

The Effect of Enrollment on Training and Micro Credit Programs on Peanut Productivity: Evidence from Haiti

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We use a quasi-natural experiment with data from peanut farmers that were qualified to enroll in a program that a for-profit organization offered in Haiti in 2016. We use data collected from farmers that were enrolled in the program and received training and/or seed. We also collected data from farmers that were qualified to enroll in the program but chose not to enroll. This set up allows us to measure the effects of receiving seed and/or training on several outcomes. We asked 609 farmers to provide data for the Spring and Fall seasons in 2016 and are also able to track the decisions of the farmers that were enrolled in the program in Spring 2016 on whether to enroll or not in the Fall. First, we focus on the effects that receiving training and/or seed has on peanut yields. Second, we examine the factors that are associated with the decision to drop out by following the farmers that were enrolled in the Spring and drop out in the Fall. Third, given the high rainfall variability in Haiti, we ask farmers about the amount of insurance that they are willing to pay to insure their peanut crop and examine factors that affect the amount they are willing to pay.

We find that farmers that received training experience an increase in yield ranging between 16 to 40 percent compared to the control group and gains in yield increase with more training. We also find that farmers that receive seed from the organization do not have significantly higher yields compared to the control group suggesting that training is a more effective way to increase farmer's yields in Haiti. Finally we find that a majority of farmers do not pay back the credit received and more than 90 percent of the farmers are interested in insuring their crop