

Climate-Induced Agricultural Productivity Change and Child Nutritional Outcomes: Empirical Evidence from Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child nutritional outcomes. We also examine heterogeneity in the effect of climate-induced agricultural productivity changes on child nutritional outcomes through market access and education. Using micro level multiple waves of farm household panel data from Nigeria, we first show that perception and high temperature (heat stress) reduces agricultural productivity. Secondly, using fixed effects instrumental variables (FE-IV) models, we show that climate-induced agricultural productivity change has a negative effect on child nutritional outcomes, measured by child height-for-age and weight-for-age. The results indicate that climate changes undermine the ability of smallholder farmers to increase agricultural productivity and improve nutritional outcomes. The main channel through which climate-induced agricultural productivity change affects child nutritional outcomes is by decreasing food production for own consumption. The results further show that households who have limited access to markets and lower educational level are more vulnerable climatic shocks. Thus, ex ante interventions and policies geared towards climate smart agriculture and ex-post measures are needed to cushion vulnerable households from falling into severe food insecurity and malnutrition. Such measures need to be complemented with strategies for improving farmers' access to markets and capacity strengthening to enhance smallholders' resilience to climatic shocks and improved nutritional outcomes.

JEL Codes: D13, D81, Q12, Q13, Q54

Key Words: Climate Change, Agricultural Productivity Change, Child Nutritional Outcomes

1 **Climate-Induced Agricultural Productivity Change and Child Nutritional Outcomes: Evi-** 2 **dence from Nigeria**

3 **1. Introduction**

4 Agricultural research and development interventions focused on intensification of farming and the
5 modernization of market channels for agricultural products can lead to agricultural productivity
6 change and, thereby, reduce poverty as well as meet growing demands for food. Improving the
7 productivity, profitability, and sustainability of smallholder agriculture is considered a key
8 pathway out of poverty and food insecurity for many rural households (Ehui and Pender, 2005;
9 Gulati, et al., 2012; Webb and Block, 2012). Byerlee, et al. (2009) emphasized the new paradigm
10 of agriculture's role and its multiple functions for development, with a focus on the effects of
11 rising productivity of smallholder agriculture on poverty reduction and household food and
12 nutrition security. In this regard, smallholder-focused inclusive agricultural productivity change
13 will play a key role not only for poverty reduction but also for structural transformation of the
14 agricultural sector. An increased level of specialization and market-oriented production of high
15 value crops by smallholders could be a salient feature of such a transformation. This could, *ceteris*
16 *paribus*, increase overall productivity, create marketing opportunities, and provide additional
17 income, thereby helping smallholders move out of poverty, enable them to afford more diversified
18 diets, and improve their food security (Irz, et al., 2001, Minten and Barret, 2008; Christiaensen,
19 2011). However, agricultural productivity change may not necessarily translate into improved
20 child nutritional outcomes (Berti, et al., 2004; Hawkes and Ruel, 2008). For instance, an increased
21 level of commercialization and production of high-value crops may occur at the expense of
22 growing diverse food crops, which may lead to a decrease in household's dietary diversity (Pingali
23 and Rosegrant, 1995).

24 There is well-established evidence on the linkages between agricultural productivity
25 change and poverty reduction. Among the possible pathways through which agricultural
26 productivity can reduce poverty, for instance, are through increased incomes and increased
27 household consumption (Minten and Barret, 2008; Schneider and Gugerty, 2011; Christiaensen,
28 2011). Agriculture also has the potential to reduce undernutrition. However, explicit evidence is
29 thin on the linkages between agricultural productivity and nutritional outcomes, often due to a lack
30 of reliable empirical data. Using Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) panel survey data
31 from Nigeria, this study examines the key issue, not well explored in the literature, of how
32 agricultural productivity changes and child nutritional outcomes are linked in the presence of
33 unobserved heterogeneity, which could cause an endogeneity problem. We merge LSMS panel

34 data with satellite-based precipitation and temperature data to deal with unobserved heterogeneity
35 and exploit exogenous variation in rainfall and temperature during the growing season to proxy
36 for exogenous changes in agricultural productivity change. That is, we use exogenous variation in
37 rainfall and temperature as an instrument for agricultural productivity change.

38 This identification strategy is based on the premise that variability in precipitation and
39 temperature are exogenous to agricultural productivity change, and, thus, we examine the effects
40 of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on the nutritional outcomes of children.
41 Similar identification strategies have been applied in recent studies. For instance, Chaijaroen
42 (2019) used changes in sea surface temperature as exogenous causes of variations in coral
43 bleaching and its impact on incomes of coastal households in Indonesia. Emerick (2018) used
44 increases in agricultural productivity caused by rainfall variability to examine its impact on
45 sectoral reallocation of labor in India. Emerick extended this analysis to examine the distributional
46 implication of agricultural productivity change on child nutritional outcomes by rural versus urban
47 and geographical zones, obtaining insights for designing policies to both improve agricultural
48 productivity and reduce child undernutrition.

49 We specify and estimate two-stage fixed effects models. In the first stage, we estimate
50 agricultural productivity, specified in a Cobb-Douglas production functional form, using
51 exogenous variations in precipitation and temperature among the other explanatory covariates. In
52 the second stage, a fixed effects instrumental variable (FE-IV) model that links agricultural
53 productivity and child nutritional outcomes was estimated using the estimated value agricultural
54 productivity as an instrument (\hat{p}) with other household characteristics. Results from the first-
55 stage model show that variability in precipitation and temperature strongly predicts agricultural
56 productivity change, which implies the fitness of these exogenous factors as instruments. The
57 results from the second stage FE-IV model indicate that an increase in climate-induced agricultural
58 productivity change has a negative impact on child nutritional outcomes, as measured by child
59 height-for-age and weight-for-age. These nutritional outcomes are obtained mainly through a
60 ‘food production – own consumption’ causal pathway. Examining the heterogeneity in the impact
61 of climate-induced agricultural productivity by education level and market access, our results
62 show that child nutritional outcomes are weaker for households with higher education level and
63 better access to market centers than the median values in the sample. This suggests that
64 interventions and policies geared towards intensification of production need to be complemented
65 with strategies for improving farmers’ access to markets in order to induce incentives for increased
66 production.

67 The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a concise review of
68 literature on the linkages between agricultural productivity and nutritional outcomes. Section 3
69 describes data sources, the construction of variables, and the descriptive results. Empirical model
70 development and identification strategies are presented in section 4. Section 5 reports the findings
71 and discussions of the results. The final section concludes the paper with key policy messages.

72 **2. Linkages Between Agricultural Productivity Change and Child Nutritional Outcomes**

73 Issues connecting agricultural productivity to food and nutrition security outcomes are receiving
74 increasing attention in Africa (Frison, et al., 2006; Headey, et al., 2012; Gómez and Ricketts, 2013;
75 Kadiyala, et al., 2014; Kassie, et al., 2015; Abay and Hirvonen, 2016; Zeng, et al., 2017; Ruel, et
76 al., 2018; Ecker, 2018; Tomich, et al., 2019). Several pathways that link agriculture to nutrition
77 have been identified. These pathways are influenced by different actors and factors, such as
78 climate change, agricultural practices, income changes, market and consumer demands,
79 employment generation, rural nonfarm multiplier effects, food price effects, and nutrition-relevant
80 policies and programs (Christiaensen, et al., 2011; Haddad and Meeker, 2013; Gollin, et al., 2014;
81 Abay and Hirvonen, 2016; Zeng, et al., 2017; Ruel, et al., 2018; Ecker, 2018). Therefore, the
82 pathways from agricultural production to nutrition outcomes are dynamic and may not necessarily
83 be linearly connected (Haddad and Meeker, 2013; Kadiyala, et al., 2014; Yosef, et al., 2015).

84 Several studies have shown that investing in agricultural development is significant for
85 poverty reduction, income growth, macro-economic transformation, household food security, and
86 employment creation in the economies of sub-Saharan Africa (Gowing and Palmer, 2008;
87 Christiaensen, et al., 2011; IMF, 2012; Collier and Dercon, 2014; Kassie, et al., 2015; FAO, 2016;
88 World Bank, 2017; Matthew, et al., 2019). Despite the high potential and role that agriculture
89 could play in the region, the productivity of the sector remains low (Collier and Dercon, 2014;
90 Kassie, et al., 2015; World Bank, 2017; Matthew, et al., 2019). Major factors have been identified
91 for low agricultural productivity in Africa, including poor investment in agricultural research; low
92 application of improved agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and high yield varieties; low adoption
93 of improved technologies, e.g., mechanization; institutional constraints, such as land tenure
94 insecurity; political or social instability; lack of access to agricultural extension services; poor
95 access to credit facilities; low labor productivity due, in part, to low technical know-how; poor
96 market access, and inadequate infrastructure (Ehui and Pender, 2005; Christiaensen, et al., 2011;
97 Shiferaw, et al., 2014; Kassie, et al., 2014).

98 Besides the aforementioned factors, the impact of climate change on agricultural
99 productivity should not be ignored. With agricultural production dependent mainly on rainfall, the

100 effects of abnormal rainfall patterns, whether shortages or excesses, and increase in temperature
101 affect agricultural production and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa (Di Falco and Veronesi,
102 2013; Shiferaw, et al., 2014; Belloumi, 2014; Kassie, et al., 2014; Fisher, et al., 2015; Rippke, et
103 al., 2016; Powlson, et al., 2016; Amare, et al., 2018a; Cooper, et al., 2019). The adverse effects of
104 climate change on agricultural production can have negative effects on household food security
105 and child nutrition outcomes through several pathways, including reduced yields, shifts in
106 economic incentives, increases in food prices, changes in employment opportunities, changes in
107 sources and distribution of income, and changes in the nutritional content of foods (Chijioke, et
108 al., 2011; Belloumi, 2014; Cooper, et al., 2019). Studies in Nigeria have shown that rises in
109 temperature and abnormal rainfall patterns as a result of climate change are negatively affecting
110 agricultural productivity and consequentially affecting human and livestock health (Di Falco and
111 Chavas, 2009; Chijioke, et al., 2011; Abidoye and Ayodele, 2015).

112 There are multiple pathways through which agricultural productivity can improve the
113 nutrition and food security of farm households. The most fundamental and direct pathway is the
114 **‘production – household’s own consumption’ linkage**. Improvements in the quantity of food
115 produced by the smallholder farming household can be used for its own consumption. Through
116 this pathway, deficits in micronutrients or calories can be supplied by the increase in own-farm
117 productivity (Potts and Nagujja, 2007; Masset, et al., 2011; Zeng, et al., 2017; Kassie, et al., 2015;
118 Tomich, et al., 2019).

119 Second, the **income effects** due to increased sales or increased labor demand from
120 improved agricultural production can positively influence nutrition outcomes indirectly through
121 income and expenditure routes. For instance, income generated from agricultural wages earned as
122 farm workers or from the sale of an increased quantity of produce can be used to purchase
123 nutritious food not produced in the household (Webb and Block, 2012; Bhagowalia, et al., 2012;
124 Du, et al., 2015; Tomich, et al., 2019). Headey (2011) and Webb and Block (2012) found that high
125 agricultural growth rates in developing countries were found to reduce stunting rates, possibly
126 because of the increased returns to agricultural production enabling greater household expenditure
127 on food.

128 Third, agricultural productivity can influence nutrition through **women’s empowerment**.
129 Studies have shown that the nutrition and welfare effects due to increased income from higher
130 agricultural productivity interacts with the empowerment of women in developing countries
131 (Allendorf, 2007; Ghosh, 2007; Sauer, et al., 2016; de Jager, et al., 2017). Conceptually, the
132 empowerment of women pathway couples increased income with women-friendly agricultural
133 technologies and leads to increased intra-household bargaining power for women and

134 strengthened purchasing power. Hence, since women are mostly responsible for issues around
135 household nutrition, especially for their children, this may facilitate increased consumption of
136 nutritious food for children in the household (Hallman, et al., 2003; Allendorf, 2007; Ghosh,
137 2007).

138 Fourth, agricultural productivity can also affect nutrition outcomes through **food price**
139 **effects**. Higher food crop productivity can result in downward pressure on food prices in local
140 markets (Adhiguru and Ramasamy, 2003; Parasuraman and Rajaretnam, 2011; Webb and
141 Kennedy, 2014). For net food consumers, a reduction in food prices enables greater accessibility
142 to food and essential nutrients (Kadiyala, et al., 2014; Tomich et al., 2019). On the other hand,
143 Tomich et al. (2019) noted that low food prices could have long-term negative effects on
144 agriculture production stability, declines in productivity, lower availability of food crops, and,
145 ultimately, may result in scarcity of major food crops and higher food prices. Studies have shown
146 that high food prices play an important role in reducing dietary diversification and in adverse
147 nutritional outcomes (Adhiguru and Ramasamy, 2003; Parasuraman and Rajaretnam, 2011; Gaiha,
148 et al., 2012; Abay and Hirvonen, 2016). Thus, the food price effects pathway between agricultural
149 productivity and nutritional outcomes may not yield a sustainable solution unless adequate policies
150 are in place to stabilize prices and protect farmers from price volatility.

151 In principle, effective pro-poor growth approaches led by agriculture should be influenced
152 by increased agricultural productivity linked to improved access to domestic and export markets
153 (Lagakos and Waugh, 2013; Duranton, 2015; Tombe, 2015; Donaldson and Hornbeck, 2016;
154 Donovan, 2017; Donaldson, 2018). Improved agricultural productivity without effective market
155 access will hinder both expected short and long run outcomes of higher levels of production, such
156 as increased incomes, livelihood diversification, and food and nutrition security (Donovan, 2017;
157 Donaldson, 2018).

158 **Human capital** has also been identified as contributing beneficially to several pathways
159 between agricultural productivity and improved nutrition, while also playing significant role in
160 improving agricultural productivity. Enhancing farmers' knowledge and their exposure to
161 technological innovations through training is a key input to improving agricultural productivity
162 (Asfaw and Admassie 2004; Reimers and Klasen, 2012; Danso-Abbeam, et al., 2018; Mariyono,
163 2019; Anang, et al., 2020). Education may not only influence the decision of farmers to adopt new
164 agricultural technology, but also affect their farming creativeness, innovative ability, and technical
165 efficiency. Moreover, education can play an indirect role in improving agricultural productivity
166 through enhancing off-farm employment opportunities, income diversification, and improving
167 household resilience (Asfaw and Admassie 2004; Reimers and Klasen, 2012; Liu, et al., 2014;

168 Mutisya, et al., 2016). Therefore, education through its role in improving agricultural productivity
169 can lead to improved child nutritional outcomes within farming households.

170 Against this backdrop, we empirically investigate the pathways linking agricultural
171 productivity to the nutritional status of children within smallholder households in Nigeria.

172 **3. Data and Descriptive Results**

173 **3.1. Data sources**

174 The study uses two waves from the Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on
175 Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) panel data set in Nigeria – wave 2 collected in 2012/13 and wave 3
176 collected in 2015/16.¹ The LSMS-ISA data sets are nationally representative and include detailed
177 information on demographic and household characteristics, including on assets, agricultural
178 production, nonfarm income and other sources of income, family and hired labor, and access to
179 services. The agriculture module contains information on crop and livestock production, farm
180 technologies employed, use of modern inputs, and the productivity of crops and livestock. The
181 community-level instrument contains information on local infrastructure, basic public goods, local
182 agricultural land, precipitation, and other factors that could affect agricultural productivity.
183 Additionally, there is a module on healthcare utilization and child anthropometrics, in which
184 information is collected on the age, height, and weight of preschool children in survey households.
185 Given a general deficiency in the availability of high-quality agricultural data in Nigeria, the
186 LSMS-ISA is the best nationally representative data set to use to understand the structure and
187 performance of the agricultural sector.

188 In addition, georeferenced for the location of the survey enumeration areas are provided in
189 the LSMS-ISA survey data set. This permits spatial data to be linked to the survey data on
190 households and their farm plots. Based on this locational information, we merged the LSMS-ISA
191 data with extract temperature data extracted from NASA MERRA-2 (Modern-Era Retrospective
192 analysis for Research and Application). We develop monthly mean, maximum, and minimum
193 temperatures in degrees Celsius over the 1986-2016 period of spatial resolution of $0.5^\circ \times 0.625^\circ$
194 ($\sim 55\text{km} \times 69\text{km}$) (GMAO, 2015). Similarly, we extract the precipitation data from the Climate
195 Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation Station (CHIRPS) archives provided by the Climate Hazard

¹ Wave 4 (2017/2018) LSMS ISA data was released recently. However, we could not use this data because of the sample was rebalanced, leading to significant dropouts of sample households from Waves 2 and 3. This high rate of attrition is likely to create biasedness in any econometric estimation.

196 Group. It includes monthly rainfall in millimeters from 1981-2017 of spatial resolution of 0.050
197 X 0.050 (~ 5km x 5km) (Funk, et al., 2015; Novella and Thiaw, 2013).

198

199 **3.2. Construction of variables**

200 **Anthropometric measures:** we used the *Anthro* software of the World Health Organization for
201 the computation of mean z-scores for height-for-age (HAZ), weight-for-age (WAZ), weight-for-
202 height (WHZ) for all children under the age of five years in the survey sample. The assignment of
203 anthropometric z-scores was based on the WHO Child Growth Standards and considered a child's
204 sex, age, height in centimeters, and weight in kilograms (WHO Multicentre Growth Reference
205 Study Group 2006). These z-scores were used to estimate the percentage of children who were
206 stunted, wasted, or underweight.

207 **Agricultural productivity:** We used land productivity to measure changes in agricultural
208 productivity among the farm households. We expressed the net value of crop production in
209 monetary terms per unit land (measured in hectares).² Hence, agricultural productivity is referred
210 to as net returns to land.³

211 **Income aggregates:** We generated household income aggregates by combining farm
212 income and non-farm income. Farm income comprises crop income and livestock income, while
213 non-farm income includes income from self-employment; fishing (artisanal); wages, including
214 agricultural wages; and other income sources, such as rental incomes, transfers or remittances, and
215 other revenue streams not captured elsewhere.

216 **Income sources:** Different methods were used to construct income based on source. We
217 calculated *crop income* by using the total value of crop production minus total crop expenses;
218 *livestock income* was generated from the value of livestock production and consumption minus
219 livestock expenditures; *self-employment income* was computed from the profit of processed crops
220 sold and from reported self-employment income; *wage income* was generated from wages earned

² As with other inputs, land productivity can be expressed in many units. Given that the land may be used to grow many different crops, a physical unit, such as metric ton or kilogram, may not be the best choice. Putting a monetary value on their respective output is often needed to aggregate the output of different crops.

³ Net crop income is calculated as gross crop income minus crop expenses. The costs of agricultural production are the sum of all explicit crop expenses reported in each instrument. The value of harvest is the value of crop production. Crop production is valued either by the respondent's own valuation (if available) or by multiplying quantities produced by the sales prices observed by the head of household for each crop if he or she sold that crop. If the household did not sell a crop, the value per unit is imputed using the median per-unit value of observed sales at the smallest geographic unit for which we have at least 10 observations.

221 from work both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sector; and *other source of income*
222 comprises the sum of investment income, rental income, and remittance income.

223 **Climate change variables:** we construct three measures of climate change variables: i)
224 we follow the literature to construct deviation of log rainfall from average (DR) using spatial
225 precipitation data (Maccini and Yang, 2009; Björkman-Nyqvist, 2013; Amare, et al., 2021). DR
226 measures rainfall anomalies by first calculating the average total rainfall across the rainy months
227 (March through October) in each survey enumeration area for a 30-year baseline period from 1986
228 to 2016.⁴ The change in the rainfall variable is defined as the deviation of log rainfall from the
229 average using: $DR_{it} = \ln(R_{it}) - \ln(\bar{R}_i)$, where R_{it} indicates rainfall during a specific rainy season at
230 the location of household i for year t . \bar{R}_i is the historical average rainfall over the period from
231 1986 to 2016 at the location of household i .

232 ii) Growing Degree Days (GDD): we follow agronomic literature, which suggests
233 nonlinear transformations of temperature known as growing degree days (GDD) and harmful
234 degree days (HDD) (Schlenker and Roberts 2006; Lobell, et al., 2011; Lobell, et al., 2013; Deryng,
235 et al., 2014; Hendricks and Peterson, 2014; Jagnani, et al., 2019; Aragón, et al., 2021). These
236 studies use GDD and HDD to estimate the impact of temperature on agricultural yield. We follow
237 a similar procedure and calculated GDD and HDD using the cumulative exposure to temperatures
238 between a lower bound (the standard base temperature of 10°C) up to an upper threshold 32°C.
239 We calculate GDD for each month in the last 30 years (1985-2016) by subtracting the standard
240 base temperature of 10°C from the mean temperature for each month of rainy season. We then
241 subtract the average season GDD for the last 30 years for each crop cycle from the GDD for each
242 of the waves of data collected. Thereby, we derive the GDD deviation for each wave during the
243 respective rainy season for each survey household as $DGDD_{it} = \ln(GDD_{it}) - \ln(\overline{GDD}_i)$.

244 iii) Harmful Degree Days (HDD): we defined degree days above 32°C ($GDD > 32$) as
245 harmful degree days (HDD) to capture days with heat stress that can reduce crop production
246 physiologically. As in DGDD, we calculated the log HDD difference from the average (DHDD)
247 which represent the deviation from the mean for harmful degree days. In essence, DHDDs are
248 anomalies relative to mean of temperature over the 30-year period.

249

⁴ It is usually between March and October in Nigeria. However, we captured difference between northern and southern Nigeria. For northern Nigeria, the effectiveness of weather variables can be well captured between May and October, while March to October is more accurate for southern Nigeria.

250 **3.3. Descriptive results**

251 Table 1 shows the nutritional status of children measured according to HAZ, WAZ and WHZ. The
252 average HAZ for all children in the sample is -1.01 . We found that about 31 percent of the children
253 in our sample are stunted ($HAZ < -2.0$) and 16 percent are underweight ($WAZ < -2.0$). Children
254 in rural households have a significantly higher mean HAZ and WAZ than children in urban
255 households. The difference in HAZ, especially, is relatively large, which is also reflected in
256 stunting prevalence rates. Meanwhile, the average WHZ for all the sample children is -0.03 and
257 11 percent of the children are wasted. Consistent with stunting and underweight, a higher rate of
258 child wasting is observed in rural households than urban households.

259 Table 1 also presents the summary statistics of key variables used in the econometric
260 models. It is important to note that values in the table were averages obtained from the two waves.
261 The results show that the proxy for average agricultural productivity (land productivity) of real
262 net crop income is USD 2,480 (PPP) per hectare. We recorded the deviation from the long-term
263 mean of our instrumental variable of rainfall and temperature, as DGDD and DHDD – the deviation
264 from the long-term mean for GDD and for HDD is 0.07 and 0.02, respectively.⁵

⁵ We restrict the data to farm households for which the agricultural questionnaire was completed and for which data on rainfall at the household level are available.

265 **Table 1:** Descriptive statistics of variables used in the econometric analysis, full sample

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Outcome variables		
Child nutritional outcomes		
Height-for-age z-score (HAZ)	-1.01	2.50
Weight-for-height z-score (WHZ)	-0.03	2.35
Weight-for-age z-score (WAZ)	-0.67	1.69
Child undernutrition prevalence rates		
Child stunting (HAZ < -2), 0/1	0.31	
Child wasting (WHZ < -2), 0/1	0.11	
Child underweight (WAZ < -2), 0/1	0.16	
Agricultural productivity		
Land productivity - real net crop income per hectare, PPP USD	2,479.8	3,190.7
Instruments		
DR – Deviation of log rainfall from average (long term mean)	-0.04	0.09
DGDD – Deviation of log Growing Degree Days from average (long term mean GDD)	0.07	0.33
DHDD – Deviation of log Harmful Degree Days from average (long term mean HDD)	0.02	0.02
Explanatory variables		
Boy child, 0/1	0.52	0.50
Age of child, months	31.2	17.53
Family size, adult equivalents	6.10	3.11
Female head of household, 0/1	0.06	
Educational attainment of household head, years	7.2	6.03
Age of household head, years	46.1	10.98
Total assets value, PPD USD	1,018.5	1,864.7
Livestock, Tropical Livestock Units	58.67	230.91
Wage non-agricultural income, PPP USD	1,395.3	4,150.5
Wage agricultural income, PPP USD	20.7	199.0
Self-employment income, PPP USD	2,081.4	4,432.2
Remittances, PPP USD	8.09	75.76
Access to finance (credit use), 0/1	0.02	
Used fertilizer, 0/1	0.40	
Used pesticides or herbicides, 0/1	0.27	
Access to agricultural extension, 0/1	0.07	
Distance to market, km	70.30	43.15
Number of observations	7,180	

266 Source: Authors' calculations based on Nigeria LSMS-ISA 2012 and 2015.

267 Note: Productivity, wealth, and income values are computed as purchasing power parity in U.S. dollars
 268 unit (PPP USD).

269 **4. Empirical Strategies**

270 Here we discuss our empirical approach to investigate the two main objectives of this study. First,
 271 we examine the effects of climatic factors on agricultural productivity change by controlling
 272 farmer's characteristics and input usages. Second, we address the implication of agricultural
 273 productivity change for child nutritional outcomes.

274 **4.1. climate and agricultural productivity change**

275 We measure agricultural productivity (P_{it}) as the real net crop income per ha. We use a Cobb-
276 Douglas production function (equation 1):

$$277 \ln(P_{it}) = \gamma_{it} + \beta_x \ln(X_{it}) + \beta_h \ln(H_{it}) + \beta_r DR_{it} + \beta_{rs} DR_{it}^2 + \beta_g DGDD_{it} + \beta_h DHDD_{it} + \nu_i + \nu_t + \varepsilon_{it},$$

278 (1)

279 where X_{it} is a vector of quantities of inputs and plot characteristics, including labor inputs, seeds,
280 fertilizer, and herbicide or pesticide by household i in year t . We expect all farm technology
281 variables to contribute positively to productivity. H_{it} is a vector of household characteristics and
282 wealth indicators, including household size, age, dependency ratio of the household, and income
283 from remittances, wages, and self-employment for household i in year t . DR_{it} , $DGDD_{it}$, and $DHDD_{it}$
284 are as defined in section 3.2 (i.e., deviations of log rainfall, log growing degree days, and log
285 harmful degree days from their respective long-term averages for household i in year t ,
286 respectively). We also include higher order polynomial terms associated with these changes to
287 control nonlinear effects of changes in rainfall. The variables ν_i and ν_t represent household and
288 time-fixed effects, respectively. The variable ε is a mean zero, identically and independently
289 distributed random error and is assumed to be uncorrelated to all the explanatory variables. The
290 problem in estimating the drivers of agricultural productivity is that unobserved characteristics,
291 e.g., information about inputs, managerial skill, ability, or additional dimensions of soil quality,
292 are likely to be correlated with productivity and the variables of interest. This correlation could
293 bias ordinary least squares (OLS) estimators (Wooldridge, 2010). We exploit the panel nature of
294 the dataset to minimize such prospective bias. The fixed effects, ν_i and ν_t , help to ensure that the
295 estimated effects of variables are not due to differences in common time shocks or technical
296 progress, or due to household- and village-invariant unobserved characteristics, respectively.

297

298 **4.2. Climate-induced agricultural productivity change and child nutritional outcomes**

299 We estimate the impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child nutritional
300 outcomes using a functional form in equation 2:

$$301 C_{itv} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_p \ln(P_{itv}) + \gamma_h \ln(H_{itv}) + \zeta_i + \lambda_p + \eta_{it}.$$

302 (2)

303 The dependent variable in equation 2 is the child nutritional outcomes (C_{it}) at village level v . The
304 child nutritional outcome of interest is captured by the coefficients on P_{it} , which is agricultural
305 productivity change. H and P are as defined above. Because similar intrinsic demographic
306 characteristics can lead to different asset distribution patterns, a household fixed effect, ζ_i , is

307 included to control for time-invariant unobserved demographic characteristics. Furthermore, a
308 state-fixed effect, λ_p , is included to control for further geographic diversity in land quality and for
309 covariate shocks affecting all provinces uniformly in each year. The variable η_i is the idiosyncratic
310 error term.

311 However, agricultural productivity change, which is expected to be simultaneously
312 determined with child nutritional outcomes could be an endogenous decision by farm households
313 because of the joint decision of production and consumption in subsistence farming (de Janvry et
314 al., 1991). Agricultural productivity change is also expected to be correlated with unobservable
315 household characteristics that may affect child nutritional outcomes. Thus, OLS would cause
316 upward- or downward-biased estimates (Bellemare, 2013; Hausman and Taylor, 1981).⁶ More
317 specifically, if a farmer's agricultural productivity change is measured with error, and the true
318 value of the impact of agricultural productivity change is negative, the OLS estimate will be biased
319 toward zero, even if that error has a mean of zero. Thus, the OLS estimate will be too small because
320 of attenuation bias. The two sources of bias could apply simultaneously to the OLS estimation:
321 the upward bias caused by omitted ability variables and the downward bias caused by
322 measurement error in agricultural productivity (Wooldridge, 2010).

323 Because of this potential endogeneity problem, we investigate the implications of
324 agricultural productivity change on child nutritional outcomes indicators by employing an
325 instrumental variable (IV) estimation approach. Most studies of this sort exploit some exogenous
326 variation in agricultural productivity change and aim to investigate its effect on child nutritional
327 outcomes. We follow previous literature and use an instrumental variable constructed by matching
328 our panel household data with satellite-based rainfall and temperature data (Chaijaroen, 2019;
329 Emerick, 2018). We use deviation from the long average during the wet season. To exploit the
330 panel nature of the dataset, we estimate the following fixed-effects (IV-FE) model for our second
331 stage (equation 3).

$$332 \quad C_{itv} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_p \ln(\hat{P}_{itv}) + \gamma_h \ln(H_{itv}) + \zeta_i + \lambda_p + \eta_{itv},$$

333 (3)

334 \hat{P}_{it} is the predicted value of agricultural productivity change from our first-stage regression. Other
335 notations in Equation 3 are similar to those in equations 1 and 2.

⁶ OLS would cause upward- or downward-biased estimates if all the unobservable characteristics have a negative effect on both productivity and the observed RHS variables. But unobservable characteristics can also have a negative impact. For example, consider the case where most of the people who adopt improved seeds live on slopes that reduce crop yield. If we do not observe the slope, we will underestimate the yield improvements associated with improved seed adoption.

336 5. Results and Discussions

337 5.1. First stage regression results

338 We first briefly report the results of the first stage estimates of the determinants of agricultural
339 productivity change using a fixed-effects model (equation 1). Table 2 presents these results. The
340 first stage estimation is mainly used in the later FE-IV analysis to explain child nutritional
341 outcomes (equation 3). As expected, negative rainfall shock strongly affects agricultural
342 productivity. In Table 2 we present both conditional and unconditional regressions of agricultural
343 productivity change on measures of deviation of rainfall, growing degree days, and harmful degree
344 days from average and their higher order polynomial terms. Our results show that climate
345 variability strongly predicts agricultural productivity change. The relationship involves significant
346 nonlinearities, indicating that these types of nonlinearities and dynamics are evident on
347 agricultural productivity change. This is consistent with previous studies (e.g., Hendricks and
348 Peterson, 2014; Jagnani, et al., 2019; Aragón, et al., 2021). The results show that high temperature
349 (heat stress) reduces agricultural productivity change. A one percent increase in harmful degree
350 days result in 4 percent decrease in agricultural productivity. This is consistent with the empirical
351 evidence in Nigeria by (Chijioke, et al., 2011; Abidoye and Ayodele, 2015), shown that rises in
352 temperature and abnormal rainfall patterns because of climate change are negatively affecting
353 agricultural productivity and consequentially affecting human and livestock health.

354 The results also indicate that among household characteristics, education of the household
355 head and livestock holdings significantly affect agricultural productivity change. The estimates
356 also show the presence of an inverse relationship between farm size and land productivity robust
357 to all estimation specifications and consistent with many other findings in the literature (Barrett,
358 1996; Carletto, et al., 2013). We find that fertilizer use, application of herbicides or pesticides, and
359 access to extension all have a significant, positive association with agricultural productivity
360 change. Our results are consistent with several studies that demonstrate that input use has a
361 substantial effect on the agricultural performance of farmers (e.g., Amare, et al., 2012; de Janvry
362 and Sadoulet, 2010; Mendola, 2007; Ravallion and Datt, 1999). Distance to markets increases
363 transaction costs and access to information, which, in turn, affect agricultural productivity. This
364 result suggests that better infrastructure may help to cut transaction costs, increasing the likelihood
365 of adoption of market-provided inputs and, thus, increasing agricultural productivity.

366 **Table 2:** First stage regression: climatic factors and agricultural productivity change

	(1) Agricultural productivity	(2) Agricultural productivity
Deviation of rainfall from average	-0.087*** (0.002)	-0.082*** (0.003)
Deviation of rainfall from average-squared	-0.120** (0.051)	-0.273*** (0.001)
Deviation of Growing Degree Days from average	0.911*** (0.211)	0.987*** (0.212)
Deviation of Harmful Degree Days from average	-0.391*** (0.092)	-0.348*** (0.088)
Education of head		0.089** (0.044)
Land size		-0.633*** (0.024)
Livestock		0.555** (0.277)
Value of total assets		-0.042 (0.037)
Wage income		-0.097*** (0.019)
Self-employment income		-0.072*** (0.019)
Transfer		0.041 (0.066)
Credit use		0.125 (0.250)
Extension		0.442** (0.193)
Fertilizer		1.413*** (0.158)
Pesticides/herbicides		0.193** (0.090)
Distance to market		-0.255*** (0.087)
2015	0.297*** (0.092)	0.149* (0.089)
Constant	5.773*** (0.517)	4.343*** (0.613)
Fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Observations	7,180	7,180
Kleibergen–Paap rk Wald F statistic on selection instruments	18.23***	27.89***
F-test of excluded instruments: F (2, 6585)	36.01***	32.92***

367 Source: Based on LSMS–ISA W2-2012 and W3-2016 survey in Nigeria.

368 Note: All continuous variables are in log form. Enumeration area clustered standard errors in parentheses.

369 * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

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372 5.2. The impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change

373 Before turning to look at the impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child
374 nutritional outcomes, we briefly discuss the quality of the selection of the instrument used. To
375 probe the validity of our instrument selection, we look at the weak identification test and the over-

376 identification tests. The test results support the choice of the instrument – deviation of rainfall,
377 growing degree days, and harmful degree days from average, as do the F-test values for all the
378 specifications (bottom of Table 3). The F-statistic on the null hypothesis that the excluded
379 instrument is jointly nonsignificant in the first-stage equation is greater than 10, thus passing the
380 rule-of-thumb minimum threshold for weak instruments. We use the Sargan–Hansen test of over-
381 identifying restrictions and fail to reject the joint null hypothesis that our instrument is a valid
382 instrument. We also apply the Hansen specification test for the endogeneity of agricultural
383 productivity and reject the null hypothesis that agricultural productivity can be treated as
384 exogenous.

Table 3: Climate-induced agricultural productivity change and child nutritional outcomes

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Height-for-Age z-score	Weight-for-Height z-score	Weight-for-Age z-score	Stunting prevalence	Wasting prevalence	Underweight prevalence
Agricultural productivity change	-0.202*** (0.078)	-0.082** (0.040)	-0.041 (0.072)	0.561*** (0.015)	0.008 (0.007)	0.010 (0.012)
Male child, 0/1	-0.211*** (0.075)	-0.138** (0.057)	-0.050 (0.074)	0.048*** (0.015)	0.022** (0.011)	0.044*** (0.012)
Age of child	-0.429*** (0.066)	-0.152*** (0.039)	0.052 (0.055)	0.030*** (0.010)	-0.054*** (0.007)	-0.016** (0.007)
Education of head	0.070* (0.058)	-0.010 (0.036)	0.013 (0.050)	-0.012 (0.009)	-0.001 (0.006)	-0.008 (0.007)
Age of head	-0.048 (0.120)	-0.030 (0.119)	-0.004 (0.164)	0.025 (0.026)	0.010 (0.022)	0.021 (0.022)
Value of assets	0.087** (0.042)	0.072** (0.029)	0.030 (0.035)	-0.024*** (0.008)	-0.002 (0.005)	-0.011* (0.006)
Farm size	0.196* (0.116)	-0.054 (0.090)	0.059 (0.119)	0.031 (0.027)	-0.004 (0.015)	0.003 (0.022)
Livestock unit	-0.040 (0.107)	0.007 (0.082)	0.063 (0.115)	0.033* (0.019)	0.012 (0.015)	0.011 (0.015)
Crop income	0.010 (0.033)	0.048** (0.020)	0.061*** (0.023)	-0.014 (0.010)	-0.000 (0.003)	0.006** (0.003)
Non-agricultural wage income	0.597*** (0.177)	0.379*** (0.111)	0.039 (0.145)	-0.128** (0.057)	-0.015 (0.020)	-0.044 (0.028)
Agricultural wage income	-0.507 (0.616)	0.362 (0.545)	0.906 (0.596)	0.069 (0.111)	0.102 (0.123)	0.233* (0.135)
Self-employment income	0.055 (0.106)	0.116 (0.076)	0.109 (0.095)	-0.031 (0.022)	0.006 (0.022)	-0.001 (0.016)
Transfers income	0.375 (2.167)	0.235 (2.100)	0.109 (1.407)	-0.245 (0.249)	-0.156 (0.323)	0.107 (0.328)
Credit use	0.533 (0.416)	0.198 (0.256)	-0.096 (0.186)	-0.004 (0.057)	-0.012 (0.034)	-0.031 (0.047)
Extension	-0.152 (0.202)	-0.027 (0.120)	0.172 (0.184)	0.028 (0.043)	0.024 (0.022)	0.016 (0.028)
Distance to market	-0.447** (0.221)	-0.218 (0.211)	-0.381* (0.204)	-0.042 (0.044)	-0.026 (0.025)	-0.053 (0.034)
Year	-0.534* (0.126)	-0.085 (0.076)	0.232** (0.090)	0.127*** (0.021)	0.022* (0.012)	0.083*** (0.015)
Constant	-0.097 (1.102)	-1.537* (0.915)	-1.824* (1.072)	0.516** (0.223)	0.297** (0.130)	0.381** (0.153)
Over identification test of all instruments (Hansen J statistics): χ^2	43.614***	21.359***	15.613***	19.487***	13.342***	10.487***
Endogeneity test	49.577***	13.081***	13.062***	5.151***	6.232***	4.213***
Observations	7,180	7,171	7,180	7,180	7,180	7,180

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Source: Based on LSMS–ISA W2-2012 and W3-2016 survey in Nigeria.

Note: All continuous variables are in log form. Enumeration area clustered standard errors in parentheses.

* p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

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Table 3 reports the results of the IV-FE estimation examining the implication of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child nutritional outcomes. The z-score results (columns (1), (2), and (3)) reveal that climate-induced agricultural productivity change decreases child height-for-age (HAZ) and weight-for-age (WAZ). A 10 percent increase in climate-induced

393 agricultural productivity change results in a decrease in child HAZ and WAZ by about 0.02 and
394 0.01, respectively. Our results suggest that weather change could affect agricultural production,
395 and this could lead a decrease in household's food consumption for own production which can in
396 turn lead to deficits in micronutrients or calories (Potts and Nagujja, 2007; Masset, et al., 2011;
397 Zeng, et al., 2017; Kassie, et al., 2015; Tomich, et al., 2019). Kumar, et al. (2015) also found
398 strong significant positive associations between increase agricultural production (through
399 production diversity) and height for age Z-scores and a reduction in stunting prevalence among
400 children in Zambia.

401 Looking at child and household characteristics, we find that girls have generally a higher
402 HAZ than boys, which is a common finding in the research literature (e.g., Black, et al., 2013,
403 Alderman and Headey, 2017a; Amare, et al., 2018b). Consistent with the existing literature on
404 child nutrition in developing countries, older children are more likely to have lower nutritional
405 outcomes (e.g., Behrman and Taubman, 1986). Education may, among other contributions, enable
406 household to provide appropriate care for their children (Alderman and Headey, 2017). We also
407 find education of the household head is strongly and positively associated with improved
408 nutritional outcomes. Wealth indicators, such as land size, value of asset holding, and non-
409 agricultural wage income, play a significant role in explaining changes in child nutritional
410 outcomes.

411 The results on the prevalence of undernourished children in Table 3 (columns (4), (5), and
412 (6)) reveal that climate-induced agricultural productivity increases child stunting. A 10 percent
413 increase in climate-induced agricultural productivity change increases child stunting by
414 0.10 percent. The results also show girls are generally less stunted than boys and older children
415 are more likely to be stunted and wasted, similar to evidence seen in other studies (Behrman and
416 Taubman, 1986; Black, et al., 2013, Alderman and Headey, 2017a). Value of asset holding,
417 livestock holding, and non-agricultural wage income play a positive role in reducing the
418 prevalence of child stunting (Christian, et al., 2019; Hatab, et al., 2019).

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420 **5.3. Heterogeneous impacts**

421 We also estimate the impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child
422 nutritional outcomes separately using access to market and education level of the household. We
423 hypothesize that farmers' wealth differential has led to heterogeneous effects of weather changes
424 on the outcome variables considered in the study. This was motivated by the premise that pathways
425 for linking climate-induced agricultural productivity change to nutrition may have some
426 heterogeneity which we can test through market access and education. Those households with

427 limited market access and low level of education are more likely to experience lower nutritional
428 outcomes compared to those households having good market access and better educated. Climate-
429 induced agricultural productivity change with limited market access will lead to decrease in
430 income, which negatively affect dietary diversification and non-food expenditure, which may be
431 linked, directly or indirectly, to nutritional outcomes for children within the household.

432 First, we estimate child nutritional outcomes by access to market. A dummy variable for
433 households who have better access to market is defined. A household is designated as to have
434 better access to market if the distance to the nearest market center is below the median distance to
435 market for the households in our sample, i.e., the nearest market center is within 65 km.
436 Households with their nearest market center being beyond 65 km distance radius are classified as
437 having constrained access to market.

438 The results (Table 4) indicate that climate-induced agricultural productivity change has a
439 negative significant impact on child HAZ and increases child stunting for households who have
440 limited access to market compared to for households who have better access to market. Controlling
441 for other factors, a 10 percent increase in climate-induced agricultural productivity change
442 decreases child HAZ by 0.03 for households who have limited access to market, but it has no
443 significant effect for household who have better access to market. Our finding is consistent with
444 previous studies that found that agricultural productivity will have an impactful effect on nutrition
445 outcomes if the households have limited access to market (Stifel and Minten, 2017; Hirvonen, et
446 al., 2017; Headey, et al., 2019).

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Table 4: Impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change by household access to market

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Child HAZ	Less market access	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Child WAZ
	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Less market access
Agricultural productivity change	-0.124	-	-0.013	-0.108	-0.084	-0.179**
	(0.201)	0.310***	(0.161)	(0.136)	(0.147)	(0.082)
Child characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	-0.070	5.358	-2.076*	-1.518	-1.594	-0.084
	(1.216)	(5.695)	(1.106)	(4.962)	(1.061)	(2.688)
	Child stunting	Less market access	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Child underweight
	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Less market access	More market access	Less market access
Agricultural productivity change	0.145**	0.682**	0.001	0.026	0.024	0.009
	(0.038)	(0.039)	(0.024)	(0.019)	(0.027)	(0.024)
Child characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	0.436*	-1.076	0.402**	0.817	0.509**	0.155
	(0.233)	(1.296)	(0.175)	(0.787)	(0.199)	(0.601)
Observations	3,447	3,475	3,447	3,475	3,447	3,475

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Source: Based on LSMS–ISA W2-2012 and W3-2016 survey in Nigeria.

Note: All continuous variables are in log form. Enumeration area clustered standard errors in parentheses.

* p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

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We further allow for heterogeneity in the impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change by education of the household head. A dummy variable for a more educated household head is defined as the household head having attained an educational level above the median year of schooling in our sample, i.e., having 7 years of schooling or above. The results (Table 5) indicate that climate-induced agricultural productivity change has a negative significant impact on child HAZ for households who have less level of education. Controlling for other factors, we find that a 10 percent increase in climate-induced agricultural productivity change decrease child HAZ by 0.04 and increase stunting by 0.10 percent. However, it has no significant impact on child HAZ for households with more educated household heads. Similar results were obtained by Abuya, et al. (2012) in Kenya, Stamenkovic, et al. (2016) in Serbia, and Fadare, et al. (2019) in Nigeria – households with higher educational attainment will be more nutrition sensitive and have improved dietary habits and food choices, since poor dietary habits contributes to the poor nutritional status of under-fives.

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Table 5: Impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change by educational status of household head

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Child HAZ		Child WHZ		Child WAZ	
	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated
Agricultural productivity change	-0.049 (0.103)	-0.382** (0.159)	-0.060 (0.103)	-0.173 (0.144)	-0.024 (0.070)	-0.144 (0.115)
Child characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	1.230 (1.953)	-0.478 (1.797)	-1.523 (1.498)	-0.030 (1.578)	-0.817 (1.181)	-0.751 (1.463)
	Child stunting		Child wasting		Child underweight	
	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated
	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated	More educated	Less educated
Agricultural productivity change	0.011 (0.017)	0.667** (0.030)	0.010 (0.012)	0.024 (0.024)	0.015 (0.016)	0.002 (0.030)
Child characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Constant	0.052 (0.327)	0.834** (0.347)	0.303 (0.229)	0.081 (0.260)	0.054 (0.156)	0.113 (0.350)
Observations	3,826	3,096	3,826	3,096	3,823	3,090

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Source: Based on LSMS–ISA W2-2012 and W3-2016 survey in Nigeria.

Note: All continuous variables are in log form. Enumeration area clustered standard errors in parentheses.

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

473 **5.4. Pathways from climate-induced agricultural productivity change to child nutritional** 474 **outcomes**

475 In this section, we identify the pathways on how climate-induced agricultural productivity can
476 affect child nutritional outcomes. The results (Table 6) indicate that climate-induced agricultural
477 productivity change has a negative significant impact on total income and household months food
478 insecure status, although not significant, impact on improving the food security of the household.
479 This suggests that the income effects of climate-induced agricultural productivity can negatively
480 influence nutritional outcomes indirectly through own-consumption routes. Our findings support
481 those of Du et al. (2015), Sheahan and Barrett (2017), and Tomich, et al. (2019) that climate
482 resilient agriculture policies which affect supply and demand can provide increase agricultural
483 production, which leads to enhanced own consumption, and which can foster dietary
484 diversification and reduced undernutrition.

485 **Table 6:** Impact of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on total income and
 486 household food insecurity status

	(1) Own consumption	(2) Household months food insecure
Agricultural productivity change	-0.375***	-0.017
	(0.117)	(0.014)
Child characteristics	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes
Constant	2.686	0.547***
	(2.133)	(0.178)
Observations	7,180	7,180

487 Source: Based on LSMS–ISA W2-2012 and W3-2016 survey in Nigeria.

488 Note: All continuous variables are in log form. Enumeration area clustered standard errors in parentheses.

489 * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

490 6. Conclusions and Policy Implications

491 This study examines the effect of climate-induced agricultural productivity change on child
 492 nutritional outcomes in Nigeria. Using micro level multiple waves of panel data from Nigeria, we
 493 specified and estimated two-stage fixed effects models– a first stage modeling changes in climate-
 494 induced agricultural productivity and a second stage fixed effects instrumental variable (FE-IV)
 495 model linking the estimated climate-induced agricultural productivity changes and child
 496 nutritional outcomes. Results from the first stage model show that high temperature (heat stress)
 497 reduces agricultural productivity. A one percent increase in harmful degree days (heat stress) result
 498 in 4 percent decrease in agricultural productivity. The estimated results from the second stage FE-
 499 IV models show that climate-induced agricultural productivity change has a negative effect on
 500 child nutritional outcomes. With a 10 percent downward change in agricultural productivity, child
 501 HAZ and WAZ decrease by about 0.02 and 0.01, respectively. The results further reveal that a
 502 downward change in climate-induced agricultural productivity increases the prevalence of child
 503 stunting. An aggregate 10 percent negative agricultural productivity change increases child
 504 stunting by 0.10 percent. We also examine heterogeneity in the impact of climate-induced
 505 agricultural productivity changes on child nutritional outcomes through market access and
 506 education. The results show that the impacts are higher for households that have limited access to
 507 market and with household heads having lower level of education.

508 Based on our empirical findings, we suggest three key policy recommendations. First, our
 509 results show that low precipitation and high temperature (heat stress) reduces agricultural
 510 productivity. Given the dominance of rainfed agricultural production system and high
 511 vulnerability of agriculture to climatic factors in sub-Saharan African countries like Nigeria, key

512 interventions for improving agricultural productivity should consider spatial and temporal
513 variability of climatic factors for better targeting of agricultural innovations to respond to climatic
514 risk exposure and sensitivity which could result in major improvements in food and nutrition
515 security. Second, our analysis provides several important insights on the implications of climate-
516 induced agricultural productivity change on child nutritional outcomes. We find climate change
517 reduces child nutritional outcomes through its heterogenous effect on climate-induced agricultural
518 productivity. This suggests that climate change undermine the ability of smallholder farmers to
519 benefit from agricultural productivity changes. Thus, investment in climate smart agricultural
520 practices such as farmer-managed small-scale irrigation systems; *ex ante* policies aimed at
521 building smallholders' resilience to climate risk such as targeted subsidies for risk reducing inputs
522 (e.g., drought tolerant improved seeds) and *ex post* interventions in food insecurity mitigation
523 strategies such as social safety net programs need to be instituted to help improve child nutritional
524 outcomes. Thirdly, our results also indicate heterogenous impacts of agricultural productivity
525 change on nutritional outcomes for households' differential access to markets and education level.
526 Thus, incorporating complementary interventions on market infrastructure, education and
527 information dissemination about food choices, appropriate childcare, food preparation, sanitation,
528 and food safety issues should be considered to reduce the impact of agricultural productivity
529 change on nutritional outcomes.

Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [Declarations.pdf](#)
- [References.pdf](#)