

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Eva Sobková
Advisor:	Petr Janský
Title of the thesis:	Time preferences of Ghanaian cocoa farmers

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

The aim of this thesis was to examine the relationship between time preferences of Ghanaian cocoa farmers and their willingness to use fertilizers provided as a part of microcredit program. Eva Sobková fulfilled this objective well and wrote a very good master thesis. Applying empirical methods to a detailed survey data, she finds, for example, that impatient and hyperbolic farmers are more likely to enter into the microcredit program.

I would like to note that Eva made use of a unique and detailed microeconomic data set of Ghanaian farmers that was made available by the Center for the Study of African Economics of the University of Oxford. The data set grew out of a project, in which I took part in since 2009. Because of my involvement in the survey and data preparation, naturally, I worked with her closely on developing her research plan, especially at the beginning of Eva's work on her thesis. However, already at the beginning Eva showed her research potential, which is reflected in her thesis, and self-reliance. Later, she extended her work on a thesis by a half a year, and maybe she proved too self-reliant in this period because I have seen the final version of the thesis only when it was submitted. In the end, I believe that Eva managed relatively well on her own in the final phase of her thesis.

Still, I can also see a number of reasons why I cannot judge her thesis excellent. The theoretical motivation for the hypothesis should be better explained. I would like the thesis to be better written and structured. Eva made good use of the existing relevant literature and applied empirical models carefully, using suitable methods and data, but the results should be more directly confronted with the existing literature. The use of English language is at a very good level, although especially the description of the results could be clearer and would benefit from more details and a rewriting. My conclusion from these observations is that the thesis could be substantially improved (and, in the current form, I cannot judge it as excellent) and, in case Eva decided so, she could re-work her thesis along these lines in the form of a working paper or a journal article.


Overall, I welcome the results of Eva's work and I recommend a grade of **good (2)**.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	15
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	70
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	2

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Janský

DATE OF EVALUATION: 3rd February, 2016



Referee Signature

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