

# Intrahousehold Resource Allocation in Côte d'Ivoire: Social Norms, Separate Accounts and Consumption Choices\*

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December 21, 2004

## Abstract

We study resource allocation and insurance within households in Côte d'Ivoire. In Côte d'Ivoire, as in much of Africa, husbands and wives farm separate plots, and there is some specialization by gender in the crops that are grown. These different crops are differentially sensitive to particular kinds of rainfall shocks. We test whether two rainfall configurations that have the same effect on total expenditure have different effects on the types of goods consumed by the household, depending on which crops they affect most. We reject the hypothesis of complete insurance within the household, even with respect to these publicly observed exogenous shocks. In particular, we find that rainfall shocks that increase the output of yams, a crop whose proceeds must traditionally be used to purchase public goods are associated with strong shifts in the composition of expenditures toward education, staples, and overall food consumption and away from adult goods and private goods. In contrast, rainfall shocks that increase the output of crops cultivated individually by either men or women are associated with strong expenditure shifts toward adult private goods. Shocks that

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\*We thank Mike Gough, Shawn Cole and Jonathan Robinson for excellent research assistance and the John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation (SES-0079115) and the National Institute of Health (R01-HD39922-01) for financial support. We thank members of the MacArthur Network on the Effects of Inequality on Economic Performance, Daron Acemoglu, Abhijit Banerjee, Michael Boozer, Anne Case, Pierre-André Chiappori, Angus Deaton, Bo Honoré, Shakeeb Khan, Ethan Ligon, Emmanuel Saez, and numerous seminar participants for helpful comments.

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increase the output of crops predominantly cultivated by women shift expenditures toward food consumption, while similar shocks affecting cash crops cultivated by men have no effect on the purchases of food. *JEL Codes:* 012, D13 *Keywords:* Intra-household allocation; Insurance; Social norms; Mental accounts

# 1 Introduction

Anthropologists often insist on the lack of fungibility of income when describing the flow of money within households in traditional economies, particularly in Africa. First, each household member has specific claims on particular sources of income: he or she retains ownership or usufructuary rights on a plot of land and thus primary claim to the income from that plot, or he or she is entitled to the proceeds from particular crops. The obligation to share this income with other household members is limited. While household members cooperate in some productive activities and share their outcomes to some extent, they seem to be far from achieving perfect risk sharing.

“Men control their own cash income, and the kinds of legitimate demands a wife can make can be quite limited. A Yoruba wife can expect her husband to provide the basic staples of the diet, housing, and other more irregular support depending on how much domestic work she devotes to him (...) Beti wives remain farmers throughout their lives. Before the recent expansion of food sales they used to depend on their husbands for all major cash expenses, but neither in theory nor in day-to day life is a wife’s right to her own share of her husband’s cash income guaranteed (...) Family welfare and risk avoidance are probably improved by the family labor force having a variety of occupations which cater to different markets, but the need in bad times and the opportunity in good times for a woman to earn an independent income originate in a domestic organization with limited income sharing” (Guyer (1987), pp. 369-70)

Furthermore, the source of income may also determine its legitimate uses, and the uses of money obtained through particular activities may be restricted. In Kenya, Shipton (1989) describes how money obtained from the sale of land, tobacco, or gold, is “bitter” and “... must be kept strictly apart from transactions involving permanent lineage wealth and welfare, notably from livestock or bridewealth transactions” (p. 25-26). In Côte d’Ivoire, the Gouro, studied by Meillassoux (1965) draw a sharp distinction between “appreciated products” (e.g., yams), ordinary food products, products cultivated by women, and cash crops.

“Appreciated products” are always under the control of the household head *for redistribution to the entire household in the form of food*. In contrast, the control of cash crops belongs to its

producer. Cash crops and food crops, even when they are cultivated by the same individual, and even when food crops are sold on the market, are not put to the same use:

“In the traditional community, as we have seen, most of the production comes back to producers in the form of food. The rest is incorporated into particular goods, which have a specific role at the time of marriage (...). These goods cannot be diverted to personal uses. Nor are they investment goods, used for the reproduction of material goods. Everything changes when the products of agriculture are cash crops, which can be put to other uses (...). A greater part of this income disappears into prestige expenditures, especially into investment into houses which are monuments to the glory of their owners.” (Meillassoux (1965), p. 335).

These descriptions are fundamentally at odds with conventional ways in which economists describe individual and household behavior. Standard models imply that there should be a unified budget constraint for the entire household. If there is more than one individual, the average share allocated to an individual’s consumption may depend on her bargaining power (which may well be related to her average contribution to the household, and hence to her permanent individual income), but her consumption should not fluctuate on a season-to-season basis as a function of the realization of her income. However, these descriptions suggest that resources generated from different activities within the household are used differently. Taken literally, these descriptions imply that households maintain a series of discrete “accounts” into which different revenue flows are directed, out of which different expenditures are made, and between which transfers are not freely made. When an account gets a windfall, expenditures out of that “account” increase more than others.<sup>1</sup> This has a parallel in the “mental accounting” described in the behavioral economics literature (Thaler (1992)): money placed by individuals in different “mental accounts” is not fully fungible.

This paper seeks to test the empirical relevance of these descriptions in the context of rural Côte d’Ivoire. Efforts to empirically validate the mental accounts framework in behavioral

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<sup>1</sup>Many descriptions imply that the separation of these “accounts” is not limited to the uses of crop proceeds, but extend to income from non-farm enterprises and to inputs. Family or community work can be used for food crops without compensation other than a share in the common meal, while cash wages are paid to household workers who help with cash crops (Berger and White (1999); Ekejiuba (1995); Etienne (1980); Guyer (1984)).

economics have mostly concentrated on comparing the propensity to consume out of income from various types of flows. The propensity to consume out of housing wealth is very low, and the propensity to consume out of current income is very high, for example.<sup>2</sup> In this paper, we do not focus on the marginal propensity to consume out of different sources of income. Instead, we explicitly recognize that a given increase in observed current income in a given account may be more or less permanent, depending on the type of accounts it falls in (and thus may affect consumption differently), and we test whether shocks to different types of income affect expenditure shares over and above their effects on overall expenditures.

The fact that the proceeds of different crops are generally used to buy different goods does not necessarily imply that the household really maintains separate accounts. If individuals in the household have ownership rights on specific income streams, those who earn more could have more bargaining power: Their income will thus appear to be linked with different purchases. For example, using anthropological evidence from Côte d'Ivoire that attributes the proceeds from some crops to different genders, Haddad and Hoddinott (1994) show that income from “male crops” tends to be put to different uses than income from “female crops”. This is not consistent with a *unitary* model of the household (where all household members have the same utility function or a dictator makes decisions for everyone) but could be consistent with the more general collective model (proposed notably by Chiappori, see Browning and Chiappori (1998) for a survey), where individuals may bargain over the household allocation, but achieve Pareto efficiency. Thus, one response of most economists to descriptions such as those we quoted above would not necessarily be to deny the reality of the norms which underlie these descriptions, but to argue that households have sufficient flexibility on the margins to undo any binding constraints on expenditures that would otherwise result. On average, the norms will be respected, but at the margin money is fungible and it is possible to shift household expenditures in such a manner that the norm does not prevent the household from achieving an efficient allocation of resources.

In this paper, we present evidence that expenditure patterns in Côte d'Ivoire not only violate the restrictions implied by the collective household model, but that they do so in a way that corresponds closely to the descriptions that can be found in the literature on the norms of house-

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<sup>2</sup>There are other examples. For example, most people who take a second mortgage on their house use the money to finance home improvements.

hold provisioning in Côte d’Ivoire. The central observation underlying our empirical approach is that if the household is efficient, household members fully insure each other against short term variation in individual income. Therefore, non-persistent, idiosyncratic (across spouses within the household) income shocks should not translate into differences in the allocation of resources within the household.

To identify short term income shocks, we use rainfall variation. While all household members are subject to the same rainfall, the same pattern of precipitation has different effects on the income produced by different crops. In particular, a particular rainfall pattern affects differently crops that tend to be produced by women and crops that tend to be produced by men. In a Pareto efficient household, conditional on total expenditure this should not translate into any difference in the allocation of that expenditure to different purposes within the household. The spirit of our test is thus to determine whether two rainfall configurations that have the same effect on total expenditure have different effects on the types of goods consumed by the household. We examine broad expenditure aggregates and more detailed expenditures on types of food. We reject the hypothesis of income pooling. Furthermore, the patterns of rejections we obtain are consistent with the anthropological descriptions of income flows in Ivoirian households. In particular, we find that rainfall shocks that increase the output of the “appreciated” crop, yams, are associated with strong shifts in the composition of expenditures towards education, staples, and overall food consumption and away from adult goods and “prestige” goods such as jewelry. In contrast, rainfall shocks that increase the output of crops cultivated individually by either men or women are associated with strong expenditure shifts toward adult and prestige goods. Shocks that increase the output of crops predominantly cultivated by women shift expenditures toward all types of food consumption (except staples), while similar shocks affecting cash crops cultivated by men have no effect on the purchases of food.

Our results do not seem to be explained by obvious alternative explanations, such as misspecification of the demand functions, lack of separability between labor and consumption, price effects, or lack of time separability of preferences. Moreover, because we are testing whether the household pools *observed* risk, these results do not have a straightforward explanation in the framework of simple models of imperfect information or moral hazard. They are consistent,

however, with models of informal insurance without commitment,<sup>3</sup> where a household member who faces a favorable shock needs to be partially compensated in order to agree to remain part of the insurance arrangement, and therefore where insurance can only be partial. The fact that shocks to yam income are transmitted to expenditures on food and education, despite the fact that yam income is formally under the control of the male household head is consistent with the fact that there are social sanctions associated with “mis-use” of these proceeds, and therefore there is little temptation to deviate from the pooling of yam income.

The evidence presented in this paper supports the validity and the empirical relevance of the descriptions of separate accounts within households in Côte d’Ivoire. This observation can have far-reaching consequences for our understanding of the behavior of households, both as consumers and as producers.

The remainder of the paper proceeds as follows: in section 2, we discuss the relevant facts about agriculture in West Africa. In section 3, we derive our empirical test. In section 4, we discuss the data. In section 5, we discuss our results. Section 6 concludes.

## 2 Gender, Ethnicity, and Agriculture in Côte D’Ivoire

Farmers in Côte d’Ivoire work in a variety of agro-climatic conditions, from the rather dry savannah in the north to wet forest in the south. In no region is irrigation commonplace; almost all cultivation is rainfed. Rural households are heavily dependent upon crop income for their livelihoods: In rural areas of Côte d’Ivoire, farm income makes up 75% of total household income (Kozel (1990); Vijverberg (1988)).

An important characteristic of the organization of agriculture in Côte d’Ivoire, as in other West African contexts, is that much production takes place on plots that are managed by particular individuals within the household. Decision-making authority with respect to cultivation on these plots rests with that individual, cultivation expenses are paid by that individual and income from the plot is attributed to that individual. Household members commonly provide labor on each others’ plots, at least partly as a consequence of a gender division of labor by task that cuts across the gender division of crops. Therefore, individuals in households rarely

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<sup>3</sup>For an application to the household, see Coate and Ravallion (1993); Kocherlakota (1996); Ligon, Thomas and Worrall (2002); and Ligon (2003).

have absolute autonomy with respect to decision-making on their individual plots. However, a voluminous literature makes it clear that individuals have substantive control over decisions on their plots, and that nominal control over the output from a plot belongs to the cultivator.<sup>4</sup> One goal of this paper is an examination of the hypothesis that this nominal control over output from a plot influences the allocation of consumption within the household.

Moreover, while there are some crops that appear with similar frequency on the plots of both men and women (in Côte d’Ivoire, maize is an example), other crops are typically cultivated by men (e.g., cocoa), while still others are typically cultivated by women (e.g., plantain). It is difficult to make the case for any crop that all of its cultivation occurs on the plots of one gender or the other. However, the ethnographic literature, supplemented by limited survey evidence, makes a strong case for a number of particular crops that these are predominately cultivated by one gender or the other. The responsiveness of growth to rainfall in particular periods varies across different crops; and hence profit from women’s crops and profits from men’s crops may be affected differently by rainfall realizations.

The literature suggests that there are three groups of crops to consider: one for the cash crops cultivated by men, one for yams (which are cultivated by men), and the other for crops cultivated by women. We follow the method of Haddad and Hoddinott (1994) by drawing on the ethnographic literature to carry out the assignment.

We treat separately yams, the main “appreciated product”, and the only major food crop controlled by men throughout the country.<sup>5</sup> The other crops assigned to men are cocoa, coffee, wood, pineapple and kola nuts. Coconut, plantain, oil palm, taro, sweet potato, vegetables, banana, fruit trees and some minor crops are assigned to women.<sup>6</sup> For cassava, maize, tobacco,

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<sup>4</sup>Doss (1998), Doss (2001), Bassett (1985), Bassett (1988), Bigot (1979), Davison (1988), Dey (1993), Saito, Mekonnen and Spurling (1994), Gastellu (1987), Guyer (1987), Guyer and Peters (1987), Jones (1986), Meillassoux (1975), Berry (1993), von Braun and Webb (1989), Carney and Watts (1991), Goldstein (2000), Weekes-Vagliani (1985), Weekes-Vagliani (1990).

<sup>5</sup>Rice is a male crop in some groups, a female crop in others, and in others the gender pattern of rice cultivation is very complex.

<sup>6</sup>Meillassoux (1965), Weekes-Vagliani (1985), Weekes-Vagliani (1990), Bassett (1988), and Gastellu (1987) are the primary sources for the assignment. The sources used by Haddad and Hoddinott (1994) are a subset of this group. Our assignments differ from theirs only in that ours are somewhat more conservative; some crops that they assign to a gender we leave unassigned.

and sugar cane the evidence is not sufficiently strong that the crops are substantially more likely to be grown on the plots of one gender or the other, so they are not assigned. In addition, there is some ethnographic evidence that cotton, rice, millet, sorghum and fonio can be assigned to particular genders in some ethnic groups, but we do not consider them. Approximately 80 percent of the value of agricultural output can be attributed in this manner.

It is important to note that no crop is exclusively cultivated by farmers of only one gender. Reporting from neighboring Ghana, Doss (2001) relates, "...I spoke with a woman who emphatically explained that yams were a man's crop and then invited me to see her yam farm." The 1991-92 round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) provides information on the crops cultivated on particular plots and responses to the question "Who keeps the revenue from the sale of the produce?" Unfortunately, data on plot-specific crop production is not collected, but it is possible to examine the frequency with which farmers of different genders engage in the cultivation of particular crops. Doss (2001) carries out this exercise and shows that substantial numbers of both male and females are engaged in the cultivation of each of the 31 crops specified in the GLSS data. For no crop are women a majority of the cultivators. However, it is the case that there are systematic differences across crops in the likelihood that they are cultivated by women relative to men. For example, plantain farmers are approximately 50 percent more likely to be female than are cocoa farmers.

The test of the efficiency of the pooling of income and risk within households in Côte d'Ivoire we will propose below does not rely on an exclusive mapping between the gender of the cultivator and the crops he or she cultivates. It only requires different crops to be more likely to be cultivated by some than others, something that is clearly implied by the anthropological literature. We will show in the theory below that Pareto efficiency implies that temporary, rainfall-induced variation in the profit from particular crops affects differentially commodity demand only to the extent that it differentially affects overall consumption in the household. However, the anthropological literature suggests that if it is correlated with the share of income under male and female control (even if the correlation is not one), such variation may affect commodity demand over and above its impact on overall expenditure.

### 3 Theoretical Framework and Derivation of the Test

#### 3.1 Theory

Our objective is to use rainfall as a source of exogenous variation in income from various sources to examine a testable restriction of the collective model, the assumption that income from all sources is pooled. To put the question more bluntly: does rainfall variation affecting farms cultivated by a wife change the pattern of expenditure within households differently than rainfall variation affecting farms cultivated by her husband?

We illustrate our empirical strategy first in the context of a simple one-period model of intrahousehold resource allocation in a risky environment, and then move to the more general dynamic case. It will be seen that the lessons from the one-period model generalize in a straightforward manner.

To simplify the notation in this section, we consider the optimization problem of a household comprised of two individuals, each of whom produces only one type of crop. Of course, this generalizes in a straightforward way to a situation in which each produces different types of crops. Each individual ( $i$ ) cultivates a farm using labor ( $L_i$ ) that can be traded on a competitive market at wage  $p_L$ .<sup>7</sup> The production function on the plot owned by individual  $i$  is  $f_i(L_i, \mathbf{r})$ , where  $\mathbf{r} \equiv (r_m, r_f, r_y)$  (each element will be noted  $r_j$  below) is a vector of three measures of rainfall that affect cultivation on plot  $i$  for a given agricultural year. It would of course be simple to generalize the realization of rainfall to more than three relevant moments of the rainfall distribution. However, following our account of the context in Côte d'Ivoire, we will consider a parametrization with three shocks, which affects differentially the production on a male non-yam farm, a female farm, and a male yam farm. That is, we will show that different types of rain shocks (at different times during the year, for example) affect differentially non-yam crops produced by men, crops produced by women, and yams. These three different types of rainfall shocks comprise  $\mathbf{r}$ .

After rainfall realization  $\mathbf{r}$ , each individual  $i \in \{m, f\}$  consumes a vector of private goods  $\mathbf{c}_i \equiv (c_i^1, c_i^2 \dots c_i^k \dots c_i^K)$ . Individual  $i$ 's preferences are summarized by the expected utility function

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<sup>7</sup>It is a trivial matter to extend the model to include a vector of inputs, which may be purchased, non-traded, or traded on imperfect markets.

$Eu_i(\mathbf{c}_i)$ , where expectations are taken over potential realizations of rainfall. The results that follow are robust to significant generalizations of these preferences. An individual's utility may depend on the consumption or utility of his/her spouse. A more substantial assumption is that labor is supplied inelastically, or that preferences over leisure are separable from preferences over other consumption. This will be discussed below.

Any *ex ante* efficient allocation of resources in the household can be characterized as the solution to the program

$$\max_{\mathbf{c}_i, L_i} Eu_f(\mathbf{c}_f) + \lambda Eu_m(\mathbf{c}_m) \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_m + \mathbf{c}_f) \leq p_f f_f(L_f, \mathbf{r}) + p_m f_m(L_m, \mathbf{r}) - p_L (L_f + L_m) + p_L \bar{L}$$

where  $\bar{L}$  is the total labor endowment of the household and  $p_L$  is the wage.

Note that the Pareto weight does not depend on  $\mathbf{r}$ : in an efficient allocation, risk is pooled. We do not investigate the process through which  $\lambda$  is set; it may depend on many observable or unobservable attributes of the household and its members. In particular, long-run rainfall patterns that influence profitability differently on a husband's and wife's plots may influence the Pareto weight. Hence, in examining the relationship between rainfall variation and the allocation of resources within the household, it is essential to distinguish adequately between the realizations of random variables (which in an efficient allocation are pooled—that is to say, they do not influence  $\lambda$ ) and the distribution from which those realizations are drawn (which may well be a determinant of  $\lambda$ ). For this reason, the empirical strategy below will investigate the impact of the year-to-year *difference* in rainfall realization on the *difference* in demand for various goods from one year to the next.

This problem is separable and equivalent to

$$\max_{\mathbf{c}_i} Eu_f(\mathbf{c}_f) + \lambda Eu_m(\mathbf{c}_m) \quad (2)$$

subject to

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_m + \mathbf{c}_f) \leq \pi_f^*(\mathbf{r}) + \pi_m^*(\mathbf{r}) + p_L \bar{L} \quad (3)$$

where  $\pi_i^* \equiv \max_{L_i} p_i f_i(\mathbf{r}, L_i) - p_L L_i$ . Note that rainfall enters the efficient allocation of resources only through its effect on cultivation and hence on the budget constraint, and thus on total expenditure.

Denoting  $x = \mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_m + \mathbf{c}_f)$ , we have:

$$\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{c}_i(\lambda, \mathbf{p}, x) \quad (4)$$

for  $i \in \{m, f\}$ . Conditional on expenditures, prices, and the preference and Pareto weight parameters, consumption of any particular good is independent of  $r_f$ ,  $r_m$  and  $r_y$ . We will test this implication.

Equation (4) also implies that, assuming that  $\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dr_i} = 0$ , the effect of rainfall realizations on expenditure, on any particular commodity, depends only on the expenditure elasticity of demand for that commodity and on the effect of rainfall on overall expenditure.<sup>8</sup> In other words, for any  $i$  in  $\{m, f\}$  and  $j$  in  $\{m, f, y\}$  and any good  $k$ :

$$\frac{dc_i^k}{dr_j} = \frac{\partial c_i^k}{\partial x} * \frac{dx}{dr_j}. \quad (5)$$

The collective model therefore implies that the restriction that the ratio between the effect of the type of rain realization  $j$ , on consumption of good  $k$ , by individual  $i$ , and its effect on total expenditure, should be equal across all rainfall realizations:

$$\frac{\frac{dc_i^k}{dr_m}}{\frac{dx}{dr_m}} = \frac{\frac{dc_i^k}{dr_f}}{\frac{dx}{dr_f}} = \frac{\frac{dc_i^k}{dr_y}}{\frac{dx}{dr_y}} \quad (6)$$

There is an analogous test for  $c_m^k + c_f^k$  if only aggregate consumption of the private good is observed.<sup>9</sup>

The essential element of restrictions (4) and (6) is the assumption that rainfall variation  $dr_j$  affects the collective household's decision making only via its influence on the household's resource constraint. In a more general model in which rainfall entered preferences directly, these restrictions fail to hold. This is a fundamental identification assumption. We will investigate its robustness in the robustness check section.

<sup>8</sup>We will return to the assumption that  $\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dr_j} = 0$  below.

<sup>9</sup>Data on rainfall and expenditures is required to estimate (4) or (6). We do not observe  $\pi_i$ , nor is such data required for the test. Hence, we avoid the issues raised by Rosenzweig and Wolpin (2000), which provides a very useful discussion of the potential consequences of treating estimates of the relationship between rainfall variation and output variation as if it was the relationship between rainfall and profits.

The assumption of a perfect labor market is *not* essential to this analysis. Precisely the same test emerges in a model in which there are no inter-household labor flows, if supervision is required for non-household labor, for general forms of imperfect substitutability between household and non-household labor, or if inter-household labor flows through reciprocal or cooperative arrangements. In each of these instances, it remains the case that labor decisions affect consumption only through their influence on the household's resource constraint and the collective model continues to imply (4) and (6). If labor markets are imperfect, what *is* essential is the assumption that conditional on total expenditure, the consumption of leisure does not affect the marginal rates of substitution between the other components of consumption. This assumption, as well, is examined in the section on robustness.

It is now a simple matter of generalizing these observations to the more general dynamic case. Consider a collective household with a horizon of  $T$  periods. In period  $t$ , after a history of rainfall realizations  $\mathbf{w}_t \equiv \{\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_t\}$ , individual  $i$  consumes a vector of goods  $\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t)$ . The expected utility of individual  $i$  is  $E \sum_t \beta_i^t U_i(\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t))$ . The budget constraint facing the household in period  $t$  after a history of rainfall realizations  $\mathbf{w}_t$  (note that  $\mathbf{w}_t$  includes the rainfall realization in the current period) is

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t) + \mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) + A(\mathbf{w}_t) \leq RA(\mathbf{w}_{t-1}) + \pi_m(\mathbf{w}_t)^* + \pi_f(\mathbf{w}_t)^* + p_L \bar{L}, \quad (7)$$

where  $A(\mathbf{w}_t)$  is the amount invested after history  $\mathbf{w}_t$  by the household in a safe asset that earns a return  $R$ .<sup>10</sup>

There is a budget constraint for each history of rainfall realization, so for example the budget constraint in period  $t$  following rainfall history  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_t \equiv \{\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{t-1}, \mathbf{r}_t\}$  is not the same as that after history  $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_t \equiv \{\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t-1}, \mathbf{r}_t\}$  if  $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_{t-1} \neq \hat{\mathbf{w}}_{t-1}$ . For notational simplicity, we have not permitted any inter-household insurance, though this would leave the problem essentially unchanged as long as inter-household insurance is not complete.

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<sup>10</sup>It is trivial to generalize the investment process so that people are investing (perhaps in their farms), that this return depends on rainfall, that it is uncertain, or that they allocate these savings across a portfolio of assets. The only change to the model will be the additional notation, because it will affect the allocation of current consumption only through the function  $V(\mathbf{w}_t, A(\mathbf{w}_t); \lambda)$  in equation (9).

Any efficient allocation of household resources can be characterized as the solution to:

$$\max_{\{\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t)\}} E \sum_t \beta_f^t U_f(\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t)) + \lambda E \sum_t \beta_m^t U_m(\mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) \quad (8)$$

for some value of  $\lambda$ , subject to (7) and a period  $T$  constraint on  $A(\mathbf{w}_T)$ . An efficient allocation must have efficient continuations after any history of rainfall  $\mathbf{w}_t$ , so in period  $t$  an efficient allocation must be the solution of

$$\max_{\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t), A(\mathbf{w}_t)} EU_f(\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t)) + \lambda EU_m(\mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) + V(\mathbf{w}_t, A(\mathbf{w}_t); \lambda) \quad (9)$$

subject to

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t) + \mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) + A(\mathbf{w}_t) \leq RA(\mathbf{w}_{t-1}) + \pi_m(\mathbf{w}_t)^* + \pi_f(\mathbf{w}_t)^* + p_L \bar{L}. \quad (10)$$

The function  $V(\cdot)$  is complex: it depends on the preference parameters (including  $\lambda$ , and  $\beta_i$ ) and on the information about the distribution of future profits that is incorporated in the history of rainfall through the current period. However, the maximand is separable between  $\{\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t)\}$  and  $A(\mathbf{w}_t)$ . Let  $A(\mathbf{w}_t)^*$  be the efficient level of assets held after  $\mathbf{w}_t$ . Then efficient consumption is

$$\{\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t)^*\} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t)} EU_f(\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t)) + \lambda EU_m(\mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) \quad (11)$$

subject to

$$\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{c}_f(\mathbf{w}_t) + \mathbf{c}_m(\mathbf{w}_t)) \leq RA(\mathbf{w}_{t-1}) + \pi_f^*(\mathbf{w}_t) + \pi_m^*(\mathbf{w}_t) - A^*(\mathbf{w}_t) + p_L \bar{L}. \quad (12)$$

Since  $x(\mathbf{w}_t) = RA(\mathbf{w}_{t-1}) + \pi_f^*(\mathbf{w}_t) + \pi_m^*(\mathbf{w}_t) - A^*(\mathbf{w}_t) + p_L \bar{L}$ , we once again have

$$\mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{w}_t) = \mathbf{c}_i(\lambda, \mathbf{p}, x(\mathbf{w}_t)) \quad (13)$$

for  $i \in \{f, m\}$ . Conditional on expenditure, prices, and preference and Pareto weight parameters, consumption of particular goods is independent of rainfall realizations  $r_m, r_f$ , and  $r_y$ . Thus an analogous form of the exclusion restriction (4) holds in the dynamic setting. It can now be seen that the general dynamic problem is akin to the static model discussed above. Again, the crucial restriction of the collective model is income pooling: realizations of rainfall influence the allocation of current consumption only through their affect on current expenditure. We have the additional testable restriction that

$$\frac{\frac{dc_i^k(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_m}}{\frac{dx(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_m}} = \frac{\frac{dc_i^k(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_f}}{\frac{dx(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_f}} = \frac{\frac{dc_i^k(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_y}}{\frac{dx(\mathbf{w}_t)}{dr_y}} \quad (14)$$

must hold for any consumption good  $k$ . Equation (14) is akin to an overidentifying restriction in the instrumental variables context. It says that a particular rainfall realization must influence the demand of a particular good only to the extent it influences expenditure.

### 3.2 Empirical Implementation

It is useful to follow the example of Chiappori (1992) and break the within-period problem (11)-(12) into its two-step equivalent. Given aggregate household expenditure  $x(\mathbf{w}_t)$ , any solution to (11)-(12) can be generated by an efficient division of that total into individual expenditures  $x_i(x(\mathbf{w}_t))$  and then solving for each individual

$$\max_{\mathbf{c}_i} EU_i(\mathbf{c}_i)$$

$$\text{subject to: } \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{c}_i \leq x_i(x(\mathbf{w}_t))$$

Consider a household in which each individual has common beliefs (about the distribution of rainfall) and HARA preferences with identical curvature parameters (and shift parameters set to 0), so that  $U_i(\cdot)$  in (8) has the form

$$U_i(\mathbf{c}_i) = \frac{[v_i(\mathbf{c}_i)]^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}, \quad (15)$$

where  $v_i(\mathbf{c}_i)$  is any function that is increasing, concave and homogeneous of degree one and  $\gamma > 0, \gamma \neq 1$ .<sup>11</sup> With preferences of this form, the optimal sharing rule  $x_i(x(\mathbf{w}_t))$  is

$$\begin{aligned} x_f(\mathbf{w}_t) &= \frac{1}{1+\lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}} x(\mathbf{w}_t) \\ x_m(\mathbf{w}_t) &= \frac{\lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}}{1+\lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}} x(\mathbf{w}_t) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

regardless of the particular form of  $v_i(\mathbf{c}_i)$ .<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Pratt (2000) shows that if preferences are not in the HARA class, then efficient risk sharing can generate randomization over individually unacceptable lotteries. Mazzocco (2004) examines saving in collective households with heterogeneous preferences.

<sup>12</sup>Let  $u_i(x_i) = \max_{\mathbf{c}_i} v_i(\mathbf{c}_i)$  subject to  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{c}_i = x_i$ . Then  $u_i(x_i) = \zeta_i x_i$ , and without loss of generality we can set  $\zeta_i = 1$ . The first stage of the household's problem in any period in which its total expenditure is  $x$  is to find

$$\max_{x_f} \frac{x_f^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} + \lambda \frac{(x-x_f)^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma},$$

the solution to which is 16.

Now suppose that  $v_i(\mathbf{c}_i) = (c_i^1)^{\beta_i^1} \cdot (c_i^2)^{\beta_i^2} \cdot \dots \cdot (c_i^k)^{\beta_i^k} \cdot \dots \cdot (c_i^K)^{(1-\beta_i^1-\beta_i^2-\dots-\beta_i^k-\dots-\beta_i^{K-1})}$ .  $f'_s$  demand for good  $k$  is

$$c_f^k = \frac{\beta_f^k}{p^k} \frac{1}{1 + \lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}} x \quad (17)$$

and aggregate household consumption of good  $k$  is

$$c^k = \frac{x}{p^k} \frac{1}{1 + \lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}} \left[ \beta_f^k + \beta_m^k \lambda^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \right]. \quad (18)$$

This demand function has two properties that are useful for estimation. First, it is multiplicatively separable between the Pareto weight  $\lambda$  and household expenditure  $x$ . Second, it is log-linear in expenditure (and, indeed, with a coefficient of 1 on expenditure). It is possible to test these properties, and we do so in section 5.3.1.

Households differ in various respects: they face different prices, have different  $\lambda$ , and the preferences of their members may also vary. Indexing households by  $h$ , goods by  $k$  and time by  $t$  and taking logs, we obtain the following demand function for good  $k$ , for household  $t$  at time  $k$ :

$$\log(c_{ht}^k) = \log(x_{ht}) + f_h^k(\lambda_h) - \log p_{ht}^k. \quad (19)$$

A variety of factors, including most importantly the distribution of rainfall and unobserved preference parameters, affect  $\lambda_h$  and  $f_h^k(\cdot)$ , and this function remains unobserved. This could induce a spurious correlation between rainfall realizations  $\mathbf{r}_{ht}$  and  $\log(c_{ht}^k)$ , even conditional on  $\log(x_{ht})$ . Therefore, we take the difference between period 1 and period 2:

$$\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k) = \log(x_{h2}) - \log(x_{h1}) + \log(p_{h1}^k) - \log(p_{h2}^k) \quad (20)$$

Under our assumption that rainfall realizations do not affect preferences directly, the difference  $\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{h1}$  should not enter equation 20.

In practice, we do not observe prices faced by the household (though we do have some measure of prices at the local level). If we assume that markets are regionally integrated, so that at a given point in time relative prices are the same across a particular agro-climatic zone, the effect of rainfall on relative prices and hence patterns of demand can be proxied by a fixed region-year effect ( $\mathbf{Z}_{ht}$ ). The most controversial element of this assumption is that it does not

permit the price faced by a household to differ from that prevailing in the region. If local markets are not well integrated into a regional system, then this assumption is violated. We discuss this possibility when we comment on our empirical results.

The first test is the exclusion restriction (13), which we implement by running the following regression:

$$\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k) = C^k + \alpha^k(\log(x_{h2}) - \log(x_{h1})) + (\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{h1})\beta^k + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\delta^k + \nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k \quad (21)$$

We then test for  $\beta^k = 0$ .<sup>13</sup> The error term  $\nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k$  captures the fact that we have only a proxy for prices, as well as any preference shock affecting the household. The identification assumption is that  $\nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k$  is not correlated with rainfall (rainfall variations do not directly affect either preferences, or prices conditional on  $Z_{ht}$ ).

This test, however, presents some potentially serious problems. There are many reasons for equation (21) to be misspecified. In the presence of measurement errors in expenditure, the relationship between total expenditure and the expenditure on a particular good may be over or understated.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, shocks to total expenditure could be caused by events that also affect preferences (for example, a drop in expenditure could be due to sickness, and this could also lead to an increase in medical expenditure). This would lead to a spurious relationship between total expenditure and commodity demand. If the model is misspecified, the coefficients of the rainfall variables will be inconsistently estimated as well, and misleading conclusions could be drawn.

To address these problems, we propose a test based on the overidentifying restrictions suggested by equation (14). Through their effects on profits, rainfall realizations affect disposable income in each period, and therefore the decision of how much to save and consume (unless households are able to fully insure against fluctuations in income, through savings or inter-household insurance).<sup>15</sup> We estimate the following relationship between changes in total expenditure and

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<sup>13</sup>Equation (18) implies that  $\alpha^k = 1$ . In our estimation, we permit  $\alpha^k \neq 1$  and we test for  $\alpha^k = 1$ .

<sup>14</sup>Imagine that food expenditure is measured with error: since it is an important part of total expenditure, the measurement error appears both on the left and on the right of the equation, leading us to overestimate the relationship between total expenditure and food expenditure. See Deaton (1997) and Bouis and Haddad (1992) for discussion.

<sup>15</sup>Paxson (1992) examines the relationship between rainfall realizations and expenditure in Thailand Kinsey, Burger and Gunning (1998) and Kazianga and Udry (2004) do so in Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso, respectively.

rainfall realizations:

$$\log(x_{h2}) - \log(x_{h1}) = (\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{h1})\kappa + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\mu + v_{h2} - v_{h1}. \quad (22)$$

This is a reduced form relationship between changes in rainfall and changes in household expenditure, which does not need to be formally derived from a specific model linking rainfall, current profit, and current expenditure. The impact of rainfall on overall expenditure is not our focus of interest in this paper, and the strategy does not require that the relationship between overall expenditure and rainfall be fully specified. The crucial requirement is that variations in rainfall realizations are indeed correlated with changes in household expenditure, so they can be used as instruments for expenditure. Moreover, this strategy does not suffer from the same potential for misspecification as the direct test of the exclusion restriction (13). Under the null hypothesis of an efficient household (and our maintained assumptions that rainfall does not affect preferences directly and that we have correctly controlled for prices), the model implies that year to year differences in rainfall realizations must be uncorrelated with the error term in equation 20, and are therefore valid instruments for overall expenditures in this equation. This in turn implies that the overidentifying restrictions should therefore hold—even if equation 22 is not a correct specification for the impact of rainfall on overall consumption (for example, if there is a non-linear relationship between rainfall or consumption or if there are interactions with omitted variables).

We obtain the reduced form relationship by substituting (22) into (21) under the null hypothesis that  $\beta^k = 0$ :

$$\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k) = (\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{h1})\pi^k + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\mu^k + \nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k. \quad (23)$$

Recall that  $\pi^k$  and  $\kappa$  are  $(3 \times 1)$  vectors, each element corresponding to a dimension of the vector of rainfall realizations  $\mathbf{r}$ . The overidentifying restrictions (14) imply that for any commodity  $k$ ,

$$\pi^k = \alpha^k \kappa \quad (24)$$

for some scalar  $\alpha^k$ . In the empirical work below, we use a non-linear Wald test to test this

hypothesis.

The last task is to obtain the vector  $\mathbf{r}$ , which is a relevant summary of the realization of the rainfall variables.<sup>16</sup> The anthropological accounts suggest that income from non-yam crops farmed by males, crops farmed by females, and yams may be treated differently. Therefore, we estimate separately for each group of crops a linear regression of the difference (over years) of the logarithm of income from the crops in the group (output valued at market price minus inputs valued at market price) on the difference over the two years in a variety of measures of realized rainfall (and their interaction with a dummy for the Savannah region).

Hence, with  $s \in \{m, f, y\}$  defining a specific group of crops, we estimate:

$$\log(y_{hs2}) - \log(y_{hs1}) = (\mathbf{R}_{h2} - \mathbf{R}_{h1})\gamma_{ys} + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\delta_{ys} + (\xi_{hs2} - \xi_{hs1}), \quad (25)$$

where  $\mathbf{R}_{ht}$  is a vector of rainfall variables. We use the rainfall in millimeters for each of four seasons in the relevant agricultural year and the previous one, as well as their interaction with a dummy for the Savannah regions, and a dummy indicating extreme rainfall events.

The vector  $[\mathbf{r}_{h1} - \mathbf{r}_{h2}] \equiv [(R_{h2} - R_{h1})\hat{\gamma}_{yf}, (R_{h2} - R_{h1})\hat{\gamma}_{ym}, (R_{h2} - R_{h1})\hat{\gamma}_{yy}]'$  is therefore a linear combination of year to year variations in rainfall realization by season. It is exogenous and uncorrelated with  $\lambda$ , as well as, by construction, correlated with year to year variation in income from various crops.

To run the test of overidentification, we need each component of  $[\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2]$  to be linearly independent from the others. This will be true if they are different linear combinations of the underlying variables, or in other words, if these three different groups of crops benefit differentially from rainfall at different periods.

## 4 Data

The data for this paper comes from the Côte d'Ivoire Living Standards Measurement Survey (CILSS). The survey started in 1985, with 1,500 households. In 1986, half of these were

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<sup>16</sup>One could implement the tests using the entire vector of rainfall variables. When we test the exclusion restriction in equation (21), we always reject that the rainfall vector does not enter. On the other hand, when we test (24) we never reject. The overidentification test is known to have very low power when testing a large number of restrictions, however (Newey (1985)).

re-surveyed, and 750 households were added to the survey. In 1987, the households newly introduced in 1986 were surveyed again and 750 new households were added. In 1988, a final wave of the survey was collected in the same fashion. For this study, we stack the 3 waves of the panel (1985/86, 1986/87 and 1987/88). The data set includes a wealth of information on the households, including information on their income from agriculture and other sources, health and education variables, ethnic affiliation, and a detailed expenditure survey.<sup>17</sup>

The data indicates separately the output of each crop cultivated by the household and the inputs spent on its cultivation. However, it does not record labor supply separately for each crop. It can also be merged with data from rainfall stations near the communities where the household is interviewed. Rainfall is recorded monthly for the past 14 years for most rainfall stations. We construct for each household aggregate rain recorded at the nearest rainfall station for each calendar quarter for the year that immediately preceded the most recent harvest (we label this as “current year”) and for each quarter of the previous year.

We drop households that reside in Abidjan. We keep only households engaged in agriculture, where there is at least one man and one woman, and where households produce at least one crop defined as “male only” and one crop defined as “female only”. In addition, some observations are dropped because of a lack of information on rainfall. Our final sample has a little over 800 households (each observed twice).

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Effects of Rainfall on Income from Crops

Columns 1, 2 and 3 in Table 2 present F statistics obtained by estimating equation (25) for male non-yam cash crops, yams, and female crops. The estimated equations are presented in Table A1. We include as male (or female) crops only those crops that are cultivated by males (or females) in all ethnic groups. In all equations, we include year and region effects (for the four agro-climatic regions in Côte d’Ivoire) and their interactions. The normal pattern of rainfall in these seasons is very different in forest areas and in the savannah: In the forest, there are two rainy seasons (March to June and September to November) and two dry seasons, while there is only one rainy

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<sup>17</sup>It is publicly available on the World Bank LSMS web site.

reason in the savannah. We partition the year into four seasons (December to February, March to June, July and August, and September to November), and we allow for different coefficients in the savannah and in the forest. We include rainfall for the eight seasons prior to the most recent harvest. We use two types of rainfall variables: rainfall precipitation in millimeters, and a variable that indicates a particularly severe ‘shock’ when the rainfall precipitation was more than one standard deviation above or below its 14-year mean in this station. Therefore, we estimate 32 coefficients for each equation (except for the male cash crops, which are cultivated only in the forest).<sup>18</sup>

As the F tests in Table 2 indicate, rainfall variables are jointly significant in all regressions, and the coefficients are significantly different in each of them. Specifically, past year rainfall matters more than this year rainfall for the male cash crops (mostly tree crops), while both past and current year rainfall realizations matter for female crops and yams. The coefficients in the appendix reveal that in the savannah, rainfall shocks influence yam income more strongly than they do income from women’s crops. In the forest, shocks in the most recent long dry and long rainy season negatively affect both yam and female crops.

Thus, there are strong differences across crop groups in the relationship of rainfall realizations to net income. This suggests that a test of income pooling based on evaluating whether rainfall patterns that affect different crop groups influence expenditure shares of different goods over and above their effects on total expenditures could have some power.

## 5.2 Tests of Income Pooling

Table 3 presents the estimation of equation (21). Table 4 (panel A) presents the estimation of equations (22) and (23) and the overidentification test of equation (24). Panel B presents the coefficients of  $\log(x_{h2}) - \log(x_{h1})$  in equation 20, when the three rainfall variables ( $\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{h1}$ ) are used as instruments for  $\log(x_{h2}) - \log(x_{h1})$ .

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<sup>18</sup>Our choice of a specification was driven by the agro-climate of Côte d’Ivoire, because there is clear evidence that: (1) both current and lagged rainfall influence yields; (2) the effect of rainfall on yields is often nonlinear, with exceptional events having a role; and (3) rainfall patterns and their effects on yield are very different in forest and savannah regions (see Amanor (1994), Hopkins (1973), Nicholson (1980), and Sanders, Shapiro and Ramaswamy (n.d.)). A more parsimonious specification that includes no interactions between the rainfall variables and the savannah indicator produces results similar to those reported in Tables 4 to 7.

The two specifications have very similar results. Both in the OLS and the IV specifications, the hypothesis that  $\alpha^k = 1$  (expenditures increase proportionally with income) cannot be rejected at the 95% level for any commodity, except for education, where it is rejected in the OLS and nearly rejected in the IV.

However, both in the exclusion restriction test (in table 3) and in the overidentification restriction test (in table 4), the hypothesis that the variation in rainfall can be excluded from the differenced commodity demand equation can be rejected for a number of commodities. The commodities for which it can be rejected are the same in tables 3 and 4, and the reasons for the rejection are the same in both tables. In what follows, we focus on table 4, which is the more robust specification. We note discrepancies with table 3 when they occur.

In column 1 of table 4, we present results from regressing differences in the logarithm of total expenditures on the components of  $[\mathbf{r}_{h2} - \mathbf{r}_{r1}]$ , which correspond to predicted changes in the logarithm of income from male cash crops, female crops, and yams. The coefficients are all significant at the 1% level and they are also significantly different from each other. The elasticity of total expenditure with respect to predicted income from the three sources varies from 0.1 (for male non-yam income) to 0.3 (for female crop income).

In the following columns, we present the coefficients from estimating equation (23). The final row presents the tests of the overidentification restrictions. The overidentification restrictions are rejected at the 5% level for prestige goods, adult goods, staples, and vegetables and at approximately the 11% level for education expenditures (in the exclusion restriction test, the exclusion restriction is rejected at the 3% level for education as well. In that test, the restriction is rejected only at the 9% level for adult goods, however). It is also useful to note from the final two columns that the source of food consumed in the household is sensitive to income flows. The restrictions are rejected at the 5% level for purchases of food in both tables 3 and 4, but not for food produced on the household's farm.

Moreover, not only do the effects of predicted male and female income differ, but although men typically farm yams, the effect of predicted yam income often differs radically from that of income from other male crops. In addition, an examination of the coefficient estimates reveals that the deviations from efficiency correspond closely with the anthropological accounts discussed above.

Variations in income from male non-yam crops and from female-controlled crops are much more strongly associated with the consumption of adult goods (tobacco and alcohol) than are variations in yam income (for this comparison, as for all those that follow, it is understood that these statements are relative to the effects of these income flows on total expenditure). Precisely the same pattern is observed, just as strongly, for prestige goods (jewelry and adult clothing items such as “pagnes”). Income from yams, it seems, is associated with household public goods and basic necessities while income from the individually-controlled female and male cash crops is associated with expenditures on alcohol, tobacco, and prestige goods.

Expenditures on education are positively related to yam income, but inversely related to income from male non-yam crops and from female-controlled crops. In contrast, predicted increases in income from male non-yam income are associated with decreases in expenditure on purchased food, while increases in yam income are associated with decreases in expenditure on adult and prestige goods.

Not surprisingly, consumption of staples is much more strongly related to variations in yam income than to variations in male non-yam crop income or to female crop income. Consumption of vegetables is much more strongly related to female crop income than to either yam or non-yam male crop income. These results could be a consequence of local relative price movements where markets are not well-integrated, or to marketing costs of crops, which will lead households in corner solutions to increase home consumption of home-produced commodities when they increase the production of this commodity. However, the results on other food items are not easily explained by this relative price effect. If all that was going on was that households substituted towards the goods that they produce in years when it is more abundant, one should see that both yam income and female income are less strongly associated with the consumption of other food items (in particular, food purchases) than male cash income. In practice, increased yam production is directly associated with increases in household consumption of all other foodstuffs, and not only staples. Moreover, variations in female crop income are much more strongly associated with *purchases* of staples than variations in yam or male non-yam income.<sup>19</sup> More interestingly, it is also the case that both overall consumption and purchases of vegetables are much more strongly related to income from female non-vegetable income than to yam or

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<sup>19</sup>These results and those regarding vegetable purchases below are not shown, but are available from the authors.

male non-yam income. Overall food purchases (and consumption of processed foods, albeit at a low level of statistical significance) are much more strongly associated with variations in income from female-controlled crops than income from yam or male non-yam crops.

All of these results regarding the relationship between yam income and expenditures on particular goods are consistent with the idea that income from yams is associated with household public goods and basic necessities. This corresponds to Meillassoux' description of yams as an "appreciated good" under the control of the household head for redistribution in the household.

Moreover, these effects are large. A 10% increase in income from yams is associated with a 3% decline in expenditures on prestige goods, while a similar increase in female (male non-yam) income is associated with an 10% (7%) increase in expenditures on prestige goods. A 10% increase in yam income is associated with a 5% decline in expenditures on adult goods, while a similar increase in female (male non-yam) income is associated with a 15% (9%) increase in expenditure on adult goods. A 10% increase in yam income corresponds to a 3% increase in education expenditure, while a similar increase in female (male non-yam) income corresponds to a 1% (1%) decline in educational expenditure. Shifts in income from yam to either female-controlled or male non-yam crops are associated with strong declines in expenditure on education and staple food consumption, and strong increases in the consumption of adult and prestige goods.

There are also some strong differences in expenditure patterns from transitory fluctuations in female and male non-yam income. A 10% increase in income from female-controlled crops is associated with a 4% increase in expenditure on purchased foods and a 5% increase in meat purchases, while a similar increase in income from male non-yam crops is associated with a .3% decline in purchases of food and no rise in meat consumption.

This pattern corresponds with discussions of the role of 'chop money' in the descriptive accounts of household resource allocation in West Africa. In much of West Africa, the male head of household is responsible for a "statutory contribution" to his wife to prepare meals, but after that generally fixed obligation is met, he "acts on his own account .... He contributes to, but is never solely responsible for, the total expenditure of the component hearth-hold(s)" (Ekejiuba (1995), pp. 52-53).<sup>20</sup> In neighboring Ghana, the 'chop money' provided by a husband to a

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<sup>20</sup>Ekejiuba uses the term 'hearth-hold' to mean a mother and her children.

wife for the preparation of meals is a regular, fixed amount that can be changed only after negotiations that often involve extended family members; when a husband does not meet this obligation it can be an important source of friction within the household and between the extended families (Goldstein (2000)). Women have access to this base contribution from their husbands to provide meals for the household, but “it is ultimately the woman’s responsibility to feed everyone, whatever the amount she receives from her husband”.<sup>21</sup> When their own disposable incomes increase, some of this increase is used for purchased foods; the rest on goods that women privately consume.

We raised the possibility that changes in local relative prices might bias these estimates. We control for region and time interactions to deal with price effects if markets are regionally integrated. To confirm that markets seem to be regionally integrated, we use the information available on prices for a wide range of goods at the CILSS cluster level for 3 of the 4 years of the survey. We find in Table 5 almost no commodity for which there is a statistically significant relationship between rainfall and price, conditional on the region  $\times$  year effects. Only for palm oil and for plastic sandals are the predicted income variables jointly significant.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, the fact that the overidentification tests are not rejected for total food consumption or for consumption of food produced on the family’s on farm, but are for the consumption of other goods (adult goods, education, and prestige goods) whose prices are not likely to substantially vary with rainfall pattern suggests that this result is not entirely due to relative price effects. As we discussed above, some results may be explained by marketing costs for households whose marginal consumption of a good is not transacted on the market (the increase in the consumption of yams when the household produces more yams). However, most of these results are

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<sup>21</sup>This is a quote from Etienne (1980), describing the relationship between husband and wives in Côte d’Ivoire. Etienne (1980) describes how among Baule households in Côte d’Ivoire, “in the case of some essential subsistence products, production was entirely the responsibility of one or the other sex and the producer was the ‘owner’ of the product or, in other words, controlled its distribution. In the case of other products, both sexes contributed to production, each being in charge of specific tasks or phases of the production process; the sex that was considered to have initiated the process and taken responsibility for it ‘owned’ the product or controlled its distribution” (p. 219-220). In addition, see Guyer (1995) who describes how Senufo women in Côte d’Ivoire are responsible for the production of certain crops, and that they have control over the incomes from those crops.

<sup>22</sup>We also estimated a specification where we introduced the prices as control variables (results available from the authors). The results are unchanged.

not consistent with such price effects, since positive shocks in male cash crop income are not associated with food purchases (which they would be, under this hypothesis), while shocks to yam and female income are both associated with increases in the consumption of other types of food. We conclude that there is no evidence that rainfall-induced variations in local prices can account for the association we observe between changes in consumption patterns and shocks in the flows of different categories of net crop income.

### 5.3 Robustness Checks

In this subsection, we examine several possible threats to our interpretation of the results: The assumptions of linearity and separability in commodity demand, which are central to the derivation of the overidentification test, the assumptions of time separability, and the assumption of separability between consumption and labor supply.

#### 5.3.1 Testing for Separability and Linearity in Commodity Demand

Our specification relies on the log-linearity and separability (between the Pareto weights and expenditure) of the commodity demand functions. We showed that such demand functions emerge if preferences are of the form (15). However, other preferences lead to nonlinear and non-separable commodity demands. If the demand functions are not linear, then there would be different reactions of consumption to the same income shock, depending on the level of expenditure of the household, which could spuriously translate into patterns similar to those present in the data. Moreover, if they are not linear, then in general the unobserved Pareto weight and overall expenditures will not enter additively in the log demand functions, which would preclude a simple strategy of flexibly controlling for total expenditure and checking for the exclusion of the rainfall variables in this equation.

Fortunately, under the null hypothesis that the household is Pareto efficient, it is possible to test our assumptions that commodity demand functions are separable and linear. A first implication of our model was not rejected: the coefficient of total expenditure in the commodity demand function is around one for all commodities except for education. We now outline how one can test for separability between the Pareto weight and overall expenditure, and for linearity.

Consider a more general form for the commodity demand function (19):

$$\log(c_{ht}^k) = \Phi^k(\log(x_{ht}), \lambda_h) + \mathbf{Z}_{ht}\delta^k + \nu_h^k + \nu_{ht}^k. \quad (26)$$

We will consider a group of households that share a particular characteristic (perhaps, ethnicity).

For this group  $G$ , define

$$\Phi_G^k(\log(x)) \equiv E(\Phi^k(\log(x_{ht}), \lambda_h) | x_{ht} = x, h \in G).$$

The basis of testing our assumptions regarding separability and linearity is that  $\Phi_G^k(\log(x))$  and  $\Phi_H^k(\log(x))$  are identical (up to a constant) for all arbitrary groups  $G$  and  $H$  only if  $\Phi^k(\log(x), \lambda) = \phi^k(\log(x)) + f^k(\lambda)$ .

To see the idea of the test, consider an extreme example in which  $\lambda_h$  does not vary across households within groups, but does vary across groups. If  $\Phi^k(\log(x), \lambda)$  is not separable – say,  $\Phi^k(\log(x), \lambda) = \lambda \log(x)$ , then  $\Phi_G^k(\log(x))$  has a different slope than  $\Phi_H^k(\log(x))$ .

So for households in  $G$ , we consider estimating  $\Phi_G^k(x)$  in

$$\log(c_{ht}^k) = \Phi_G^k(\log(x_{ht})) + \mathbf{Z}_{ht}\delta^k + \nu_h^k + \nu_{ht}^k + \eta_{ht}^k \quad (27)$$

where  $\eta_{ht}^k = \Phi^k(\log(x_{ih}), \lambda_h) - \Phi_G^k(x_{ht})$ . With data from two periods ( $t = 1, 2$ ) on each household, we can take the first difference of equation (27) to obtain:

$$\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k) = \Phi_G^k(\log(x_{h2})) - \Phi_G^k(\log(x_{h1})) + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\delta^k + \nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k + \eta_{h2}^k - \eta_{h1}^k, \quad (28)$$

which we rewrite as

$$\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k) = g^k(\log(x_{h2}), \log(x_{h1})) + (\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})\delta^k + \nu_{h2}^k - \nu_{h1}^k + \eta_{h2}^k - \eta_{h1}^k. \quad (29)$$

We then follow Robinson (1988) and Hausman and Newey (1995) to estimate  $\delta^k$ . To simplify notation, let  $\mathbf{y}$  be the vector  $\log(c_{h2}^k) - \log(c_{h1}^k)$ ,  $\mathbf{z}_1$  be the vector  $\log(x_{h1})$ ,  $\mathbf{z}_2$  be the vector  $\log(x_{h2})$ ,  $\mathbf{m}$  be the matrix  $[(\mathbf{Z}_{h2} - \mathbf{Z}_{h1})]$ . The estimator of  $\delta^k$  conditional on membership in group  $G$  is:

$$\hat{\delta}_G^k = \left[ \sum_{h=1}^N (m_h - \hat{E}[m|z_{1h}, z_{2h}, G]) (m_h - \hat{E}[m|z_{1h}, z_{2h}, G])' \right]^{-1} \left[ \sum_{h=1}^N (m_h - \hat{E}[m|z_{1h}, z_{2h}, G]) (y_h - \hat{E}[y|z_{1h}, z_{2h}, G]) \right]$$

In other words,  $\hat{\delta}_G^k$  is obtained by estimating (separately) the nonparametric relationships between  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$  and  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$ , forming the residuals, and regressing the residuals of  $\mathbf{y}$  on the residuals of  $\mathbf{m}$ . The non-parametric estimator we use to estimate the conditional expectations is the Fan (1992) locally weighted regression, with a quartic kernel.

To calculate  $\hat{\Phi}_G^k(x)$ , we first obtain the estimate of  $g^k(z_1, z_2)$  by partialling out the coefficient of  $m$  (see Robinson (1988) and Hausman and Newey (1995)):

$$\hat{g}_G^k(z_1, z_2) = \hat{E}[y|\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, G] - E[\mathbf{m}|\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, G]\hat{\delta}_G^k.$$

We then apply the partial means method suggested by Porter (1996) to recover the shape of  $\Phi_G^k(\cdot)$  (up to an unidentified constant term) in equation (27):

$$\hat{\Phi}_G^k(z) = 0.5 * \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{E}[y|(z, z_{2j}, G)] \right) - 0.5 * \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{E}[y|(z_{1j}, z, G)] \right).$$

Pointwise confidence intervals for  $\hat{\Phi}_G^k(z)$  are constructed based on 50 bootstrap replications.

We estimate  $\hat{\Phi}_G^k(x)$  and  $\hat{\Phi}_H^k(x)$  for groups defined by observables that are *a priori* likely to be associated with different  $\lambda$ . We define a first pair of groups by ethnicity, and a second pair by estimates of the relative variance of the incomes of husbands and wives.

Figures 1a–k present estimates of  $\Phi_{Akan}^k$  and  $\Phi_{Non-Akan}^k$ , where group “Akan” households are members of matrilineal Akan ethnic groups, and “Non-Akan” households are members of other ethnic groups. Inheritance systems differ in important ways across these groups, and this could translate into systematic differences in  $\lambda_h$  across these groups. However, for all but vegetable (and perhaps meat) consumption, the estimated  $\hat{\Phi}_{Akan}^k(x)$  and  $\hat{\Phi}_{Non-Akan}^k(x)$  are difficult to distinguish across these broad ethnic classes. Moreover, in almost all cases the estimated demand function is very close to linear.

Figures 2a–k present similar estimates for a pair of groups defined by the relative variance of incomes of husbands and wives. The estimate of female (male) income variance is simply the squared change in income attributable to crops controlled by the female (male) across the two years the household is observed. Households are assigned to the “High Female Variance” (“High Male Variance”) group if the estimate of the variance of female (male) income is higher than that of male (female) income. If  $\lambda_h$  is related to the riskiness of the productive activities of the individuals in household  $h$ , then it may differ systematically across these groups. However,

we again see that for almost all goods, the demand functions are very similar across these groups (here, the exceptions are education expenditures and vegetable consumption). Again, the estimated demand functions are very close to linear.

Therefore, we see no evidence of important non-separabilities between the Pareto weight  $\lambda_h$  and total expenditure in commodity demands. In addition, log demand is estimated to be approximately linear in log expenditure.

### 5.3.2 Labor Supply and Commodity Demand

Another important assumption we made in the derivation of the overidentification test is the separability between labor supply and the consumption choices. If labor markets are well functioning, this assumption will be satisfied. In practice, however, it may not be satisfied in several cases. If labor demand moves with rain and labor markets are imperfect, and leisure is *not* separable from other consumption, then in an efficient allocation rainfall could influence commodity demand even conditional on total expenditure. For example, if there is an important nutrition-productivity effect, then the demand for (say) calories might vary with rainfall. If different crops have different effort requirements, or if the labor market works better for some crops than others (which, according to Meillassoux (1965), is true – there is a spot labor market for cash crops, but not for yams), then the demand for calories will vary with rainfall even conditional on total expenditure. Another possibility is that some of the laborers are paid in food, rather than in cash (again, a possibility raised by Meillassoux (1965)), which may again show up in differential consumption.

We examine this possibility in Table 6, where we show, first, that agricultural labor demand is not strongly associated with rainfall realizations (neither household labor nor the amount of money spent in paid labor strongly changes with income increases predicted by rainfall). Second, that to the extent labor demand moves with rainfall realizations, it does so in a way that is not consistent with a nutrition-productivity explanation of our results. In particular, we see that rainfall that is associated with higher output of female crops and male cash crops is associated with a *higher* demand for labor. If nutrition productivity links were the cause of the rejection of Pareto efficiency, these rainfall realizations would be associated with higher demand for calories, not higher demand for adult or prestige goods. Finally, the last line of Table 6 shows

overidentification tests similar to those performed for consumption expenditures. With this test, we are testing whether each type of labor is more strongly associated with rainfall favorable to one crop than with rainfall favorable to another crop, over and above their effect on total expenditure. If this were the case, and these different types of labor were also associated with different consumption choices, then our assumption would not be satisfied. In fact, none of the overidentification tests are significant (the same results were obtained with exclusion restriction tests). This provides some confidence in our interpretation that the expenditure results are not the consequence of differential increases in the demand for labor that then translate into different consumption requirements.

So far, we have treated the household as a well-defined entity, without taking into account the fact that household composition may be endogenous to rainfall realization. A possible reason for some of the effects we found in section 4.3 is that household composition is actually responding to rainfall. For example, the household could take on more prime age adults when the yam crop is going to be plentiful, both for providing extra labor supply, and as a way to provide insurance to other villagers or relatives. For the same reason, the household could also take on more children. If this phenomenon were driven by total expenditure only, this would not translate into differential consumption of particular goods conditional on total expenditure. However, the increase in the production of some crops may lead to larger changes in household composition. It can, for example, happen that nephews move in with their aunt when she is in good financial standing (?).

To the extent that taking on relatives is, to some extent, private consumption, the finding that this is actually happening would not necessarily invalidate our results, but rather provide an interpretation for them. In practice, however, as we show in Table 7, household size and composition do not seem to respond differentially to different types of rainfall. Household composition *is* indeed sensitive to increases in predicted income due to rainfall: Family size increases with predicted income, and this seems mostly driven by 5 to 14 year-old children (presumably due to fostering) and to some extent prime age adults (both males and female). However, these increases are proportional to the effect of the predicted income on total expenditure, and none of the overidentification tests are significant: While there is evidence that household size and composition is sensitive to household income, there seems to be no evidence that it reacts

differentially to increases in different types of predicted income.

### 5.3.3 Time Separability of Preferences

If, contrary to the model in section 3.1, the marginal utility of the consumption of  $\{c_i^k(\mathbf{w}_t)\}$  is affected by consumption in period  $t - 1$ , then the recursivity that produces equation (9) fails, as do the testable restrictions. It is important to note that this is not a matter of imperfect financial markets: equation (9) remains valid with imperfect or absent credit markets. Instead, it arises when consumption is spread out over multiple years, as in a model with habit formation or with durable consumption when rental markets or markets for used products are absent. However, in panel B of Table 4 we examine this possibility and find no evidence of non-separabilities over time in demand.

The specification in panel B is identical to that of panel A, with the exception that rainfall realizations are lagged 8 seasons (2 years) relative to those in panel A.<sup>23</sup> “Predicted lagged male non-yam income”, for example, is defined as 2-year lagged rainfall changes times the coefficients estimated in columns (5)-(6) of Table A1. As anticipated in (9), column (1) provides evidence that lagged changes in income influence current expenditure. There are indeed non-trivial dynamics in the expenditure process: A particular rainfall realization has implications for the distribution of future profits over multiple years, and therefore for saving and expenditure choices over time. Also as one would expect, these effects are strongest for rainfall realizations that influence male non-yam income, which is largely generated from cocoa and other tree crops.

As a consequence, we see effects of lagged changes in predicted income on the demands for particular consumption goods in columns (2)-(11). However, all of these effects are closely proportional to those on overall consumption. In no instance is the overidentification test even close to rejected. Therefore, we find no evidence that lagged income realizations are associated with changes in the composition of current demand, and thus no evidence of non-separabilities over time in consumption.

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<sup>23</sup>We construct  $\mathbf{r}_{ht-1} = (\mathbf{R}_{h,t-2} - \mathbf{R}_{h,t-3})\hat{\gamma}_{ys}$  for  $s \in \{m, y, f\}$  where time periods are years, and  $\hat{\gamma}_{ys}$  is estimated in (25).

## 5.4 Interpretation: Can the Results Be Explained by Information Asymmetries?

The full information collective model with which we began may seem unrealistic. A plausible alternative is a household that achieves a Pareto efficient allocation of consumption subject to a series of information constraints. Husbands and wives operate separate enterprises. In neighboring Ghana, there is direct evidence from surveys that spouses have poor information about profits from each others' enterprises, and they also know little about each others' private consumption (Goldstein (2000)). Could our pattern of empirical results emerge from households that achieve an efficient allocation of resources subject to these information constraints?

In this context, if the researcher observed individual incomes, one would expect to see a correlation between consumption (either private or publicly observed) and individual income: Insurance should only be partial, as shown by the literature on insurance in the presence of imperfect information (see, for example, Ligon (1998)). Note, however, that the exercise we are carrying out here is different: Since we are only using the part of income variation that is *predicted* from rainfall realization, and the rainfall realization is observed by everybody in the household, we are testing whether the household members are fully insuring themselves against the *observable* part of income shocks. *Prima facie*, one would expect that the household members can insure themselves against the observed part of income shocks even in an environment where there is imperfect information (unless they do not know the model that links rainfall to their partner's income, which seems unlikely). That said, there may be circumstances where the variance of the private income of a household member is correlated with the realization of the observed shocks, which would lead the household to compensate her with more consumption.

The point is made most clearly with a very simple model. Income from individual  $i$ 's enterprise depends on publicly-observed rainfall and on a shock that is private information:  $f_i(r) + \varepsilon_i$ .  $f_i(r)$  is defined so that  $E_i(\varepsilon_i|r) = 0$ . The distribution of  $\varepsilon_i$  is defined by the density  $h_i(\varepsilon_i|r)$ .

Individual consumption (for simplicity, of a single good) is unobserved, but there can be an observed net transfer of income  $t$  from the husband to the wife. An efficient allocation within

the household satisfies

$$\max_{c_f, t} Eu_f(c_f) + \lambda Eu_m(c_m)$$

subject to the household resource constraint

$$c_f + c_m \leq f_f(r) + \varepsilon_f + f_m(r) + \varepsilon_m \quad (30)$$

In addition to the standard non-negativity constraints, there are now two new incentive compatibility constraints:

$$c_f \in \arg \max_{c_f} Eu_f(c_f) \quad (31)$$

$$s.t. c_f \leq t + \varepsilon_f$$

$$c_m \in \arg \max_{c_m} Eu_m(c_m) \quad (32)$$

$$s.t. c_m \leq f_m(r) + \varepsilon_m + f_f(r) - t$$

The accounting is arbitrary but without loss of generality for what follows. The female chooses her consumption to maximize her utility subject to not spending more than her observed income ( $t$ ) plus her private income ( $\varepsilon_f$ ), and the male does the same (his observed income is  $(f_m(r) + f_f(r) - t)$  and his private income ( $\varepsilon_m$ )). The constraints in (31) and (32) bind in any efficient allocation. Together they imply (30), so substituting we see that the efficient allocation satisfies

$$\max_{t(r)} Eu_f(\varepsilon_f + t(r)) + \lambda Eu_m(f_m(r) + f_f(r) + \varepsilon_m - t(r)). \quad (33)$$

An efficient household chooses an allocation of observed income between the wife and husband when rainfall  $r$  is realized to equalize the expected marginal utility of consumption between the two:

$$\int \frac{\partial u_f(\varepsilon_f + t(r))}{\partial c} h_f(\varepsilon_f; r) d\varepsilon_f = \lambda \int \frac{\partial u_m(f_m(r) + f_r(r) + \varepsilon_m - t(r))}{\partial c} h_m(\varepsilon_m; r) d\varepsilon_m. \quad (34)$$

Consider the analogue to our earlier result. Conditional on total observed household expenditure ( $= f_m(r) + f_r(r)$ ), does the observed expenditure on, say, the female private good ( $= t(r)$ ) depend on the rainfall realization?

In this model, the observed composition of consumption does *not* depend on rainfall realizations conditional on observed total expenditure, unless the distribution of unobserved income

depends on rainfall. For example, if two distinct realizations of rainfall are associated with the same observed expenditure, but the second involves higher variance of  $\varepsilon_f$  than the first (but the same variance of  $\varepsilon_m$ ), then the net transfer from the husband to the wife will be higher in the second.<sup>24</sup>

If there is a particular relationship between mean (observed) output for individual  $i$  and the variance of  $i$ 's private output across rainfall realizations, then this effect could underlie some of the empirical regularities we observe. If “better” rainfall for  $i$  (in the sense that  $f_i(r)$  is higher) is associated with higher variation in  $\varepsilon_i$ , then in an efficient allocation, higher observed income to  $i$  is associated with higher observable expenditures by  $i$  conditional on total observed expenditure.

While this cannot be tested directly (since we do not observe private income), it seems unlikely that our patterns of results can be explained by this fact. We find that increases in female and male cash crop predicted income are associated with an increase in expenditure towards adult and prestige goods, and that increases in predicted yam income are associated with no increases in this expenditure. To explain this pattern uniquely by an increase in the variance of individual expenditures, the argument would require that the variance of  $\varepsilon_y$  decreases with rainfall that increases  $f_y(r)$ , while the opposite pattern holds for female crops and other male crops. While this pattern is possible, it seems less than likely.

A similar example can be constructed if moral hazard is the source of the imperfect information (the household members cannot adequately monitor each other's labor). Here again, *prima facie*, the household members should still be able to insure each other against observable shock. Differential individual consumption would arise only if higher output translated into

<sup>24</sup>Let  $\hat{r}$  and  $\tilde{r}$  be such that  $f_m(\tilde{r}) + f_f(\tilde{r}) = f_m(\hat{r}) + f_f(\hat{r})$  so that aggregate public resources are identical. However, let  $h_f(\varepsilon_f|\hat{r})$  be a mean preserving spread of  $h_f(\varepsilon_f|\tilde{r})$ , while  $h_m(\varepsilon_m|\tilde{r}) = h_m(\varepsilon_m|\hat{r})$ . Then if marginal utility is convex and denoting the efficient net transfers with rainfall  $\tilde{r}$  and  $\hat{r}$  as  $t(\tilde{r})$  and  $t(\hat{r})$ :

$$\lambda \int \frac{\partial u_m(f_m(\tilde{r}) + f_r(\tilde{r}) + \varepsilon_m - t(\tilde{r}))}{\partial c} h_m(\varepsilon_m|\tilde{r}) = \lambda \int \frac{\partial u_m(f_m(\hat{r}) + f_r(\hat{r}) + \varepsilon_m - t(\hat{r}))}{\partial c} h_m(\varepsilon_m|\hat{r}) =$$

$$\int \frac{\partial u_f(\varepsilon_f + t(\tilde{r}))}{\partial c} h_f(\varepsilon_f; \tilde{r}) d\varepsilon_f > \int \frac{\partial u_f(\varepsilon_f + t(\hat{r}))}{\partial c} h_f(\varepsilon_f; \hat{r}) d\varepsilon_f.$$

So

$$\lambda \int \frac{\partial u_m(f_m(\tilde{r}) + f_r(\tilde{r}) + \varepsilon_m - t(\tilde{r}))}{\partial c} h_m(\varepsilon_m|\tilde{r}) > \int \frac{\partial u_f(\varepsilon_f + t(\hat{r}))}{\partial c} h_f(\varepsilon_f; \hat{r}) d\varepsilon_f.$$

Therefore,  $t(\tilde{r}) > t(\hat{r})$ .

higher variance of the required effort. So to explain our results, it should be the case that while higher cash crop predicted income translates into a higher variance of individual effort by males, whereas higher yam predicted income translates into a lower variance of individual effort by males. Again, it does not seem very likely.

## 6 Conclusion

We have shown that expenditure patterns in households in Côte d’Ivoire are not consistent with a Pareto efficient allocation of household resources. Moreover, the deviations from Pareto efficiency that we document correspond closely to the descriptions of provisioning norms available in the literature. In particular, we find that rainfall shocks that increase the output of the “appreciated” crop, yam, are associated with strong shifts in the composition of expenditures towards education, staples, and overall food consumption and away from adult goods and “prestige” goods such as jewelry. In contrast, rainfall shocks that increase the output of crops cultivated individually by either men or women are associated with strong expenditure shifts toward adult and prestige goods. Shocks that increase the output of crops predominantly cultivated by women shift expenditures toward all types of food consumption (except staples), while similar shocks affecting cash crops cultivated by men have no effect on the purchases of food. This result does not seem to be explained by changes in market prices or prices faced by the household, and they are robust to several specification checks. The assumption of linearity of the demand functions seems verified in the data, the results do not seem to be explained by non-separability between labor supply and consumption demands, nor do they arise from differential changes in household composition as a response to these shocks.

The immediate implication of these results is that the conventional unitary household model employed, for example, in the permanent income hypothesis is insufficiently rich to capture important aspects of demand behavior. Nor does the more general collective model provide an adequate framework for the interpretation of these results. Finally, because the variation in this paper comes from observable (and common) rainfall shocks, these results are not easy to reconcile with simple models of imperfect information (such as imperfect observation of the output, consumption, or the inputs that went into production). A more radical departure from

the conventional model is required.

One model that is consistent with our results on the differential impact of male cash crop and female income is the model of informal insurance with limited commitment. In this model (Coate and Ravallion (1993), Kocherlakota (1996), and Ligon et al. (2002)), individuals cannot commit to remain part of the informal insurance arrangement. In any single period, an individual who received a high realization of income compares the short-term loss of remaining in the insurance arrangement (the payment he must make to the common pool) and the long-term insurance gain. As a result, perfect insurance is often not achievable, and individuals who receive high incomes in a specific period consume more than others. This model has been recently proposed as a model of insurance in the household by Ligon (2003). Note that in this setting, the household cannot fully insure even against fully observable income shocks. It would thus explain why males and females consume more of the goods they prefer when their own predicted income is bigger.

It is less direct to reconcile the model of limited commitment with our finding that expenditures on food and education increase with yam predicted income. While the notional property rights over yam income are attributed to men, yam, as an “appreciated product”, comes with strings attached. Deviations from accepted use of this income can provoke strong punishment from the community. Correspondingly, our results seem to imply that yam income is put into a separate account, not fungible with the rest of male income, and spent on different goods. The norms that are so prominent in the discussions of household provisioning in West Africa appear to have real consequences for the allocation of resources in Côte d’Ivoire. We hypothesize that this institution could have arisen as an endogenous response to the limited commitment problems faced by the households. Faced with the consequences of these commitment problems, society has constructed a new type of property right, such that the basic needs of the “household” can be met with income flows from the appreciated products. The social sanction associated with deviation from the accepted use limits the enforcement problem for these income streams.

This suggests that a wide range of household outcomes could respond to changes in the economic environment in ways that do not correspond to the predictions of simple collective models. Decisions regarding investment in children’s human capital, production decisions, and the allocation of land and other productive assets could all be affected by inefficient intra-household negotiations and/or by constrained fungibility of resources across uses. For example,

inter-temporal decisions such as the allocation of household resources into the human capital of children could be affected by the labelling of income if husbands and wives face different opportunities in financial markets. More generally, our results suggest that even when investigating such core economical topics as demand analysis, economists may have much to learn from the detailed observations available from neighboring disciplines. This is particularly so in a case such as that of intrahousehold resource allocation in West Africa, where the broad contours of the descriptions are at once so similar across many studies in a large number of local settings and so strongly inconsistent with the routine models available to applied economists.

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TABLE 1: Descriptive statistics

	Mean, year 1	Difference in logs	Observations
	1000's FCFA	Year2-Year1	
	Standard errors in parantheses		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Income from male crops	553.78 (26.22)	-0.07 (.06)	1025
Income from female crops	103.46 (9.28)	0.00 (0.10)	1025
Total "male income"	593.89 (26.17)	-0.08 (0.06)	1025
Total "female income"	143.58 (10.21)	0.06 (0.09)	1025
Unattributed income	144.85 (6.24)	0.17 (0.12)	1025
Total expenditure	1111.45 (28.41)	-0.10 (0.02)	1008
Food consumption	639.37 (12.68)	-0.06 (0.02)	973
Adult goods	45.67 (2.61)	-0.32 (0.12)	1025
clothing	263.92 (9.41)	-0.17 (0.06)	1025
prestige goods	218.11 (8.06)	-0.17 (0.07)	1025
Staples	442.58 (12.32)	-0.03 (0.03)	1025
Meat	142.72 (7.62)	-0.12 (0.04)	1025
Vegetables	51.21 (2.67)	-0.07 (0.08)	1025
Processed foods	41.15 (1.74)	-0.25 (0.04)	1025
All purchased foods	309.86 (9.09)	-0.17 (0.03)	1020
All food consumed at home	424.49 (13.78)	-0.06 (0.05)	1025

Table 2: First stage summary statistics

	Dependent variables		
	Male cash crop	Current Yam income	Female Income
	(1)	(2)	(3)
F statistics (p value)			
All rainfall variables are significant	1.99 (0.014)	3.50 (0.000)	2.53 (0.000)
Current year rainfall variables significant	1.18 (0.315)	3.38 (0.000)	2.43 (0.005)
Past year rainfall variables significant	2.79 (0.005)	4.64 (0.000)	2.64 (0.001)
Rainfall variables significantly different from:			
Male cash crop	NA		
Yam income	2.10 (0.010)	NA	
Female income	2.10 (0.009)	2.38 (0.002)	NA

Note

(1) The full results are presented in Appendix, table 1

(2) The specification include year dummies, region dummies,  
and their interactions

Table 3: Exclusion restriction tests

	Food consumption	Adult goods	Clothing	Prestige goods	Education	Staples	Meat	Vegetables	Processed foods	Purchased foods	Food consumed at home
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
PANEL A: REDUCED FORM: CURRENT RAINFALL											
Total expenditure	0.944 (0.022)	1.376 (0.318)	1.258 (0.247)	0.861 (0.251)	0.527 (0.088)	1.054 (0.035)	1.002 (0.080)	0.773 (0.202)	0.859 (0.088)	0.905 (0.052)	1.122 (0.111)
Predicted male non-yam income	-0.016 (0.027)	0.672 (0.421)	-0.311 (0.331)	0.574 (0.258)	-0.144 (0.104)	-0.019 (0.064)	-0.124 (0.115)	0.248 (0.195)	-0.103 (0.168)	-0.143 (0.083)	-0.043 (0.174)
Predicted yam income	0.038 (0.026)	-0.791 (0.420)	0.021 (0.233)	-0.451 (0.180)	0.258 (0.094)	0.127 (0.046)	-0.072 (0.083)	-0.137 (0.125)	-0.057 (0.099)	-0.101 (0.071)	0.212 (0.123)
Predicted female income	-0.006 (0.034)	1.145 (0.603)	0.144 (0.415)	0.727 (0.239)	-0.289 (0.150)	-0.133 (0.076)	0.182 (0.163)	0.756 (0.171)	0.209 (0.163)	0.133 (0.131)	-0.034 (0.131)
F test: Predicted income variables jointly significant											
F statistic	0.851	2.292	0.410	4.747	3.261	4.341	0.893	7.349	0.936	2.588	1.326
p. value	(0.472)	(0.088)	(0.746)	(0.005)	(0.029)	(0.008)	(0.451)	(0.000)	(0.430)	(0.062)	(0.275)

Note:

1-Panel A presents the OLS coefficient of the difference (year 2-year 1) in log consumption of each item on the difference in predicted log income (obtained from the equation presented in table A1), and of the difference in log expenditure. Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The regressions include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions.

The F statistic is for the hypothesis that the predicted income variables are jointly significant.

Table 4: Restricted overid tests

	Total expenditure	Food consumption	Adult goods	Clothing	Prestige goods	Education	Staples	Meat	Vegetables	Processed foods	Purchased foods	Food consumed at home
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
PANEL A: REDUCED FORM: CURRENT RAINFALL												
Predicted male non-yam income	0.126 (0.049)	0.062 (0.054)	0.870 (0.425)	-0.164 (0.334)	0.683 (0.209)	-0.101 (0.128)	0.113 (0.072)	0.002 (0.126)	0.345 (0.210)	0.004 (0.139)	-0.029 (0.078)	0.098 (0.119)
Predicted yam income	0.207 (0.037)	0.227 (0.041)	-0.473 (0.320)	0.296 (0.252)	-0.272 (0.158)	0.320 (0.108)	0.345 (0.054)	0.135 (0.096)	0.023 (0.159)	0.122 (0.105)	0.087 (0.059)	0.444 (0.090)
Predicted female income	0.309 (0.056)	0.235 (0.061)	1.537 (0.490)	0.535 (0.382)	0.993 (0.239)	-0.098 (0.159)	0.193 (0.082)	0.492 (0.144)	0.995 (0.239)	0.474 (0.159)	0.412 (0.089)	0.313 (0.136)
F tests (pvalue) :		0.934	5.064	0.514	7.595	2.260	5.870	1.824	3.277	1.397	4.777	1.912
Overidentification		(0.393)	(0.007)	(0.598)	(0.001)	(0.106)	(0.003)	(0.162)	(0.038)	(0.248)	(0.009)	(0.148)
Restriction test												
PANEL B: IV: EFFECT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON COMMODITY DEMAND												
log(total expenditure)		1.034 (0.076)	1.347 (0.955)	1.360 (0.748)	1.180 (0.489)	0.431 (0.334)	1.150 (0.119)	1.023 (0.275)	1.680 (0.498)	0.965 (0.311)	0.778 (0.153)	1.544 (0.253)
PANEL C: LAGGED RAINFALL												
Predicted lagged male non-yam income	0.073 (0.020)	0.039 (0.022)	0.350 (0.169)	0.044 (0.133)	0.047 (0.082)	0.091 (0.056)	0.038 (0.029)	0.150 (0.050)	0.039 (0.083)	0.115 (0.055)	0.155 (0.031)	-0.007 (0.047)
Predicted lagged yam income	-0.003 (0.009)	0.004 (0.009)	0.008 (0.073)	-0.125 (0.059)	-0.076 (0.036)	-0.031 (0.029)	-0.021 (0.013)	0.015 (0.022)	0.011 (0.036)	0.027 (0.024)	0.024 (0.013)	-0.018 (0.021)
Predicted lagged female income	-0.001 (0.026)	0.018 (0.028)	-0.024 (0.220)	-0.251 (0.173)	-0.289 (0.107)	0.093 (0.079)	0.044 (0.038)	0.023 (0.064)	-0.054 (0.107)	-0.010 (0.071)	0.062 (0.040)	-0.035 (0.061)
		0.105 (0.900)	0.128 (0.880)	0.254 (0.776)	0.043 (0.958)	0.016 (0.984)	0.049 (0.952)	0.052 (0.949)	0.024 (0.976)	0.058 (0.943)	0.054 (0.948)	0.057 (0.945)

Notes:

1-Panel A presents the OLS coefficient of the difference (year 2-year1) in log consumption of each item on the difference in predicted log income (obtained from the equation presented in table A1). Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The regressions include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions.

The overidentification test is a non-linear wald test for the hypothesis that the coefficients in each regression are proportional to their coefficients in column (1)

2-Panel B presents the IV estimate of the coefficient of the difference in log(total expenditure) in an equation predicting the log consumption of each income.

The instruments are the variables in panel A. The regressions include year dummies, region dummies, and their interaction.

3- Panel C presents presents the OLS coefficient of the difference (year 2-year1) in log consumption of each item on the difference in predicted lagged log income (obtained from the equation presented in table A1). Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The regressions include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions.

The overidentification test is a non-linear wald test for the hypothesis that the coefficients in each regression are proportional to their coefficients in column (1)

Table 5 : Relationship between predicted income shocks and local prices

	Dependent variable: log(item price)									
	beef	imported rice	local rice	onion	salt	tomato paste	peanut butter	palm oil	local maize	local millet
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
predicted male non-yam income	0.09 (0.126)	-0.19 (0.134)	-0.04 (0.157)	0.32 (0.189)	-0.23 (0.195)	-0.07 (0.064)	0.23 (0.288)	0.44 (0.246)	0.36 (0.214)	-0.01 (0.103)
predicted yam income	0.00 (0.047)	0.01 (0.050)	-0.07 (0.058)	0.04 (0.070)	-0.05 (0.073)	-0.01 (0.024)	0.01 (0.107)	-0.14 (0.091)	0.00 (0.079)	0.09 (0.038)
predicted female income	0.13 (0.158)	0.12 (0.168)	0.04 (0.197)	0.02 (0.237)	-0.23 (0.245)	0.10 (0.080)	-0.50 (0.362)	0.53 (0.308)	-0.06 (0.268)	-0.01 (0.129)
F statistics: predicted income variables jointly significant	0.33 0.80	1.04 0.38	0.46 0.71	1.04 0.39	0.71 0.55	1.23 0.31	1.05 0.38	2.80 0.05	1.08 0.36	1.76 0.17
	cassava	yams	plantain	oil palm nuts	peanuts	eggs	cloth	fish	sandals	enamel bowl
	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
predicted male non-yam income	-0.27 (0.250)	0.40 (0.225)	0.26 (0.320)	-0.14 (0.213)	0.34 (0.192)	-0.15 (0.220)	0.34 (0.212)	0.05 (0.147)	-0.04 (0.141)	0.18 (0.222)
predicted yam income	-0.03 (0.093)	0.04 (0.084)	-0.07 (0.119)	0.01 (0.079)	-0.03 (0.071)	0.03 (0.082)	0.08 (0.079)	-0.04 (0.055)	-0.06 (0.052)	0.07 (0.082)
predicted female income	-0.10 (0.314)	-0.05 (0.283)	-0.31 (0.402)	0.09 (0.267)	-0.12 (0.240)	-0.46 (0.276)	0.23 (0.266)	-0.19 (0.185)	0.40 (0.176)	0.19 (0.278)
F statistics: predicted income variables jointly significant	0.41 0.75	1.18 0.33	0.65 0.58	0.23 0.87	1.40 0.26	1.06 0.38	1.20 0.32	0.58 0.63	2.53 0.07	0.50 0.69

Note: item prices are obtained in the market for each enumeration area. The regressions include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions. Standard errors in parentheses

Table 6: Restricted overid tests, labor supply

	Total expenditure (1)	hours worked, men	hours worked, women (1)	hours worked in agriculture, men (2)	hours worked in agriculture, women (3)	hours work, non agriculture, men (4)	hours work, non agriculture, women (5)	amount spent on paid labor (6)
Predicted male non-yam income	0.126 (0.049)	0.187 (0.140)	0.070 (0.142)	0.160 (0.177)	0.085 (0.186)	0.315 (0.207)	0.177 (0.204)	-0.927 (0.586)
Predicted yam income	0.207 (0.037)	0.167 (0.106)	0.163 (0.108)	0.076 (0.134)	0.181 (0.140)	-0.119 (0.157)	-0.089 (0.154)	-0.341 (0.444)
Predicted female income	0.309 (0.056)	0.200 (0.160)	0.239 (0.162)	0.413 (0.202)	0.280 (0.212)	0.307 (0.236)	-0.031 (0.233)	-1.205 (0.669)
F tests (pvalue) :		0.228	0.020	0.486	0.013	1.422	0.483	0.467
Overidentification		(0.797)	(0.980)	(0.615)	(0.988)	(0.242)	(0.617)	(0.627)
Restriction test								

Note: The table presents the OLS coefficient of difference in log(hours) for each type of labor supply on difference in predicted log income (obtained from the equation presented in table A1). Standard errors are shown in parentheses. The regressions include year dummies, regions dummies, and their interactions. The overidentification test is a non-linear wald test for the hypothesis that the coefficients in each regression are proportional to their coefficient in column (1)

Table 7: Restricted overid test: family composition

	total expenditure	Family size	Infants 0-4		children 5-14		Teenagers 15-19		Prime age 20-60		Older adults >60	
	(1)	(2)	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
male non yams	0.126 (0.049)	0.311 (0.243)	0.174 (0.125)	-0.192 (0.131)	0.129 (0.171)	0.316 (0.217)	-0.144 (0.156)	-0.050 (0.138)	0.070 (0.083)	0.118 (0.089)	0.034 (0.095)	0.080 (0.116)
Yam	0.207 (0.037)	0.504 (0.184)	0.190 (0.094)	0.058 (0.100)	-0.010 (0.134)	0.212 (0.170)	0.106 (0.117)	-0.099 (0.115)	0.210 (0.063)	0.110 (0.067)	-0.004 (0.067)	-0.152 (0.088)
female	0.309 (0.056)	0.843 (0.278)	0.106 (0.144)	-0.005 (0.144)	0.468 (0.203)	0.674 (0.241)	0.192 (0.187)	0.168 (0.180)	0.136 (0.096)	0.190 (0.100)	0.093 (0.106)	-0.066 (0.141)
F test oid restriction		0.028 (0.973)	0.950 (0.387)	0.880 (0.416)	0.942 (0.391)	0.173 (0.841)	0.899 (0.408)	0.668 (0.514)	1.139 (0.321)	0.110 (0.896)	0.257 (0.774)	1.448 (0.237)

Note: The table present the OLS coefficient of difference the number of household members on difference in predicted log income (obtained from the equation presented in table A1). Standard errors are shown in parenthesis. The regression include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions. The overidentification test is a non-linear wald test for the hypothesis that the coefficients in each regression are proportional to their coefficient in column (1)

Appendix Table A1: First stage regression results

	Dependent variables					
	Female crop income		Male cash crop		Yam income	
	Forest coefficients (1)	Savanah interaction (2)	Forest coefficients (3)	Savanah interaction (4)	Forest coefficients (5)	Savanah interaction (6)
<b>Difference (year 2 - year 1) in:</b>						
Aggregate rainfall current year, season 1	-0.0015175 (0.001)	0.0040317 (0.003)	0.0004811 (0.002)		-0.003153 (0.002)	-0.010761 (0.006)
Aggregate rainfall current year, season 2	0.0007268 (0.000)	0.0013814 (0.002)	-0.001099 (0.001)		0.0015603 (0.001)	0.0015827 (0.004)
Aggregate rainfall current year, season 3	-0.0006134 (0.001)	0.0038313 (0.001)	0.0001552 (0.001)		-0.002321 (0.001)	-0.003099 (0.002)
Aggregate rainfall current year, season 4	0.0007069 (0.001)	-0.0042 (0.005)	-0.000169 (0.001)		0.0005378 (0.001)	-0.006442 (0.006)
Aggregate rainfall past year, season 1	-0.0003565 (0.002)	0.0068233 (0.008)	-0.004016 (0.003)		-0.00618 (0.003)	-0.010605 (0.011)
Aggregate rainfall past year, season 2	0.0000808 (0.000)	-0.006707 (0.005)	0.0008669 (0.001)		0.0023795 (0.001)	-0.000265 (0.006)
Aggregate rainfall past year, season 3	-0.00138 (0.001)	0.0033809 (0.001)	-9.57E-05 (0.001)		-0.00226 (0.001)	0.0027378 (0.001)
Aggregate rainfall past year, season 4	-0.0007686 (0.001)	-0.003408 (0.005)	0.0014161 (0.001)		0.0007269 (0.001)	0.0053683 (0.006)
Dummy for shock, current year, season 1	-0.476418 (0.233)		-0.093278 (0.364)		-0.894238 (0.439)	
Dummy for shock, current year, season 2	0.4592265 (0.193)	0.3583756 (0.485)	0.127267 (0.300)		0.4623188 (0.283)	-2.75326 (0.828)
Dummy for shock, current year, season 3						
Dummy for shock, current year, season 4	-0.4114966 (0.378)		0.6722299 (0.654)		-2.134331 (0.520)	
Dummy for shock, past year, season 1	0.2208379 (0.208)	-0.023197 (0.531)	0.1107528 (0.362)		0.2016122 (0.262)	3.537023 1.107312
Dummy for shock, past year, season 2	-0.0744996 (0.119)	0.1403303 (0.429)	-0.037784 (0.183)		-0.133787 (0.204)	-2.962664 0.9110861
Dummy for shock, past year, season 3	-0.3152398 (0.245)	0.5705816 (1.027)	-1.324416 (0.384)		-0.124188 (0.386)	-3.387585 1.388615
Dummy for shock, past year, season 4	-0.7206122 (0.267)	0.4587139 (1.366)	0.7792504 (0.437)		-1.748257 (0.408)	1.238107 1.274639
Number of observations	976		614		607	

Note: the specifications also include year dummies, region dummies, and their interactions  
Standard errors in parentheses