**Data user manual**

**for “Rural Property Rights, Returns to Scale and Contracts”**

**Research Team:**

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**Project Description, Pilot survey and Sample selection**  
This project is funded by the ESRC grant. We surveyed both rural households and agricultural firms that rented land from rural households in 2012. We hired a Chinese company and ten Chinese research assistants to do a pilot survey in Sep 2012. After their feedback, we revised the questionnaires with the help from experts from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in China.

The Research Center of Rural Economy (RCRE) of the Chinese MOA started collecting household-level information from 1986. They tracked a given household in their sample in the subsequent years, forming a panel dataset, called the National Fixed Point (NFP) survey. NFP households and villages were selected for representativeness based on region, income, cropping pattern, population, and non-farm activities. The NFP data contains detailed information on household agricultural production, consumption, asset accumulation, employment, and income.

To take advantage of the NFP historical household-level information, we co-operated with the MOA by adding our questionnaire to their annual survey. Given that we were focused on households who rented out land to agricultural firms and the firms that rented in land from NFP households, we selected a subsample of NFP villages based on land rental activity in the years prior to 2012.

For the latest update about the project and publications result from this project, please check PI or co-PI’s school websites.

**Data Collection, Processing, and preparation**

In June 2012, MOA enumerator leaders from different provinces came to Beijing for the annual training sessions for NFP survey. At the training session, a senior officer from MOA, Dr. Ou Wang, lectured in great details how to conduct our survey and also explained what each variable in our questionnaire means. These leaders then in turn trained local enumerators after they went back. In Nov, 2012, local enumerators started to visit all each households for NFP survey and our questionnaire is added onto NFP survey for a subset of selected households.

After local enumerators were done with the survey, they mailed back the hard copies to MOA office in Beijing. An independent company in Beijing was hired to scan all hard copies into pdf documents. After that, we hired another company in Beijing to input these pdf records into excel files.

To protect privacy of these NFP households (and also in line with the requirement from MOA), we anonymize these information that may help to identify the location of these MOA villages/households, including province code, village code and household code that is used by MOA survey system, while keeping a copy of such information in a safe place for further references.

The data we provided is raw data, i.e., we did not make any further processing on them. We simply read the information into stata for public sharing.

For public use, we prepare the following documents besides two stata datasets.

1. Firm Survey Questionaire\_English Version.doc

This is the firm survey questionnaire (in English).

1. Household Survey Questionaire\_English Version.doc

This is the household survey questionnaire (in English).

1. variable list for the firm survey.docx

This word file provides a list of all variables in the firm survey (in English)

1. variable list for the household survey.docx

This word file provides a list of all variables in the household survey (in English)

And the two datasets are:

hh\_submission\_12.dta, which is the household level survey

firm\_submission.dta, which is the firm survey

Missing values in the two datasets mean either the question is not applicable to the household/firm or the household/firm refused to provide us with such information. Please refer to “variable list for the firm survey.docx” and “variable list for the household survey.docx” for details.

Should you have any question about these datasets and documents, please contact us at:

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