Household Vulnerability to Wild Animal Attacks in Developing Countries: Experimental Evidence from Rural Pakistan

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Abstract: Based on a two-period panel dataset of households collected in rural Pakistan, we first quantify the extent to which farmers are vulnerable to attacks by wild boars. Then we examine the impact of an intervention to enhance household's capacity to reduce the income loss. The intervention was implemented by a local NGO as a randomized controlled trial. This experimental design enables us to cleanly identify the impact of the intervention. We find that the intervention was highly effective in mitigating the crop income loss of treated households, although its impact on a number of consumption measures was insignificant. The insignificant impact on household welfare of the intervention could be due to its hidden cost to treated households or the treated household's perception of the transient nature of the intervention.

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