

# MISALLOCATION AND PRODUCT CHOICE

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Midwest Macro

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how does heterogeneous product choice affect  
aggregate misallocation cost?

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- but mechanisms apply equally to other sectors

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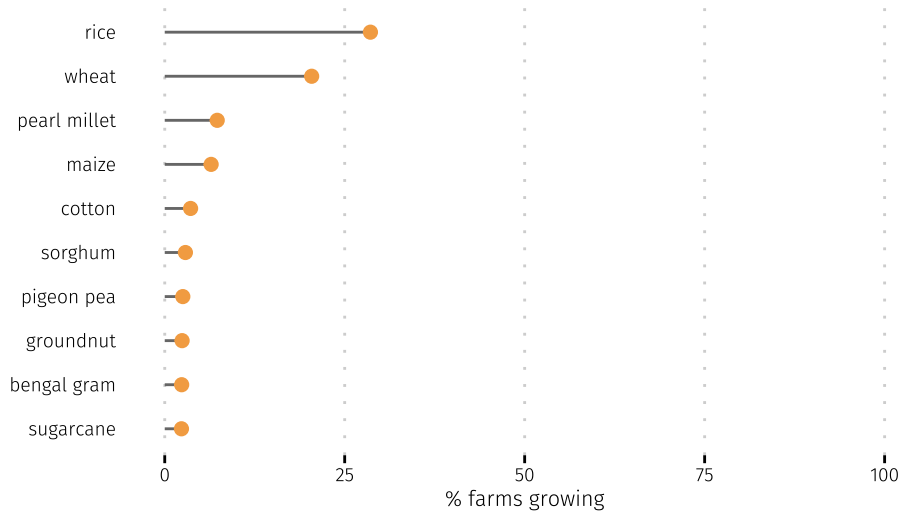
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## MULTI-PRODUCT FARMS IN INDIA

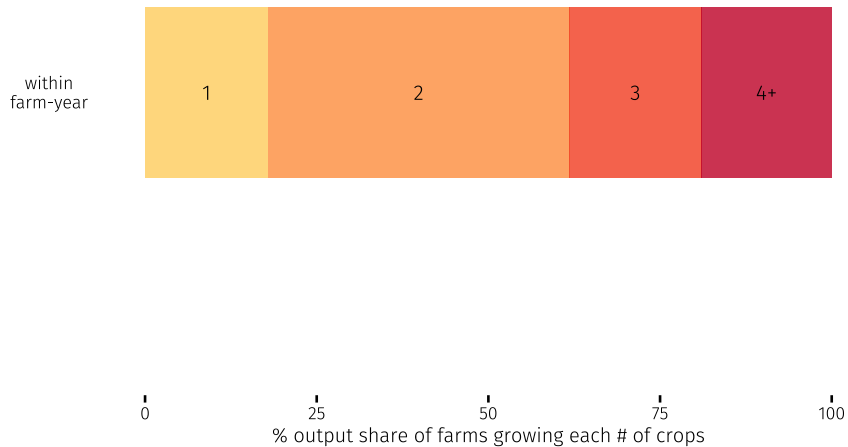
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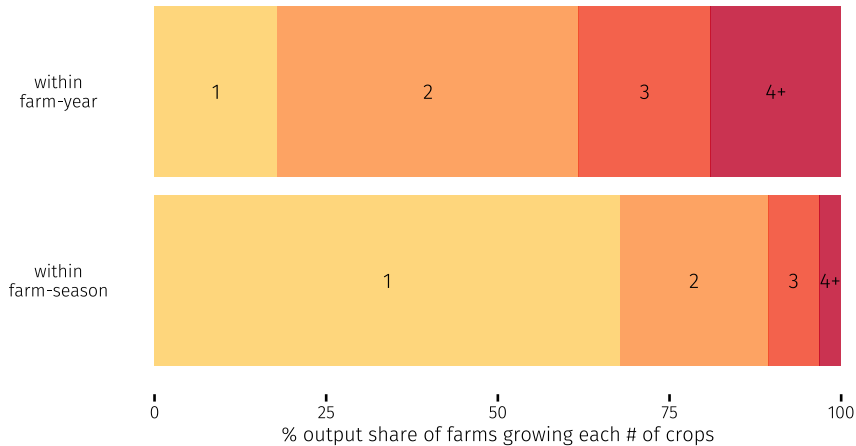
## CROP CHOICE IS HETEROGENEOUS



## MANY FARMS GROW MULTIPLE CROPS, MAINLY ACROSS SEASONS



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- 3 agricultural seasons: Kharif (monsoon), Rabi (winter/spring), Zaid (summer/dry)

# PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS

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- production function:

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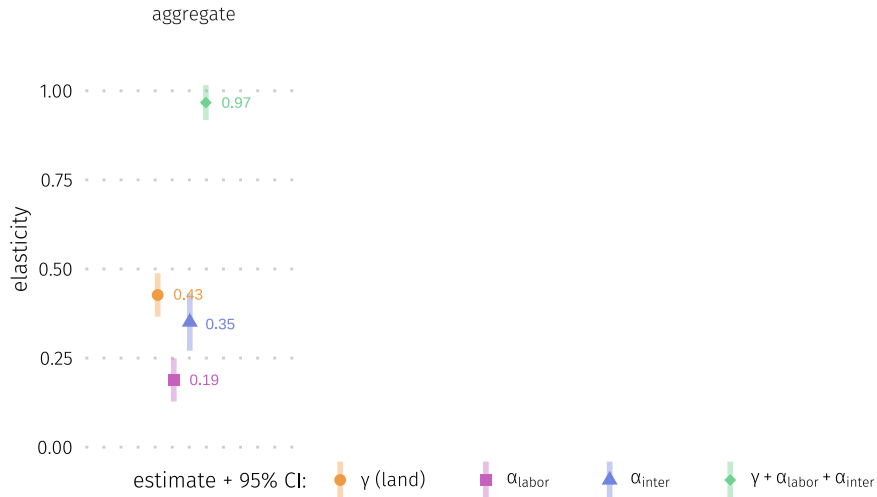
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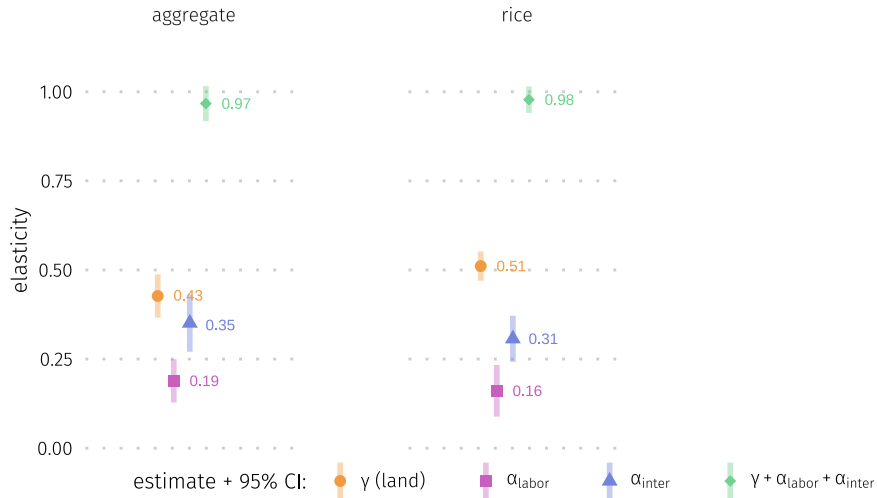


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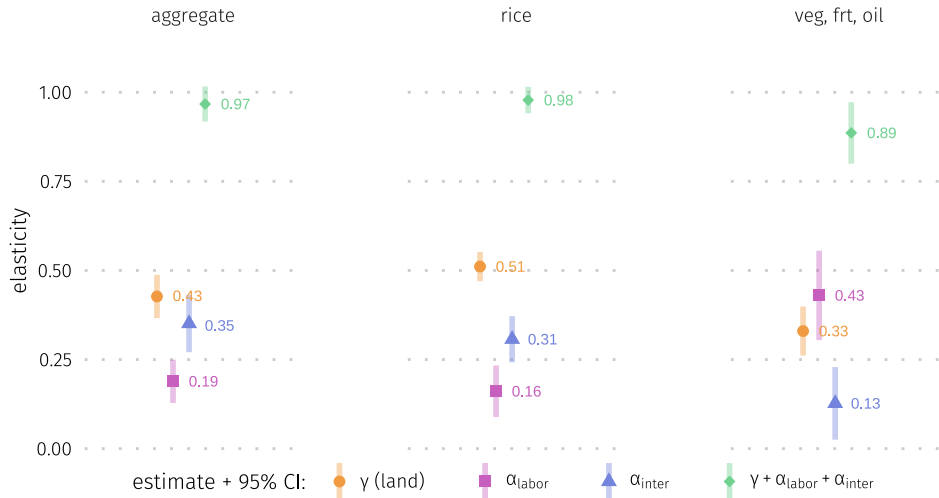
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  - *Chen, Restuccia, Santaella-Llopis (2022)*: misallocation in **agriculture**

# MODEL OBJECTIVES

- **OBJECTIVES:**
  - model multi-product farm decisions in presence of distortions
  - provide a mapping from observable outcomes to unobserved distortions
  - quantify the aggregate output cost of misallocation induced by distortions
- build on models of **single-product** firm-level misallocation
  - *Hsieh, Klenow (2009)*: misallocation in **manufacturing**
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- add **multi-product** firms choosing among **heterogeneous** crops

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \underbrace{p \cdot z_f \cdot l_f^\gamma \prod_g (x_{f,g}^{\alpha_g})}_{\text{revenue}} - \underbrace{\sum_{g=1}^G r_g x_{f,g}}_{\text{flex. input costs}} \\
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- profit-maximizing farm  $f$ : sells output  $py_f$ , pays for inputs

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  - quantity  $x_{f,g}$  rented at  $r_g$
- land input  $l$  is in fixed supply  $L_f$ 
  - almost no land market in India



## FARM: DISTORTIONS

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 \max \quad & \underbrace{p \cdot z_f \cdot l_f^\gamma \cdot \prod_g \left( x_{f,g}^{\alpha_g} \right)}_{\text{revenue}} - \underbrace{\sum_{g=1}^G r_g \tau_{f,g} x_{f,g}}_{\text{flex. input costs}} \\
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- farm-input distortions  $\tau_{f,g}$  capture misallocative frictions
  - represented with tax ( $\tau_{f,g} > 1$ ) or subsidy ( $\tau_{f,g} < 1$ ) idiosyncratic to farm  $f$ , input  $g$

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- $L_f$  fixed  $\rightarrow$  land is also distorted unless distributed to equalize  $\lambda_f$ 
  - e.g. lacking property rights, communal land distribution
- distortions extracted from observed input, output choices
  - rationalize all heterogeneity in data ► *details*

## FARM: MULTIPLE PRODUCTS

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N p_i z_{f,i} l_{f,i}^{\gamma_i} \Pi_g(x_{f,g,i}^{\alpha_{g,i}})}_{\text{revenue}} - \underbrace{\sum_{g=1}^G r_g \tau_{f,g} \sum_{i=1}^N \tau_{f,g,i} x_{f,g,i}}_{\text{flex. input costs}} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^N l_{f,i} \tau_{f,l,i} = L_f \quad (\lambda_f)
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- heterogeneous crops  $i = 1 \dots N$

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- $l$  in fixed supply  $L_f \rightarrow$  interdependent crop production
  - params of crop  $i$  change  $\rightarrow \lambda_f$  changes  $\rightarrow$  inputs and outputs of crops  $-i$  change
  - *Just, Zilberman, and Hochman (1983), Shumway, Pope, Nash (1984)*
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  - justifies *Gollin, Udry (2021)* prod. fn. identification
- farm-input-crop distortions  $\tau_{f,g,i}, \tau_{f,l,i}$ 
  - $\rightarrow$  fit observed input ratio heterogeneity across crops within a farm



## FARM: FIXED COST

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N p_i Z_{f,i} l_{f,i}^{\gamma_i} \Pi_g (x_{f,g,i}^{\alpha_{g,i}})}_{\text{revenue}} - \underbrace{\sum_{g=1}^G r_g \tau_{f,g} \sum_{i=1}^N \tau_{f,g,i} x_{f,g,i}}_{\text{flex. input costs}} - \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \omega \cdot 1[y_{f,i} > 0]}_{\text{fixed cost per crop}} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^N l_{f,i} \tau_{f,l,i} = L_f \quad (\lambda_f)
 \end{aligned}$$

- fixed cost  $\omega$  per produced crop
  - farms choose **crop set** in addition to **crop mix**
    - farms don't all produce everything
  - fit observed heterogeneity in crop sets

## FARM: CONCAVITY

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \left( p_i Z_{f,i} l_{f,i}^{\gamma_i} \Pi_g \left( X_{f,g,i}^{\alpha_{g,i}} \right) \right)^{\eta}}_{\text{revenue}} - \underbrace{\sum_{g=1}^G r_g \tau_{f,g} \sum_{i=1}^N \tau_{f,g,i} X_{f,g,i}}_{\text{flex. input costs}} - \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \omega \cdot 1[y_{f,i} > 0]}_{\text{fixed cost per crop}} \\
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► *solution* ► *GE*

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- compare **reallocation gain** between **multi-product** model and **1-product** model
  - *details*

## EXERCISES

BENCHMARK EXERCISE

reallocation gain

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► *sensitivity to concavity* ► *role of states, seasons*

# MECHANISMS

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## MECHANISMS CONTRIBUTING TO 1-PRODUCT MODEL ERROR

- **PRODUCT HETEROGENEITY AS FRICTIONS** ► *details*

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  - **overstates** misallocation
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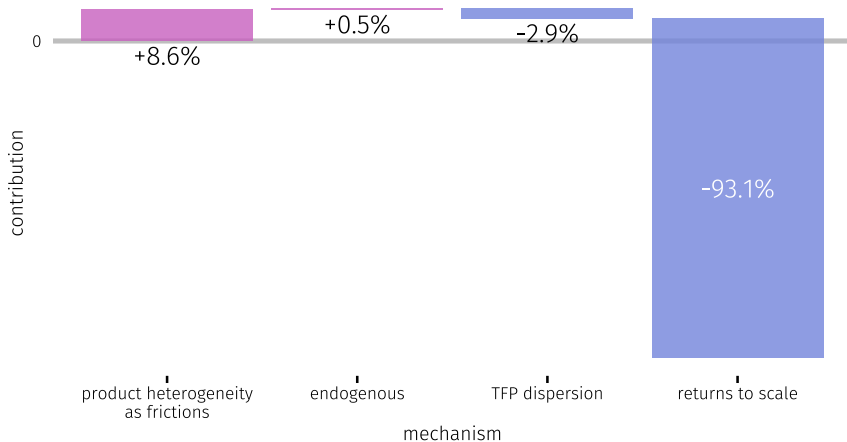
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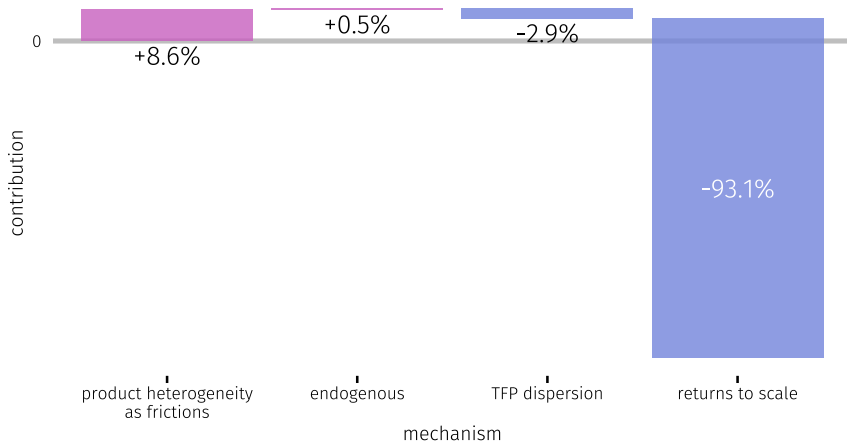
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- assess total drag of misallocation → firms' ability to expand matters most  
→ single-product model **understates** misallocation

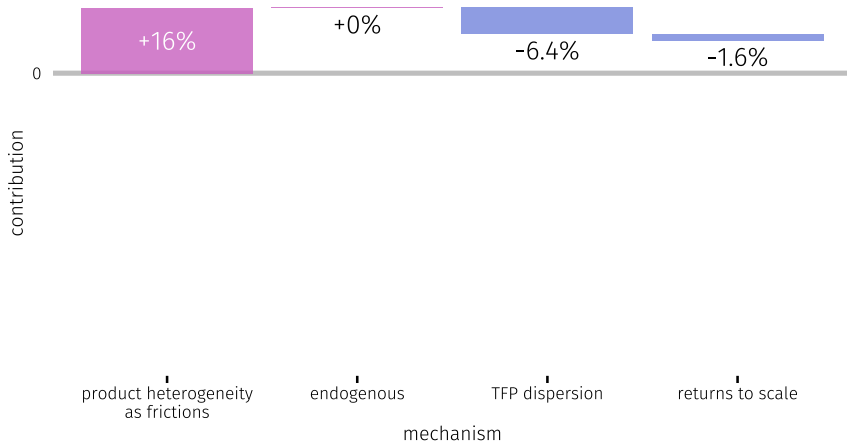


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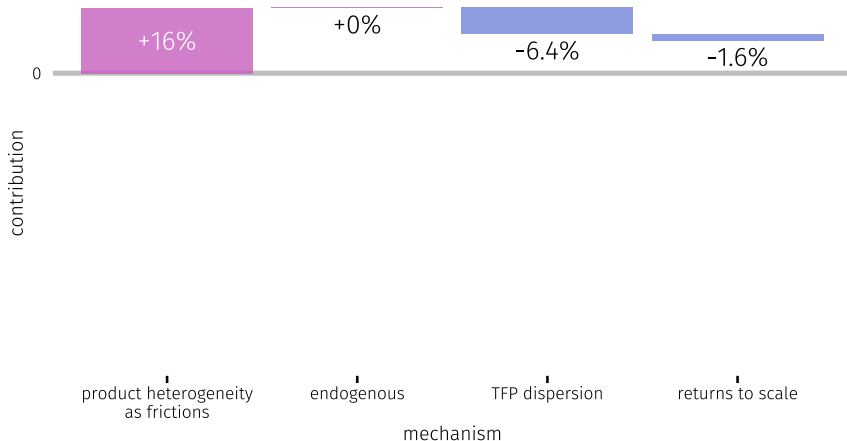
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- but mechanism applies to **non-agricultural** settings too
  - relevant for *more* developed countries too

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## FARM SOLUTION EXPRESSIONS

$$\sum_{i \in I_f} \left( \lambda_f^{\frac{\eta \sum_g \alpha_{g,i} - 1}{1 - \eta \sum_g \alpha_{g,i} - \eta \gamma_i}} \right) \left( (p_i Z_{f,i})^\eta \eta \left( \frac{\gamma_i}{\tau_{f,l,i}} \right)^{1 - \eta \sum_g \alpha_{g,i}} \Pi_g \left( \frac{\alpha_{g,i}}{r_g \tau_{f,g} \tau_{f,g,i}} \right)^{\eta \alpha_{g,i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1 - \eta \sum_g \alpha_{g,i} - \eta \gamma_i}} \tau_{f,l,i} = L_f$$

$$x_{f,g,i} = \frac{\alpha_{g,i}}{r_g \tau_{f,g} \tau_{f,g,i}} \left( \frac{\gamma_i}{\lambda_f \tau_{f,l,i}} \right)^{\frac{\eta \gamma_i}{1 - \eta \sum_g \alpha_{g,i} - \eta \gamma_i}} \left( (p_i Z_{f,i})^\eta \eta \Pi_h \left( \frac{\alpha_{h,i}}{r_h \tau_{f,h} \tau_{f,h,i}} \right)^{\eta \alpha_{h,i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1 - \eta \sum_h \alpha_{h,i} - \eta \gamma_i}}$$

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# LIST OF CROPS

## Crop list

Rice	Wheat	Other Cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds, Fruits and Vegetables		
		Barley	Black gram	<b>Oilseeds</b>	<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>Fruits /Condiments</b>
		Maize	Green peas	Sesame	Ash gourd	Mango
		Sorghum	Pigeon peas	Groundnut	Beet root	Papaya
		Pearl millet	Horse gram	Castor	Bitter gourd	Grapes
		Finger millet	Cowpea	Sunflower	Bottle gourd	Plum
		Others	Kidney bean	Niger	Eggplant	Cardamom
			Lentil	Soybean	Board bean	Chilli
			Chickpeas	Safflower	Cabbage	Cumin
			Others	Rapseed	Cauliflower	Dill seed
				Linseed	Carrot	Indian mustard
				Others	Potato	Other
					Cucumber	
					Peas	

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- **2SLS first stage:**

$$M_{j,i,t} = Z_{k \neq j,i,t} + \mu_{j,i,t}$$

- $M$  = land, labor, intermediates
- $Z_{k \neq j,i,t}$ : instruments **from other plots within farm**
  - > agricultural shocks interacted with plot characteristics
  - > household, community characteristics & shocks interacted with plot characteristics



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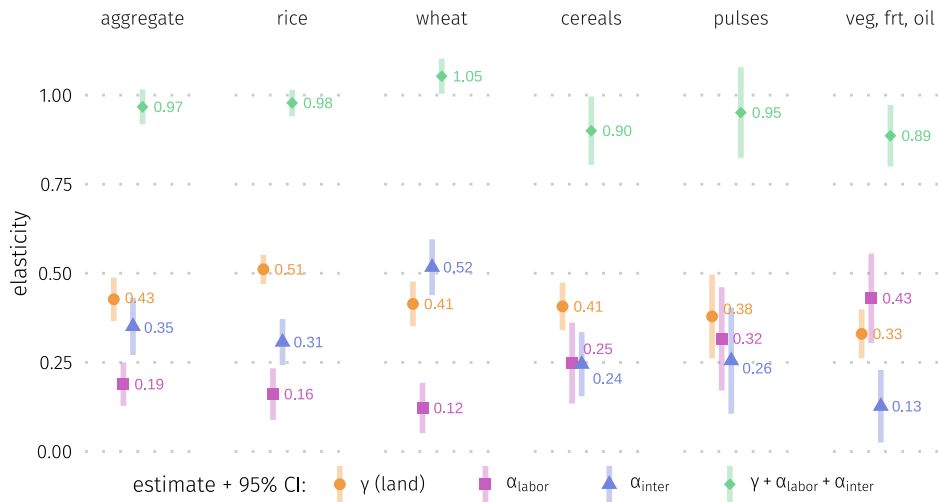
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# PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS: ALL CROPS

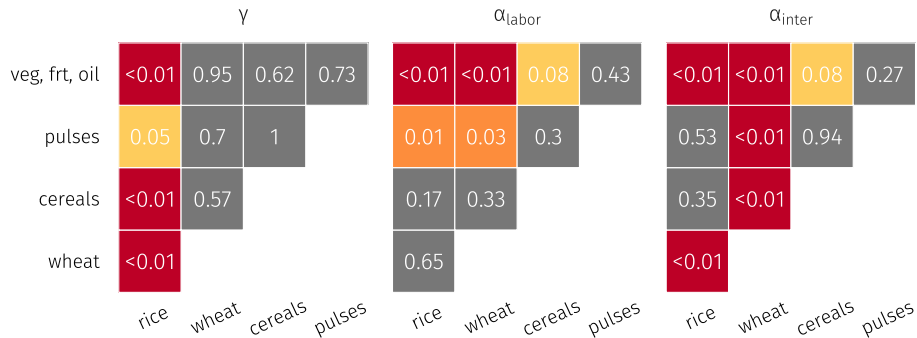


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## PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS: TABLE

	Aggregate	Rice	Wheat	Other Cereals	Pulses	Veg, Frt, Oil
Land	0.427 (0.031)	0.511 (0.021)	0.414 (0.032)	0.407 (0.034)	0.379 (0.060)	0.330 (0.035)
Labor	0.189 (0.031)	0.161 (0.037)	0.122 (0.036)	0.248 (0.058)	0.316 (0.074)	0.430 (0.064)
Intermediates	0.351 (0.041)	0.307 (0.033)	0.517 (0.040)	0.245 (0.046)	0.255 (0.076)	0.127 (0.052)
Observations	14,705	4,807	3,566	2,779	1,128	2,338
$R^2$	0.624	0.742	0.713	0.590	0.417	0.572
Village FEs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Season FEs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>First Stage: F statistics</b>						
Land	77.0	62.0	40.3	37.8	15.7	19.3
Labor	49.3	34.7	17.7	25.2	12.9	14.8
Intermediates	35.8	31.7	21.5	19.9	8.9	11.8
<b>K-Paap Wald F statistic</b>	51.1	40.4	16.0	30.8	12.4	12.7

## PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS: PAIRWISE EQUALITY TEST P-VALUES



back

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back

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► *splitting distortions*

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back

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## ESTIMATE THE ELASTICITY OF SUBSTITUTION

- from consumption FOC:

$$\log \left( \frac{p_i C_i}{\sum_j p_j C_j} \right) = -\log \left( \sum_j \varphi_j^\sigma p_j^{1-\sigma} \right) + (1 - \sigma) \log p_i + \sigma \log \varphi_i$$



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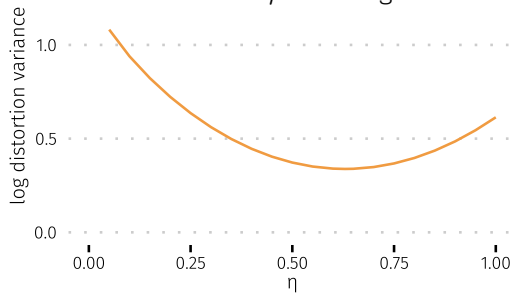
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	$\log s_{h,i}$
$\sigma$	1.699
$\log p_{h,i}$	-0.699 (0.067)
Observations	40,833
Kleibergen-Paap F stat	230.9

*Village-level instruments:* Elevation  $\times$  rain,  
ruggedness  $\times$  rain, pucca roads availability

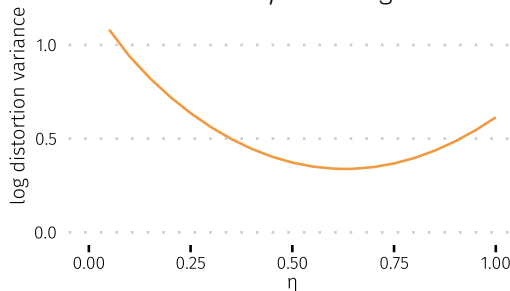
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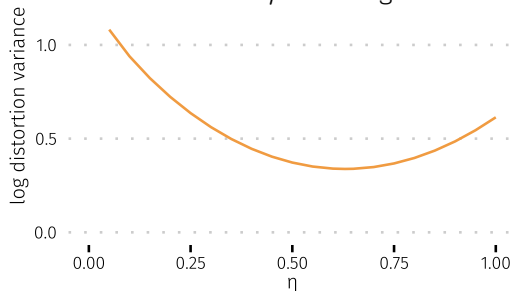
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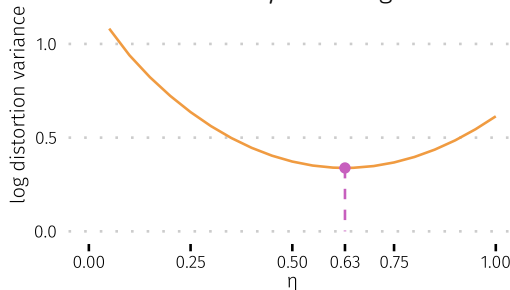
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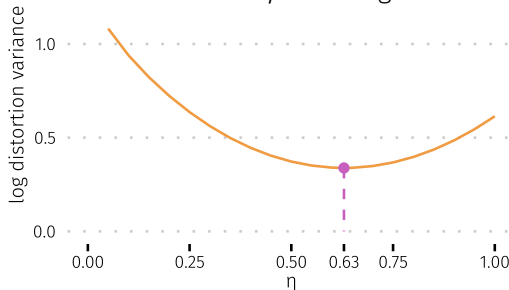
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- **low  $\eta$** : farm, farm-crop output more uniformly distributed in efficient allocation  
→ data farm size “**too varied**”, farms mix crops “**too little**” → extreme distortions
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→ data farm size “**too uniform**”, farms mix crops “**too much**” → extreme distortions
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→ conservative misallocation estimates

## CHOOSE $\eta$ THAT MINIMIZES IMPLIED DISPERSION

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► *details*

## GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM

- representative consumer buys crops, sells inputs, receives profit from owned farms

$$\max_{\{C_i\}_{i=1}^N} \left( \sum_i \varphi_i C_i^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}$$

s.t.

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► *profits details*

## CHOOSE $\eta$ THAT MINIMIZES IMPLIED DISPERSION

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$$p_i y_{f,i} = \underbrace{\left( \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_f \tau_{f,m,i}} \right)^{\gamma_i} \Pi_g \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{f,g} \tau_{f,g,i}} \right)^{\alpha_{g,i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\eta(\sum_g \alpha_{g,i} + \gamma_i)}}}_{\text{composite distortion, } dist_{f,i}} \underbrace{\left( p_i z_{f,i} \gamma_i^{\gamma_i} \eta^{\sum_g \alpha_{g,i} + \gamma_i} \Pi \left( \frac{\alpha_{g,i}}{r_g} \right)^{\alpha_{g,i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\eta(\sum_g \alpha_{g,i} + \gamma_i)}}}_{\text{"objective" factors}}$$

back

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- $Var(\log dist_{f,i})$  needed to match observed output dispersion depends on chosen  $\eta$

back

## GE PROFITS

$$\Pi = \sum_f \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N p_i y_{f,i} - \sum_{g=1}^G r_g \sum_{i=1}^N x_{f,g,i} \right]$$

- distortions  $\tau$ , fixed costs  $\omega$ , concavity  $\eta$  are not reflected in dividends sent to consumer
  - farmers act *as if* frictions they face had monetary representations
  - but these are non-monetary and not added/subtracted from dividends
- equivalent formulation:  $\tau$ s,  $\omega$ s are monetary taxes/subsidies, administered by consumer
  - show up in dividends and consumer's BC as government revenue/expense
- choice is arbitrary: both formulations (or any mixture) produce identical equilibrium conditions

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  - farm-level TFPs are fixed → aggregate TFP  $\uparrow$  reflects pure **reallocation gain** or **misallocation cost**
- compare **reallocation gain** between **multi-product** model and **1-product** model
  - *reallocation exercise details*

## REALLOCATION EXERCISE DETAILS

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back

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back

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back



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0.93	1588	1781	1961	2123	2267	2393	2503
0.83	1300	1472	1635	1787	1924	2047	2157
0.73	762	837	909	977	1040	1098	1152
⊂ 0.63	277	284	289	294	299	303	306
0.53	139	140	140	141	141	142	142
0.43	99	99	99	99	99	100	100
0.33	79	79	80	80	80	80	80
	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7 $\sigma$	1.9	2.1	2.3

(a) reallocation gain, %

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0.93	+6	-6	-14	-21	-26	-30	-33
0.83	+3	-9	-18	-25	-30	-34	-38
0.73	-38	-43	-48	-52	-55	-57	-59
0.63	-23	-25	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31
0.53	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4	-4	-5
0.43	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+1
0.33	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2
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(b) single-product model error, %

- misallocation estimates are always sensitive to calibrated concavity
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- sign and magnitude of single-product model's error also depends on calibration

## REALLOCATION: ROLE OF STATES AND SEASONS

	main	within state	no split by season
multi-product:	294%	107%	314%
1-product:	212%	124%	260%

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back

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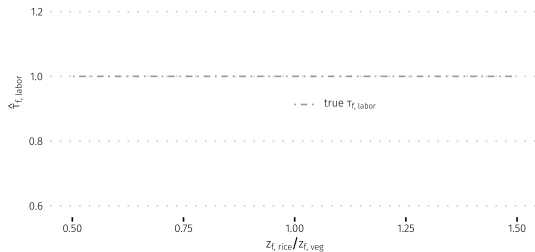


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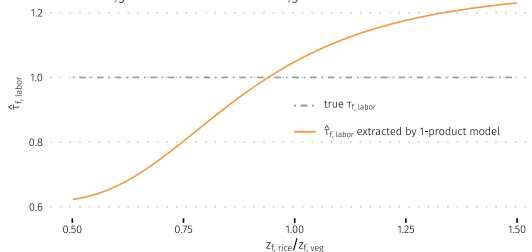
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back

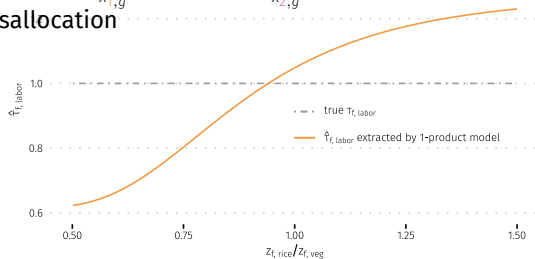
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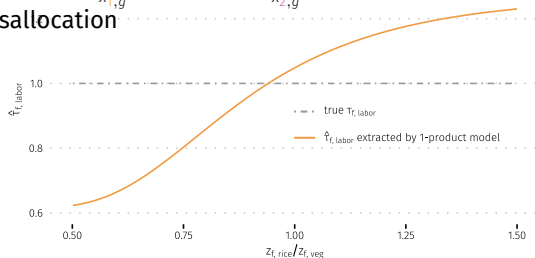
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- **exercise to isolate:** apply 1-product model to counterfactual reallocation data generated by multi-product model

## MECHANISM II: TFP DISPERSION

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back

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back



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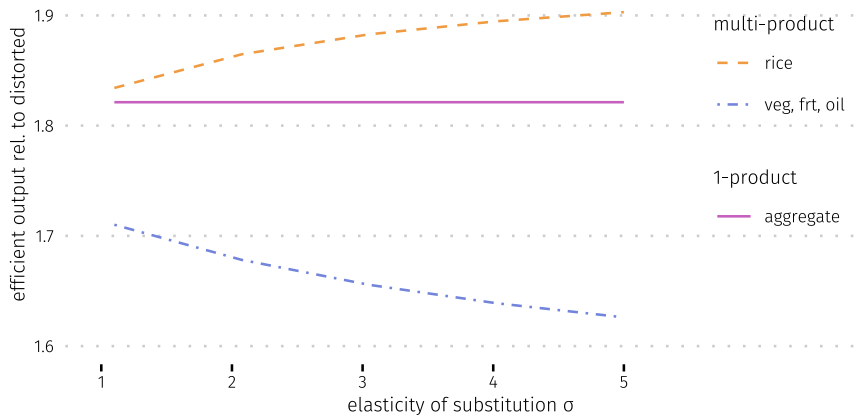
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- **exercise to isolate:** treat farm-crops as separate farms for 1-product model

back

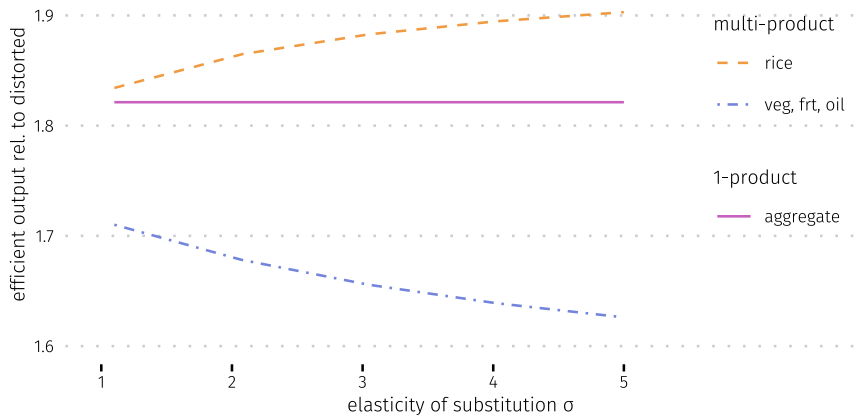
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- some products have higher returns to scale → some farms grow more in reallocation



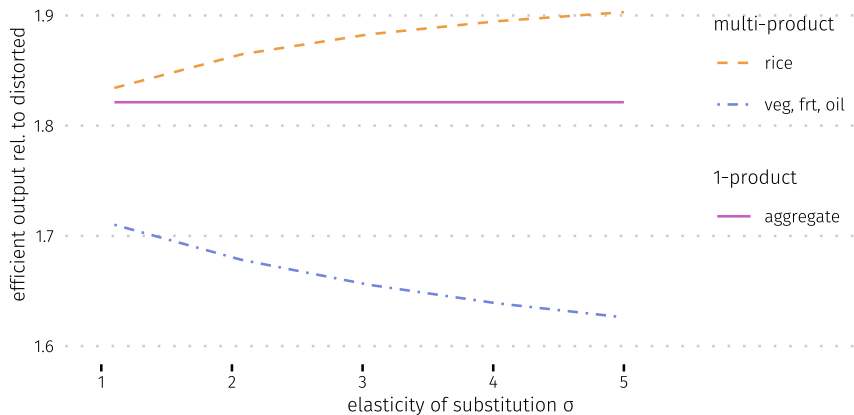
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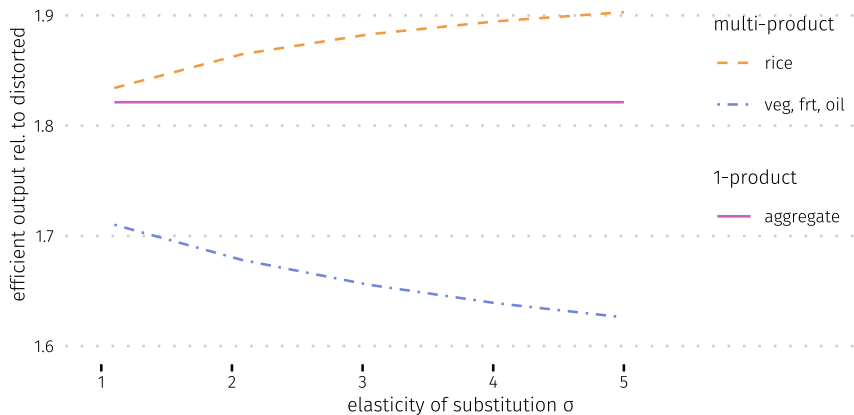
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- 1-product model **understates** misallocation



## MECHANISM III: RETURNS TO SCALE

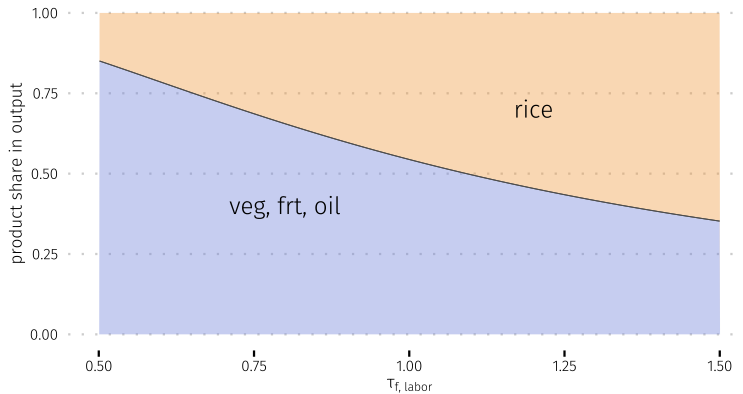
- some products have higher returns to scale → some farms grow more in reallocation
  - → consumer can substitute toward high-RS products to take advantage
- 1-product model **understates** misallocation
- **exercise to isolate:** rescale input elasticities to equalize returns to scale





## MECHANISM IV: ENDOGENOUS PRODUCT CHOICE

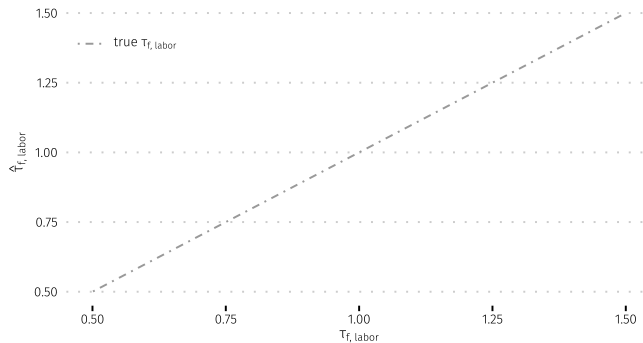
- simulated multi-product farm as labor distortion  $\tau_{f,labor}$  is varied:



- $\tau_{f,labor} \uparrow \rightarrow$  shift from labor-intensive **vegetables** to land-intensive **rice**

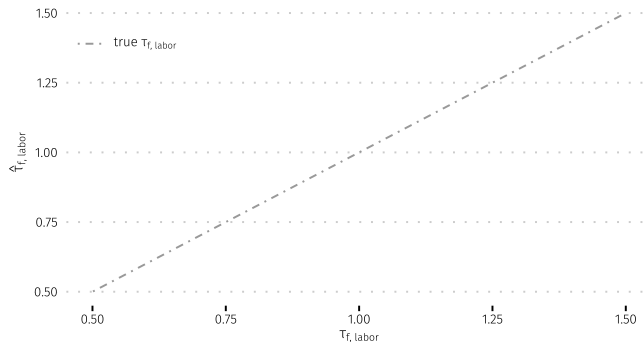
## MECHANISM IV: ENDOGENOUS PRODUCT CHOICE

- apply **single**-product model to extract frictions from simulated **multi**-product data



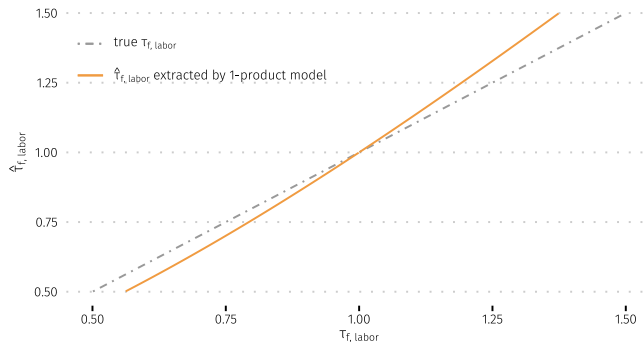
## MECHANISM IV: ENDOGENOUS PRODUCT CHOICE

- apply **single**-product model to extract frictions from simulated **multi**-product data
- **multi-product model**: optimal product choice response to frictions
  - modest  $\tau_{f, labor}$  increase  $\rightarrow$  shift to land-intensive **rice**  $\rightarrow$  hire even more land rel. to labor



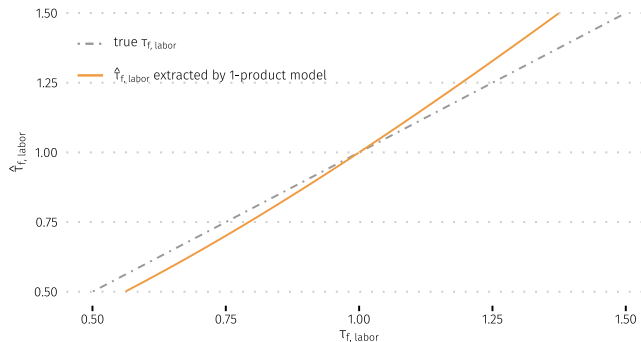
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## MECHANISM IV: ENDOGENOUS PRODUCT CHOICE

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- **1-product model**: high input ratio dispersion  $\rightarrow$  infer large heterogeneity in frictions  
 $\rightarrow$  1-crop model **overstates** misallocation



## MECHANISM IV: ENDOGENOUS PRODUCT CHOICE

- **exercise to isolate:** prohibit farms in multi-product model to change product choice in counterfactuals
  - keep product sets fixed
  - keep input allocation across crops fixed: farm can choose  $\sum_i x_{f,g,i}$  but  $x_{f,g,i}$  gets a fixed share of total

back

## REMOVE MORE DISTORTIONS → 1-PRODUCT MODEL OVERSTATES

- 1-product error when conducting increasingly expansive reallocations:

