

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	David Valenta
Advisor:	Petr Janský, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Determinants of Technical Efficiency and its Change among Ghanaian Cocoa Farmers

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

The aim of this thesis was to analyse the efficiency of Ghanaian cocoa farmers. It is crucial for policy in countries such as Ghana to know what how efficient the farmers are and what are the determinants of their efficiency. David Valenta fulfilled this objective in a very good way.

David did a very good job reviewing the existing literature and motivating his thesis. In his empirical analysis, David made use of data as well as established methods. He used the data from the Ghana Cocoa Farmer Survey data gathered by the University of Oxford's Centre for Study of African Economies. On this sample of around 700 Ghanaian cocoa farmers collected between 2004 and 2010, David estimated technical efficiency, its change and scale efficiency. I am familiar with this dataset and working with such microeconomic survey data is a challenge in itself and David has coped well with the low quality of the data set.

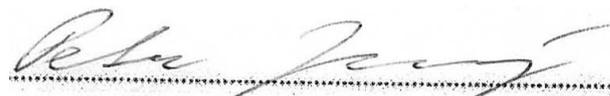
David has learned a lot about efficiency estimation and cocoa farming in Ghana. I was helping him significantly with the latter, but I felt that I was less useful with the former. Despite this, David has managed to estimate the efficiency very well and, learning about and applying the related methods is one of the main contributions, especially for David. I believe that the methods applied were above the level of an undergraduate level (but sometimes not with the greatest confidence) and this is reflected in my evaluation. In terms of manuscript form, there are a number of parts that could be improved if more attention was paid to English and spelling errors. I believe that if David continues to be interested in the efficiency methods, he will find applying them to other datasets of higher quality than the cocoa one very easy.

David Valenta did a very good job of writing a thesis and I recommend a grade of **excellent (výborně, 1)**.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	86
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Janský, Ph.D.



Referee Signature

DATE OF EVALUATION: 9th June, 2014

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

Strong Average Weak
30 15 0

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

Strong Average Weak
30 15 0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0

Overall grading:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě