

# An application of item response theory for agricultural sustainability measurement

## Supplementary materials

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# Supplementary materials contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Indicator literature review</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Item selection considerations and definitions</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Item category distributions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sensitivity analyses using 3- and 5-category items</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Model comparison . . . . .	13
5.2	Item characteristic curves . . . . .	13
5.3	Predicted probabilities by farm type, size, and region . . . . .	16

## 1 Indicator literature review

To organize the review, we categorize indicators into broader themes within each of the sustainability dimensions (economic, environmental, and social). In the economic dimension (Table 1), the themes we use are productivity, profitability, resilience, operating costs, other income, and a final category for miscellaneous topics. The environmental dimension (Table 2) includes themes for water use, emissions, pesticide use, land use/biodiversity, intensity [of production], and organic factors. Finally, the social dimension (Table 3) is subdivided between internal indicators (i.e. indicators that measure impacts to the farm owners) and external indicators (that have an effect outside of the farm).

Theme	Indicator	Study
Productivity	Labor productivity	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a> , <a href="#">van der Meulen, Dolman, Jager, and Venema (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Land productivity	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Capital productivity	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Return to labor	<a href="#">Povellato, Bodini, Longhitano, and Scardera (2012)</a>
	Return to land	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
Profitability	Economic viability	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon, Hennessy, and Hynes (2010)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Net farm income	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a>
	Profitability	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Market return	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>
Resilience	Solvency	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Farm diversification	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Farm risk management	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Liquidity	<a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a>
Operating costs	Expenditure for energy	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Expenditure for services to third parties	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Total contracting costs to total variable costs	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Total output value to total fixed and variable costs	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Total paid labor to farm gross margin	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Total rent and interest paid to farm gross margin	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
Other income	Total subsidies to farm gross margin	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>
	Other gainful activities	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
Miscellaneous	Market orientation	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Fixed capital formation	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>

**Table 1:** Review of economic indicators using FADN data from selected studies.  
Source: Author’s compilation based on literature reviews by [Dabkienė \(2016\)](#) and [Kelly et al. \(2018\)](#)

Theme	Indicator	Study
Water use	Percent of UAA under irrigation	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury, Park, Mauchline, Crane, and Mortimer (2011)</a>
	Water units per UAA	<a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
Emissions	GHG emissions per farm	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	GHG emissions per kilogram of output	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Emissions from fuels and electricity	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Energy use	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Energy use efficiency	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a>
	Ammonia emissions	<a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a>
	Methane emissions	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>
Land use	Grassland	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Shannon index	<a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a> , <a href="#">Gerrard, Padel, and Moakes (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a>
	Percentage of farm that is wooded	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Percentage of farm that is rough grazing	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Percentage of farm that is fallow (i.e. set aside)	<a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Percentage of spring crops	<a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
	Meadow and pastures	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Biodiversity	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Land use limitations	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
Chemical use	Nitrogen balance	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Nitrogen use efficiency	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Nitrogen content	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Nitrogen surplus	<a href="#">Van Passel and Meul (2012)</a>
	Crop protection (i.e. pesticides) per UAA	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a>
Intensity	Livestock units per hectare	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Westbury et al. (2011)</a> , <a href="#">Gerrard et al. (2012)</a>
	Total output per UAA	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Energy intensity	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Intensification indicator	<a href="#">Gerrard et al. (2012)</a>
Organic	Organic farming	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Humus balance	<a href="#">Ehrmann (2010)</a>
	Organic phosphorous	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>
	Organic nitrogen	<a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>

**Table 2:** Environmental indicators using FADN data from selected studies. Source: Author’s compilation based on literature reviews by [Dabkiené \(2016\)](#) and [Kelly et al. \(2018\)](#)

Level	Indicator	Study
Internal	Farmer age	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Isolation risk	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Farmer education	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Household vulnerability	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Work-life balance	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2015)</a> , <a href="#">Lynch et al. (2016)</a>
	Demographic viability	<a href="#">Ryan et al. (2016)</a> , <a href="#">Dillon et al. (2010)</a>
	Family labor	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a> , <a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Farmer gender	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Altitude	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Distance from inhabited center	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Networking	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Total farmer hours to total hours worked	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Pluriactivity	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Workload exceeded	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Continuity of the farm	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
External	Labor supply	<a href="#">Povellato et al. (2012)</a>
	Somatic cell count	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a>
	Cow lifetime	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a>
	Grazing hours	<a href="#">van der Meulen et al. (2014)</a>
	Total hired labor to total hours worked	<a href="#">Barnes and Thomson (2014)</a>
	Jobs on farm	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>
	Wage ratio on farm	<a href="#">Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016)</a>

**Table 3:** Social indicators using FADN data from selected studies. Source: Author's compilation based on literature reviews by [Dabkienė \(2016\)](#) and [Kelly et al. \(2018\)](#)

## 2 Item selection considerations and definitions

In the literature, **profitability** is measured in a variety of ways such as income relative to operation income (Ehrmann, 2010) and gross margin per hectare (Ryan et al., 2016). Perhaps more appropriate in the context of sustainability, van der Meulen et al. (2014) calculates profitability as a ratio of farm net income to unpaid annual work units (AWU). The inclusion of unpaid (family) labor in the equation can (a) ensure adequate accounting for farmer(s) income sufficiency (Gómez-Limón, Arriaza, & Guerrero-Baena, 2020), (b) control for variations in farm size (van der Meulen et al., 2014), and (c) reflect the potential for contributing to social sustainability attributes such as inter-generational succession of the farm (see, e.g. Glaben, Tietje, & Weiss, 2005) and the ability for farmers to contribute to the local economy. This method, however, is unsuitable for corporate or cooperative farms that do not have unpaid labor. Since all labor costs are already compensated in these cases, the proposed solution to measure family and corporate farms equally is to subtract from family farms' income an allowance for unpaid (family) labor. We compute this allowance as family labor input quantity times the median wage  $\tilde{w}$  for the federal state the farm is located in (denoted by subscript  $fs$ )  $FNI$  as:

$$i_{profit} = FNI - \tilde{w}_{fs}, \quad (1)$$

where  $i_{profit}$  is the farm's profit and  $FNI$  is calculated as total output plus the balance of current subsidies and taxes, less depreciation, intermediate costs (specific costs and farm overhead costs), and total external factors (wages, rent, and interest paid) (European Commission, 2000). In this calculation, the variable is a absolute sum for the whole farm, which is then converted to a relative calculation using AWU as a denominator when converted to an ordinal item.

**Solvency** is calculated using the same equation as Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016), the indicator uses a common formulation as the farms' total debts to total assets:

$$i_{solvency} = \frac{D_T}{A_T}, \quad (2)$$

where  $D_T$  is the combined total  $T$  of short-, medium-, and long-term loans, and  $A_T$  refers to the total of both long-term fixed assets (land, buildings, machinery, and breeding livestock) and short-term current assets (non-breeding livestock, the stock of agricultural products, and other circulating capital) (European Commission, 2000).

**Wage ratio**  $WR$  is measured as the ratio of the average hourly wage paid on the farm (total wages paid to total paid labor hours) to the median wage of the region. In contrast to Vitunskiene and Dabkiene (2016) who calculates this indicator as the ratio of average annual wages for farm

workers to average wages in the whole country, the calculation for this index is the ratio of average wages on the farm to the median income in each NUTS3 region to capture regional differences in purchasing power and the cost of living:

$$WR = \frac{\bar{w}_h}{\bar{w}_h^{n3}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\bar{w}_h$  is the mean hourly  $h$  wage on the farm and  $\bar{w}_h^{n3}$  is the mean hourly wage in the NUTS3  $n3$  region the farm is located in.

Whereas the item for **economic diversity**  $ED$  is calculated as a dummy variable used in SDG 2.4.1 to signal if a single agricultural product accounts for more than 66% of total output on the farm, we instead calculate the indicator as a continuous value:

$$i_{ED} = \max \left( \frac{\phi_n}{O_T} \right), \quad (4)$$

where the value for economic diversity is the maximum  $\max$  contribution of a single  $n$ th product  $\phi$  to the farm's total output  $O_T$ , with  $n$  representing the 19 products specified in FADN such as grains, milk, wine, etc.

The **provision of employment** indicator  $PE$  is calculated as the ratio of total expenditure on wages  $w_T$  and contracted work  $c$  to total output  $O_T$  to control for farm size and reflect the intensity to which farms are providing income opportunities for agricultural workers and businesses in the region:

$$PE = \frac{w_T + c}{O_T}, \quad (5)$$

with contracted work including the expenditures for both contracted services and hired machinery (European Commission, 2000).

The **expenditure on pesticides**  $EP$  is measured as the total pesticide expenditure  $EP_t$  (in €) over the farm's land area in UAA  $L_{UAA}$ :

$$EP_{UAA} = \frac{EP_T}{UAA_{ha,T}}. \quad (6)$$

The item for **GHG emissions** measures the total emissions produced by the farm and includes both indirect emissions (e.g. nitrogen from fertilizers) and direct emissions (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> from fuel consumption). The framework of emission sources used for estimating total emissions developed by Coderoni and Esposti (2018) and Coderoni et al. (2013) is modified to suit German agriculture. For example, variables for CH<sub>4</sub> from rice cultivation and biological N fixation are not included in the German FADN data set and are thus omitted from the calculation. All calculations are performed

in accordance to [IPCC \(2006\)](#) tier-1 and tier-2 estimates and summed to produce a total level of emissions for the farm:

$$GHG_{CO_2-eq} = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^{11} GHG_s \times GWP_v}{VA_G}, \quad (7)$$

where the level of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent greenhouse gas emissions  $GHG_{CO_2-eq}$  on the farm is the sum over 11 sources  $s$  of greenhouse gases converted to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents using their global warming potential values  $GWP_v$  (see [Eurostat, 2017](#)), as shown in Table 4. To reflect the farm's CO<sub>2</sub>-eq intensity, total emissions are divided by the farm's gross value added  $VA_G$  (see [Umweltbundesamt, 2007](#)), which is the total monetary value received by the producer including subsidies, less taxes and intermediate consumption ([Eurostat, 2022](#)).

We define **multi-factor productivity**  $MFP$  as the quotient of total value added  $VA$  over the total cost of using the three factors land, labor, and capital, denoted by  $X_A$ ,  $X_L$ , and  $X_C$ :

$$MFP = \frac{VA}{X_A + X_L + X_C}, \quad (8)$$

where  $VA$  is computed as total output  $O$  plus the balance of subsidies and taxes  $S$  minus total expenditure on intermediate inputs  $X_{int}$  (i.e. specific costs and farming overheads):

$$VA = O + S - I_{int}. \quad (9)$$

Factor input costs are estimated on an annual basis (i.e. one full agricultural season) (see [FAO, 2018](#), p. 57) to reflect the opportunity costs of using the respective factor for production. The cost of land input  $X_A$  includes land rental expenditure  $X_A r$  for rented land and the opportunity costs for owned land  $X_A o$ . The latter are estimated as the quantity of owned land in hectares  $UAA_o$  (in ha) times the mean land rental price  $\bar{r}$  (in Euro/ha) paid by all farms of the respective type (EU TF14 classification) in the respective region:

$$X_A = X_A r + UAA_o \times \bar{r}. \quad (10)$$

Similarly, labor input  $X_L$  is an aggregation of the farm's total wage expenditure for paid labor  $X_L p$  plus opportunity costs of unpaid labor estimated as the total quantity of unpaid labor in annual work units  $AWU_u$  times an expected return to labor based on the average wage per  $AWU$  of paid labor  $\bar{w}_p$  on farms in the respective region:

$$X_L = X_L p + AWU_u \times \bar{w}_p. \quad (11)$$



Finally, the value for capital input  $X_C$  is calculated as the total interest paid by the farm  $X_{Cb}$  plus the net worth of the farm capital  $C_o$  (without land values) multiplied by an assumed interest rate  $\iota_b$  of 4%:

$$X_C = X_{Cb} + C_o \times \iota_b. \quad (12)$$

In contrast to other studies that use the Shannon Index (e.g. [Gerrard et al., 2012](#); [Westbury et al., 2011](#)) measuring the number of and the evenness of distribution among different types of land use, **land ecosystem quality**  $LEQ$  assigns ecological quality scores to agricultural land based on the type and intensity of land use on the farm. The scale ranges from zero (for worst ecological quality) to one (best). The total ecosystem quality value  $LEQ_T$  is calculated as:

$$LEQ = \frac{\sum_{ip}(L_{ip} \times EQ_{it})}{L_T}, \quad (13)$$

where  $L_{ip}$  is the total land in land use type  $ip$  (e.g. cereals, vineyards, etc. or woods, agricultural fallows, set aside), which is weighted by the ecological quality score  $EQ$  associated with that land use type  $ip$  (see Table 5). The sum of products is then divided by the total land area of the farm:  $L_T$ . All land values are reported in hectares and the  $EQ_{it}$  values shown in Table 5 are derived from [Reidsma, Tekelenburg, Van den Berg, and Alkemade \(2006\)](#).

GHG type	$GWP_v$	GHG emission source ( $GHG_s$ )
CH <sub>4</sub>	25	Manure management
		Enteric fermentation
N <sub>2</sub> O	298	Manure management
		Synthetic fertilizers
		Crop residue
		Atmospheric deposition
CO <sub>2</sub>	1	Leeching and run-off
		Energy
		Forest land
		Cropland
		Grassland

**Table 4:** GHG emission sources. The variable  $GWP_v$  is the multiplier to convert the GHG type to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent units for equation 7. Source: Adapted from [Coderoni et al. \(2013\)](#)

$EQ_{lt}$	Description of land in production $L_{ip}$	O	Ir	G	LU	In
0.05	Irrigated		X			
	Highly intensive					>250
0.10	Intensive					80-250
0.15	Highly intensive organic	X	X			>250
	Intensive arable grazing livestock			<66%	>80	
	Intensive organic	X				80-250
0.20	Intensive pasture			>66%	<2	<250
	Highly intensive pasture			>66%	>2 OR	>250
0.25	Extensive					<80
0.325	Extensive arable grazing livestock			<66%	<1	<80
0.35	Extensive organic	X				<80
0.4	Extensive pasture			>66%	<1	<80
1	Natural grassland			>66%	<0.3	
	No production					

O = Denotes if the farm is organic, partially organic, or transitioning to organic

Ir = Denotes if the farm has installed irrigation

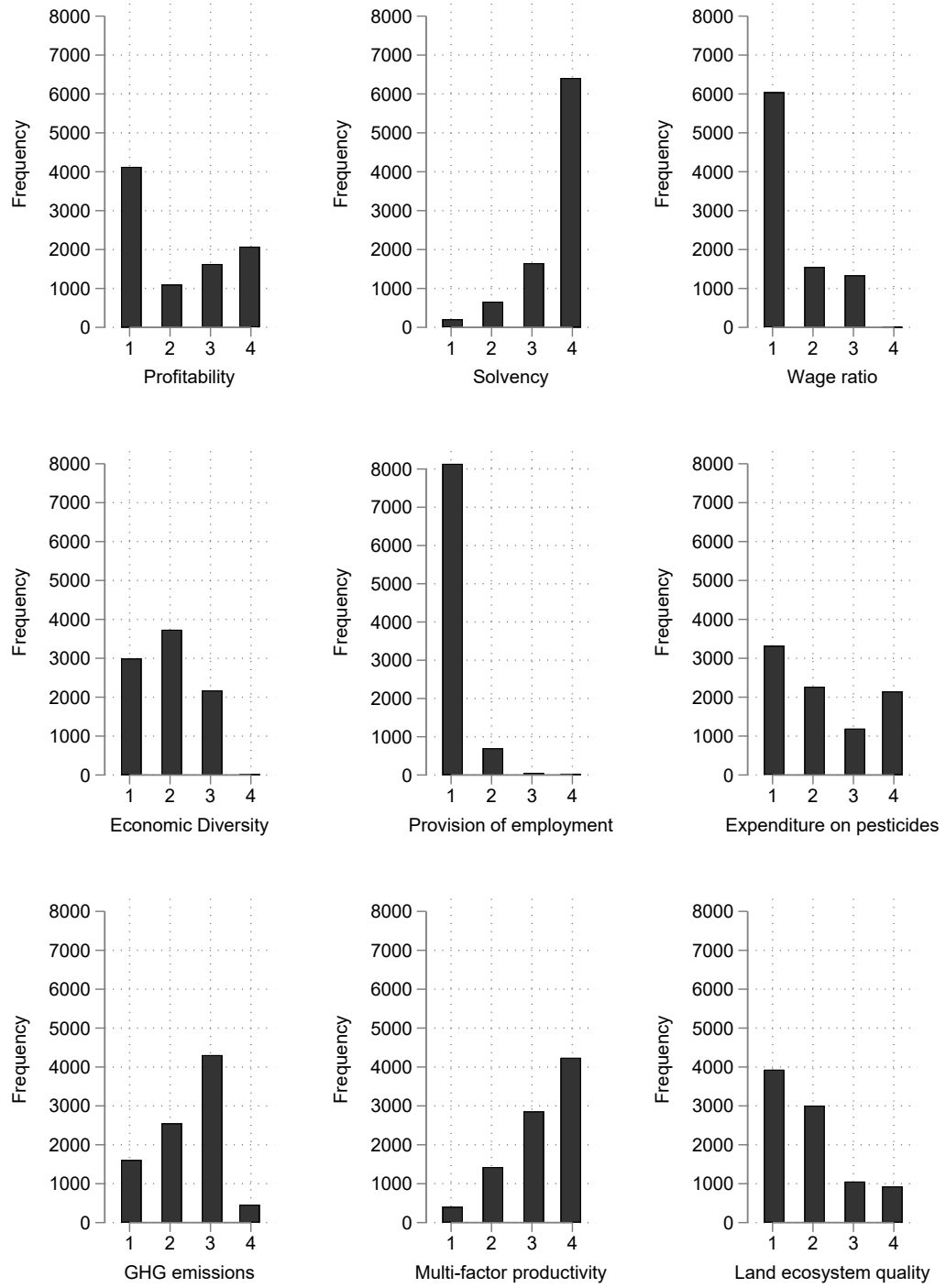
G = Percentage of land for forage crops (% of total used land)

LU = Number of livestock units per hectare of used land

In = Value of direct inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, and feedstuffs for grazing) per hectare of used land

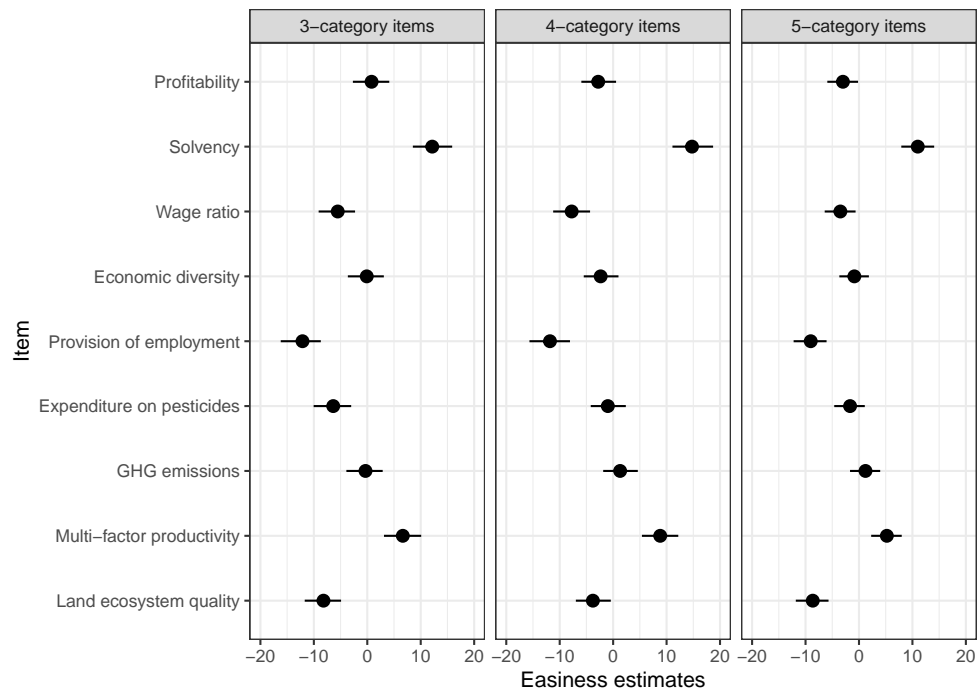
**Table 5:** Percentage values of land ecosystem quality. Source: [Reidsma et al. \(2006\)](#)

### 3 Item category distributions

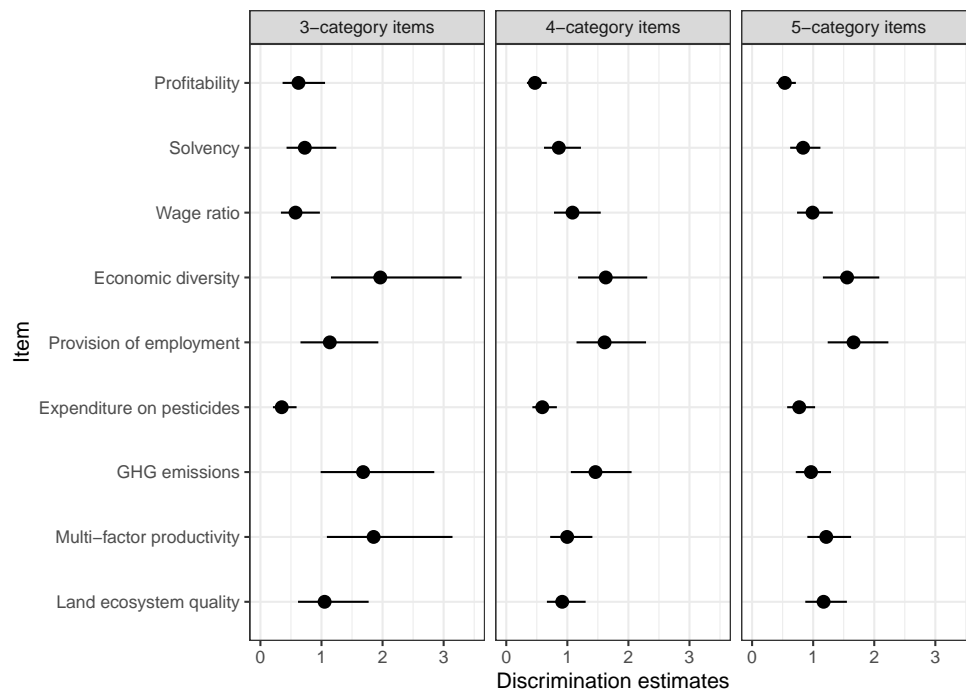


**Fig. 1** Frequencies for each category of the nine sustainability items

## 4 Sensitivity analyses using 3- and 5-category items



**Fig. 2** Easiness parameters of the 3-, 4-, and 5-category models



**Fig. 3** Discrimination parameters of the 3-, 4-, and 5-category models

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Model comparison

In this section, we compare a restricted IRT model without a discrimination parameter and an unrestricted IRT model with a discrimination parameter to determine which model has a better fit. We use approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO-CV) to measure the predictive accuracy for the purpose of model comparison Vehtari:etal:2017. LOO-CV works by leaving out one data point from the training set, fitting the model to the remaining data points, and then scoring the model on the left-out data point. This process is then repeated for each data point in the training set.

LOO-CV helps us identify potential issues with overfitting or underfitting our data while also providing an objective measure for choosing between models of different complexities. This measure is the expected log pointwise predictive density (ELPD), which is an estimate of the out-of-sample predictive accuracy for each model. The ELPD can be used to assess how well a probabilistic model can explain an observed set of data points. The model with the highest ELPD best explains our observations while minimizing overfitting or underfitting issues.

Table 6 presents the results of a comparison between the two models, one with and one without the discrimination parameter. The ELPD values for both models are shown along with their respective standard errors. Furthermore, the difference in ELPDs and its corresponding standard error is also reported. From these findings, we can conclude that the model including the discrimination parameter fits the data substantially better than that without the discrimination parameter; this is indicated by the substantially larger ELPD of the unrestricted model. Therefore, due to its superior performance on predictive accuracy, we proceed with the model that includes the discrimination parameter.

	$\Delta$ ELPD	s.e.( $\Delta$ ELPD)	ELPD	s.e.(ELPD)
Model with discrimination	0.0	0.0	-83991.7	192.8
Model without discrimination	-3148.7	77.1	-87140.4	188.8

ELPD is the expected log pointwise predictive density.

$\Delta$  ELPD is the difference in ELPDs.

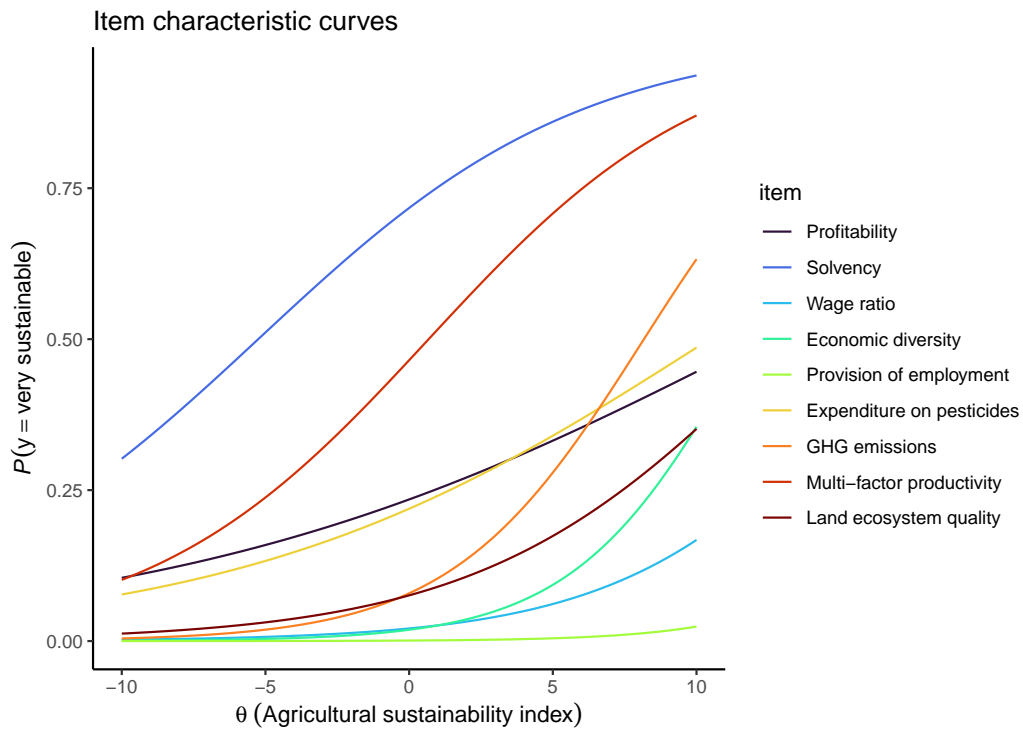
s.e. denotes the standard error.

**Table 6:** Model comparison using LOO-CV

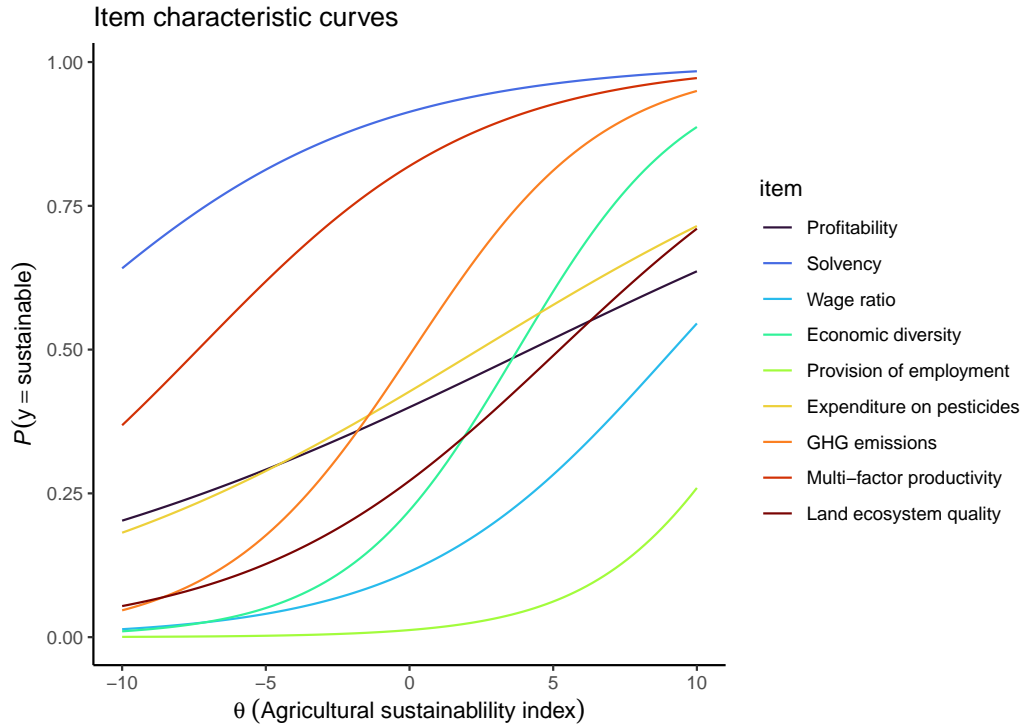
### 5.2 Item characteristic curves

Item characteristic curves (ICCs) are used to describe the relationship between the probability of responding in a *particular category* (or higher) relative to the latent sustainability of the farm,  $\theta$ . We present ICC plots for the categories of “very sustainable”, “sustainable”, and “unsustainable”.

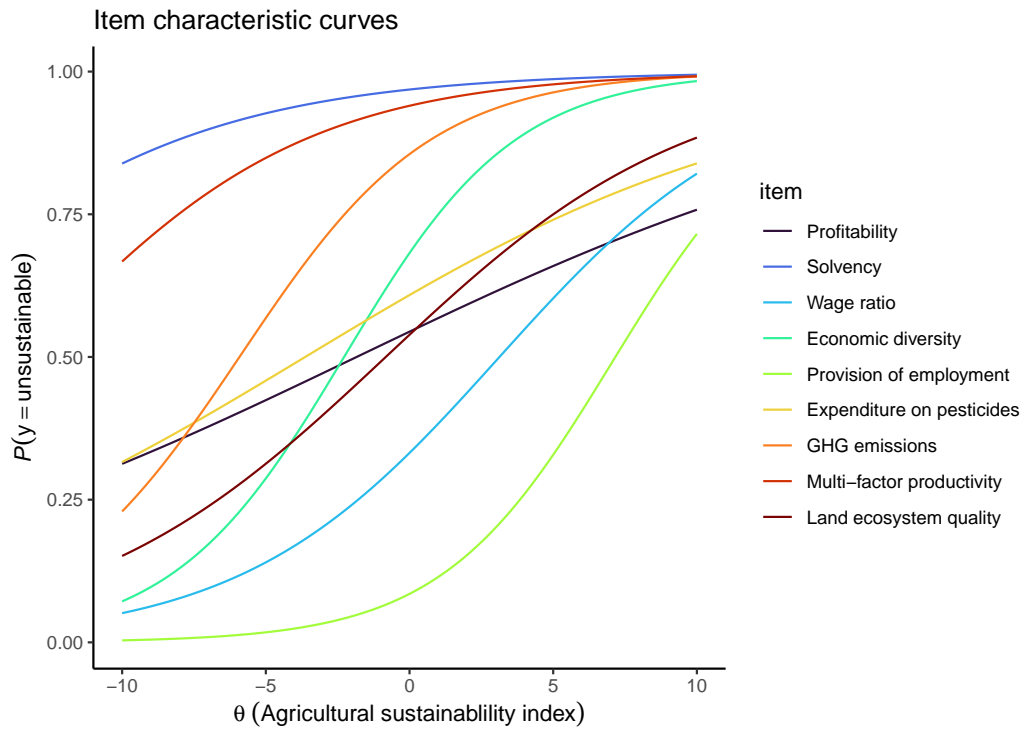
To interpret the ICC plots, we are interested in the slope of each curve as well as its location on the x-axis. The maximum of the curve's slope corresponds with the discrimination of the item, where a steeper slope corresponds to higher discrimination since a relatively small change in  $\theta$  will cause a relatively large change in the predicted probability of a particular item category. The location of the curve corresponds to the item easiness for the category, where a curve shifted to the left side of the plot corresponds to an easier item category. The location of the ICCs on the x-axis not only tells us the easiness of each item, it also provides information on the variability of the easiness of the items. For example, if all ICCs were clustered to the left side of the x-axis, the model would be comprised solely of easy items and would not provide much information on farms with a high  $\theta$ .



**Fig. 4** Item characteristic curves for the “very sustainable” category in all nine sustainability items.



**Fig. 5** Item characteristic curves for the “sustainable” category in all nine sustainability items.



**Fig. 6** Item characteristic curves for the “unsustainable” category in all nine sustainability items.

### 5.3 Predicted probabilities by farm type, size, and region

Farm type	Frequency	P(Y = very unsustainable)	P(Y = unsustainable)	P(Y = sustainable)	P(Y = very sustainable)
Mixed	1621	0.2373 (0.0661)	0.2725 (0.0545)	0.3335 (0.0421)	0.1568 (0.0430)
Granivores	884	0.3523 (0.0654)	0.2937 (0.0550)	0.2554 (0.0425)	0.0986 (0.0444)
Other grazing livestock	810	0.3180 (0.0640)	0.2922 (0.0551)	0.2776 (0.0439)	0.1122 (0.0476)
Milk	2341	0.3396 (0.0649)	0.2935 (0.0552)	0.2635 (0.0429)	0.1034 (0.0456)
Other permanent crops	190	0.2437 (0.0603)	0.2748 (0.0507)	0.3290 (0.0507)	0.1525 (0.0555)
Wine	498	0.3682 (0.0661)	0.2932 (0.0545)	0.2455 (0.0421)	0.0931 (0.0430)
Horticulture	450	0.3014 (0.0634)	0.2900 (0.0548)	0.2888 (0.0452)	0.1198 (0.0493)
Fieldcrops	2134	0.2231 (0.0579)	0.2661 (0.0483)	0.3434 (0.0530)	0.1673 (0.0576)

**Table 7:** Posterior means of the predicted probabilities for each sustainability category with standard errors in parentheses, by farm type.



Farm economic size class	Frequency	P(Y = very unsustainable)	P(Y = unsustainable)	P(Y = sustainable)	P(Y = very sustainable)
25,000-50,000	820	0.2979 (0.0711)	0.3003 (0.0536)	0.2879 (0.0498)	0.1140 (0.0510)
50,000-100,000	1631	0.3073 (0.0718)	0.3015 (0.0536)	0.2815 (0.0495)	0.1097 (0.0498)
100,000-250,000	3133	0.2884 (0.0700)	0.2987 (0.0534)	0.2945 (0.0501)	0.1183 (0.0520)
250,000-500,000	2040	0.2732 (0.0685)	0.2955 (0.0531)	0.3053 (0.0509)	0.1261 (0.0538)
500,000-750,000	579	0.2491 (0.0661)	0.2885 (0.0523)	0.3226 (0.0524)	0.1399 (0.0570)
750,000-1,000,000	197	0.2105 (0.0616)	0.2717 (0.0503)	0.3504 (0.0555)	0.1674 (0.0627)
1,000,000-1,500,000	149	0.1875 (0.0583)	0.2581 (0.0487)	0.3664 (0.0579)	0.1880 (0.0661)
1,500,000-3,000,000	230	0.1434 (0.0510)	0.2230 (0.0443)	0.3922 (0.0628)	0.2415 (0.0733)
>3,000,000	149	0.1272 (0.0477)	0.2067 (0.0427)	0.3981 (0.0644)	0.2680 (0.0760)

**Table 8:** Posterior means of the predicted probabilities for each sustainability category with standard errors in parentheses, by farm size.

Region	Frequency	Est	Error	Q10	Q90
Stuttgart	550	0.1207	0.0508	0.0582	0.1879
Karlsruhe	174	0.1278	0.0521	0.0625	0.1976
Freiburg	97	0.1263	0.0523	0.0613	0.1973
Tübingen	379	0.1246	0.0515	0.0615	0.1934
Oberbayern	285	0.1224	0.0512	0.0589	0.1909
Niederbayern	290	0.1139	0.0492	0.0536	0.1798
Oberpfalz	192	0.1274	0.0521	0.0618	0.1967
Oberfranken	181	0.1167	0.0498	0.0555	0.1842
Mittelfranken	252	0.1268	0.052	0.0616	0.1958
Unterfranken	231	0.134	0.0535	0.0668	0.206
Schwaben	278	0.1085	0.0478	0.0496	0.1718
Brandenburg	286	0.2043	0.0642	0.1198	0.2874
Hamburg	99	0.0883	0.0431	0.0379	0.1465
Darmstadt	181	0.1273	0.0522	0.0626	0.1965
Gießen	113	0.1177	0.0502	0.0558	0.1852
Kassel	274	0.1095	0.0482	0.0507	0.1748
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	272	0.1862	0.0621	0.1062	0.2662
Braunschweig	126	0.1521	0.0569	0.0799	0.2277
Hannover	214	0.1313	0.053	0.0653	0.2025
Lüneburg	474	0.1307	0.0528	0.0646	0.2013
Weser-Ems	519	0.1017	0.0463	0.0458	0.163
Düsseldorf	204	0.1183	0.0503	0.0563	0.1859
Köln	131	0.1223	0.0513	0.0596	0.1904
Münster	344	0.0955	0.0447	0.0421	0.1554
Detmold	225	0.1199	0.0506	0.0574	0.1878
Arnsberg	123	0.1163	0.0497	0.0543	0.1826
Koblenz	212	0.1158	0.0497	0.0538	0.1825
Trier	227	0.1004	0.046	0.0447	0.1624
Rhein Hessen-Pfalz	463	0.1151	0.0494	0.0548	0.1813
Saarland	90	0.118	0.0506	0.0564	0.1849
Dresden	128	0.1696	0.0597	0.0913	0.2474
Chemnitz	123	0.1639	0.0588	0.0882	0.2431
Leipzig	67	0.197	0.0638	0.1125	0.2804
Sachsen-Anhalt	270	0.1942	0.0631	0.1114	0.2757
Schleswig-Holstein	565	0.1236	0.0513	0.0599	0.1923
Thüringen	279	0.1984	0.0635	0.1155	0.2792

**Table 9:** Regional averages of the predicted probability for a random farm achieving the "very sustainable" category, with standard errors and scores for top and bottom 10% of the sample.

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