# Testing the separation of production and consumption in farm households: Impact of a pulse promotion program on household and individual nutrition

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### Motivation

- Common premise of agriculture-nutrition interventions
  - Increase in production >> Increase in consumption

#### But...

- Key prediction of economic theory
  - Under functioning markets, production decisions and consumption decisions are made independently:
    - They are separable.

#### Then...

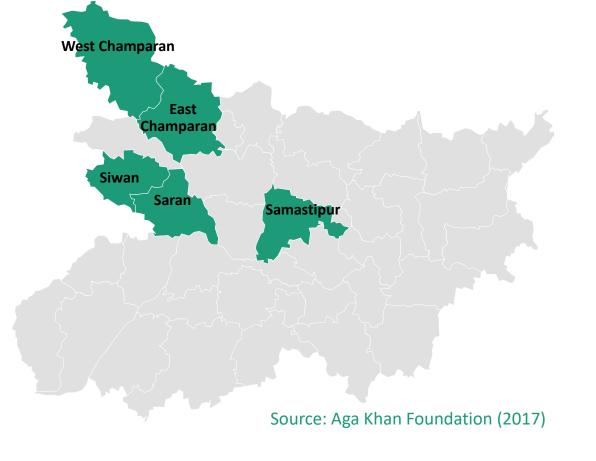
What does the existing evidence suggest? How can we rigorously test these predictions?



# Study design

• The India Grain Legume Cluster Development Project

Study area:









### Study design

• The India Grain Legume Cluster Development Project

Package of interventions:

✓ Free distribution of improved certified pulse seeds

वैनी याना के सामने, पूहा होड, पूहा, समस्तीपुर-848131

✓ Extension support

✓ Pulse demonstration plots



### Methods

#### Evaluation design

- ✓ RCT Village-level randomized treatment assignment (156 villages)
- ✓ Sampling Random selection from village meeting attendees (1009 farmers)

#### Data

- ✓ Agriculture questionnaire

  HH member in charge of agricultural production
- ✓ Food and nutrition questionnaire

  HH member in charge of food preparation

  Food consumption, storage of food grains, women's empowerment
- Empirical specification: Intention-to-treat (ITT)

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_i + \beta_2 T_i \mathbb{1}(t = y_2) + \beta_3 \mathbb{1}(t = y_2) + X_i' \beta_4 + \varepsilon_{it}$$



Source: T. Bourdier (2017)

# Findings

#### Main results

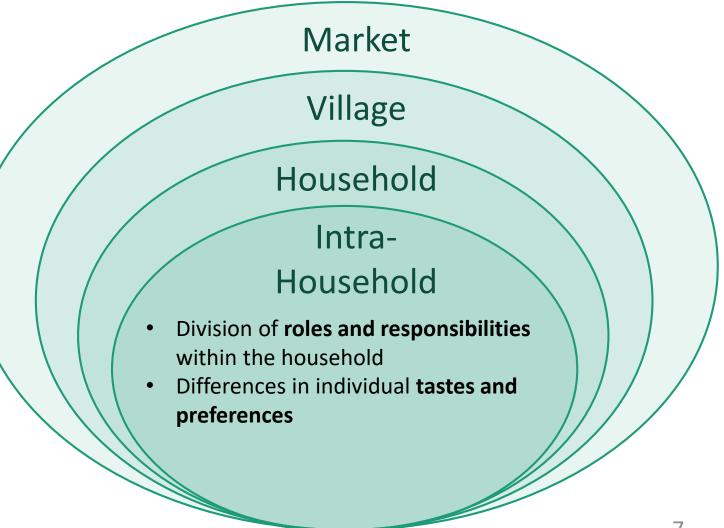
- Increase in adoption of pulses (extensive and intensive margins)
- Modest increase in production of pulses
- Extended household stock of pulses through the lean season
- No measurable increase in total household consumption of pulses

#### Heterogeneity analysis

- Stronger production increase in:
  - Households in highest tercile of wealth
  - Households where female respondent has some input in decisions related to agricultural production and post-harvest marketing
- Increase in the daily protein intake of the female survey respondent, driven by:
  - Households where female respondent has higher willingness to pay for pulses than male respondent

### Conclusion

- Increasing popularity of nutrition-sensitive interventions
- Better understanding of different scales of non-separabilities is crucial for design of agricultural interventions to combat malnutrition



# Thank you for your attention



Source: Aga Khan Foundation (2017)