

Context matters

Oil palm production and women dietary diversity in the tropical forest of Cameroon

Martin Paul Jr. Tabe-Ojong and Georgette Fuh Lumwi

INTRODUCTION

- **Oil palm** is one of the most **rapidly expanding** food and cash crops in many tropical regions with significant **environmental** implications, but also **economic gains**.
- **Oil palm expansion** is associated with changing **gender** roles and **time** allocation for women.
- Time allocation is an important determinant of **maternal** and **child nutrition** as well as **wellbeing**.
- We leverage a farm household survey of **582** farmers to investigate the **relationship** between oil palm **production** and women **dietary diversity**.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We examine both the **minimum dietary diversity for women** and the **minimum adequacy diversity diet**.
- We also consider the various **food groups** consumed by women.

WHAT DO WE FIND?

- **Oil palm production** is associated with:
 - **reductions** in women **dietary diversity**
 - **reductions** in the **minimum adequacy diversity diet**
 - **reduced consumption** of mainly **pulses, fruits and vegetables**

PATHWAYS

Oil palm production is **negatively** associated with **farm production diversity**.

Oil palm production is **positively** associated with the **cultivation of other cash crops**.

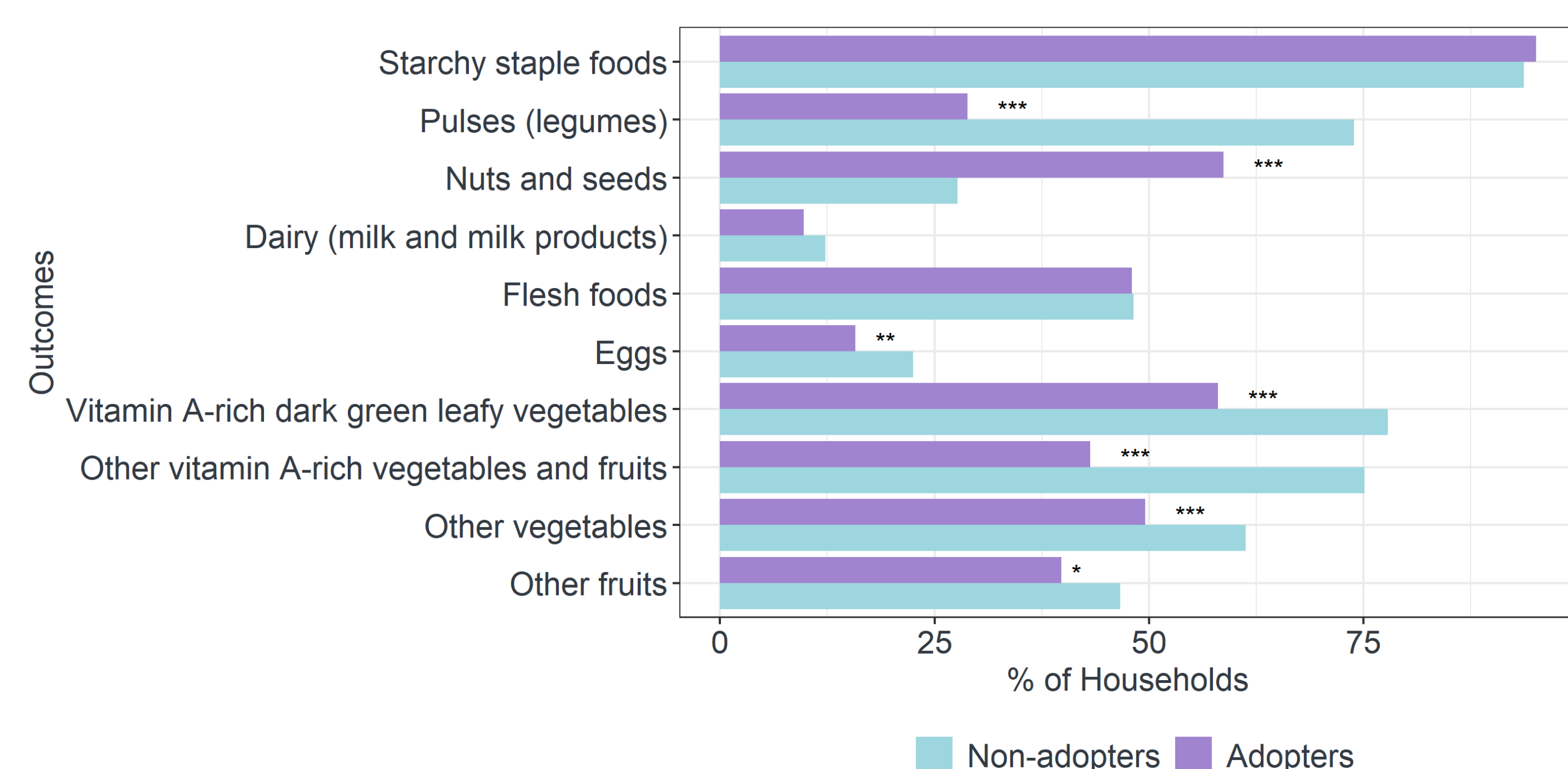
Oil palm is **positively** associated with **income increases**.

METHODS

- We employed various econometric models: Ordinary **least squares** regression, **Poisson regression** model, **Two stage least squares** regression and **Kinky least squares** regression, **Coefficient stability** and **Oster bounds**.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Oil palm adopters consume less diverse foods than non-oil palm adopters



RESULTS (continued)

Figure 2: Oil palm production is negatively associated with both MDD-W and MADD

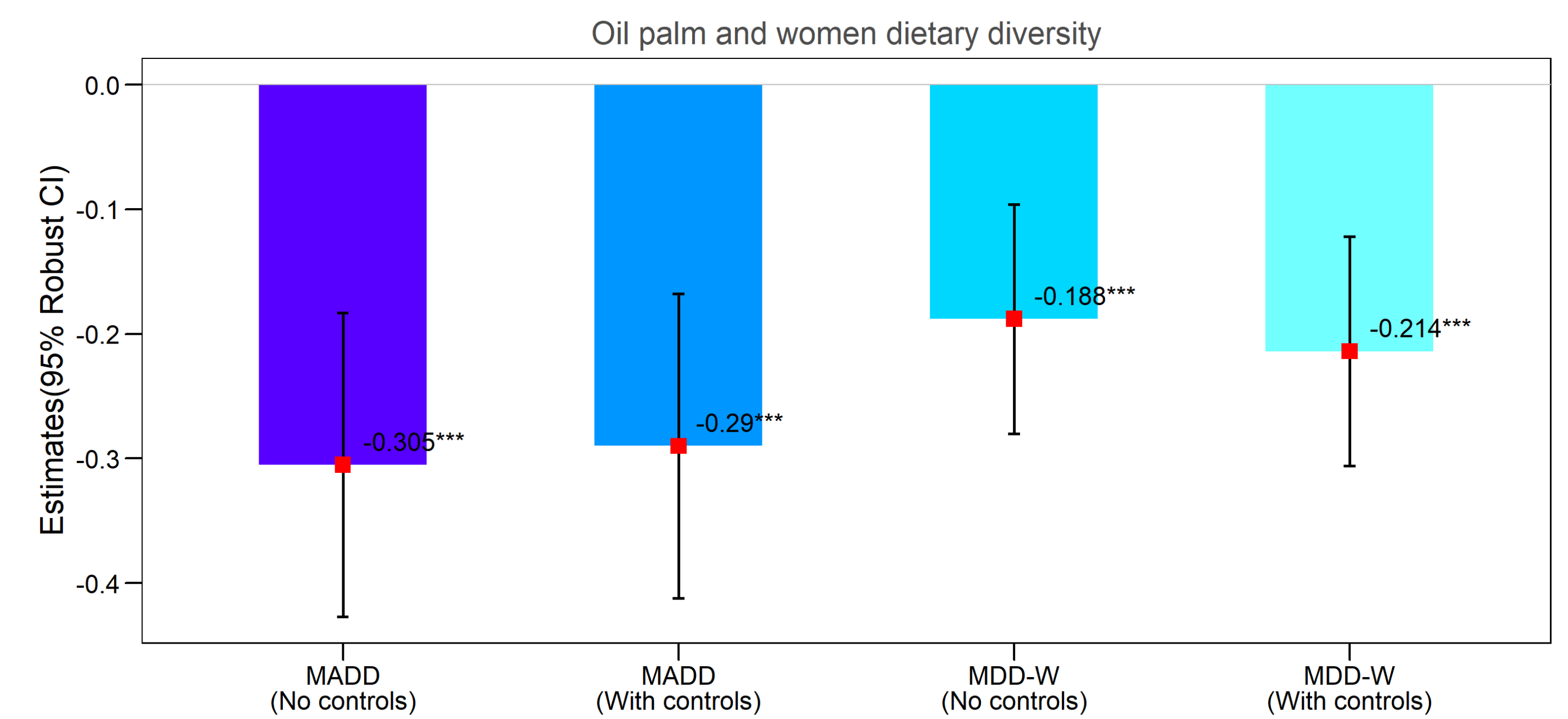


Figure 3: Oil palm farmers are less likely to consume nutritionally valued foods

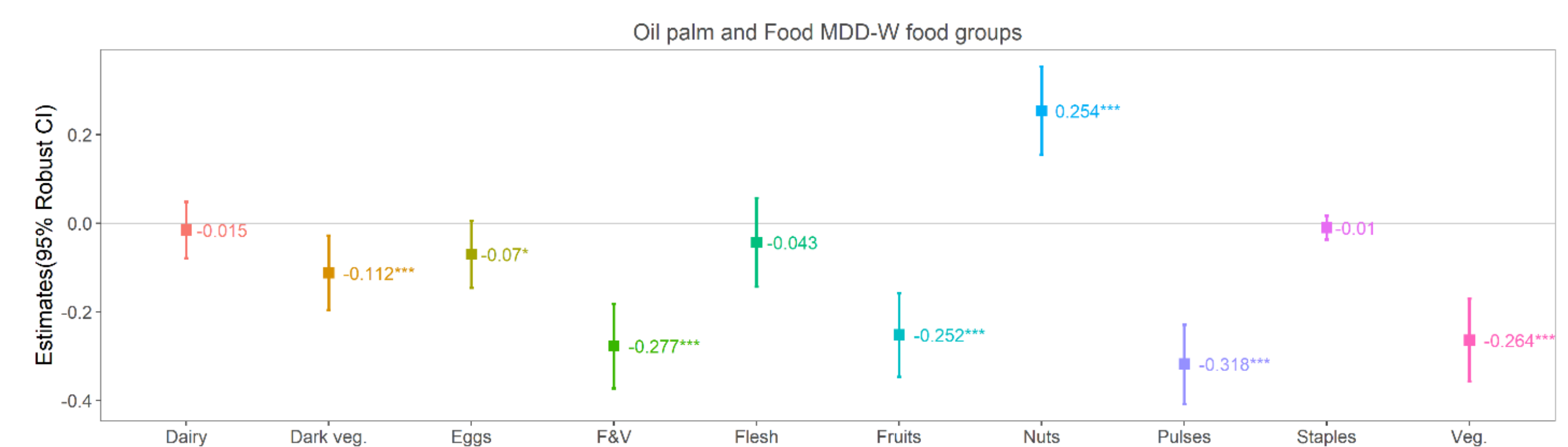


Figure 4: Oil palm adoption reduces production diversity but increases cash crop cultivation and income

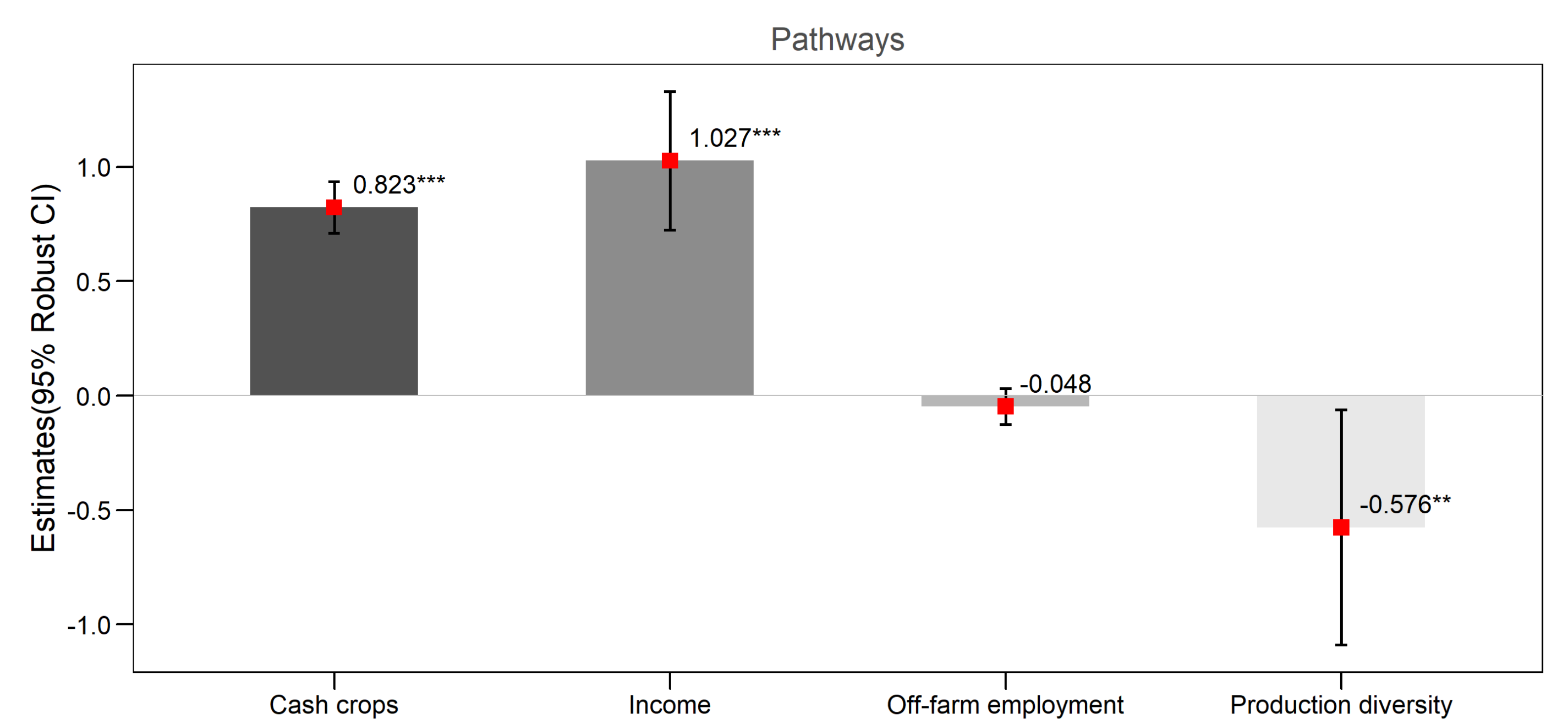
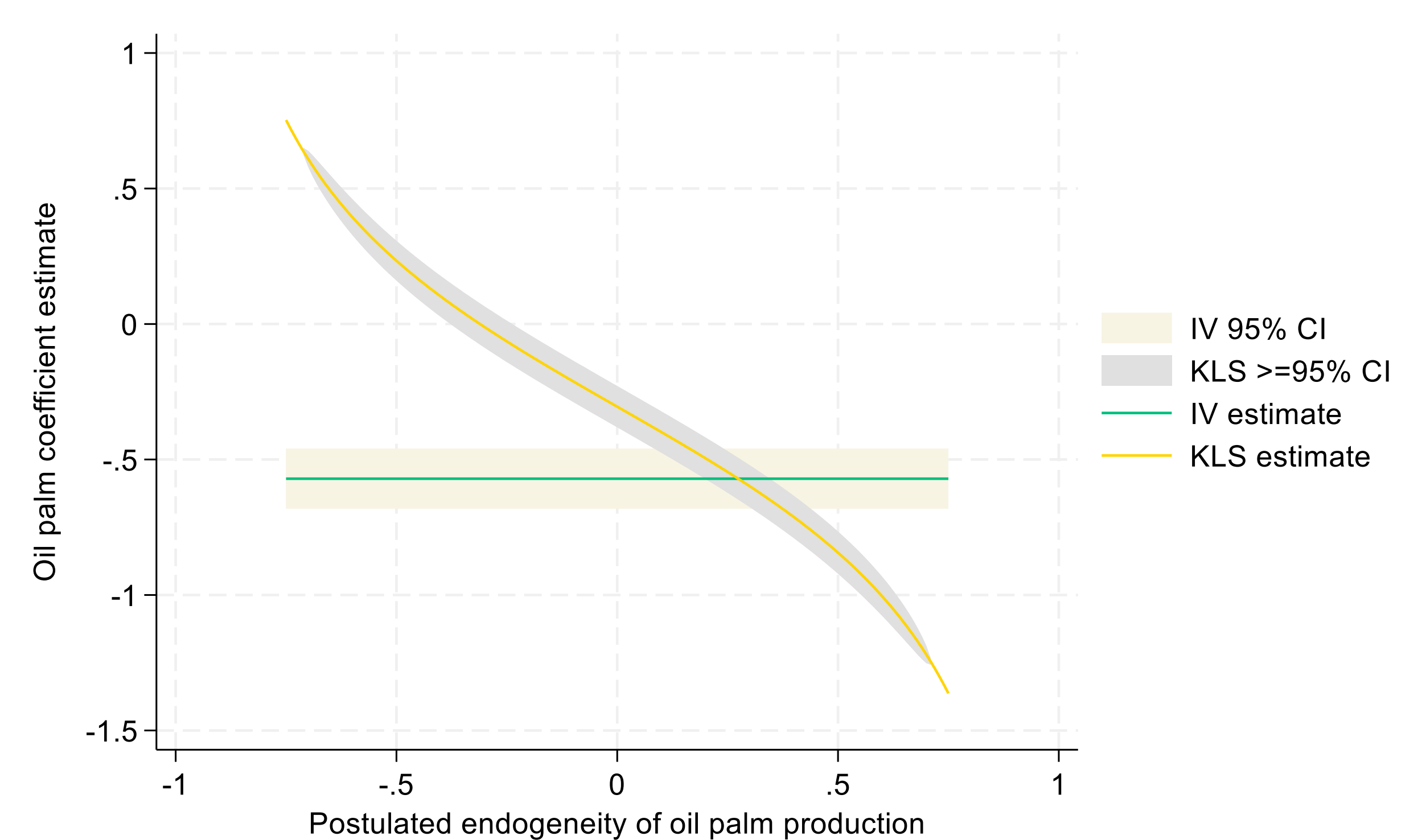


Figure 5: Results are robust and unlikely to be based on the the Kinky least squares regression



CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- **Context matters** – invest in oil palm processing.
- Boost the adoption of labour-saving technologies.
- Institutional support to oil palm farmers