



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

378.77427
D34
S73
95-21

Staff Paper 95-21

Michigan State
University

Dept. of Agricultural
Economics

**Sustainable Intensification in the Highland Tropics:
Rwandan Farmers' Investments in Land
Conservation and Soil Fertility***

Daniel Clay, Thomas Reardon, Jaakko Kangasniemi
Michigan State University

*Forthcoming in Economic Development
and Cultural Change.*

Waite Library
Applied Economics - U of M
1994 Buford Ave - 232 ClaOff
St Paul MN 55108-6040 USA

378.77427
D34
S73
95-21

**Sustainable Intensification in the Highland Tropics:
Rwandan Farmers' Investments in Land
Conservation and Soil Fertility**

I. Introduction

The horror of genocide and civil war have recently turned the world's attention to Rwanda. But before that conflict and since, smallholder agriculture in this highland African nation has been defined by severe land scarcity and degradation, declining land productivity, poverty, and hunger. This paper focuses on how smallholders are trying to meet this challenge of agricultural decline, and what determines their investments in sustainable intensification of farming.

Historically, Rwandan farmers settled along the upper ridges of hillsides where soils were more fertile and cultivation was a simpler task than it was farther down, on the steeper slopes and in the marshy valleys.¹ But rapid population growth has in recent decades brought several changes in the traditional agricultural system: (1) farm holdings have become smaller due to constraints on land availability; (2) holdings are more fragmented; (3) cultivation has pushed onto bottom lands and fragile margins on steep slopes previously held in pasture and woodlot; (4) many households now rent land, particularly households owning little land or with large families; (5) fallow periods have become shorter, and cultivation periods have grown longer.²

A consequence of farming more intensively and farming on steep slopes is the high incidence of soil loss due to erosion, and along with it, declining soil fertility. Rwanda's National Agricultural Commission estimated that half the country's farmland suffers from moderate to severe erosion.³ Clay reports that

farmers observe a decline in the productivity of nearly half their holdings due to land degradation.⁴ Byiringiro and Reardon show that erosion severely reduces farm yields in Rwanda.⁵ Ford, citing research results in the steeply sloped Ruhengeri zone of Rwanda, notes that four-fifths of the sampled farmers have observed declines in the productivity of their soil; Ford also notes that soil loss from erosion has been high in the zone and is the most serious threat to the agricultural resource base.⁶ May finds that demographic pressure is driving soil degradation in Rwanda.⁷

Farmers have responded to land use pressure and concomitant declining productivity by intensifying agriculture. Boserup outlines a number of technology and investment paths to agricultural intensification that farmers follow in the wake of increased land constraints⁸—conditions that result from population growth, increased demand for agricultural products, and reduced transportation costs.⁹ To set the stage for our subsequent discussion, we distill and stylize from her work two broad paths.

The first we refer to as *capital-led* intensification, which entails substantial use of "capital," the latter broadly defined to include nonlabor variable inputs that enhance soil fertility (such as fertilizer) and quasi-fixed capital that protects the land (such as terraces). In Rwanda, "capital" farm inputs include: (1) land conservation infrastructure (grass strips, anti-erosion ditches, hedgerows, and radical terraces), (2) organic inputs (composting, manure, green manure, mulch), and (3) chemical inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, and lime). If one classifies the planting of perennials as a long-term capital investment, one can also say that planting and maintaining cash perennials such

as coffee and bananas fall under the capital-led intensification path. In turn, this capital is either acquired through purchase, often with substantial labor input, or "produced" on-farm (for example, anti-erosion ditches are dug using farm labor and other farm capital such as hoes).¹⁰

The second path makes little or no use of "capital" (as defined above), so we refer to it as *labor-led* intensification. Characteristically, farmers following this path will merely add (unaugmented) labor to the production process on a given unit of land, allowing them to crop more densely, weed and harvest more assiduously, and so on.

The two paths can be thought of as polar ends to a continuum. In practice, relatively few farmers follow either the labor-led or the capital-led path in its pure form, tending instead to adopt intensification practices that place them somewhere in between the two extremes.

Empirical research on intensification in Africa has illustrated the two intensification paths initially described by Boserup, and here labeled the capital-led and labor-led paths. Several studies have categorized the agricultural systems in regions of Africa where demographic pressure has pushed farmers to intensify along these paths. Matlon and Spencer note that the capital-led path is more sustainable and productive in fragile, resource-poor areas.¹¹ Lele and Stone categorize a variety of agroclimatic and policy settings in terms of these two paths, focusing especially on the need for the capital-led path (which they term "policy-led").¹² They maintain that the labor-led path (the "autonomous model" in their words) has not led to land productivity growth in Sub-Saharan

Africa, and that policy-led intensification is needed so that land quality and productivity will be maintained and even enhanced as cropping is intensified.

In sum, in much of the African tropics, the labor-led path to intensification—without addition of capital to enhance soil fertility and to protect land—is unsustainable, and leads to land degradation and stagnation of land productivity.¹³ This danger is at its maximum in the East African highland tropics, which are characterized by heavy rainfall and steep slopes. In this context, the capital-led path of intensification that incorporates land conservation investments with the use of organic matter and chemical fertilizer is much more sustainable. By contrast, farm households that follow only the labor-led path are on course for long-run ecological degradation and poverty. Hence, the question of what determines the technology adoption and capital investment paths that households follow is of critical importance in the current debate on sustainable development.

In general, conceptual and empirical work in the tropics has focused on how broad groups of farmers, in particular agroclimatic zones and policy contexts, face incentives (such as relative prices) and conditions (such as access to markets or new technologies) for following one or the other intensification path. For example, Pingali et al. examine how costs and returns to intensification by use of animal traction can be categorized according to the economic and physical characteristics of agroclimatic zones.¹⁴ Smith et al., and Freeman examine the nature of intensification in maize production over locations in Nigeria with differential access to infrastructure, technology, and

prices.¹⁵ Turner et al. have examined several case studies of the relation between population growth and agricultural intensification in Africa.¹⁶

Yet much less empirical research, especially in Africa, has systematically addressed the issue of what determines the paths taken by rural households over different agroecological zones, and in a given zone, over different types of farm households. Unanswered are the questions of whether and why particular types of households, in given agroclimatic and policy contexts, and facing similar incentives to intensify, take the labor-led versus the capital-led intensification path. Specifically, there have been relatively few studies that analyze the determinants of smallholder investments in land conservation capital, and use of nonlabor variable inputs such as organic matter and chemical fertilizers, in settings of rapid population growth and degradation. Recent exceptions are Place and Hazell, who focus on the effects of land tenure on land improvements in Rwanda, Lopez-Pereira et al. who analyze soil conservation measures on the hillsides of Honduras, and Ndiaye and Sofranko who analyze land improvements in the Ruhengeri zone of Rwanda.¹⁷

We address this gap in research using farm survey data from Rwanda. Our contribution is twofold. First, we add an empirical analysis of the capital-led path of intensification, focusing on household-level differences in the determinants of intensification (manifested in land improvements and soil amendments) within a given agroclimatic zone (the East African highland tropics) and policy context (Rwanda).

Second, we highlight household-level determinants of "sustainable intensification" that have not commonly been treated in the literature on

intensification. Specifically: (1) we show the importance of household-level intersectoral links—"reverse linkages," where nonfarm income affects farm investment—to enhancing the capacity of households to follow the capital-led path; and (2) we address the subject of landholding structure that recent literature has brought to center stage.¹⁸ With respect to the latter, we examine the links between demographic pressure, changes in the structure of landholding, and, in turn, the technology paths taken by farmers.

The paper proceeds as follows: Section 2 discusses our general model. Section 3 discusses the regression specification and our working hypotheses. Section 4 describes the data examined in this study. Section 5 describes the research setting and general patterns in the model variables. Section 6 presents and discusses regression results. Section 7 concludes with a review of findings and implications for policy and research.

II. General Model

We set out a general model for farm investments, which is then broken out in the following section into four regression equations for the land and input use and land conservation investments under study. We follow the literature on firm and farm-level investment theory,¹⁹ and model farm-level investments as a function of five sets of variables:

$$\text{Investment} = f(1. \text{ financial incentives, } 2. \text{ physical incentives; } 3. \text{ risk, } 4. \text{ wealth, and } 5. \text{ agro-socio-economic context}) \quad (1)$$

In general, a higher return (financial or physical) on investment will stimulate a higher rate of investment. Conversely, greater risk leads to lower investment for risk-averse farmers. Feder et al. break risk into two categories, risks (such as from price or rainfall instability) affecting "confidence in the short term," and risks (such as from insecurity of land tenure, hence risk of appropriation of capital) affecting "confidence in the long term."²⁰

While the incentive to invest can be great, capacity to invest may be low. Thus, wealth, broadly defined to include cash for purchases, human capital, and own-labor sources for "home production" of capital goods, constitutes an important general determinant of such investments. In theory, household liquidity is important where the credit market is underdeveloped or absent (the case in the tropical highlands of East Africa).

III. Regression Specification and Hypotheses

The general model explains investment in terms of the incentives and disincentives facing farm households and the capacity of households to undertake investments.

Table 1 shows the regression specification, reproduced as follows:

- Land conservation investments (m/ha) = f (1. financial incentives, 2. physical incentives, 3. risk, 4. wealth, 5. agro/social/economic local context) (2)
- Use of organic inputs = f (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (3)
- Use of chemical inputs = f (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (4)

$$\text{Land use erosivity (C-value)} = f(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) \quad (5)$$

The dependent variables are land conservation investments, nonlabor variable input use (organic inputs and chemical inputs, separately), and land use erosivity.

The first three reflect what for simplicity we term "capital investments" that protect the land and enhance the soil. Land conservation investments are the combined investments (measured in meters per hectare) of on-farm infrastructure (grass strips, ditches, hedgerows, and radical terraces). Organic input use (composting, manure, green manure, mulch) and chemical input use (chemical fertilizer, pesticides, and lime) are each measured as binary variables (used or not used on the plot), as we do not have data on quantities used.

The fourth dependent variable is the "C-value", an indicator of the erosivity of land use.²¹ As the C-value falls, so does the erosivity of land use. Controlling for production techniques, the C-value reflects crop mix—it tends to be less erosive with more perennials (coffee, bananas), and more erosive with more annuals (tubers, pulses, grains). This land use equation explicitly reflects choice of an outcome (erosivity), but is also a decision about crop choice between cash perennials and cash and subsistence annual crops. The decision is based on two sets of variables (controlling for physical, cultural, and economic constraints): (1) to reduce erosion, which is a long-term objective that requires short-term (crop) choices; (2) to maximize returns to land and labor, which is a short-term objective that requires a short-term choice of crops with high returns. We have thus modeled this "dual variable" as a function of variables

that reflect incentives related to the long-term objective of controlling erosion (e.g., steeper slopes of fields should spur investment in perennials to control runoff), and of variables that reflect short-term profitability considerations (e.g., the price of bananas relative to sweet potatoes).

Regressors are listed in Table 1 in the four following categories: (1) monetary incentives to invest; (2) physical incentives to invest; (3) risk of investment; (4) cash sources, physical wealth, and human capital; (5) sector-level variables (local context). Note that some variables are classed for simplicity as either incentive or capacity variables, but actually are both (an example is farm size). The variables in each of the five categories are defined below, along with our hypotheses concerning their effects on the dependent variables.

Monetary Incentives to Invest

Returns to agricultural and nonagricultural activities. We expect better returns to agriculture to lead to more land conservation and soil fertility investments. Return to agriculture is measured here as the average value product of labor per prefecture, calculated using aggregated sample household data, valued at market prices. Moreover, as market prices do not fully reflect the actual prices received by farmers, we introduce "distance of the household to the nearest main market" and "distance to a paved road," both of which reflect transaction costs. We expect both to be inversely related to investments in agriculture.

By contrast, we have ambiguous expectations for the effect of the return to nonagricultural activities (measured here by the off-farm wage). On the one

hand, better returns off-farm mean competition with on-farm investment. This is not necessarily bad, however; labor and cash diverted to off-farm uses might also reduce pressure on the land by providing cash to buy food. And it may encourage households to use land in less labor-demanding ways, such as perennial crops, fallow, and pasture—ways that are also less erosive and degrading of soil fertility. On the other hand, greater off-farm income means more cash available to the household to invest on-farm.

Crop prices and transaction costs. We include prices in the model, as explained above, to reflect short-term profitability considerations related to crop choice. We expect better prices for perennial crops to induce less-erosive land use patterns (i.e., with lower C-values). Perennial crops are represented by the banana price, as the coffee price is set administratively and does not vary over prefectures. We represent annual crop prices with the price of sweet potatoes. Because the prices of annual crops are highly correlated, we were unable to include a vector of prices of annual crops.

Physical Incentives to Invest

Share of farm under fallow, woodlot, and pasture. We expect that farmers with more land in non-cropping uses will be less likely to invest in capital to intensify the use of their cultivated land. Fallow and pasture have been declining in recent years because of increased population density and the subsequent need to increase food production.²² Only woodlots seem not to have suffered, thanks to a strong government campaign aimed at replanting and woodlot maintenance at both household and communal levels. Though some of

the lost fallow and pasture has been converted into woodlot, studies suggest that smaller farms are forced to plant more land in sweet potatoes and other tubers,²³ as tubers have higher yields in terms of calories per hectare than other crops, and tend to grow relatively well in poorer soils²⁴ such as those commonly found on steeper slopes. But tubers are more erosive than woodlot and pasture, the traditional uses of these hillsides. Elsewhere in Africa²⁵ and in Latin America,²⁶ tubers have been associated with accelerated soil loss.

Plot slope and plot location on the hillside. Steeper slope (particularly where rainfall is high) increases the incentive to invest in land protection and to adopt less erosive forms of land use. Steeper plots are more susceptible to erosion. But we expect that steepness will discourage the use of chemical and organic inputs because of runoff. Plot slope has become an issue as population density has increased. In Rwanda, the steepest areas have traditionally been reserved for pasture, woodlot, and minor crops, and frequent fallow periods were commonly required. At the outer rings of cultivation, toward the base of the slope and in the swampy valleys, crops are grown along ridges that are built for water drainage. Increasing land scarcity has obliged many farmers in recent decades to depart from this traditional system. As the preferred lands along the upper slopes became occupied and eroded, young farmers were faced with the decision to either cultivate smaller and less fertile plots farther down the hillside or to migrate in search of land. Thus, our interest is both in steepness of slope, and in hillside location (i.e., upper, mid or lower, with the value of the regression variable increasing as one descends the slope).

Farm fragmentation, plot size, and distance from residence.

Fragmentation is the geographic dispersion of plots (measured by the Simpson index). We expect that as fragmentation increases, and plots are more dispersed, farmers will have less incentive to make land improvements because of higher transaction costs; the same reasoning can be applied to plot size and distance from residence.²⁷ Moreover, smaller and more distant parcels are often found at the base of the hillside and in valleys where soil erosion is less severe, and where lands have been brought into production more recently.

Plot age. We measure this as years since operation began by the current operator or a member of his family. We estimate that for over 85 percent of the plots, age of plot reflects the number of years since clearing and first cultivation. In the past, Rwandan farmers could migrate in response to growing demographic pressure; they tended to move to the drier, eastern provinces, once the exclusive domain of the pastoralists. Today, however, in the absence of unoccupied lands, farmers cultivate the same holdings year after year, and in increasingly intensive ways. Our hypothesis is ambiguous: long-term cultivation might increase the likelihood of investment in a given parcel; however, all else equal, long-term cultivation leads to soil fatigue, and perhaps a disincentive to invest.

Annual rainfall. More rainfall is expected to lead to less erosive land use practices and more land conservation investments. This was discussed above in the section concerning plot slope.

Risk of Investment

Land tenure/Plot use rights. We measure this as a binary variable, 0 for own, 1 for rent. This variable reflects what Feder et al. term degree of "confidence in the long term."²⁸ We expect farmers to make fewer longer-term land improvements such as hedgerows and terraces on holdings that are rented-in. These holdings have short-term use rights, and as such make long-term investments at risk of reappropriation by the owner. But empirical evidence for similar contexts is mixed. For a smaller sample in Rwanda (in three prefectures: Butare, Gitarama and Ruhengeri), Place and Hazell found that farmers tended to invest less in rented land.²⁹ And Migot-Adholla et al. show for Ghana that plots owned or under long-term use rights are more likely to be improved (fertilized, mulched, irrigated, or have trees planted on them) than those under short-term use rights such as rental.³⁰ But for Kenya they found the relationship between tenure and land improvements to be weak—because farmers feel secure in their ability to cultivate rented plots continuously. Moreover, we expect, as do Cook and Grut, that rented holdings will tend to be used for annual crop production, rather than for more protective perennial crops and woodlot whose value is returned over a longer time.³¹

Price risk. We measure price risk as a prefecture-level coefficient of annual-price variation over 1986-1992. This variable is classified by Feder et al. as a variable affecting "confidence in the short term."³² In Rwanda, price variability is tied to rainfall variability, and we expect it to be a disincentive to investment.

Wealth

Cash income. We represent this with two variables: (1) noncropping income, which we measure as the sum of off-farm labor sales plus receipts from non-cropping business (including such things as brewing banana wine, construction, and so on), and (2) cash crop income (sales of bananas, coffee, and white potatoes).

With perfectly functioning credit markets and perfect information, household wealth and own-cash sources (off-farm activity and crop sales) should not affect investment. But where there are imperfections in the credit market, as is probably the case in rural Rwanda, theory suggests that own-cash sources will be critical to on-farm investments.³³ Moreover, even where the credit market is functioning but underdeveloped, Reardon and Vosti contend that the least likely investments to receive credit are land conservation measures.³⁴

We can posit no clear hypothesis about the effect of noncropping income on investment. As a "two-edged sword," non-cropping activity provides cash for on-farm investments but also potentially competes (as a destination for such income) with these investments. By contrast, we expect cash crop income to unambiguously increase farm investment as its presence suggests agricultural profitability and a cash source.

In the absence of data on formal or informal credit availability, we use "distance to road" as a rough proxy for access to formal credit.

Livestock holdings. We expect that livestock holdings, measured in terms of cash value, will spur farm investments.

Land holdings. Our hypothesis concerning farm size is ambiguous. On the one hand, larger farmers are better able to spare land for anti-erosion infrastructure, for fallow, and for pasture or woodlot. Larger farmers also tend to be wealthier, so they have more cash to hire labor and buy inputs for land improvements.³⁵ In the highland tropics, fallowing is a substitute for the use of organic inputs and land conservation capital (and vice versa).

On the other hand, smaller farmers tend to have more household labor available per hectare, which can be used to build and maintain land conservation infrastructure that require a substantial and continuous supply of labor. Farmers with smaller landholdings also have greater incentive to improve their land as they depend (*ceteris paribus*) more on their small holdings (than do large farmers) and they must pursue intensification as a substitute for fallowing.³⁶ Maro, for example, shows that increased population density in highland areas of Tanzania has led to agricultural intensification using irrigation in one area, and terracing of steep slopes in another.³⁷

However, the very smallness of their farms and the riskiness of their environments mean that the desire to divert resources to diversifying their incomes is stronger. Yet the cash from these off-farm activities can help them make improvements, a subject treated below.

Own-labor holdings. This is measured as the number of adults in the household. Own labor is expected to be a crucial determinant of investments that require a significant labor counterpart (such as collecting manure, digging and maintaining anti-erosion ditches, hedgerows, and mulching).³⁸ We thus expect that larger households, *ceteris paribus*, will be more able to undertake

such investments. The *dependency ratio* is the number of children and elderly household members relative to the number of economically active household members. This is expected to affect investments negatively, as children and elderly household members are an alternative destination for time and money.

Human Capital. This is proxied by variables reflecting literacy, age, and knowledge of conservation practices, each pertaining to the household head. The more literate, experienced, and knowledgeable in conservation practices is the household head, the more we expect the household to make investments and manage resources carefully. *Gender of household head* (0 for man, 1 for woman) is included to reflect access to resources.

Sector-Level Variables

Our nation-wide sample of 1,240 households is comprised of 78 "sectors" (*secteurs*) or primary sampling units of about 16 households each. We aggregated household observations for each of the four dependent variables across the households in each sector to create sector-level variables. They represent: (1) social and administrative conditions in the immediate area; (2) "imitation effects"; and (3) positive externalities of neighbors' undertaking land protection measures; Kerr and Sanghi argue, using examples from watersheds in India, that this should have a positive effect on a given household's investments.³⁹ The sector-level variables are expected to have a positive influence on the dependent variables (especially in the case of land improvements).⁴⁰ We confirmed that the sector variables are not correlated with the (more aggregate) prefecture-level variables, nor with the error terms.

IV. Data

One reason for the dearth of empirical research on the determinants of land improvement investments by African rural households is the difficult data requirement. Such research requires detailed information on farmers' conservation investments, but also requires a broader set of data needed to understand the farm management and household strategy context of these investments. Household farm and nonfarm income, assets, demographic characteristics, and the ecological properties of farm holdings, are examples of the kinds of information required. Such multi-level data are rare.

The data examined here, however, meet these varied requirements. They derive principally from a nationwide stratified-random sample of 1,240 farm households (operating 6,464 plots) interviewed in 1991 by the Agricultural Statistics Division (DSA) of Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture. These households were drawn from all five major agroecological zones.⁴¹ Interviews with heads of households and/or their spouses were conducted over a six-week period beginning in June 1991. The survey instrument treated both household-level variables (such as nonfarm income) and plot-level variables (such as land conservation investments, land tenure, and steepness of slope). To complete the data set for present purposes, we integrated these data with those on farm and livestock enterprise management from the Ministry's national longitudinal survey on the same sample of households.

The input use observations are for use in 1991 (the year of the cross-section), and the soil conservation investments are meters of improvements on the parcels at the time of the one-shot Agroforestry survey in 1991.

V. Data Patterns and Context

Ninety-three percent of Rwanda's population live in rural areas and nearly all rural households farm. On average, households cultivate slightly less than one hectare of land; the distribution of landholdings is inequitable by the standards of African smallholder agriculture (with a seven-fold difference in land per person between highest and lowest landholder quartiles). Farm holdings are fragmented into many smaller plots. The vast majority of landholdings are owner-operated; only 8 percent are rented.

Beans, sorghum, sweet potatoes, and cassava are the main food staples, and coffee, bananas, and white potatoes are the main cash crops. Farming is labor-intensive; women's labor is particularly important in food crop production, while men's labor is crucial in cash crop production and animal husbandry. Hoes and machetes are the basic farm implements; animal traction is nonexistent. Livestock husbandry is integral to the farming system, but the progressive conversion of pasture into cropland has caused a reduction in livestock production in recent decades, and a parallel decline in the amount of manure available for improving soil fertility. Rwanda's average population density is among the highest in Africa. Virtually all arable land is now used for agriculture; marginal lands once set aside for pasture or left in long-fallow are now coming under more intensive cultivation. Rural informal and formal credit markets are severely underdeveloped.

The model variables are grouped and listed in Table 1 according to the model specified above. Note that many of the summary statistics are reported at the plot level, while others are reported at the household or prefectural levels

(as indicated). Also, because of our focus on conservation investments and input use, observations on parcels in pasture and woodlot (13.4 percent of all parcels) have been excluded from this analysis; however, observations on parcels in fallow are included.

Land use is on average fairly non-erosive (with a C-value of .16) though variation across parcels is high (with a coefficient of variation of .43).

The average level of land conservation investments (measured in meters per hectare) in the sample is 424. There is, however, great variation across farm households in the degree to which they invest in land conservation measures, with a coefficient of variation of 1.18. Grass strips are most common, followed by anti-erosion ditches, then hedgerows, then radical terraces. Ditches and terraces are the most labor- and equipment-intensive to build and maintain, and grass strips the least. Hence, the abundance of grass strips is explicable by the relative ease of their production. Most (69.5 percent) of the parcels receive organic matter, but very few (4.9 percent) receive chemical fertilizer, lime, or pesticides.⁴²

To provide more detail on patterns of investment and input use, we calculated (not shown in Table 1) the shares of farmland⁴³ receiving land conservation measures, organic matter, and chemical fertilizer. Labor-led intensification, in its purest form, where farmland receives none of the improvements, characterizes only 15 percent of Rwandan farmland. Conversely, "full" capital-led intensification, where all three improvements are made, accounts for only 4 percent of farmland. Most farmland falls on the continuum in between, as follows. Twenty-three percent of the land has no

conservation measures; of that land, 65 percent receives neither organic matter nor chemical input. The other 35 percent only receives organic inputs. Seventy-six percent of the land receives conservation measures. Of that land, 82 percent receives organic inputs (and 94 percent of the latter land does not receive chemical inputs, and 6 percent does). Hence, there are two clusters in between the poles—farmland that receives land conservation measures (land which tends also to receive organic inputs), and farmland that does not receive conservation measures (land which tends also to not receive organic inputs). This clustering is consistent with the key role of land conservation investments in preventing runoff of organic matter and chemicals applied to the land.

Almost all land in rotation is cropped; little is kept under fallow. Larger farms have a greater share of land in fallow than do smaller farms. Figure 1 shows that the quartile of smallest farms (in arable land per adult equivalent) cultivates 86 percent of their arable land, whereas for the quartile of largest farms cultivates only 57 percent. Fields tend to be on slopes, and annual rainfall is high. These factors provide strong incentive for farmers to take appropriate measures aimed at controlling soil loss.

Nonfarm income (wages from hired agricultural and non-agricultural work plus own-business income) constitutes about one third of total income, and about two-thirds of households earn some nonfarm income. Most households own a few small ruminants; less than a quarter own cattle. There is strong variation over households in their (self-reported) knowledge of various land conservation and productivity-enhancing practices. Agricultural profitability as

well as price variability over time show considerable variation across prefectures.

VI. Regression Results and Discussion

This section examines the determinants of land management strategies in Rwanda. Random-Effects, Generalized Least Squares (GLS) regressions are estimated to explain land conservation investments, organic input use, chemical input use, and land use (C-values). We use the regressors described above.⁴⁴

The results for conservation investments and input use are discussed first, followed by those for land use. Regression results are reported in Table 2. Only results with significance above the .10 level are discussed.

Correlations among Regressands

There is a negative association between use of organic inputs and erosivity of land use (Table 2), as one would expect: where cropping patterns are less erosive, there is less loss due to runoff and thus more effective use of inputs.⁴⁵ Moreover, there are correlations between land conservation investments on the one hand, and use of organic and chemical inputs on the other. Again, the former guards against runoff, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the latter. Finally, there is a relationship between organic input use and chemical input use: agronomic recommendations are for the two to be used together, and their positive correlation implies that, by and large, farmer behavior is consistent with these recommendations.

Determinants of Land Conservation Investments

Monetary and Physical Incentives. First, short-term economic incentives play less of a role than do some of the non-price, "structural" conditions discussed below. This may be because most crops are not marketed. Higher returns to agriculture do not significantly affect land conservation investments. Crop prices also do not affect these investments.

Second, plot and farm characteristics (ecological and organizational) play an important role in the investment decision. Farmers are more likely to make investments in land conservation if their holdings are located higher on the hillside, are closer to the residence, and are owned (not rented). Historically, erosion has been the most severe on upper hillsides, where farmers tend to grow beans and other important annual crops. Fragmentation (reflected in the Simpson index) has the expected negative sign.

Moreover, the relationship between conservation investments and field slope is complex. Though the regressions in Table 2 show no significant association, closer examination of the relationship between slope and conservation investments (see Figure 2) shows that farmers invest most heavily in slopes of *medium* steepness—those steep enough to need conservation investments, but not so steep as to discourage investment, for the following reasons: (1) traditionally, farmers placed their steepest slopes under pasture, woodlot, and perennial crops because these slopes easily erode; (2) it is very costly to maintain land protection infrastructure on steep slopes; and (3) the lightness and thinness of these soils make them prone to erosion, keep yields low, and lowers long-term returns to investments. Thus a downward spiral of

low production and low investment is set into motion as these marginal lands are taken out of their traditional uses (forest, long fallow, rangeland, etc.) and put under more intensive cultivation.

Wealth. Four sets of results are significant.

First, noncropping income as a liquidity source for investments (hiring labor, buying materials) exerts a positive effect on conservation investments.

Second, larger farmers tend to make fewer conservation investments than do smaller farmers. This may confirm that credit (with land as collateral) is not important to these investments. Larger farmers also have more land under fallow and thus may feel less pressured to protect their land. It may also be that larger holders are not compelled to take conservation measures to meet daily food and cash needs. Many small holders, on the other hand, appear to recognize that such investments are vital to their livelihoods, even in the short run.

Third, knowledge of sustainable production practices (gained from extension visits) appears to have little effect on conservation investments when measured as an aggregate of all four types of investment, as we do here. However, Clay and Reardon, using the same data but disaggregating types of land conservation practices, show that some conservation practices are positively affected by this knowledge, while others are not.⁴⁶ In particular, farmers who have had greater exposure to conservation and fertility-enhancing technologies are more apt to plant hedgerows than are other farmers. However, this is not true for other investments. The difference may emerge because, unlike grass strips and ditches, the use of hedgerows to control soil loss is a

relatively new technology for Rwandan farmers, and its application is less widespread. As the extension service is an important vehicle for dissemination of this technology, it is perhaps for this reason that the positive effects of farmer knowledge are greater for hedgerows than for other, more traditional conservation investments.⁴⁷

Sector-Level Variables. As expected, the local-area (sector) prevalence of land conservation investment (perhaps due to promotion by local authorities) encourage farm-level investment.

Determinants of Use of Organic Inputs and Chemical Inputs

We estimated two separate regressions for organic inputs and chemical inputs because of their different agronomic effects, labor requirements (organic inputs require collection and distribution), and cash requirements (chemical inputs are purchased). But for comparison we discuss the two sets of (significant) results side-by-side. The explanatory power of the regressions and the number of significant variables were much greater for the organic inputs regressions. This is probably because so few farmers use chemical inputs.

Monetary Incentives. Better returns to agriculture do not significantly affect the use of organic or chemical inputs. Moreover, there is an inverse relationship between distance to a paved road and use of both types of inputs. This suggests that the marketability of output reinforces the desire to enhance soil fertility. Second, as expected, a higher non-agricultural wage reduces the use of organic matter. The effect on chemical inputs has the expected sign but is not significant.

Physical Incentives. Fields higher on the hillside are more likely to receive both organic and chemical inputs. Steeper slopes are less likely to receive inputs because of runoff. Older plots receive more organic matter, presumably to restore soil fertility as older plots are more eroded. Older plots receive less chemical inputs, perhaps because the effects are judged to be less on more eroded soils. Plots farther from the residence receive fewer organic inputs (because of higher transaction costs) and more chemical inputs (because fertilizer is easy to transport, and because the annual crops on which fertilizer is used are produced farther from the residence). Farms with more land under fallow, woodlot, and pasture, use less of both types of inputs. This makes particularly good sense in the case of organic inputs which are agronomic substitutes for the effects of fallow.

Risk. As hypothesized, lands that are rented-in provide farmers with less incentive to use organic inputs and chemical inputs. Moreover, price variation (short-term risk) discourages the use of both organic and chemical inputs, but the effect is significant only for organic inputs.

Wealth. More organic inputs are used by households with (1) more noncropping income, (2) smaller farms, (3) more livestock (source of manure), and (4) greater knowledge of sustainable production practices learned from the extension service.

None of the wealth variables significantly affect use of chemical inputs. However, despite low overall use rates for chemical fertilizer, lime, and pesticides, Figure 3 shows that farms in the higher non-farm income categories

are about twice as likely as the lower-nonfarm-income groups to use these inputs.

Sector-level Variables. The use in the local area of organic matter affects plot-level use of that input, and sector-level use of fertilizer affects its plot-level use. In addition, sector-level use of chemical inputs increases plot-level use of organic inputs, a complementarity suggested above.

Determinants of Land Use

Monetary incentives. These variables were, in general, not significant. This implies that profitability—at least in a cross section study—is not nearly as important as agroclimate and farm characteristics in determining land use. This result might not hold if it were tested in a time series context.

Physical incentives. Farmers are choosing more protective land uses (especially bananas and other perennials) for hillside cultivation. In part this is because households prefer to locate bananas close to their home compounds, which for historical and cultural reasons are more often located on the moderately steep hilltops than in the valleys. The relationship between erosivity (C-value) and slope is inverse, showing farmers choose protective crops for the slopes.

Risk. Consistent with Cook and Grut's observation discussed earlier, land use rights also affect the use of trees and shrubs. Rwandan households are far less likely to grow protective crops (bananas, coffee, and other perennials) in land they rent than in land they own. This may be because they feel more confident that they and their families will reap the benefits of the investments

they make in perennial crops, or simply because they have had more time to make such investments.

Wealth. Having cash crop (banana, coffee, white potato) income reduces the erosivity of land use because the cash crops in Rwanda are mainly perennials. Moreover, greater landholdings, having controlled for family size and share of land in non-cropping uses, means more erosive land use, as larger farmers are under less "livelihood pressure" to husband their land. By contrast, greater family size and share of children in the family, having controlled for farm size (hence greater population pressure on the land), translates into more erosive land uses (annual food crops).

The above paragraph paints an ambiguous picture concerning the relationship between land scarcity and the erosivity of land use. To shed light on the inconclusiveness of these results, Kangasniemi and Reardon explored in greater detail the differences in C-values of smaller and larger farms.⁴⁸ They take into account (by adjusting the C-values accordingly) that small farmers: (1) crop more densely (mixed-cropping and inter-cropping), such as densely planted banana groves, and (2) grow more trees per hectare. They show that land use practices among the most land-scarce quartile of households do not appear to be any more erosive than those among higher quartiles. In other words, although the current patterns of land use threaten the long-term sustainability of Rwandan agriculture, small farmer strategies in the short to medium run have, overall, offset the inevitable impacts of population growth on the land. DSA data from 1984 and 1990 also show a major expansion in the allocation of land to protective perennials. Land planted in bananas and coffee

has expanded by one-fourth. Land in tubers that provide modest protection against erosion has also increased, largely at the expense of maize and sorghum, which provide only minimal protection against erosion. How crops are managed is equally important to erosivity. For instance, the effectiveness of coffee depends in large measure on mulching, and our observations in the field show that many coffee fields were without mulch in the early 1990s, in contrast to the nearly universal mulching before.⁴⁹ In the case of bananas, the outlook is better, since in contrast to coffee, bananas produce their own mulch.

VII. Conclusions

This research contributes to the debate concerning what are referred to here as the labor-led and capital-led paths to sustainable agricultural intensification. We address the questions of whether and why particular types of farm households situated in a given agroclimatic and policy context, and facing similar incentives to intensify, take the capital-led intensification path (either a full version or a partial version of this path). Specifically, using a nation-wide sample of Rwandan farm households, we explore the determinants of smallholder investments in three forms of land protection and improvement (land conservation, and use of organic inputs and chemical fertilizer) as well as the determinants of land use.

The setting in the East African highland tropics is characterized by rapid population growth and land degradation. In rural areas of Rwanda, only a small fraction of the farmers fall into extreme categories, making either none (0.7 percent) or all (7.8 percent) of the three types of improvements. The vast

majority of the farmers are ranged between the two extremes of the labor-led and the capital-led intensification paths in their pure forms. We found, in general, that where farms are positioned along this continuum is influenced by factors linked to agroclimate and farm structure, as well as by factors affected by policy. The results are summarized below.

Our analysis of survey data from a nationwide sample of farm households in Rwanda provides empirical confirmation of four sets of conclusions that have implications for national policymakers, external donor programming, and for the broader "relief-to-development" trajectory that the international donor community envisions for post-crisis Rwanda.

First, the structure of landholding is an important conditioning link between population pressure and the intensification paths taken by farmers. Land tenure, slope, fragmentation, years of cultivation, share of holdings under fallow, woodlot, and pasture, and size of holdings (controlling for family size) are important determinants of farmer investment strategies. In general, investments in land conservation and fertility are greater on land owned (not rented) by farmers, where slopes are of medium steepness, where land is less fragmented and cultivated for a shorter time, and among smaller farmers and those with little land in fallow, woodlot, and pasture. Thus, apart from the obvious need for political stability in this war-torn country, our work shows that farmers need confidence in the longer term through secure land tenure. This means reducing the risk of appropriation—which in this last year has been extremely high—and the ensuing right to transact land. Enhancing farmer

access to the land market will require reform of existing and antiquated land laws.

Second, household-level intersectoral links—specifically, "reverse linkages," where nonfarm income affects farm investment—enhance the capacity of households to follow the capital-led intensification path. Nonfarm income as an important source of own liquidity, in this setting of underdeveloped credit markets, is important for households to buy materials, to buy animals, and to buy labor, all of which are needed for sustainable intensification. It can also provide a "buffer" by allowing farmers breathing space to make long-term investments in higher-yielding and cash-earning perennials. Nonfarm activities also increase the demand for crops through downstream production linkages. And as an alternative source of income, such activities can reduce pressure on the land, enabling households to meet food needs through market access rather than subsistence. Livestock husbandry is also important for organic matter use, and it is important to enhance livestock holdings via intensification of husbandry.

Third, short-term relative economic profitability of cropping, commercialization, lower price risk, and more accessible infrastructure promote organic and chemical input use to enhance soil fertility. Inputs such as chemical fertilizer and manure, are, however, expensive and unavailable; policies and programs to increase access to these inputs are crucial.⁵⁰ Cash cropping (in the Rwandan case, of food and beverage crops) is especially important. Far from cash cropping being a villain with respect to sustainable agriculture and the environment, it is an important prerequisite for capital-led intensification. This

is because it provides incentive and capacity to farmers to make substantial investments.

Fourth, public investments in extension and roads can promote sustainable intensification. We found that farmers' knowledge gained from extension encouraged sustainable production practices, specifically the use of organic matter and the building of terraces. Land improvement was also encouraged by roads, which improve the marketing of crops.

Notes

*We thank the Division des Statistiques Agricoles (DSA) of the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) for provision of the data. We thank USAID/AFR/SD/PSGE (FSP and NRM), USAID/Kigali, and AID/Global Bureau, Office of Agriculture and Food Security for funding via the Food Security II Cooperative Agreement, and Akin Adesina, Sara Scherr, and David Tardif-Douglin, and two anonymous reviewers for very useful comments on earlier versions.

1. J.C. Nwafor, "Agricultural Land Use and Associated Problems in Rwanda," *Journal of Tropical Geography* 58 (1979): 58-65.
2. D.C. Clay, "Fighting an Uphill Battle: Population Pressure and Declining Land Productivity in Rwanda," in *Research in Rural Sociology and Development*, Vol. 6., eds. H.K. Schwarzweller and T.A. Lyson (Greenwich, Connecticut: JAI Press, Inc., 1995).
3. Commission Nationale d'Agriculture (CNA), *Rapport de synthèse: rapport préliminaire* (Kigali: Government of Rwanda, 1992).
4. Clay (see n. 2 above).
5. F. Byiringiro and T. Reardon, "Farm Productivity in Rwanda: Effects of Farm Size, Erosion, and Soil Conservation Investments," *Agricultural Economics* (forthcoming).
6. R.E. Ford, "Marginal Coping in Extreme Land Pressures: Ruhengeri,

Rwanda," in *Population Growth and Agricultural Change in Africa*, eds. B.L. Turner II, G. Hyden, and R. Kates (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1993): 145-186.

7. John F. May, "Policies on Population, Land Use, and Environment in Rwanda," *Population and Environment: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 16(4) (March 1995): 321-334.

8. E. Boserup, *The Conditions of Agricultural Growth: The Economics of Agrarian Change Under Population Pressure* (Chicago: Aldine, 1965).

9. Boserup (see n. 8 above). Also see: P. Pingali, Y. Bigot, and H.P. Binswanger, *Agricultural Mechanization and the Evolution of Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987).

10. D.C. Clay, F. Byiringiro, J. Kangasniemi, T. Reardon, B. Sibomana, L. Uwamariya, and D. Tardif-Douglin, *Promoting Food Security in Rwanda Through Sustainable Agricultural Productivity: Meeting the Challenges of Population Pressure, Land Degradation, and Poverty*, International Development Paper no. 17 (East Lansing: Departments of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Michigan State University, 1995).

11. P. Matlon and D.S.C. Spencer, "Increasing Food Production in Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental Problems and Inadequate Technological Solutions," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 64 (December 1984).

12. U. Lele and S.W. Stone, *Population Pressure, the Environment and Agricultural Intensification: Variations on the Boserup Hypothesis*, MADIA Discussion Paper no. 4 (Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, 1989).
13. Matlon and Spencer (see n. 11 above) and Turner et al. (see n. 6 above).
14. Pingali et al. (see n. 9 above).
15. J. Smith, A.D. Barau, A. Goldman, and J.H. Mareck, "The Role of Technology in Agricultural Intensification: The Evolution of Maize Production in the Northern Guinea Savannah of Nigeria," *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 42(3) (1994): 537-554. Ade H. Freeman, "Population Pressure, Land Use, and the Productivity of Agricultural Systems in the West African Savanna," in *Issues in African Rural Development 2*, ed. S.A. Breth (Arlington, Virginia: Winrock International, 1994): 103-114.
16. Turner et al. (see n. 6 above).
17. F. Place and P. Hazell, "Productivity Effects of Indigenous Land Tenure Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 75 (February 1993): 10-19. M.A. Lopez-Pereira, J.H. Sanders, T.G. Baker, and P.V. Preckel, "Economics of Erosion-Control and Seed-Fertilizer Technologies for Hillside Farming in Honduras," *Agricultural Economics* 11 (1994): 271-288. S.M. Ndiaye and A.J. Sofranko, "Farmers' Perceptions of Resource Problems and Adoption of Conservation Practices in a

Densely Populated Area," *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* 48 (1994): 35-47.

18. For example, Place and Hazell (n. 17 above), and Clay (no. 2 above).

19. For example, see G. Christensen, *Determinants of Private Investment in Rural Burkina Faso*, Ph.D. Dissertation (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University, 1989) and G. Feder, L.J. Lau, J.Y. Lin, and X. Luo, "The Determinants of Farm Investment and Residential Construction in Post-Reform China," *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 41(1) (1992): 1-26; and G. Feder, R.E. Just, and D. Zilberman, "Adoption of Agricultural Innovations in Developing Countries: A Survey," *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 33 (2) (1985): 255-298.

20. Feder et al. (see n. 19 above). Also see D.M.G. Newbery and J.E. Stiglitz, *The Theory of Commodity Price Stabilization: A Study in the Economics of Risk* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981).

21. Erosivity of land use is measured using C-values. The C-value index is a well-known measure that reflects the overall protective quality of crops. It is defined as "the ratio of soil loss from an area with a specific cover and tillage practice to that from an identical area in tilled continuous fallow," (W.H. Wischmeier and D.D. Smith, "Predicting Rainfall Erosion Losses, A Guide to Conservation Planning," *Agricultural Handbook No. 537*

(Washington, D.C.: USDA, 1978): 1-58).

For any given field, the crop cover, canopy, and tillage practices can vary throughout the year. C-values represent the average soil loss ratio resulting from these factors over the growing season. They must be obtained empirically, as planting and tillage strategies of specific crops vary over farming systems. For this reason, the use of the standard published C-values, based largely on farming practices in the United States, should not be used in Third World countries without first being evaluated.

We use region-specific C-values, based on field work undertaken in the Kiambu and Murang'a districts of the Kenya highland (Lawrence A. Lewis, "Assessing Soil Loss in Kiambu and Nurang'a Districts, Kenya," *Geografiska Annaler* 67 (A) (1985): 273-84) and a pilot study of soil loss in Rwanda (L.A. Lewis, "Measurement and Assessment of Soil Loss in Rwanda," *Catena Supplement* 12 (1988): 151-65).

Among crops commonly grown in Rwanda, C-values vary from .02 and .04 for coffee and bananas, to .35 and .40 for maize and sorghum. In general, perennial crops, pasture, fallow and woodlot have low (less erosive) C-values. Annual crops, particularly grains, have high (more erosive) C-values. Tubers and leguminous crops tend to have values in the middle range. The average C-value for cultivated holdings in Rwanda is .16, a composite of many forms of land use and crop mix.

Given the calibrated C-value estimates from these studies in the region,

one only has to know the crops planted on the plot to know the C-value of that plot. Hence, we used our data on crop and cropped area per plot to calculate C-values.

22. D.C. Clay and L.A. Lewis, "Land Use, Soil Loss and Sustainable Agriculture in Rwanda," *Human Ecology* 18(2) (1990): 147-161.

23. D.C. Clay and R.J. Magnani, "The Human Ecology of Farming Systems: Toward Understanding Agricultural Development in Rwanda," in *Research in Rural Sociology and Development*, Vol. 3, ed. H.K. Schwarzweller: 141-167. Also see: Scott Loveridge, Rwamasirabo, and M.T. Weber, "Selected Research Findings from Rwanda that Inform Food Security Policy Themes in Southern Africa," paper presented at the Food Security in Southern Africa Fourth Annual University of Zimbabwe/Michigan State University Conference, Harare, 1988.

24. M.B. Gleave and H.P. White, "Population Density and Agricultural Systems in West Africa," in *Environment and Land Use in Africa*, eds. M.F. Thomas and G.W. Whittington (London: Methuen, 1969): 273-300.

25. L.A. Lewis (see n. 21 above).

26. J.A. Ashby, "The Social Ecology of Soil Erosion in a Colombian Farming System," *Rural Sociology* 50(3) (1985): 337-396.

27. This expectation is supported by empirical evidence from field

surveys in the Ruhengeri zone; see Ford (n. 6 above) and Ndiaye and Sofranko (see n. 16 above).

28. Feder et al. (see n. 19 above).

29. F. Place and P. Hazell, "Productivity Effects of Indigenous Land Tenure Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 75 (February 1993): 10-19.

30. S.E. Migot-Adholla, P.B. Hazell and F. Place, *Land Rights and Agricultural Productivity in Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda: A Synthesis of Findings* (Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, Agriculture and Rural Development Department, 1990).

31. C.C. Cook and M. Grut, *Agroforestry in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Farmer's Perspective*, World Bank Technical Paper No. 112 (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 1989).

32. Feder et al. (n. 19 above).

33. T. Reardon, C. Delgado, and P. Matlon, "Determinants and Effects of Income Diversification Amongst Farm Households in Burkina Faso," *Journal of Development Studies* 28 (January 1992): 264-296.

34. T. Reardon and S. Vosti, "Issues in the Analysis of the Effects of Policy on Conservation and Productivity at the Household Level in Developing Countries," *Quarterly Journal of International Agriculture* 31(4) (October

1992): 380-396.

35. R. Grabowski, "Agriculture, Mechanisation, and Land Tenure," *Journal of Development Studies* 27(1) (1990): 43-55.

36. E. Boserup, *Population and Technological Change* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1981). Also see: S.K. Ehui, B.T. Kang, and D.S.C. Spencer, "Economic Analysis of Soil Erosion Effects in Alley-Cropping, No-Till, and Bush Fallow Systems in Southwestern Nigeria," in *Diversity, Farmer Knowledge, and Sustainability*, eds. J. Moomk and R. Rhoades (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992).

37. P.S. Maro, "Agricultural Land Management under Population Pressure: The Kilimanjaro Experience, Tanzania," *Mountain Research and Development* 8(4) (1988): 273-282.

38. Cook and Grut (n. 31 above).

39. John Kerr and N.K. Sanghi, *Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation in India's Semi-Arid Tropics*, Gatekeeper Series No. 34 (London: International Institute for Environment and Development, Sustainable Agriculture Programme, 1992).

40. Ford (n. 6 above) notes that the administration of campaigns and regulations concerning soil conservation can have important effects locally. We expect these to vary greatly over (geographic) sectors (as our data show) and

households within a given sector (again, as our data show).

41. See Clay et al. for details (see n. 10 above).

42. Only .08 kgs/ha of fertilizer are used per hectare in rural Rwanda; this is substantially less than is used in cash-cropping areas of highland Kenya and Uganda; see Byiringiro, F.U., (1995) *Determinants of Farm Productivity and the Size-Productivity Relationship Under Land Constraints: the Case of Rwanda*. M.S. Thesis, Dept. of Agricultural Economics.

43. We used share of farmland rather than share of households because many households use inputs on only a small share of their land and it would be misleading to classify them as following capital-led intensification.

44. The random effects model (REM) using GLS was used to account for household-level random effects because we use multiple plot-level observations per household. For each regression, the appropriateness of using the model was tested using the Breusch and Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test for random effects. In every case the REM was strongly justified, at probability = 0.0000. We also estimated the models using OLS for conservation investments and land use, and logit for the two input use equations, and found that the results were close to those found in the REM GLS regressions.

Moreover, because the equations are estimated using plot-level observations, estimates are weighted according to parcel size, as well as for the household's probability of selection.

45. Ndiaye and Sofranko (n. 16 above), for example, find that farmers in Ruhengeri were unwilling to use inputs where runoff caused by steep slopes was a problem.

46. D.C. Clay and T. Reardon, "Determinants of Farm-Level Conservation Investments in Rwanda," in *IAAE Occasional Paper no. 7*, 22nd Congress (International Association of Agricultural Economists), August 1994 in Harare.

47. We expected labor to have a positive effect on investments; the coefficient is positive but not significant, probably because measuring labor as family size is too gross.

48. J. Kangasniemi and T. Reardon, "Demographic Pressure and the Sustainability of Land Use in Rwanda" in *IAAE Occasional Paper no. 7*, 22nd Congress (International Association of Agricultural Economists), August 1994 in Harare.

49. Some observers of Rwandan agriculture predicted over a decade ago that as the availability of organic matter from previously uncultivated valley bottoms and other areas declines, mulching will decrease. On the other hand, mulching of coffee is mandatory and was rigorously enforced until the early 1990s. The decline in mulching in recent years may have more to do with the low coffee prices which resulted in farmers neglecting their coffee trees, and the reduced government control that allowed them to do so, than with any

decline in the availability of mulch.

50. This conclusion coincides with one for the Ruhengeri zone noted in Ndiaye and Sofranko (see n. 17 above), who observed that farmers found these inputs too expensive and inaccessible.

Table 1. Land Use/Conservation Investments/Inputs Model Variables*

Model Variables	Overall Mean or Percent	Coefficient of Variation	Level of Observation Parcel = 5,596 HH = 1,240 Sector = 78 Pref = 10
1. Land Use/Conservation Investments/Inputs			
Land Use (C-value)	.16	0.43	Parcel
All Conservation Investments (m/ha)	424	1.18	Parcel
Grass Strips (m/ha)	205	1.34	Parcel
Anti-erosion Ditches (m/ha)	161	1.68	Parcel
Hedgerows (m/ha)	56	2.86	Parcel
Radical Terraces (m/ha)	1.17	25.20	Parcel
Organic Inputs (% using)	69.5%	--	Parcel
Chemical inputs (% using)	4.9%	--	Parcel
2. Independent Variables			
A. Monetary Incentive to Invest			
Agricultural profitability index (FRW)	105.9	.41	Prefecture
Non-agricultural wage in prefecture (FRW)	216	.39	Prefecture
Price of banana (FRW)	23.9	.14	Prefecture
Price of sweet potato (FRW)	14.6	.22	Prefecture
Distance to nearest market (minutes)	4.6	.33	Sector
Distance to paved road (minutes)	24.5	1.10	Sector
B. Physical Incentive to Invest			
Share of holdings under fallow	.16	1.06	Household
Share of holdings under woodlot	.09	1.56	Household
Share of holdings under pasture	.04	2.50	Household
Slope (degrees)	16.7	.65	Parcel
Location on slope (1=summit, 5=valley)	.52	.33	Parcel
Farm fragmentation (Simpson)	.51	.52	Household
Size of Parcel (ha)	.80	1.02	Parcel
Distance from residence (minutes)	7.4	2.13	Parcel
Years operated	22.2	.66	Parcel
Annual rainfall (mm)	1095	.34	Sector
C. Risk of Investment			
Share of holdings rented in (% rented in)	8%	--	Parcel
Price variation (1986-92)	.20	.25	Prefecture
D. Wealth and Liquidity Sources			
Non-cropping income (FRW)	26,489	.00	Household
Cash-crop income (FRW)	15,428	.00	Household
Value of livestock (FRW)	20,494	.00	Household
Landholdings owned (ha)	153	.83	Household
Human Capital :			
Number of adults (aged 15-65)	3.16	.51	Household
Dependency ratio	115	.78	Household
Literacy of Head of Household (% literate)	50.3%	--	Household
Knowledge of conserv/prod technologies	2.37	1.01	Household
Age of head of household (years)	47.96	.30	Household
Sex of head of household (% male)	79.2%	--	Household
E. Sector-level Variables			
Sector land use patterns (C-value)	.13	.15	Sector
Sector conservation investments (m/ha)	411	.53	Sector
Sector use of organic inputs (avg % area using)	.67	.22	Sector
Sector use of chemical inputs (avg % area using)	.05	1.60	Sector

*Summary statistics reported at the parcel level are for all holdings under cultivation or fallow (thus excluding pasture and woodlot). Parcel-level summary statistics may differ slightly from those aggregated and reported elsewhere at the household level.

Table 2. Random-Effects GLS Regressions: Investments/Inputs/Land Use Model

Independent Variables	Investments/Inputs/Land Use			
	Conservation Investments (m/ha)	Organic Inputs	Chemical Inputs	Land Use (C-value)
Correlation Matrix: Land Use, Investments and Inputs				
Conservation investments	1.00	-	-	-
Organic inputs	.21**	1.00	-	-
Chemical inputs	.06**	.11**	1.00	-
Land use (C-value index)	.05**	-.18**	-.02	1.00
A. Monetary Incentive to Invest				
Agricultural profitability index	.02	.01	-.05	-.02
Non-agricultural wage	-.08	-.08**	-.05	-.04
Price of banana	.07	-.06**	-.03	.03
Price of sweet potato	.03	.02	-.04	-.01
Distance to nearest market	.01	.02	.01	-.01
Distance to paved road	.02	-.05**	-.04*	.02
B. Physical Incentive to Invest				
Share of holdings under fallow	-.06	-.04*	-.00	-.09**
Share of holdings under woodlot	.09	.01	.06**	-.12**
Share of holdings under pasture	-.07	-.09**	-.08**	-.08**
Slope (degrees)	-.01	-.13**	-.14**	-.08*
Location on slope (1=summit, 5=valley)	-.20**	-.17**	-.02**	.07**
Farm fragmentation (Simpson Index)	-.09*	-.01	-.02	-.04**
Size of Parcel	-.03**	.41**	.22**	-.17**
Distance from residence	-.03**	-.29**	.04**	.10**
Years operated	.01	.10**	-.04**	-.01
Annual rainfall	.04	.02	.02	.06**
C. Risk of Investment				
Share of landholdings rented in (0=own, 1=lease)	-.06**	-.22**	-.01**	.25**
Price variation (1986-92)	.11*	-.07**	.01	.01
D. Wealth/Liquidity Sources and Human Capital				
Non-cropping income	.16*	.06*	.01	.01
Cash crop income	.00	.02	.02	-.06**
Value of livestock	.06	.13**	.03	.02
Landholdings owned (ha)	-.32**	-.32**	-.01	.19**
Human Capital :				
Number of adults (aged 15-65)	.06	.01	.02	.04*
Dependency ratio	.01	.00	.01	.03*
Literacy of Head of Household (0=no, 1=yes)	.04	-.02	-.00	.00
Knowledge of conserv/prod technologies	.03	.05**	.03	-.02
Age of head of household (years)	-.01	-.10**	.02	.03
Sex of head of household (0=male, 1=female)	-.02	.02	-.02	.01
E. Sector-level Variables				
Sector land use patterns	.03	-.01	.02	.39**
Sector conservation investments	.45**	.02	-.02	-.02
Sector use of organic inputs	-.05	.15**	-.02	.01
Sector use of chemical inputs	.05	.03*	.28**	.08**
R ² within	.04	.32	.03	.12
R ² between	.16	.34	.19	.50
R ² overall	.19	.35	.19	.24
Prob. > chi square	.00	.00	.00	.00
Breusch-Pagan prob. > chi square	.00	.00	.00	.00

*Sig T ≤ .10 **Sig T ≤ .05

Figure 1. Proportion of Land Under Cultivation by Farm Size

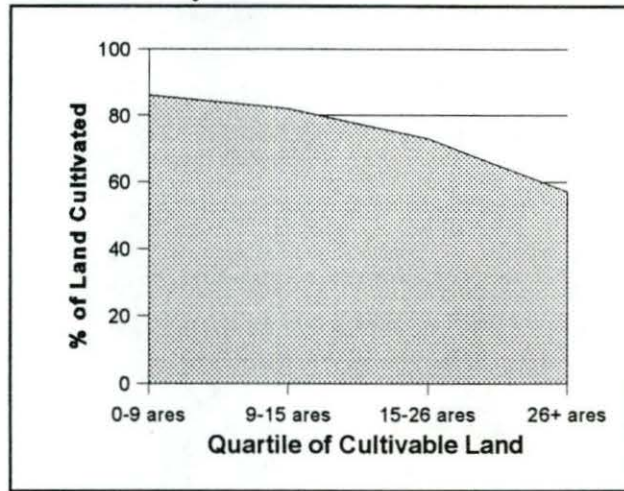


Figure 2. Conservation Investments by Slope

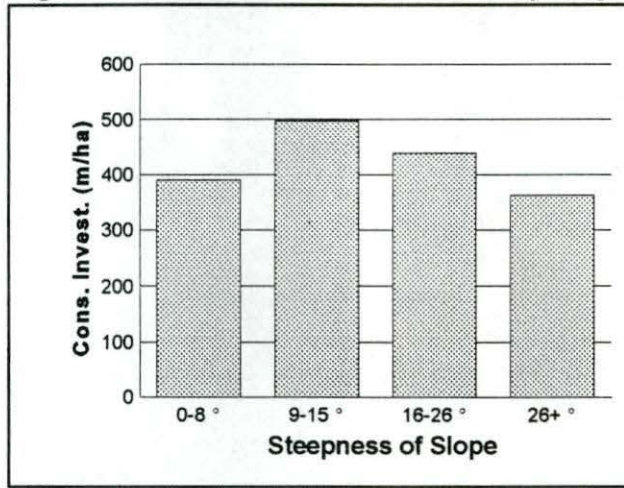


Figure 3. Use of Chemical Inputs by Level of Non-cropping Income

