
Evaluation light...

Jean-Louis Arcand, The Graduate Institute | Geneva

November 14, 2019



Long run micro data

Long run micro data

Long run micro data

Maps...

Eyes in the sky

Eyes in the sky

RCTs are NOT a
gold standard

- Available even in very poor countries
- Example: Burkina Faso
- Enquêtes Permanentes Agricoles (EPA), collected by the INSD, Ouagadougou
- Large agricultural production data, 2003-2017
- Actually begins in 1993
- Plot-level data with information on crops, yields, inputs and pesticides, plot characteristics and labour type



Long run micro data

Long run micro data

Long run micro data

Maps...

Eyes in the sky

Eyes in the sky

RCTs are NOT a
gold standard

Again for Burkina Faso

- Household survey data, 1996-2017
- Data on household characteristics and demographics
- Rich data on livestock type and use

The bottom line

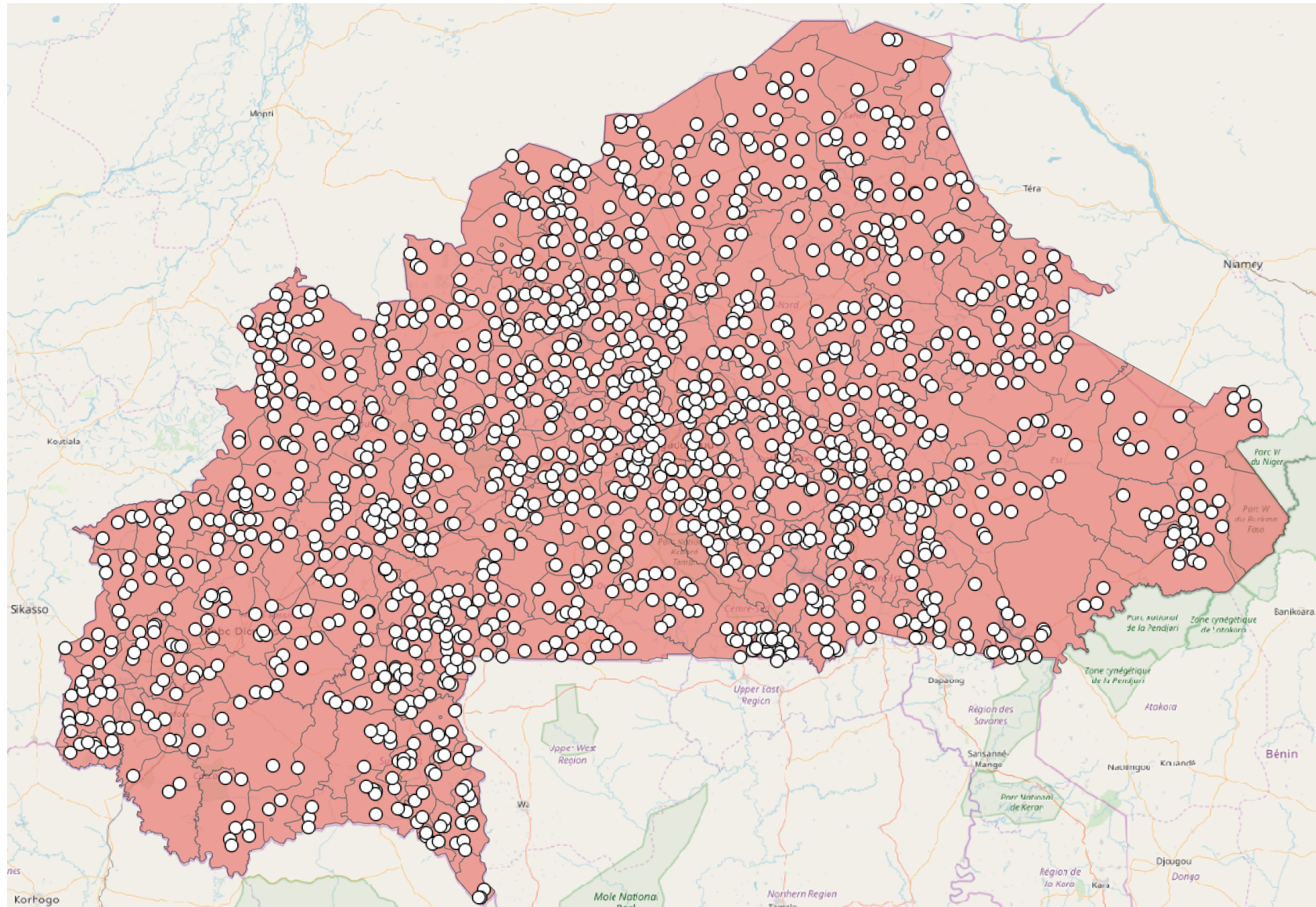
- 2,585 villages, 24,851 households, each on average cultivating around 10 plots
- 10,343 households observed at least 3 years throughout the dataset



Maps...

Long run micro data
Long run micro data
Maps...

Eyes in the sky
Eyes in the sky
RCTs are NOT a
gold standard





Eyes in the sky

Long run micro data
Long run micro data
Maps...

Eyes in the sky

Eyes in the sky
RCTs are NOT a
gold standard

- Available for the globe
- Basically free
- High resolution



Eyes in the sky

Long run micro data

Long run micro data

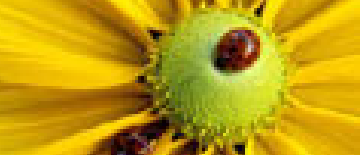
Maps...

Eyes in the sky

Eyes in the sky

RCTs are NOT a
gold standard

- Nighttime luminosity: the Dark Side of the Force
- Temperatures: STPH
- Land Surface Temperature (LST) day/night:
Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer
(MODIS)/Terra
- Normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI):
MODIS/Terra
- Enhanced vegetation index (EVI): STPH
- Rainfall data: NOAA ESRL Physical Sciences
Division (PSD)



RCTs are NOT a gold standard

Long run micro data

Long run micro data

Maps...

Eyes in the sky

Eyes in the sky

RCTs are NOT a
gold standard

- Remember Angus Deaton?
- Evaluation is something too important from the social standpoint to be left solely to the randomistas
- DID approaches can be readily used here: remember the famous “water for life” paper on the impact of the privatization of water supply in Argentina?
- Currently using these approaches in collaboration with Swiss TPH Basel to estimate the economic cost of Schistosomiasis and malaria