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Risk Preferences and Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies

- Evidence from India

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Mukesh Ray

Motivation

- Technology adoption leads to higher economic growth and better standard of living for rural population.
- Still a vast majority of the farmers do not adopt or delay adoption. Why? Credit constraints, information, small farm size and uncertainty about the effectiveness of a new technology .
- This paper tries to explore the effect of risk preferences on adoption of three technologies in two regions of India. Punjab-Haryana and Bihar.

Why Risk Preferences ?

- ▶ In most developing countries, agriculture is always a risky proposition given its dependence on environmental factors that are beyond farmer's control.
- ▶ Further, any new agricultural technology can have a wide distribution of outcomes increasing the associated uncertainty. So, any new agricultural technology is inherently perceived as an uncertain proposition.
- ▶ Consequently, farmers' perceived uncertainty regarding effectiveness of the technology allows individual risk preferences to play a major role in technology adoption .
- ▶ Omission of risk might bias other coefficients.

Role of Risk in Tech Adoption

- ▶ Binswanger et al. (1980) elicited the risk preferences of a sample of Indian farmers. Their results showed mixed results and were inconclusive about the role of risk aversion on adoption.
- ▶ Byerles and Polanco (1986) analyzed farm survey data from Mexico to investigate the reasons for stepwise adoption of component of a technology package. Their results showed that adoption of new innovation was explained primarily by its profitability and riskiness.
- ▶ Liu (2013) analyzed the role of risk aversion, loss aversion and probability weighting measure for Adoption of BT cotton with Chinese farmers.

Climate Smart Agriculture

- Sustainably **increase agricultural productivity and incomes** in order to meet national food security and development goals.
- Build resilience and the capacity of agricultural and food systems to **adapt to climate change (risk reducing)**
- Seek opportunities to **mitigate emissions** of greenhouse gases and increase carbon sequestration

Climate Smart Technologies

- **1. Laser Land Leveling** – Laser leveling is a user guided precision leveling technique used for achieving very fine leveling on the agricultural field.
- **2. Zero Tillage** - It is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage.
- **3. Direct Seeded Rice** – The rice seeds are directly sown in the field where it is supposed to grow and not transplanted from another field.
- * All the three technologies are considered risk reducing by CGIAR, but individual perceptions of farmers might differ.

Laser Land Leveler

- A machine equipped with a laser-operated drag bucket that ensures more flat, even surface in less time compared to the traditional ox-drawn scraper. Involves a battery operated laser beam that creates a plane of laser light above the field which is used as the levelling reference.

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- **(+)** Evens surface, saves labor, saves water.
- **(+)** Even soil surface has a major impact on the germination, stand, and yield of crops due to homogeneous water distribution and soil moisture.
- **(-)** Could be expensive to buy. (~ \$4000 to buy and \$ 9 to rent per hour)

educes water use

Zero Tillage – It is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. Instead of plowing their fields and then planting seeds, farmers who use zero tillage deposit seeds into holes drilled into the unplowed fields.



- (+) Excellent erosion control.
- (+) Soil moisture conservation.
- (+) Minimum fuel and labor costs.
- (+) Builds soil structure and health.

- (-) Increased dependence on herbicides.
- (-) Slow soil warming on poorly drained soils
- (-) Can impact productivity negatively.

Direct Seeded Rice

- Rice seed is sown and sprouted directly into the field, eliminating the laborious process of transplanting seedlings by hand

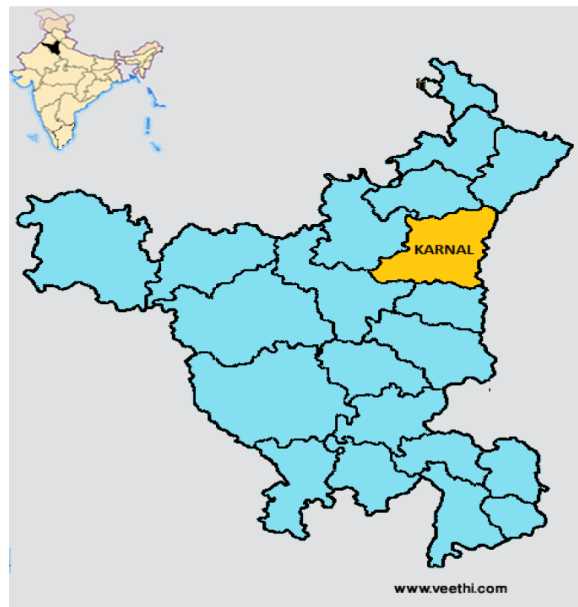


- **(+)** Direct planting is faster and less labor-intensive than transplanting.
- **(+)** It reduces land preparation time.
- **(+)** Reduces methane emission, which helps mitigate Climate Change.
- **(-)** Might increase weeds.
- **(-)** Yields reduced in some instances

Study on Climate Smart technologies. (CGIAR)

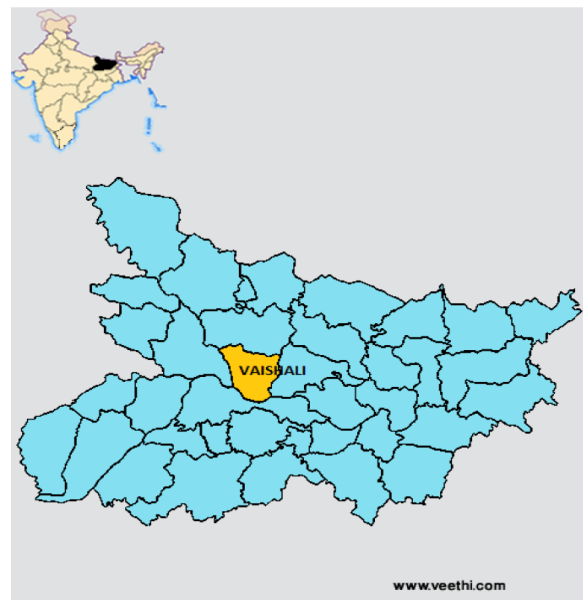
- For the broader adoption study, 80 villages each in three districts were randomly selected from a list of all wheat growing villages using the probability proportionate to size (PPS) method (where size was measured by net sown area of wheat and rice in the village as obtained from the last Census data).
- In each of these villages 10 households were selected randomly by the enumerators and a detailed questionnaire was administered to collect data on farmer and household characteristics, technology specific data for LLL, DSR and ZT, and adoption of other technologies by the household, and farmers' perception on constraints in wheat and rice farming.
- Data collection was done using a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method from a total of 2400 households across the three districts.
- **A subset of the sample was used for risk experiments.**

Data



➤ 240 household from 24 villages Ludhiana District in the state of Punjab

➤ 290 households from 29 villages in and Karnal District in the state of Haryana



Ludhiana district, Punjab
 Area: 3,767 km²
 Population: 3.488 million (2011)

Karnal district, Haryana
 Area: 1,967 km²
 Population: 1.505 million (2011)

Vaishali district, Bihar
 Area: 2,036 km²
 Population: 3.495 million (2011)

➤ 410 households from 41 villages in Vaishali District in the state of Bihar

Prospect Theory vs Expected Utility Theory

- In EUT, risk aversion is the sole parameter determining the curvature of utility function
- In prospect theory the shape of the utility function is jointly determined by three factors--risk aversion, loss aversion and a non-linear probability weighting measure.
- **Risk aversion** determines one's aversion to taking risk when the outcomes are positive.
- **Loss aversion** determines one's sensitivity to losses as compared to gains. (*If farmers consider investment in this technology can cause loss.*)
- **Non-linear probability weighting measure** determines ones tendency to overweight small probabilities and underweight large probabilities. (*Farmers around poverty line might overvalue the probability of falling back in poverty trap*)

Experiment

- Risk preferences not easily assessed by standard household survey.
- A series of lottery based experiments to elicit risk behavior.
- For each of the 35 rows the respondent chooses between option A and Option B.
- Option B is more risky than Option A.
- In each series they can shift once.
- Shifting rows tells us about the risk parameters of the respondent.

Series 1	Option A			Option B		
Q. no	Rupees if you get 1,2,3	Rupees if you get 4,5,6,7,8,9 10		Rupees if you get 1	Rupees if you get 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 10	Q No.
1	40	10		68	5	1

Series 1

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Series 1	Option A			Option B		Difference
	Rupees if you get 1,2 ,3	Rupees if you get 4, 5 , 6, 7, 8, 9 , 10		Rupees if you get 1	Rupees if you get 2, 3, 4,5, 6,7 ,8, 9, 10	E(A)- E(B)
1	40	10		68	5	7.7
2	40	10		75	5	7
3	40	10		83	5	6.2
4	40	10		93	5	5.2
5	40	10		106	5	3.9
6	40	10		125	5	2
7	40	10		150	5	-0.5
8	40	10		185	5	-4
9	40	10		220	5	-7.5
10	40	10		300	5	-15.5
11	40	10		400	5	-25.5
12	40	10		600	5	-45.5
13	40	10		1000	5	-85.5
14	40	10		1700	5	-155.5

Series 2

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Series 2	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	Rupees if you get 10		Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Rupees if you get 8,9, 10
15	40	30		54	5
16	40	30		56	5
17	40	30		58	5
18	40	30		60	5
19	40	30		62	5
20	40	30		65	5
21	40	30		68	5
22	40	30		72	5
23	40	30		77	5
24	40	30		83	5
25	40	30		90	5
26	40	30		100	5
27	40	30		110	5
28	40	30		130	5

Series 3 (For loss aversion)

Series 3	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5	Rupees if you get 6,7,8,9,10		Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5	Rupees if you get 6,7,8,9,10
29	25	-4		30	-21
30	4	-4		30	-21
31	1	-4		30	-21
32	1	-4		30	-16
33	1	-8		30	-16
34	1	-8		30	-14
35	1	-8		30	-11



Model – Prelec Utility Function

$$\rightarrow U(x,p;y,q) = \begin{cases} v(y) + w(p)(v(x) - v(y)) & \text{if } x > y > 0 \text{ or } x < y < 0 \\ w(p)v(x) + w(q)v(y) & \text{if } x < 0 < y \end{cases}$$

Where

$$\rightarrow v(x) = \begin{cases} x^\sigma & \text{for } x > 0 \\ -\lambda(-x^\sigma) & \text{for } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

→ probability weighting function $w(p) = \exp[-(-\ln p)^\alpha]$, for $0 < \alpha \leq 1$

→ x & y are outcomes and p & q are probabilities.

→ σ = risk aversion coefficient, λ = loss aversion coefficient,
 α = non-linear probability weighting measure

* If $\lambda = 1$ and $\alpha = 1$, then the above model reduces to EUT.

Estimation of Risk Parameters

Series 1	Option A		Option B		
Q. no	Rupees if you get 1,2,3	Rupees if you get 4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Rupees if you get 1	Rupees if you get 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Q. no
6	40	10	125	5	6
7	40	10	150	5	7

Series 2	Option A		Option B		
Q.no	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	Rupees if you get 10	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Rupees if you get 8,9,10	Q.no
20	40	30	65	5	20
21	40	30	68	5	21

$$U_{6A} > U_{6B} \quad \& \quad U_{7A} < U_{7B}$$

$$U_{20A} > U_{20B} \quad \& \quad U_{21A} < U_{21B}$$

Estimation of Risk Parameters

Series 1	Option A		Option B		
Q. no	Rupees if you get 1,2,3	Rupees if you get 4,5,6,7,8,9 10	Rupees if you get 1	Rupees if you get 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 10	Q. no
6	40	10	125	5	6
7	40	10	150	5	7

Series 2	Option A		Option B		
Q.no	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	Rupees if you get 10	Rupees if you get 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Rupees if you get 8,9,10	Q.n o
20	40	30	65	5	20
21	40	30	68	5	21

$$\Rightarrow 10^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.3)^\alpha] (40^\sigma - 10^\sigma) > 5^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.1)^\alpha] (125^\sigma - 5^\sigma)$$

$$\Rightarrow 10^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.3)^\alpha] (40^\sigma - 10^\sigma) < 5^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.1)^\alpha] (150^\sigma - 5^\sigma)$$

- The (σ, α) combinations that satisfy the above inequalities are $(0.4, 0.4)$, $(0.5, 0.5)$, $(0.6, 0.6)$, **$(0.7, 0.7)$** , $(0.8, 0.8)$, $(0.9, 0.9)$, $(1, 1)$.

$$\Rightarrow 30^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.9)^\alpha] (40^\sigma - 30^\sigma) > 5^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.3)^\alpha] (65^\sigma - 5^\sigma)$$

$$\Rightarrow 30^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.3)^\alpha] (40^\sigma - 30^\sigma) < 5^\sigma + \exp[-(-\ln 0.3)^\alpha] (68^\sigma - 5^\sigma)$$

- The (σ, α) combinations that satisfy the above inequalities are $(0.8, 0.6)$, **$(0.7, 0.7)$** , $(0.6, 0.8)$, $(0.5, 0.9)$ or $(0.4, 1)$.

Observations Dropped

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In cases where the respondent never switched in either of the three series, it is likely that he/she did not understand the game and therefore such observations were dropped from the analysis.

(All Option A or all Option B for three games)

PT holds true

Variable	Description	Mean	Std. Dev.	Null
α	Probability weighting function parameter	0.693***(0.008)	0.253	$\alpha=1$
σ	Curvature of the prospect value function	0.574***(0.011)	0.335	$\sigma=0$
λ	Measure of loss aversion	4.194***(0.134)	4.089	$\lambda=1$
N=918				

- ▶ If $\alpha < 1$, $w(p)$ has an inverted S shape, which indicates an overweighting of low probabilities and an underweighting of high probabilities.
- ▶ Increasing σ on 0 to 1 range implies a lower degree of risk aversion, while increasing σ on range above 1 implies increasing risk-seeking behavior. A value of $\sigma = 1$ implies risk neutrality
- ▶ $\lambda \neq 1$ implies there is a kink in the indifference curve around zero.

Risk Coefficients Across the States

Variable	Punjab & Haryana		Bihar		Ha: diff != 0
	Obs	Mean	Obs	Mean	
Sigma	512	0.56	408	0.59	$P > t = 0.1953$
Alpha	512	0.70	408	0.69	$P > t = 0.7202$
Lambda	512	3.37	406	5.23	$P > t = 0.0000$

Summary Statistics (HH level)

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Sigma	0.574	0.335	0.05	1.5
Lambda	4.194	4.089	0.065	12.64
Alpha	0.693	0.253	0.05	1.45
HH Land owned in acres	5.93	8.82	0.01	85
HH Size	6.77	3.51	2	31
Highest level of Education in HH	11.70	3.39	0	17
HHH Education level	7.86	4.07	0	17
HH poverty score	52.53*	16.80	6.00	83
HHH Age	44.23	12.97	19	90
Avg time to nearest town(mins)	31.11	28.78	1.00	145
Amount earned in risk games	71.30	136.06	0	1721
N=918(HH)				

*For this poverty score the likelihood of being under poverty line is 0.407

Information about Technology

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Overall	LLL	DSR	Zero Till
Never Heard	906	1,285	1,164
Heard	1,332	952	1,074
% Heard	59.52	42.56	47.99
Total HH	2,238	2,237	2,238

Risk HH	LLL	DSR	Zero Till
Never Heard	479	548	495
Heard	439	370	423
% Heard	47.82	40.31	46.08
Total	918	918	918

Adopters, Never Adopters and Dis-adopters

Overall	LLL	DSR	Zero Till
Heard	1,332	952	1,074
Adopters	862	52	79
Never adopted	470	900	995
Dis-adopters	36	22	43
% Adopters among those know	64.71	5.46	7.36

Risk HH	LLL	DSR	Zero Till
Heard	439	370	423
Adopters	298	24	21
Never adopted	141	346	402
Dis-adopters	7	7	12
% Adopters among those know	67.88	6.49	4.96

Reasons for not adopting

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Farmers heard but never used. Why?	LLL	DSR	Zero Till
Unwilling to try new technology	12	112	53
lack training/information	39	33	77
Expensive to hire/build	98	5	26
Service/materials not available in the	35	15	44
Gives Less Yield	6	398	472
Not satisfied with output	0	201	232
Does not look good	1	5	3
High weed	0	60	3
Not suitable on small Land	12	13	17
Land is naturally level/ no need	224	14	13
Lack of information	3	43	53
Others	11	0	1
Cannot say	29	1	1
Total	470	900	995

Econometric Framework

$$\rightarrow Y_{hK} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } EU(Y = 1) - EU(Y = 0) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Probit

$$\rightarrow Y_{hL} = \beta_0 + \beta_{11} X'_h + \beta_{21} R'_h + \mu_{hL}$$

X' = Vector of demographic, socio-economic and plot level variables influencing technologies adoption.

R' = Risk aversion coefficient, loss aversion coefficient, probability weighting measure.

Standard errors are clustered at HH Level.

Analysis at the plot level, only where respondent is also the plot manager.

Results (Laser Land Leveler)

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VARIABLES	Probit(at means)	LPM(District f.e)
Alpha	-1.070*** (0.386)	-0.900* (0.464)
Sigma	0.392 (0.364)	0.374 (0.519)
Lambda	0.116*** (0.0385)	0.062* (0.033)
Age	-0.003 -0.008	-0.002 (0.010)
Age*alpha	0.0216** (0.00893)	0.018 (0.011)
Age*Sigma	-0.00903 (0.00804)	-0.010 (0.012)
Age*lambda	-0.00249*** (0.000847)	-0.001* (0.001)
HH poverty score	0.00253 (0.00352)	0.001 (0.004)
Did you or anyone in the household access credit for ag. production	-0.107* (0.0557)	-0.100 (0.064)
Time it takes on average to travel to nearest commercial town	0.000438 (0.00154)	0.000 (0.002)
Formal Education of Main Respondent	0.0121 (0.00908)	0.008 (0.011)
N	284	298
R-squared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.328	0.376

VARIABLES	Probit(at means	LPM(District f.e)
Wheat Yeild per acre	-0.0114 (0.0127)	-0.021** (0.009)
Rice Yeild per acre	0.00414 (0.00531)	0.004 (0.004)
Soil Quality(good)	0.304* (0.185)	0.905*** (0.194)
Soil Type(Sandy)	-0.338** (0.144)	-0.583*** (0.161)
Soil Type(Sandy Loam)	-0.125 (0.120)	-0.273** (0.111)
Soil Type(Clay Loam)	-0.122 (0.0976)	-0.183** (0.090)
Soil Salinity(High)	0.315** (0.126)	0.347*** (0.120)
Soil Salinity(Medium)	0.268*** (0.0944)	0.315*** (0.100)
Soil Salinity(low)	0.197** (0.0990)	0.172* (0.094)
Irrigation Type(Flood with pump)		-0.139 (0.125)
Irrigation Source(River/canal water)	-	-0.271 (0.263)
N	284	298
Rsquared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.328	0.376

VARIABLES	Probit(at means	LPM(District f.e)
Has any member of your household migrated in the past 5 years?	-0.0194 (0.0733)	-0.020 (0.081)
HH Size	0.0330* (0.0180)	0.025 (0.020)
Total land owned by HH(in acres)	0.000461 (0.00296)	0.001 (0.005)
Total Household durable assets	-5.19e-08 (7.38e-08)	0.000 (0.000)
What was your birth order.	0.00878 (0.00925)	0.001 (0.008)
How many people does the HH interacts in the village on a regular basis	0.158*** (0.0385)	0.207*** (0.035)
By how much ft groundwater level has declined in past 10 years	-0.00382** (0.00179)	-0.004** (0.002)
Constant	-0.200 (1.650)	-0.200 (1.650)
Observations	284	298
Rsquared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.328	0.376
Robust standard errors in parentheses		
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1		

Results (Either of the three technologies)

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VARIABLES	Probit(at means	LPM(District f.e)
Alpha	-0.519** (0.233)	-0.376 (0.283)
Sigma	0.157 (0.236)	-0.190 (0.226)
Lambda	0.055*** (0.020)	0.054*** (0.018)
Age	0.001 (0.00520)	-0.000 (0.006)
Age*alpha	-0.00120*** (0.000464)	0.006 (0.006)
Age*Sigma	-0.00450 (0.00527)	0.003 (0.004)
Age*lambda	0.00911* (0.00544)	-0.001*** (0.000)
HH poverty score	0.00323 (0.00209)	-0.001 (0.002)
Did you or anyone in the household access credit for ag.production	-0.0992** (0.0405)	-0.049 (0.053)
Time it takes on average to travel to nearest commercial town	0.00128 (0.00113)	0.001 (0.001)
Formal Education of Main Respondent	0.00883 (0.00625)	0.010 (0.007)
N	428	436
R-squared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.580	0.597

VARIABLES	Probit(at means	LPM(District f.e)
Wheat Yeild per acre	-0.00880** (0.00367)	0.001 (0.001)
Rice Yeild per acre	0.0132*** (0.00430)	-0.001 (0.002)
Soil Quality(good)	0.136* (0.0819)	0.863*** (0.095)
Soil Type(Sandy)	-0.171** (0.0866)	-0.318*** (0.100)
Soil Type(Sandy Loam)	-0.0107 (0.0629)	-0.064 (0.048)
Soil Type(Clay Loam)	-0.0852 (0.0535)	0.006 (0.048)
Soil Salinity(High)	0.287*** (0.0796)	0.098 (0.099)
Soil Salinity(Medium)	0.247*** (0.0552)	0.114* (0.068)
Soil Salinity(low)	0.240*** (0.0586)	0.044 (0.055)
Irrigation Type(Flood with pump)	-0.368*** (0.100)	
Irrigation Source(River/canal water)	0.477** (0.216)	
N	428	436
Rsquared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.580	0.597

VARIABLES	Probit(at means)	LPM(District f.e)
Has any member of your household migrated in the past 5 years?	0.0344	0.036
HH size	0.0128	0.006
	(0.00851)	(0.006)
Total land owned by HH(in acres)	0.00125	0.001
	(0.00221)	(0.005)
Total Household durable assets	1.06e-07**	-0.000
	(4.40e-08)	(0.000)
What was your birth order.	0.0137**	0.002
	(0.00672)	(0.007)
How many people does the HH interacts in the village on a regular basis	0.0902***	0.100***
	(0.0228)	(0.024)
By how much ft groundwater level has declined in past 10 years	-0.00220*	-0.003**
	(0.00130)	(0.001)
Constant	-0.695*	-0.695*
	(0.366)	(0.366)
Observations	428	436
Rsquared/ Pseudo R-squared	0.580	0.597
Robust standard errors in parentheses		
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1		

Discussion

- Risk parameters- loss aversion and non-linear probability weighting measure seems to explain technology adoption. This goes in line with the claim that these are risk reducing technologies.
- Loss aversion has a positively significant coefficient suggesting that an increase in loss aversion increases the probability of adopting these technologies. This makes sense as these technologies are thought of as risk reducing.
- Both the loss aversion and non-linear probability weighting parameters seems to have different effect at different ages.
- one unit increase in loss aversion leads to a 11.6% increase in probability adoption of LLL and 5.5 % increase in probability of adoption of either of the three technologies. (probit marginal effect).

Discussion

- ▶ Non-linear probability weighting measure has a negatively significant coefficient, suggesting that as α goes down technology adoption goes up. This means as the farmers who overvalue the smaller probabilities tend to adopt these technologies more.
- ▶ Plot characteristics, HH characteristics also seem to explain a major part of the tech adoption as suggested by literature.

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- ▶ Standing Panel on Impact Assessment of the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (SIAC grant)
- ▶ Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University



Independent
Science and
Partnership
Council



Thank you

Mock Game 1				
	Option A		Option B	
Question No.	Number of Candies for chip 1-5	Number of Candies for chip 6-10	Number of Candies for chip 1-5	Number of candies for chips 6-10
1	3	2	5	1
2	3	2	6	1
3	3	2	7	1
4	3	2	8	1
5	3	2	9	1

Mock Game 2				
Series 1	Option A		Option B	
Question No.	Number of Candies for chip 1,2,3	Number of Candies for chips 4-10	Number of Candies for Chip 1	Number of candies for chip 2-10
1	4	2	5	1
2	4	2	6	1
3	4	2	7	1
4	4	2	8	1
5	4	2	9	1
6	4	2	10	1
Series 2	Number of Candies for chip 1-5	Number of Candies for chip 6-10	Number of Candies for chip 1-5	Number of Candies for chip 6-10
7	6	2	7	1
8	2	-1	10	-1
9	1	-1	12	-2
10	1	-1	14	-3
11	1	-2	16	-4
12	1	-2	18	-5