisions because “livestock, production is privileged in their  
9 decision making” (p. 127).

10         The continued use of CR as feed versus the apparent higher value of CR as mulch  
11 illustrates the general problem that a large portion of research so far has considered only part of  
12 the households’ decision framework (i.e., CR only as feed or only as mulch) while the  
13 households consider a much larger framework or system that extends beyond the borders of the  
14 fields and pastures. Erenstein and Thorpe (2010) also point this out in their conclusion that  
15 traditional research on straw feeding “neglected farmers’ perceptions of their agro-ecosystems”  
16 (p.687). We concur with Giller et al. (2011) and Tittonell et al. (2015): we see a need for a much  
17 broader, multidisciplinary study of the households’ decisions. The rejection of the null  
18 hypothesis of the value of CR as feed being greater than the value of CR as mulch in this study  
19 should encourage researchers to push forward to help households improve their knowledge and  
20 well-being. Alternatively, future researchers could improve the model through a more expansive  
21 understanding of the household decision process and a more expansive set of data (e.g. including  
22 farm yard manure, now left out for lack of consistent data).



1           Until households begin to place a higher value on CR as mulch, they should not be  
2 expected to change their traditional use of CR as feed. Changing a household's internal value  
3 structure to give a higher value to CR as mulch may need to be done in ways other than showing  
4 the long-term value of mulch since this has been done before with households not making large  
5 shifts in CR use. Increasing the use of demonstration plots for CR as mulch across broader  
6 geographical areas may increase farmers' knowledge of the yield response to mulch. Providing  
7 alternative methods for insurance and wealth holding (such as financial insurance instruments  
8 and access to banking) may decrease the need for and value of livestock for insurance and  
9 holding wealth and allow a household to switch to using CR as mulch. Providing better access to  
10 feed sources better than CR (and credit access so households could purchase these sources) could  
11 help animal productivity and household income as well as increase the amount of CR available  
12 for use as mulch. Increasing our multidisciplinary understanding of the households' decision-  
13 making process may enhance the use of internal farm resources and the well-being of  
14 smallholder crop-livestock farmers in South Asia and beyond.

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16

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1 Table 1. Main bio-physical and socio-economic characteristics of the research sites, South  
 2 Asia

Location	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
Agro-ecology <sup>a</sup>	Humid (irrigated)	Semi-arid (irrigated)	Semi-arid (rainfed)
Rainfall (mm/yr)	2000	750	650
Main crops	Rice	Wheat, rice	Maize
Livestock	Cattle, goat	Buffalo, cattle	Cattle, buffalo, goat
Market access	++	+++	++
Agricultural intensification <sup>b</sup>	++	+++	+

3 <sup>a</sup> Agro-ecology primarily reflects aridity for predominantly rainfed agriculture, unless  
 4 otherwise indicated.

5 <sup>b</sup> Relative indicator, low (+), medium (++), high (+++).

6 Source: Valbuena et al., 2012.

7

Table 2. Crop residue use by major crop in South Asia study sites,  
average % allocated.

	Maize	Rice	Wheat
Feed	60.9	50.9	75.5
– graze own	1.6	.1	.7
– graze others	.3	.1	.1
– stall feeding	59.0	50.7	74.7
Mulch	6.2	20.8	8.4
Market	16.0	4.1	11.6
– sold village	9.4	1.7	6.5
– sold other people	2.4	.0	2.2
– given as	1.7	.4	.9
– selling later	2.5	2.0	2.0
Consumption	14.8	13.2	4.1
– household fuel	14.5	9.8	2.0
– roofing/construct	.3	3.4	2.1
Collected by others free	1.3	0.9	0.3
Burned	0.9	10.1	0.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: project survey

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Table 3. Summary statistics of CR use by site (farmer reported values per household per year, across crops).<sup>†</sup>

Variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
CR fed to livestock (kg pa)	4,428 (4,866) n = 146	23,667 (34,717) n = 155	1,085 (1,639) n = 137
CR used as mulch (kg pa)	3,197 (5,483)	7,665 (13,935) n = 158	48 (77) n = 129
CR sold in the market (kg pa)	2,312 (3,903) n = 38	17,240 (22,280) n = 27	605 (779) n = 37
CR consumed by HH (kg pa)	3,148 (6,909) n = 144	1,255 (1,607) n = 77	36 (79) n = 24
CR burned in field (kg pa)	none	39,223 (156,091) n = 63	50 (80) n = 56
CR collected and used by others for free (kg pa)	3,143 (5,622) n = 11	13,797 (17,972) n = 11	43 (57) n = 8

1 <sup>†</sup>Averages are per household per year (pa), based on those households reporting a value for each  
2 variable. Standard errors in parentheses. The number of observations per site is reported if  
3 different from 160.  
4

Table 4. Summary statistics of variables used in the analysis by site (values per household).<sup>†</sup>

Variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
Value of livestock production (US\$ pa)	1,982 (4,286) n=152	1,567 (1,102) n=156	216 (209) n=137
Value of crop production (US\$ pa)	851 (832) n = 159	4,509 (5,057) n = 159	157 (236) n = 159
Total value of agricultural production (US\$ pa)	2,729 (4,420)	6,009 (5,423)	340 (378)
Value of livestock production as a percentage of total value of agricultural production (%)	44.2 (30.0) n = 152	36.7 (21.5) n = 156	57.5 (22.2) n = 137
Livestock labor (hours pa)	2,044 (1,459) n = 151	2,251 (2,542) n = 156	2,594 (1,754) n = 133
Crop labor cost (US\$ pa)	144 (52)	800 (1,464)	83 (99) n = 159
Crop family labor (hours pa)	982 (1,329)	67 (369)	55 (60) n = 159
Total land cultivated (ha)	0.5 (0.5)	2.9 (3.7)	0.3 (0.3) n = 159
Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs)	1.7 (1.0) n=152	3.1 (2.3) n=154	1.6 (1.0) n=131

<sup>†</sup>Averages are per household, generally per year (pa), based on those households reporting a value for each variable. Standard errors in parentheses. The number of observations per site is reported if different from 160. All local currencies were converted to U.S. dollars using the exchange rates on October 1, 2010, which was during the time of the household survey.

Table 5. Summary statistics for milk production by site in South Asia (annual values per household).†

Variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh <sup>1</sup>	Karnal, India <sup>2</sup>	Udaipur, India <sup>2</sup>
Milk production (liters)	316 (212) n = 66	1,883 (1,374) n = 150	345 (308) n = 59
CR fed (kg)	2,090 (787) n = 142	5,193 (2,208) n = 155	2,746 (3,218) n = 88
Grass fed (kg)	1,138 (1,040) n = 126	none	1,804 (2,327) n = 84
Green forage fed (kg)	1,447 (542) n = 138	6,534 (3,067) n = 155	1,823 (2,267) n = 33
Concentrate fed (kg)	347 (251) n = 104	1,452 (953) n = 150	648 (283) n = 6
Milking labor (hours)	346 (301) n = 69	334 (1,315) n = 151	338 (286) n = 100

Dairy Tropical Livestock Units	1.5	3.0	1.3
(TLUs)	(0.9)	(2.1)	(0.8)
	n = 143	n = 153	n = 99

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† Averages are per household per year based on non-zero observations. Standard errors in parentheses.

<sup>1</sup> Includes only cattle (local and cross). No buffalo milk reported in Dinajpur.

<sup>2</sup> Includes both cattle (local and cross) and buffalo in Karnal and Udaipur.

Table 6. Summary statistics for crop production in Season 1 by site in South Asia (annual values per household).†

	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
SEASON 1	rice	rice	maize
Crop production (kg)	2,045 (2,034) n = 158	11,253 (12,744) n = 135	332 (416) n = 159
CR in field as mulch (kg)	1,565 (1,763) n = 101	2,717 (4,487) n = 157	31 (52) n = 98
Land planted to this crop in this season (ha)	0.5 (0.5) n = 158	2.3 (2.4) n = 135	0.3 (0.2) n = 159
Seed (kg)	23 (22) n = 158	29 (31) n = 135	11 (12) n = 159
Manure (kg)	21 (26) n = 139	1,019 (1,068) n = 75	12 (18) n = 136

	62	874	30
Urea (kg)	(59)	(944)	(48)
	n = 158	n = 135	n = 99
	37	285	30
DAP (kg)	(39)	(347)	(39)
	n = 115	n = 123	n = 50
	48	83	
Other fertilizer (kg)	(57)	(121)	††
	n = 126	n = 110	
	10	57	9
Herbicide (US\$)	(10)	(69)	(8)
	n = 26	n = 134	n = 5
	11	175	13
Fungicide (US\$)	(14)	(222)	(14)
	n = 129	n = 135	n = 10

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† Averages are per household per year based on non-zero observations. Standard errors in parentheses.

†† No non-zero values reported for this variable at this site.



Table 7. Summary statistics for crop production in Season 2 by site in South Asia  
(annual values per household). †

Season, crop, and input variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
SEASON 2	(boro) rice	wheat	wheat
Crop production (kg)	2,885 (2,727) n = 101	10,596 (11,119) n = 158	440 (669) n = 129
CR in field as mulch (kg)	566 (619) n = 157	6,064 (12,382) n = 114	23 (34) n = 120
Land planted to this crop in this season (ha)	0.5 (0.4) n = 101	2.4 (2.4) n = 158	0.3 (0.2) n = 129
Seed (kg)	24 (24) n = 101	254 (263) n = 157	38 (53) n = 129
Manure (kg)	23 (28) n = 96	390 (297) n = 2	11 (19) n = 55
Urea (kg)	95 (93)	927 (988)	35 (51)

	n = 101	n = 158	n = 106
DAP (kg)	52 (57)	314 (367)	28 (32)
	n = 95	n = 157	n = 59
Other fertilizer (kg)	61 (63)	178 (232)	9 (-)
	n = 101	n = 10	n = 1
Herbicide (US\$)	6 (5)	69 (83)	5 (2)
	n = 47	n = 156	n = 5
Fungicide (US\$)	10 (11)	64 (75)	9 (7)
	n = 87	n = 68	n = 7

† Averages are per household per year based on non-zero observations. Standard errors in parentheses.

†† No non-zero values reported for this variable at this site.

Table 8. Milk production function by site in South Asia.†

Variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Karnal, India	Udaipur, India
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CR fed (kg), log	0.13 (0.15)	0.14 (0.15)	0.42 (0.25)
Grass fed (kg), log	††	††	-0.13 (0.19)
Green forage fed (kg), log	0.17 (0.13)	0.15 (0.14)	††
Concentrate fed (kg), log	††	0.41*** (0.09)	††
Milking labor (hours per HH), log	0.24*** (0.06)	0.06 (0.06)	0.04 (0.14)
Tropical Livestock Units per HH, log	0.046 (0.065)	0.06** (0.03)	0.49* (0.26)
constant	2.07 (1.50)	1.45 (1.18)	2.87* (1.51)
R-squared	0.27	0.32	0.15
n	64	146	49

† Standard errors in parentheses.

\*\*\*denotes  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*denotes  $p < 0.05$ , \*denotes  $p < 0.10$

†† Variable deleted from regression due to missing or small number of observations.

Table 9. Crop production function by crop, season and site in South Asia.†

Variable	Dinajpur, Bangladesh		Karnal, India		Udaipur, India		
	Crop and Season:	Rice, S1	Rice, S2	Rice, S1	Wheat, S2	Maize, S1	Wheat, S2
CR as mulch (kg/ha), log		0.085**	0.061	0.085**	0.054***	0.33***	0.43***
		(0.039)	(0.049)	(0.035)	(0.017)	(0.06)	(0.07)
Cultivated land in this crop		0.52***	0.94***	0.78***	1.00***	0.87***	0.56***
and season (ha), log		(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.29)	(0.23)	(0.13)	(0.14)
Seed (kg/ha), log		0.33***	-0.01	0.075	0.06	0.10	0.20**
		(0.12)	(0.05)	(0.26)	(0.21)	(0.08)	(0.08)
Urea (kg/ha), log		0.089	-0.01	0.13	-0.08		
		(0.055)	(0.08)	(0.13)	(0.10)	††	††
constant		5.99***	8.35***	6.83***	8.16***	5.34***	4.46***
		(0.59)	(0.51)	(1.04)	(1.14)	(0.39)	(0.44)
R-squared		0.96	0.95	0.93	0.98	0.79	0.75
n		100	99	134	114	98	95

† Standard errors in parentheses. S1 = season 1 (monsoon). S2 = season 2

(winter).

\*\*\*denotes  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*denotes  $p < 0.05$ , \*denotes  $p < 0.10$

†† Variable deleted from regression due to missing or small number of observations.

Table 10. Reported market prices and estimated shadow prices of crop residues by site

(U.S.\$/kg)†

	Average	Std. Dev.	n
<b>Dinajpur, Bangladesh</b>			
Reported market prices	0.02	0.00	
Residue as feed for milk, shadow price	0.009	0.004	67
Residue as mulch for rice, season 1, shadow price	0.025	0.011	100
Residue as mulch for rice, season 2, shadow price	0.059	0.024	99
<b>Karnal, India</b>			
Reported market prices	0.42	0.43	
Residue as feed for milk, shadow price	0.021	0.010	147
Residue as mulch for rice, season 1, shadow price	0.120	0.066	134
Residue as mulch for wheat, season 2, shadow price	0.07	0.11	114
<b>Udaipur, India</b>			
No reported market prices			
Residue as feed for milk, shadow price	0.023	0.010	67
Residue as mulch for maize, season 1, shadow price	0.78	0.43	98
Residue as mulch for wheat, season 2, shadow price	1.90	0.04	129

† These shadow prices are estimated using the models and the procedures described in this paper.