Climate risk-reduction potential of gridded precipitation data for agricultural index-based insurance development

Sarvarbek Eltazarov, Ihtiyor Bobojonov, and Lena Kuhn

Motivation

- Index insurance can tackle several challenges of the agricultural insurance sector in developing countries (Fig. 1).
- Low weather station density is challenging for index insurance design and implementation in Central Asia and Mongolia.

Objectives

- Systematic review of gridded precipitation data in terms of availability, accessibility, quantity and quality.
- Determine the best source (in-situ vs satellite vs model) to index insurance design for hedging crop yield.

Methods and materials

- Gridded precipitation data from 11 datasets.
- Reviewed gridded precipitation data:
 - CPC (I) -
 - CMOPH (S+I)
 - IMERG (S)
 - GSMaP (S+I)
 - ERA5 (M+S+I)
 - ERA5 Land (M+S+I)
- PERSIANN (S+I)
- GLDAS (M+S+I)
- FLDAS (M+S+I)
- MERRA2 (M+S+I)
- MSWEP (S+I)

*note: I: in-situ data, S: satellite data, M: model-based data

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) Theodor-Lieser-Str 2 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany

Dr. Sarvarbek Eltazarov eltazarov@iamo.de **S** +49 345 2928-131



Fig. 1: Geographical distribution of weather stations in the croplands of Central Asia and Mongolia Source: Own presentation based on data from Teluguntla et al. (2015) and NCEI (2019)

Crop yield data

County-level spring wheat yield data:

- between 1982 and 2018.
- 56 counties in Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Design of index insurance products

$$PO_{t,i} = \max(S_i - I_{t,i}, 0) \times V_i$$
$$y_i = c_i + \beta_i I_{t,i} + \varepsilon_i$$

Estimation of the hedging effectiveness

$$y_{t,i}^{insured} = y_{t,i} + PO_{t,i} - FP_i$$
$$SV_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} \left[\min(y_{t,i} - \overline{y_i}, 0) \right]^2$$
$$HE = 1 - \frac{SV^{insured}}{SV^{uninsured}}$$

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Results

- In most counties, the hedging effectiveness is highest for IMERG-based insurance design.
- Following, PERSIANN, GLDAS, and GSMaPbased insurance products showed higher hedging effectiveness than the rest (Fig. 2).

$-FP_i$

Conclusion

Satellite- and model-based precipitation products have higher accuracy and potential than in-situ-based precipitation data.

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Fig. 2: Hedging effectiveness of the best insurance products

Precepitation data (best cases)	
IMERG (15+9)	ERA5 Land (3+1)
PERSIANN (8+1)	CPC(1+2)
GLDAS (5+5)	CMOPH (1+2)
FLDAS (0+2)	GSMaP (2+3)
ERA5 (1+0)	MSWEP (1+1)

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