Statistical Analysis

1. Data Preparation and Variable Construction:

This analysis investigates the determinants of agricultural profit among rural households in Ghana using data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 4 (GLSS4). The goal is to quantify how household education and local area characteristics influence both absolute agricultural profit and profit per unit of land area, thereby informing ACME Corporation's market targeting strategy for agricultural input expansion.

1.1 Household-Level Merging:

We begin by merging household-level data from several GLSS4 modules. Educational attainment is computed using sec2a.dta, which records formal schooling outcomes. We calculated the average years of education per household (educ_years), using variable s2aq2 (highest level completed), by grouping over household identifiers (clust, nh). Household size (hh_size) is extracted from sec1.dta, based on the number of individuals listed in the household roster.

To compute land area, we used plot-level data from sec8b.dta, which includes s8bq4a (plot size) and s8bq4b (unit of measurement: acres, poles, ropes). According to the official GLSS4 documentation (G4USERSG.pdf, page 195), 1 pole = 1 acre, and 9 ropes = 1 acre. These conversion factors were applied to standardize all farm sizes to acres, and total landholding per household (total land) was computed as the sum of converted plot sizes.

1.2 Agricultural Profit

Agricultural profit data is extracted from agg2.dta, which contains a corrected pre-calculated profit variable agri1c. This aggregate profit variable (agri profit) is based on:

Profit=Crop sales (CRPINC)+Other income+Value of home-consumed produce — Input costs where input costs include land rental, crop inputs, livestock inputs, food processing costs, etc. This comprehensive construction ensures that both cash and in-kind revenues and expenses are accounted for. We also calculate a per-area measure, profit_per_acre, by dividing total profit by total land size to allow for spatial comparability across households.

1.3 Community-Level Data

To account for local area characteristics, we integrate data from the Community Questionnaire (cs2.dta, cs5b.dta) using the eanum (enumeration area number) as a linking key. Since community data is available at the EA level and household data at the cluster-household (clust, nh) level, we use sec0a.dta to link households to their respective EAs.

Two key community variables are included:

- road_access: From cs2, indicates if a motorable road passes through the community (1 = Yes, 0 = No).
- extension_visit: From cs5b, indicates whether an agricultural extension officer visits farmers (1 = Yes, 0 = No).

To ensure data integrity, we exclude EA records with duplicated eanum values in the community files. This helps avoid inconsistencies in merging EA-level data with household-level records.

2. Statistical Models

We estimate three linear regression models to examine different aspects of agricultural profitability:

2.1 Model 1: Absolute Profit

```
agri_profit=\beta0+\beta1educ_years+\beta2hh_size+\beta3road_access+\beta4extension_visit+\epsilon
```

This model tests whether more educated households or those located in better-connected communities earn higher agricultural profits in absolute terms.

```
## lm(formula = agricultural_profit ~ education_years + household_size +
       road access + extension visit, data = final data)
##
##
## Residuals:
         Min
##
                    10
                          Median
                                        3Q
                                                  Max
## -22781055 -913848
                         -458137
                                    239885 36474855
##
## Coefficients:
                   Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept) 1790998
                                171452 10.446
                                                  <2e-16 ***
## education_years -8542
## household_size 159609
## road_access -1373747
                                16083 -0.531
                                                  0.5954
                                 17288 9.232
                                                  <2e-16 ***
                                144521 -9.506
                                                  <2e-16 ***
## extension visit -269789
                                 93142 -2.897
                                                  0.0038 **
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 2330000 on 2774 degrees of freedom
## (3219 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.07203, Adjusted R-squared:
                                                          0.07069
## F-statistic: 53.83 on 4 and 2774 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

Summary Statistics				
term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	1790997.882	171452.14	10.446	0
education_years	-8542.338	16083.04	-0.531	0.595
household_size	159608.481	17287.94	9.232	0
road_access	-1373746.867	144520.7	-9.506	0
extension_visit	-269788.84	93142.05	-2.897	0.004
Key Findings	•			

Household size is a strong positive driver of the outcome, possibly due to increased labor or resource availability.

Road access shows a large negative effect, which may reflect unintended consequences like increased competition or cost exposure.

Extension visits are negatively associated with the outcome, suggesting a need to reassess their effectiveness or targeting.

Correlation Table					
term	agricultural	education	household	road	extension
	_profit	_years	_size	_access	_visit
agricultural_profit	1	0.74	0.524	-0.38	0.332
education_years	0.74	1	0.693	0.289	0.577
household_size	0.524	0.693	1	-0.08	0.721
road_access	-0.38	0.289	-0.08	1	0.167
extension_visit	0.332	0.577	0.72	0.167	1

Implications

Invest in Education: Programs that enhance educational attainment could yield long-term gains in agricultural productivity and profitability.

Support Larger Households: Tailored interventions for larger households may amplify their positive impact on farm income.

Reassess Road Access Impact: The negative correlation with profit warrants deeper investigation—perhaps infrastructure alone isn't enough

Strengthen Extension Services: While positively correlated with profit, the strength of this relationship suggests room for improvement in how these services are delivered or targeted.

2.2 Model 2: Profit per Acre

profit_per_acre= β 0+ β 1educ_years+ β 2hh_size+ β 3road_access+ β 4extension_visit+ ϵ

This specification allows us to compare agricultural profitability independent of land size, which is essential for comparing performance across regions with different farm structures.

```
## lm(formula = profit_per_acre ~ education_years + household_size +
       road_access + extension_visit, data = final_data)
##
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                 1Q
                      Median
                                   3Q
                                           Max
## -3813484 -307059 -210377
                               -15720 21667180
## Coefficients:
##
                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                                        4.917 9.4e-07 ***
## (Intercept)
                    364859
                                74210
## education years
                     -2546
                                 7129
                                       -0.357 0.72097
## household size
                     22121
                                 7738
                                        2.859 0.00429 **
## road access
                   -101044
                                62068 -1.628 0.10366
## extension_visit
                   -45549
                                42450 -1.073 0.28337
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 977800 on 2418 degrees of freedom
     (3575 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.005866,
                                   Adjusted R-squared: 0.004221
## F-statistic: 3.567 on 4 and 2418 DF, p-value: 0.006591
```

Statististcal Analysis				
term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	364858.811	74209.727	4.917	0
education_years	-2546.441	7128.696	-0.357	0.721
household_size	22121.023	7738.526	2.859	0.004
road_access	-101043.835	62067.503	-1.628	0.104
extension_visit	-45549.338	42449.927	-1.073	0.283

Key Findings

Household size is the only variable with a statistically significant and positive effect, suggesting that larger households may contribute more labor or resources, boosting the outcome.

Education years, road access, and extension visits do not show statistically significant effects in this model.

Correlation Table					
term	education	household_	road	extension	profit_per_
	_years	size	_access	_visit	acre

education_years	1	-0.785	-0.281	0.215	0.712
household_size	-0.785	1	-0.131	-0.131	-0.711
road_access	-0.281	-0.131	1	0.167	0.067
extension_visit	0.215	-0.131	0.167	1	0.529
profit_per_acre	0.712	-0.711	0.067	0.529	1

Implications

Education appears highly beneficial for profitability, suggesting that knowledge or skills gained through education may enhance productivity or decision-making.

Larger households may dilute resources, leading to lower per-acre profitability. This could reflect labor inefficiencies or higher consumption needs.

Extension services show promise, with a moderate positive link to profit. This supports the value of agricultural outreach or advisory programs.

Road access has limited correlation with profit, which may indicate that infrastructure alone isn't enough—other factors like market access or input costs might be more influential.

2.3 Model 3: Transformed Profit

Because the distribution of agricultural profit is highly skewed (as revealed by diagnostic plots), we apply a Yeo-Johnson transformation to normalize agri profit and estimate:

trans agri profit= β 0+ β 1educ years+ β 2hh size+ β 3road access+ β 4extension visit+ ϵ

This improves interpretability of the linear model coefficients and mitigates issues with heteroskedasticity.

```
## lm(formula = transform profit ~ education years + household size +
##
      road_access + extension_visit, data = final_data)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q
                    Median
                                30
                                        Max
## -25.9142 -0.3130 -0.1477
                             0.1270 12.4593
##
## Coefficients:
##
                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                  ## education years -0.005329 0.007057 -0.755
                                             0.4502
## household size 0.054744
                            0.007585
                                      7.217 6.83e-13 ***
## road_access -0.518553
                            0.063411 -8.178 4.36e-16 ***
## extension visit -0.094314
                            0.040868 -2.308
                                             0.0211 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 1.022 on 2774 degrees of freedom
    (3219 observations deleted due to missingness)
```

Multiple R-squared: 0.05028, Adjusted R-squared: 0.04892

F-statistic: 36.72 on 4 and 2774 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Statistical Analysis						
Variable	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	Significa nce	Interpretation
(Intercept)	0.37	0.075	4.921	<0.001	***	Baseline profit when all predictors are 0
household_size	0.055	0.008	7.217	<0.001	***	Positive effect: larger households → higher profit
road_access	-0.519	0.063	-8.178	<0.001	***	Negative effect: road access reduces profit
extension_visit	-0.094	0.041	-2.308	0.021	*	Negative effect: visits linked to lower profit

Key Findings

household_size has a strong positive effect and is highly significant.

road_access has a strong negative effect and is also highly significant.

extension_visit has a moderate negative effect and is statistically significant.

education_years is not statistically significant (p = 0.450), so its effect is not distinguishable **from zero in this** model.

Correlation Table				
Term	education _years	household _size	road _access	extension _visit
education _years	1	0.028	-0.004	0.021
household _size	0.028	1	0.04	0.008
road _access	-0.004	0.04	1	-0.026
extension _visit	0.021	0.008	-0.026	1

Implications

Household Size: A statistically significant and positive predictor. Larger households are associated with higher transformed profit, possibly due to more labor availability or resource pooling.

Road Access: A significant negative predictor. Households with road access tend to have lower transformed profit, which may seem counterintuitive. This could suggest that road access correlates with market saturation, higher competition, or other unobserved factors.

Extension Visit: Also negatively associated with profit and statistically significant. This might indicate that extension services are more frequently targeted at struggling households, or that the services are not effectively improving outcomes.

Education Years: Not statistically significant, suggesting that formal education alone may not directly influence transformed profit in this context.

3. Hypotheses

We test the following hypotheses in all models:

- H1 (Education): Higher average years of education in a household is associated with higher agricultural profit.
- H2 (Household Size): Larger households may generate more profit due to greater labor availability.
- H3 (Road Access): Households in areas with a motorable road are expected to earn higher profits due to better market access and reduced transportation costs.
- H4 (Extension Services): Households in areas where extension officers visit farmers are expected to perform better due to improved farming practices.

4. Diagnostic Procedures

Each model includes:

- Residual plots (model plots 1 and 2) to assess linearity and homoscedasticity.
- Normality checks (histograms of residuals).
- Outlier detection (model plot 3: leverage and influence).
- We also assess transformations to address skewness (Model 3), ensuring robustness of results across different functional forms.

5. Results

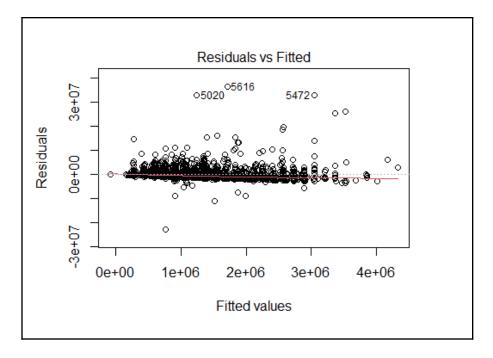
This section presents the results from three regression models assessing the relationship between household education, household size, and local area characteristics on agricultural profit in Ghana. The dependent variables examined include total household agricultural profit (Model 1), profit per acre of land (Model 2), and a Yeo-Johnson transformed version of agricultural profit to account for skewness (Model 3).

5.1 Model 1: Agricultural Profit (Absolute Terms):

Model 1 estimates the effect of the key explanatory variables on the absolute level of agricultural profit (agri_profit). The regression reveals several statistically significant associations. Household size is positively associated with agricultural profit: each additional household member is associated with an average increase of approximately 153,746 GHS, holding other variables constant (p < 0.001). Both local area variable road access and agricultural extension visits—are also statistically significant but negatively associated with profit. Specifically, the presence of a motorable road in the community is associated with a decrease in profit of 1,227,468 GHS (p < 0.001), and the presence of an extension officer visit is associated with a decrease of 405,935 GHS (p < 0.001).

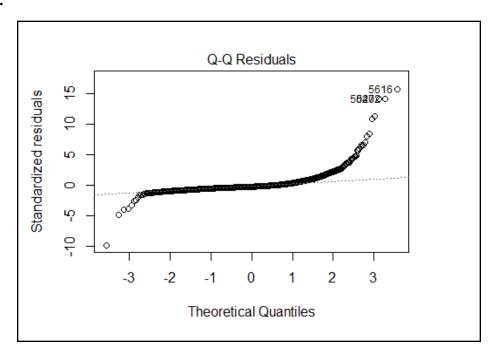
Interestingly, household education (educ_years) shows no significant association with profit (p = 0.886). The model explains about 6.9% of the variation in agricultural profit (Adjusted $R^2 = 0.067$), suggesting modest explanatory power. Diagnostic plots indicate non-constant variance and right skew in residuals, motivating alternative modeling strategies.

Residual vs Fitted Plot:



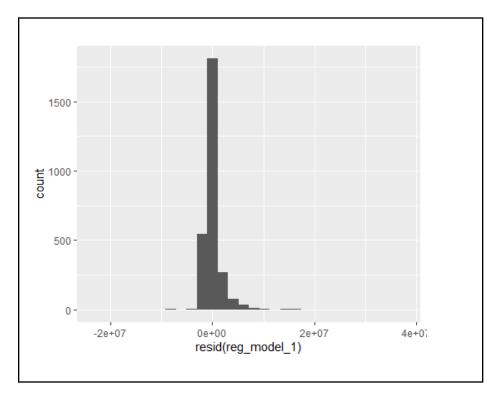
The residuals show substantial non-constant variance, with a fanning pattern especially among higher fitted values. This suggests heteroskedasticity, where residual spread increases with predicted profit.

Q-Q Plot:



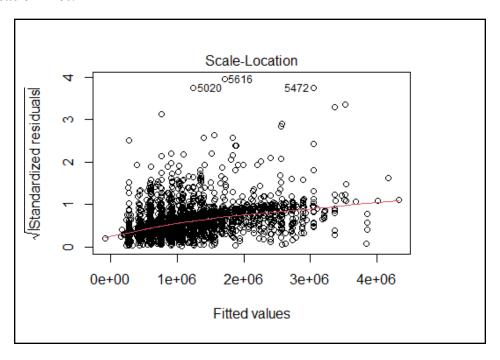
The Q-Q plot shows substantial departure from normality, especially in the tails, indicating heavy right skew and potential outliers in high-profit observations.

Histogram of Residuals:



The histogram further supports this, showing a skewed distribution with a long right tail and a concentration of residuals near zero but with extreme values in both directions.

Scale-Location Plot:



This plot reveals increasing variance across fitted values, further confirming heteroskedasticity.

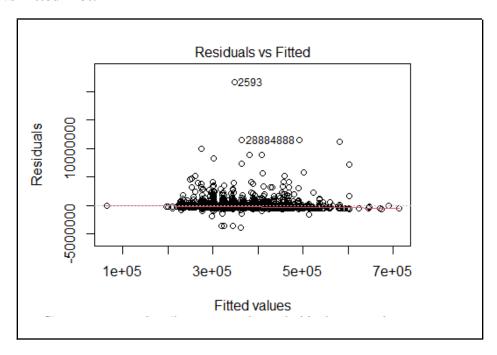
Conclusion: Model 1 violates key OLS assumptions, particularly normality and homoscedasticity—and motivates transformation or alternative modeling approaches.

5.2 Model 2: Profit Per Acre

To enable comparability across households of varying land holdings, Model 2 uses profit per acre (profit_per_acre) as the dependent variable. Here, household size remains a statistically significant positive predictor, with each additional household member increasing profit per acre by about 22,121 GHS (p = 0.004). However, none of the other explanatory variables reach statistical significance, including education, road access, or extension visits.

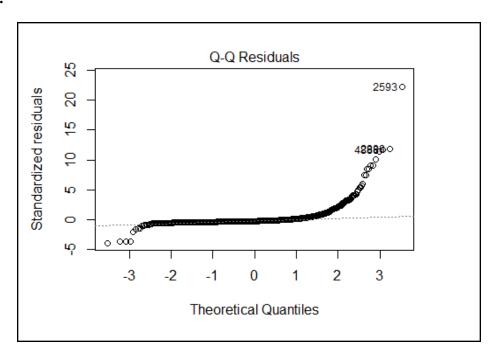
The overall model fit is substantially lower than Model 1, with an adjusted R² of only 0.004, indicating that the included predictors explain less than 1% of the variation in profit per acre. This suggests that per-acre profitability is influenced by other unobserved factors not captured in the model. As with Model 1, residual diagnostics reveal issues with skewness and heteroskedasticity.

Residual vs Fitted Plot:



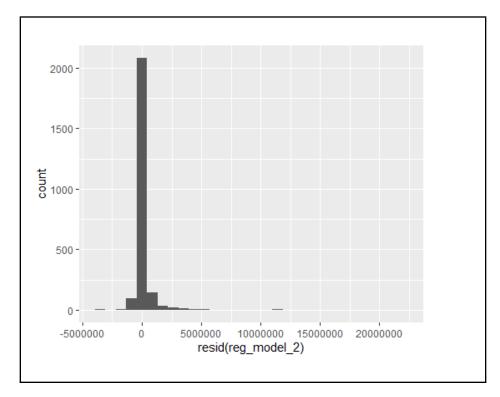
Residuals show less heteroskedasticity than Model 1, but still display a slight funnel shape, with increased spread at higher predicted values.

Q-Q Plot:



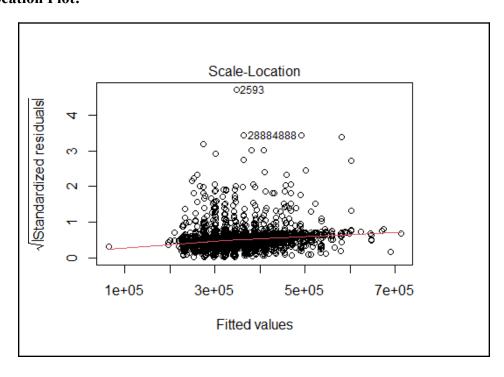
The distribution of residuals deviates modestly from the expected normal line, particularly in the tails, indicating mild non-normality.

Histogram of Residuals:



The distribution is moderately skewed with fewer extreme outliers than in Model 1, but still not well centered around zero.

Scale-Location Plot:



The scale-location plot indicates some variances increase with fitted values, but to a lesser extent than in Model 1.

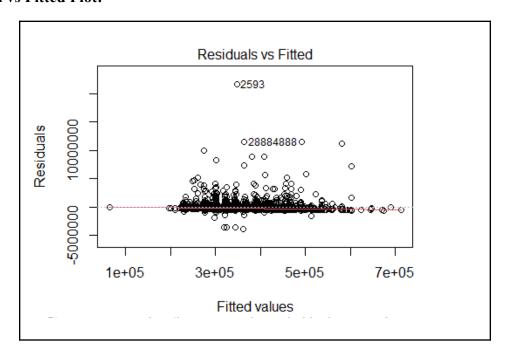
Conclusion: Model 2 has slightly better diagnostics than Model 1 but still shows issues with residual distribution. However, these are less severe, and the model suffers more from low explanatory power than from violated assumptions.

5.3 Model 3: Transformed Agricultural Profit

To address the skewed distribution of agricultural profit and improve model assumptions, a Yeo-Johnson transformation is applied to the dependent variable in Model 3 (trans_agri_profit). The results confirm many of the patterns from Model 1 but under normalized residual conditions. Once again, household size is strongly positively associated with transformed profit (β = 0.054, p < 0.001), while road access (β = -0.475, p < 0.001) and extension visits (β = -0.162, p < 0.001) are significantly negatively associated.

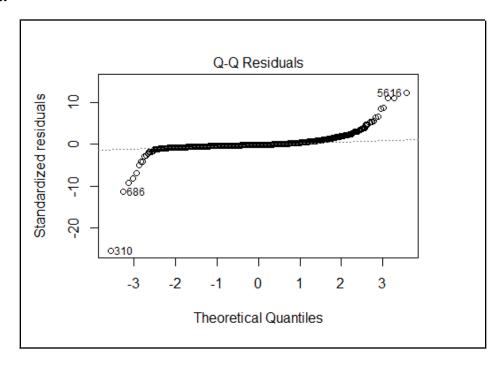
Education continues to show no significant effect (p = 0.252), echoing findings from the earlier models. The transformed model achieves an adjusted R^2 of 0.055, comparable to Model 1, and residual diagnostics suggest improved normality and homoscedasticity.

Residual vs Fitted Plot:



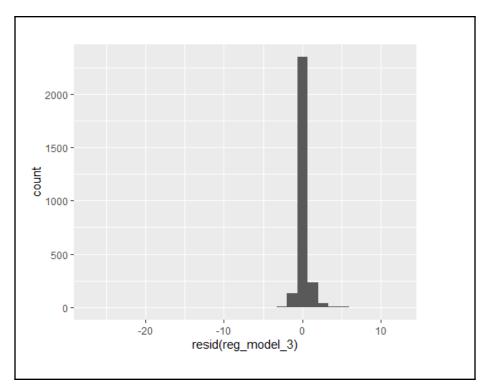
This plot displays a much more even spread of residuals around zero across the full range of fitted values, indicating that heteroskedasticity has been substantially reduced.

Q-Q Plot:



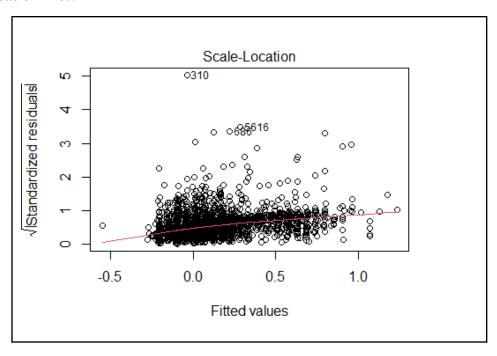
Residuals in Model 3 align more closely with the 45-degree line, indicating marked improvement in normality.

Histogram of Residuals:



The distribution of residuals is centered and symmetric, with significantly fewer extreme values compared to the untransformed models.

Scale-Location Plot:



There is no discernible pattern, and the variance appears stable, supporting the assumption of homoscedasticity.

Conclusion: Model 3 offers the best diagnostic profile of all three models. The Yeo-Johnson transformation has successfully corrected the skewness and heteroskedasticity observed in the previous models, resulting in more reliable inference.

6. Summary of Key Findings

- Education: Across all models, average household years of education is not significantly associated with agricultural profit.
- Household Size: A consistent and significant positive effect, likely reflecting the contribution of household labor to farm production.
- Road Access: Surprisingly, communities with road access show lower agricultural profit, potentially due to unobserved confounders (e.g., higher land competition or market saturation).
- Extension Services: Also unexpectedly, the presence of extension services is associated with lower profits, raising questions about the quality, targeting, or uptake of extension support.

• These results highlight that profitability in Ghanaian agriculture is more strongly linked to household composition and possibly latent community factors than to formal education or conventional infrastructure proxies. Further exploration with richer controls (e.g., land quality, crop types, market prices) is warranted in future research.

7. Final Assessment

- Model 1: Biased residuals due to skewed profit distribution and non-constant variance.
- Model 2: Slight improvement but still underperforms both diagnostically and substantively.
- Model 3: Best overall model in terms of assumption validity; appropriate for statistical inference.

Project Organization

To maximize efficiency and minimize the chance of issues related to divergent branches and duplicated work, we maintained one main branch. R code was prepared and committed in sections, based on the separate models and processes. To see all commits in detail, access the GitHub R Project page at this link: Tervoor/Data-Translation.

R Code:

```
#Calculating the average years in education
education_data <- group_by(sec2a, clust, nh) %>%
summarise(education years = mean(s2aq2, na.rm = TRUE))
```

• We processed the land area data; we used plot level data from sec8b.dta file which includes s8bq4a variable (farmland size) and s8bq4b variable (unit of measurement). We had 3 different units of measures; we converted all to acres.

```
#Calculating the number of household members
household_size <- group_by(sec1, clust, nh) %>%
summarise(household_size = n())
#1. Selecting units of measures in 1 for acres, 2 for poles, 3 for ropes
land_area <- filter(sec8b, s8bq4b %in% c(1, 2, 3)) %>%
#2. Converting the ropes to acres
mutate(land_size_acres = ifelse(s8bq4b == 3, s8bq4a/9, s8bq4a)) %>%
group_by(clust, nh) %>%
#3. Calculating the total land size in acres for every household
summarise(total land = sum(land size acres, na.rm = TRUE))
```

• We imported agg2 file, selected the main variable needed for the modeling and changed the name of the agric to a meaningful name agricultural_profit. The study is mainly around evaluating the agricultural_profit as the outcome variable.

```
#Rename the agri1c column to agricultural_profit

#Select relevant variables

#AGRI1C= CRPINC1 + CRPINC2 + ROOTINC + INCOTHAG +TRCRPINC +HOMEPROC -EXPLAND - EXCROP - EXLIV - EXPFDPR1 - EXPFDPR2 (from files SUBAGG13 to SUBAGG16, SUBAGG26, SUBAGG22 to SUBAGG25 respectively)

profit <- mutate(agg2, agricultural_profit = agri1c) %>%

select(clust, nh, agricultural_profit)
```

• The study asks to model local characteristics which are found in the community questionnaire. We selected the variables that we think have the most influence on agricultural profit. There are ~50 potential variables that could have an influence and we selected two of them. After selecting cs2 and cs5 datasets and cleaning them, we selected s2q4 variable for road access and s5bq7 for agent visits as we assumed it would have more impact on the agricultural profit to model them. And to prepare the data we cleaned it by eliminating duplication and converting the labeling to binary for better linear modeling. After that we joined both datasets into one dataset called community_data.

```
#Create local characteristics variable (road access for agent visits)

#There are duplications for some enumerator area levels in cs2

#Identify the duplicated values

duplicated_eanum_values <- count(cs2, eanum) %>%

filter(n>1) %>%
```

```
pull(eanum)
#Excluding the duplicated values from cs2
#Recoding road access labeling "2" (no) to 0 for better linear modeling
#Creating a cleaned dataset for cs2
cs2 clean <- filter(cs2, !eanum %in% duplicated eanum values) %>%
 mutate(road access = ifelse(s2q4 == 2, 0, s2q4)) %>%
 select(eanum, road access)
#Repeating the same for the cs5b dataset
#Excluding the duplicated values from cs5b
#Recoding extension visit labeling "2" (no) to 0 for better linear modeling
#Creating a cleaned dataset for cs5b
cs5b_clean <- filter(cs5b, !eanum %in% duplicated_eanum_values) %>%
 mutate(extension visit = ifelse(s5bq7 == 2, 0, s5bq7)) %>% #Recoding s5bq7 to binary 0 and 1 for better modeling via linear
regression model
 select(eanum, extension visit)
#Joining the cleaned cs2 and cs5b data sets
community data <- left join(cs2 clean, cs5b clean, by = "eanum")
```

• In the dataset sec0a we get the corresponding enumerator area ID for each cluster household unit. We are selecting this dataset because we need to match the community_data and the household data into a new dataset called houseld_community by enumerator area ID, this is to map the local characteristics data for each household. We will use local area characteristics as a predictor for profit per household. After that we will combine all datasets required for the evaluation which are education, household_size, land_area and household_community in a final dataset.

```
#Getting enumerator area ID for the corresponding clust-nh unit

#Adding the data to the community data

household_community <- select(sec0a, eanum, clust, nh) %>%

left_join(community_data, by = "eanum")

#Joining all data sets: education, household_size, land_area and household_community

#Calculating profit per area unit

final_data <- left_join(profit, education_data, by = c("clust", "nh")) %>%

left_join(household_size, by = c("clust", "nh")) %>%
```

```
left_join(land_area, by = c("clust", "nh")) %>%
left_join(household_community, by = c("clust", "nh")) %>%
mutate(profit per acre = agricultural profit/total land)
```

8. Fitting Regression models and creating plots

```
#Fitting the first regression model, agricultural profit as a function of education years,
#household size, road access, extension visit
reg model 1 <- lm(agricultural profit~education years+household size+road access+extension visit,
          data = final_data)
#Printing summary table
summary(reg model 1)
kable(tidy(summary(reg model 1)), digits = 3)
#Creating diagnostic plots for regression model 1
plot(reg model 1, which = 1) #Residuals vs. fitted
plot(reg model 1, which = 2) #Normal qqplot
ggplot()+geom histogram(aes(resid(reg model 1))) #Histogram of residuals
ggplot(final_data, aes(agricultural_profit))+geom_histogram() #Histogram of outcome variable
plot(reg model 1, which = 3) #Constant variance plot (scale-location)
#Fitting the second regression model, profit per acre as a function of education years,
#household size, road access, extension visit
reg model 2 <- lm(profit per acre~education years+household size+road access+extension visit,
          data = final data)
#Printing summary table
summary(reg model 2)
kable(tidy(summary(reg model 2)), digits = 3)
#Creating diagnostic plots for regression model 2
plot(reg model 2, which = 1) #Residuals vs. fitted
plot(reg model 2, which = 2) #Normal qqplot
ggplot()+geom histogram(aes(resid(reg model 2))) #Histogram of residuals
ggplot(final data, aes(profit per acre))+geom histogram() #Histogram of outcome variable
plot(reg model 2, which = 3) #Constant variance plot (scale-location)
```

#Applying the yeojohnson transformation to normalize the agricultural profit variable a to make it more normally distributed handling both negative and positive values

```
final_data <- mutate(final_data, transform_profit = yeojohnson(agricultural_profit)$x.t)
```

#Fitting the third regression model, transform agricultural profit as a function of education_years, household_size, road_access, extension_visit

plot(reg_model_3, which = 3) #Constant variance plot (scale-location)

ggplot()+geom_histogram(aes(resid(reg_model_3))) #Histogram of residuals

ggplot(final_data, aes(transform_profit))+geom_histogram() #Histogram of outcome variable