

THREE ESSAYS ON ADOPTION OF PRACTICES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Sarah Ali

Dr. Laura McCann, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

This dissertation consists of three essays related to the adoption of technology. The first essay is about the adoption of manure best management practices (BMPs) such as manure testing. A data set from 2006 of U.S. farmers from the states of Missouri and Iowa was used to ask farmers questions about farming practices and other environmental practices. The innovation was that this paper examined factors that affect manure testing for manure transported off the farm.

The second essay dealt with farmers in the district of Mardan in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, who were asked questions in the fall of 2009 about their use of fertilizer and manure and how they applied it to their crops. The purpose of the essay was to analyze the factors that affect the adoption of phosphorous fertilizer.

Finally, the third essay used 2007 data from a CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll to analyze the factors that affect U.S. consumers' adoption of environmental practices such as recycling, mass transit, and the purchase of compact florescent light bulbs.

The analysis of these three environmental practices has helped to show the characteristics of different agents in terms of their adoption choices. Livestock producers in the U.S., Pakistan, and consumers in the U.S. are all driven by a unique set of factors within their environment that influence their decisions.