Misallocation, Selection, and Productivity: A Quantitative Analysis with Panel Data from China

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October 16, 2021

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# **Big Picture**

- Large productivity differences across countries.
- Resource allocation matters for aggregate productivity.
- Agriculture key for understanding development.
- Resource misallocation pervasive in agriculture.
  - Particularly linked to land institutions.

#### Main Idea

land market frictions  $\Rightarrow$  disproportionately affect more productive farmers

Reduce aggregate agricultural productivity by distorting two margins:

- (1) Allocation of resources across farmers (misallocation).
- (2) Type of farmers who operate in agriculture (selection).

Main insight:

- Selection potentially amplifies the misallocation effect,
- by affecting the productivity distribution and measured misallocation.

Study these channels using panel micro data from China.

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# Why China?

- Rapidly growing economy with substantial sectoral reallocation.
- Productivity in agriculture is low.
- Average farm size: 0.7 hectares (BEL 17, NLD 17, USA 178 ha). • Farm Size Distribution
- Lack of well-defined property rights over land.
  - Households are allocated use rights on egalitarian basis.
  - Thin rental markets ("use it or lose it").
- Unique panel data set of households with detailed information on farm's output and inputs and non-agricultural wages.
  - ▶ Key: Can identify selection across sectors and link to misallocation.

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### What We Do

(1) Exploit panel data from China and a quantitative framework to:

- Construct for each household permanent fixed effect farm-level productivity and distortions,
- devoid of village level differences that limit scope of measurement error in productivity and distortions,
- document extent and productivity cost of misallocation.
- (2) Develop and estimate a tractable two-sector general-equilibrium model with heterogeneous abilities across individuals and sectors.
  - Use model structure to infer population moments from observed data.
  - Key moments: dispersion and correlation of income across sectors.
- (3) Assess quantitative impact of land institution (distortions) on occupational choice, selection, and agricultural productivity.

# What We Find

- Substantial misallocation of land and capital across farmers within villages in China, not due to mismeasurement using fixed-effect estimates of farm productivity and distortions.
- Agricultural output (TFP) gains from efficient reallocation within villages: 24.4%.
  - ► No significant variation over period of study (93-02).
- Implicit farm-level distortions systematically positively correlated with farm productivity (correlated distortions): more productive farmers "hit" harder.
- Eliminating correlated distortions increases agricultural labor productivity 3-fold.
- Selection roughly doubles the static impact of misallocation on agricultural TFP, general-equilibrium effects unimportant.

# Related Literature I

- Agricultural productivity and development.
  - ► Gollin, Parente and Rogerson (2002, AER)
  - Restuccia, Yang and Zhu (2008, JME)
  - many others
- Misallocation in agriculture and income differences.
  - Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2014, AER)
- Misallocation driven by land market institutions,
  - Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2020, AEJM)
  - Restuccia and Santaeulalia-Llopis (2015)
  - Chen (2017, AEJM)

## Related Literature II

- Selection amplifies economy-wide productivity differences.
  - Lagakos and Waugh (2013, AER)
- China.
  - Benjamin and Brandt (2002, CJE)
  - Benjamin, Brandt, and Giles (2005, EDCC); (2011, EJ)
  - Zhu (2012, JEP)
  - Brandt, Tombe, and Zhu (2013, RED)

## Land Market Institutions in China

- Households allocated use rights over farmland on an egalitarian basis.
- Ownership rights of farmland reside with the collective or village.
- Reallocations within villages were common.
- Use rights could be rented but "use it or lose it" practices.
- Land cannot be used as collateral for purposes of borrowing.

### Framework for Measuring Misallocation

- Agricultural sector equilibrium framework.
- *M* farm operators, heterogeneous in farming ability  $s_i$ .
- Total endowments of land and capital, L and K.
- Decreasing returns to scale farm-level technology,

$$y_i = (A_a s_i)^{1-\gamma} \left[ \ell_i^{\alpha} k_i^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\gamma}, \quad \gamma < 1,$$

where

- $(y_i, \ell_i, k_i)$  = real farm output, land and capital inputs.
- $\gamma =$  span-of-control parameter.

#### Allocations

- Efficient allocation: planner maximizes aggregate output, given farm TFPs and aggregate resources.
- Efficient allocation equates marginal products across farmers,

$$k_i = \frac{s_i}{\sum_i s_i} K, \qquad \ell_i = \frac{s_i}{\sum_i s_i} L.$$

• Back out implicit farm-level distortions from FOC.

# Micro Data from China

- HH survey panel data from Research Center for the Rural Economy, Ministry of Agriculture.
- HH data from 10 provinces, from 1993 to 2002.
- ullet Unbalanced panel with  $\sim$  8000 HHs per year from 110 villages.
- Detailed information on income by sector.
- Agriculture: data on outputs, inputs, prices, at farm-level.

#### Measuring Farm-Level TFP and Distortions

Construct residual farm i TFP, village v, time t

$$TFP_{ivt} \equiv (A_{a}s_{ivt})^{1-\gamma} = rac{y_{ivt}}{\left[\ell_{ivt}^{lpha}k_{ivt}^{1-lpha}
ight]^{\gamma}},$$

•  $\gamma = 0.54$ : estimates of the agricultural labor income share for China.

•  $\alpha = 2/3$ : implying land and capital income shares of 0.36 and 0.18 (estimates from China).

Construct farm-level distortions (TFPR):

$$TFPR_{ivt} = rac{y_{ivt}}{\ell_{ivt}^{lpha} k_{ivt}^{1-lpha}}.$$

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# Measuring Farm-Level TFP

• Decompose residual farm TFP as:

$$\log TFP_{ivt} = \mu_t^{TFP} + \mu_i^{TFP} + e_{ivt}^{TFP},$$

where  $\mu_i^{TFP}$  farm-specific component that does not vary over time.

• We remove village-specific effects by regressing the household fixed effect  $\mu_i^{TFP}$  on village dummies ( $\mu_v$ ) and extracting the residual,

$$\mu_i^{TFP} = \mu_v^{TFP} + \zeta_i^{TFP},$$

where  $\zeta_i^{TFP}$  permanent fixed-effect farm-level component.

# Measuring Farm-Level TFPR

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#### Land Allocation by Farm TFP • MPL



## Farm Productivity and Measured Distortions



- Summary measure of distortions  $TFPR_i \propto \frac{1}{1-\tau_i}$ .
- SD(log(TFPR))=0.48, CORR(logTFPR,logTFP)=0.91.

ABLR (2021)

#### Mismeasurement

- Recall that our unit of analysis is the farm household, not a plot operated by the household, outputs and inputs aggregated to the household level.
- We exploit the panel structure of the data to obtain fixed-effect estimates of farm productivity and farm distortions.
- We illustrate the value of our approach by applying the method of Bils, Klenow, and Ruane (2017) for inferring measurement error in panel micro data.
- BKR utilize changes in output relative to changes in inputs as an independent measure of an input's marginal product and is compared to the within-period average product-based measure of TFPR commonly used in the misallocation literature.

#### Mismeasurement

- When the response of output to changes in inputs is larger for higher TFPR farms, average products better reflect true marginal products and measurement error is less of an issue.
- Regress production-unit growth in measured output on growth in measured inputs and on the interaction of inputs growth and the level of measured TFPR. We estimate,

$$\Delta \log (y_{it}) = \beta_1 \cdot \log (TFPR_{it}) + \beta_2 \cdot \Delta \log (I_{it}) + \beta_3 \cdot int_{it} + \mu_v + \mu_t + u_{it},$$

where  $\Delta \log (I_{it})$  change in measured log-input bundle  $I = \ell^{\alpha} k^{1-\alpha}$ ;  $int_{it} = \Delta \log (I_{it}) \times \log (TFPR_{it})$ , and  $\mu_{\nu}, \mu_t$  village, time fixed effects.

• Estimate of the share of the dispersion in TFPR that is due to true variation in distortions as  $\hat{\lambda} = 1 + \hat{\beta}_3 / \hat{\beta}_2$ .

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# Mismeasurement in Productivity and Distortions

	Fixed Effect E	stimates	Cross-section
	Household Farm	+ Village	average
Farm TFP:			
STD(log)	0.35	0.64	0.72
p90/p10	2.19	4.35	5.59
p75/p25	1.48	2.06	2.32
Farm TFPR:			
STD(log)	0.48	0.81	0.92
p90/p10	3.14	7.17	9.70
p75/p25	1.78	2.71	3.23
CORR (logTFP, logTFPR)	0.91	0.88	0.88
BKR $\hat{\lambda}$	1.00	0.96	0.90
Standard error	(.026)	(.039)	(.024)
95% confidence interval	[0.95, 1.05]	$\left[0.88, 1.03\right]$	[0.85, 0.95]

#### Mismeasurement

- For our baseline measure of permanent TFPR the estimated  $\lambda$  is 1.00, implying no role for the type of measurement error this method can capture.
- The correlation of farm productivity and distortions is strengthened marginally from 0.88 in the cross-section to 0.91 in the baseline household fixed effect case.
- Mismeasurement has virtually no effect on systematic component of distortions, consistent with description of land institution in China and uniform allocation of village land across households independent of farming ability.

## Other Evidence

- How useful is the efficient benchmark to assess misallocation?
- Some evidence of stronger relationship between farm size and productivity in developed economies.
  - Correlation between farm size and productivity around 90 percent US Census of Agriculture (Adamopoulos and Restuccia 2014).
  - Average farm size increased substantially with high growth rates of agricultural productivity in historical time-series data for developed economies.
- Actual allocations more closely connected to farm productivity in environments with more exposure to land market rental activity.
  - In our sample, correlation of land input and productivity increases from 0.02 in full sample to 0.13 in provinces with significant land rental market activity.
  - Evidence from recent land tenancy reform in China after 2003, increased land rentals, improved land allocation (Chari et al 2021).

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# Assessing Factor Misallocation

	Output (TFP) gain (%)					
	Total	Across <i>s</i>	Cross-section			
		misallocation	average			
Eliminating misallocation across households:						
within villages	24.4	13.9	54.0			
+ across villages	53.2	24.9	83.0			

- Substantial gains to reallocation across farming hhs within villages (24.4%).
- About 60 percent  $(\log(1.139)/\log(1.244))$  due to reallocation across farming HHs with different TFP
- Reallocation gains across villages also substantial.

# A Model of Misallocation and Selection

- Two-sector GE model of agriculture and non-agriculture.
- Representative closed village economy.
- Agriculture features production heterogeneity (Adamopoulos and Restuccia 2014).
- Individuals face a sectoral occupational choice (Roy model):
  - Farm operator in agriculture.
  - Worker in non-agriculture.
- Economy populated by a continuum of individuals of measure 1.
- Individuals indexed by *i* are heterogeneous with respect to:
  - Ability in agriculture s<sub>ai</sub>.
  - Ability in non-agriculture s<sub>ni</sub>.
  - Distortion in operating a farm  $\tau_i$ .

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#### Income in Agriculture

The problem of a farmer facing  $(s_{a_i}, \tau_i)$  is,

$$\max_{\ell_i,k_i} \left\{ \left(1-\tau_i\right) p_a y_{a_i} - q\ell_i - rk_i \right\}.$$

- $p_a$  = relative price of agricultural good.
- Income of individual *i* in agriculture is after-tax output plus transfers,

$$I_{a_i} = p_a \left(1 - \tau_i\right) y_{a_i} + T,$$

which includes not only return to labor, but also land and capital.

• Tax revenues T are redistributed equally to all individuals.

# Production — Non-Agriculture

- Representative (stand-in) firm hires non-agricultural workers.
- Constant returns technology on effective labor input,

$$Y_n = A_n Z_n,$$

where

- $Y_n$  is real non-agricultural output.
- ► *A<sub>n</sub>* is a productivity parameter in non-agriculture.
- $Z_n = \int_{i \in H_n} s_{n_i} di$  is effective labor input in non-agriculture.

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### Income in Non-Agriculture

- Each worker in non-agriculture receives  $w_n$  per efficiency unit of labor.
- Non-agricultural work is subject to a labor mobility barrier  $\eta$ .
- A worker of non-agricultural ability *s*<sub>*ni*</sub> receives income in non-agriculture of,

$$I_{n_i} = (1 - \eta) \cdot w_n \cdot s_{n_i} + T.$$

#### Preferences

Individual *i* has preferences over the consumption of the two goods:

$$U_i = \omega \log (c_{a_i} - \bar{a}) + (1 - \omega) \log(c_{n_i}),$$

- $\bar{a} = minimum$  subsistence requirement agricultural good.
- $\omega = \text{preference weight on agricultural goods.}$

#### Farm Income

Agricultural income,

$$I_{a_i} = w_a \varphi_i s_{a_i} + T,$$

where

• w<sub>a</sub> is a common component,

$$w_{a} = A_{a} \gamma^{\frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma}} p_{a}^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{r}\right)^{\frac{\gamma(1-\alpha)}{1-\gamma}} \left(\frac{\alpha}{q}\right)^{\frac{\alpha\gamma}{1-\gamma}},$$

• and  $\varphi_i$  captures idiosyncratic distortion,

$$\varphi_i \equiv (1-\tau_i)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}}.$$

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### Correlated Abilities and Distortions

• Tri-variate log-normal distribution for  $(s_a, \varphi, s_n)$  with mean  $(\mu_a, \mu_{\varphi}, \mu_n)$  and variance,

$$\Sigma = \left(egin{array}{ccc} \sigma_a^2 & \sigma_{aarphi} & \sigma_{an} \ \sigma_{aarphi} & \sigma_arphi^2 & 0 \ \sigma_{an} & 0 & \sigma_n^2 \end{array}
ight).$$

 Allow for correlation between idiosyncratic distortions and agricultural abilities,

$$\rho_{\varphi a} = \frac{\sigma_{\varphi a}}{\sigma_{\varphi} \sigma_{a}}$$

Allow for correlation between abilities across sectors,

$$\rho_{an} = \frac{\sigma_{an}}{\sigma_n \sigma_a}.$$

## **Occupational Choice**

• Define effective agricultural ability as product of actual ability and idiosyncratic distortion,

$$\widehat{s}_{a_i} = \varphi_i s_{a_i}.$$

- Can re-write occupational choice problem in terms of  $\{\hat{s}_{a_i}, s_{n_i}\}$ .
- Individual *i* chooses to operate a farm in agriculture if,

$$I_{a_i} > I_{n_i} \Rightarrow w_a \widehat{s}_{a_i} > (1 - \eta) w_n s_{n_i}.$$

# Effect of Distortions on Occupational Choices

Standard Roy model,

$$w_a s_{a_i} > (1 - \eta) w_n s_{n_i}.$$

In our framework,

$$w_a \varphi_i s_{a_i} > (1 - \eta) w_n s_{n_i}.$$

• Farm-level distortions directly affect occupational choices even if no aggregate change (general equilibrium).

## Calibration

- Strategy: Calibrate distortions, abilities, and sectoral selection in a Benchmark Economy (BE) to the panel household-level data from China.
- Proceed in two steps:
  - (1) Infer population parameters on abilities and distortions from observed moments on sectoral incomes, farm TFP, and estimated wedges.
  - (2) Given population moments, calibrate remaining parameters from general equilibrium equations of the sectoral economy to match data targets.

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# Calibration Step (1) — Population Parameters

- 5 population parameters/moments to calibrate:
  - 3 variances,  $\sigma_a^2$ ,  $\sigma_n^2$ ,  $\sigma_{\varphi}^2$ .
  - 2 covariances,  $\sigma_{a\varphi}$ ,  $\sigma_{an}$ .
- Procedure:
  - (a) Construct model moments on sectoral incomes, farm TFP and distortions conditional on sectoral choices (depend on population moments).
  - (b) Compute counterparts in panel data for China.
  - (c) Solve system of equations for population moments.
- Conditional moments in data (and model):
  - ▶ SD log agricultural income, non-agricultural income, distortions.
  - COV log TFP and distortions in agriculture.
  - COV log agricultural income and non-agricultural income (contemporaneous or switchers from agriculture to non-agriculture).

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# Targeted Empirical Conditional Moments

Statistic	Description	Value
Na	Share of labor in agriculture	0.46
$\widehat{v}_{a}$	STD of agricultural income	0.34
$\widehat{v}_n$	STD of non-agricultural income	0.46
$\widehat{v}_{arphi}$	STD of farm distortions	1.05
Ĉan	COV between ag. and non-ag. incomes	0.005
$\widehat{c}_{aarphi}$	COV of agricultural income and farm distortions	-0.14

Note: All variables refer to logs.

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## Calibrated Population Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value
$\sigma_{a}$	STD of agricultural ability	1.30
$\sigma_n$	STD of non-agricultural ability	0.65
$\sigma_{arphi}$	STD of distortions	1.06
$ ho_{aarphi}$	CORR of agricultural ability and distortions	-0.95
$ ho_{an}$	CORR of agricultural-non-agricultural ability	-0.15

Note: All variables refer to logs.

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Calibration Step (2) — Remaining Parameters

Using calibrated population parameters:

- Normalize  $A_n$  to 1,  $A_a$  to solve for normalized  $w_a = 1$ .
- $\alpha = 0.66$  and  $\gamma = 0.54$  (same as before when measuring farm TFP and misallocation).
- $\omega = 0.01$  to match a long-run share in agriculture of 1%.
- Endowments  $(K_a, L)$  to match:
  - (a) Capital-output ratio in agriculture of 0.3.
  - (b) Average farm size of 0.45 Ha.
- Solve the model for  $(\overline{a}, \eta)$  to match two targets:
  - (a) Share of employment in agriculture of 46%
  - (b) Non-ag. to ag. labor productivity ratio of 4.

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# The Effects of Correlated Distortions

Statistic	Benchmark	No
	Economy	Correlated
	(BE)	Distortions
Aggregate Statistics		
Real Agricultural Productivity $(Y_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.96
Share of Employment in Agriculture $(N_a)$ (%)	0.46	0.16
TFP in Agriculture (TFP <sub>a</sub> )	1.00	1.67
TFP in Agriculture, constant BE farms	1.00	1.10
Real Non-Agricultural Productivity $(Y_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78
Average Ability in Agriculture $(Z_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.34
Average Ability in Non-Agriculture $(Z_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78
Real GDP per Worker $(Y/N)$	1.00	1.18
Conditional Micro-level Sta	tistics	
STD of log–farm TFP	0.56	0.39
STD of log–farm TFPR	0.48	0.14
CORR of log–(farm TFP, farm TFPR)	0.97	0.44
CORR of log–(agr. ability, non-agr. ability)	0.15	0.49
CORR of log-(agr. income, non-agr. income)	0.03	0.40

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# Decomposing Gain in Agricultural Labor Productivity

Eliminating correlated distortions increases agricultural labor productivity by 2.96-fold via:

- Increased agricultural TFP of 1.67-fold and input intensity of 1.77-fold (reallocation of labor out of agriculture).
- Agricultural TFP increase due to reduced misallocation (1.1-fold) and improved selection by 1.52-fold.
- From the overall effect on agricultural TFP, 1/5 is accounted for by reduced misallocation and 4/5 by improved selection.

# Selection Effect in Agriculture



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# The Effects of Eliminating All Distortions

Statistic	Benchmark Economy BE	No Correlated Distortions	No Distortions $\varphi_i = 1$
Real Ag. Productivity $(Y_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.96	3.42
Share of Employment in Ag. $(N_a)$ (%)	0.46	0.16	0.14
TFP in Agriculture (TFP <sub>a</sub> )	1.00	1.67	1.80
TFP in Ag. constant BE farms	1.00	1.10	1.15
Real Non-Ag. Productivity $(Y_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78	0.77
Average Ability in Ag. $(Z_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.34	2.65
Average Ability in Non-Ag. $(Z_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78	0.77
Real GDP per Worker $(Y/N)$	1.00	1.18	1.19

• The bulk of selection effect arises from correlated distortions associated with the land institution.

# Comparison with Exogenous TFP Increase

Statistic	BE	No Corr Dist	$egin{array}{l} \uparrow (\mathcal{A}_{s}^{1-\gamma}) \  imes 1.10 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \left( {{\cal A}_{a}^{1-\gamma},{\cal A}_{n}} \right) \\ \times \ 1.10 \end{array}$
Aggrega	ate Stat	istics		
Real Agricultural Productivity $(Y_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.96	1.35	1.35
Share of Employment in Ag. $(N_a)$ (%)	0.46	0.16	0.34	0.34
TFP in Agriculture ( <i>TFP</i> <sub>a</sub> )	1.00	1.67	1.15	1.15
Real Non-Ag. Productivity $(Y_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78	0.92	1.01
Average Ability in Agriculture $(Z_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.34	1.11	1.11
Average Ability in Non-Ag. $(Z_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78	0.92	0.92
Real GDP per Worker $(Y/N)$	1.00	1.18	1.09	1.18

- Reduction in misallocation associated with elimination of correlated farm-level distortions has much larger effect on agricultural labor productivity than an equivalent-in-magnitude exogenous increase in TFP.
- Farm-level distortions directly impact occupational choices, particularly those with high agricultural ability.

# Robustness — Variation in Population $\rho_{an}$

Statistic	$ ho_{an}=-0.15$		$ \rho_{an} = -0.15 $ $ \rho_{an} = 0 $		0 $\rho_{an} =$		= 0.15	
	BE	NC		BE	NC		BE	NC
Aggregate Statistics:								
Real Agricultural Productivity $(Y_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.96		1.00	3.44		1.00	4.23
Share of Employment in Ag. $(N_a)$ (%)	0.46	0.16		0.46	0.14		0.46	0.11
TFP in Agriculture ( <i>TFP</i> <sub>a</sub> )	1.00	1.67		1.00	1.80		1.00	1.98
Real Non-Ag. Productivity $(Y_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78		1.00	0.78		1.00	0.77
Average Ability in Agriculture $(Z_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.34		1.00	2.72		1.00	3.35
Average Ability in Non-Ag. $(Z_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78		1.00	0.78		1.00	0.77
Real GDP per Worker	1.00	1.18		1.00	1.21		1.00	1.22
Conditional Micro-level Statistics:								
STD of log–farm TFP	0.56	0.39		0.56	0.35		0.56	0.31
STD of log-farm TFPR	0.48	0.14		0.48	0.13		0.48	0.12
CORR of log-(farm TFP, farm TFPR)	0.97	0.44		0.97	0.24		0.97	-0.08
CORR of log-(ag.,non-ag. ability)	0.15	0.49		0.28	0.54		0.38	0.57
CORR of log-(ag.,non-ag. income)	0.03	0.40		0.45	0.58		0.76	0.72

 Removing correlated distortions has even larger effects on agricultural labor productivity with higher values of  $\rho_{an}$ .

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# Robustness — Idiosyncratic Mobility Barriers

Statistic	$\sigma_{ heta} = 0$			$\sigma_{\theta} =$	= 0.5	$\sigma_{\theta}$ =	= 0.9
	BE	NC		BE	NC	BE	NC
Calibrated Ability Correlation	$\rho_{an} =$	-0.15		$\rho_{an} =$	-0.08	$\rho_{an} =$	-0.03
Aggregate Statistics							
Real Agricultural Productivity $(Y_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.96		1.00	3.17	1.00	3.10
Share of Employment in Ag. $(N_a)$ (%)	0.46	0.16		0.46	0.15	0.46	0.15
TFP in Agriculture ( <i>TFP</i> <sub>a</sub> )	1.00	1.67		1.00	1.73	1.00	1.72
Real Non-Ag. Productivity $(Y_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78		1.00	0.83	1.00	0.89
Average Ability in Agriculture $(Z_a/N_a)$	1.00	2.34		1.00	2.51	1.00	2.47
Average Ability in Non-Ag. $(Z_n/N_n)$	1.00	0.78		1.00	0.83	1.00	0.89
Real GDP per Worker	1.00	1.18		1.00	1.26	1.00	1.33
Conditional Micro-level Statistics							
STD of log–farm TFP	0.56	0.39		0.56	0.38	0.56	0.42
STD of log–farm TFPR	0.48	0.14		0.48	0.13	0.48	0.13
CORR of log–(farm TFP, farm TFPR)	0.97	0.44	(	0.97	0.30	0.97	0.17
CORR of log-(ag.,non-ag. ability)	0.15	0.49		0.10	0.40	0.05	0.26
CORR of log-(ag.,non-ag. income)	0.03	0.40		0.03	0.35	0.03	0.24

• Results robust against different  $\sigma_{\theta}$  (implied  $\rho_{an}$ ), indicating targeted cross-sector income correlation imposes discipline on magnitude of amplification effect.

### Conclusions

- Exploiting panel micro data, we estimate permanent household fixed-effect farm-level productivity and distortions devoid of village differences, limiting extent of mismeasurement.
- Substantial factor misallocation within villages in Chinese agriculture from uniform land allocations and restricted land markets.
- Operational farm scales should be able to adjust to raise agricultural productivity.
- This would also keep more able farmers in agriculture, contributing substantially to agricultural productivity and structural change.
- Implementing a system of secure property rights would generate large productivity gains.

### Farm Size Distribution in China

	(%)				
Land Farm Size	1995	2000			
< 0.5 ha	69.2	71.6			
0.5-1 ha	20.7	20.2			
1-1.5 ha	6.1	5.8			
> 1.5 ha	4.0	2.4			
Average Farm Size	0.49	0.43			

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# Inferring Wedges From FOC

Farm-level FOCs for land and capital,

$$\frac{MRPL_i}{\alpha\gamma} = \frac{y_i}{\ell_i} = \frac{q_v \left(1 + \tau_i^\ell\right)}{\alpha\gamma \left(1 - \tau_i^y\right)} \propto \frac{\left(1 + \tau_i^\ell\right)}{\left(1 - \tau_i^y\right)}$$

$$\frac{MRPK_i}{(1-\alpha)\gamma} = \frac{y_i}{k_i} = \frac{r\left(1+\tau_i^k\right)}{(1-\alpha)\gamma\left(1-\tau_i^y\right)} \propto \frac{\left(1+\tau_i^k\right)}{\left(1-\tau_i^y\right)}$$

Note: Only two of the three wedges can be separately identified.

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# Marginal Product of Land



ABLR (2021)