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Economic efficiency analysis in Côte d'Ivoire

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This study investigates the determinant factors of economic efficiency in Cote d'Ivoire. We estimated a stochastic production frontier by the maximum likelihood method. For a deeper analysis, we considered a cost frontier and compared the scores of efficiency for each industrial sector. The findings of an investigation of about 3,000 firms observed from 2003 - 2006 reveal that the Ivorian economy is not economically efficient as a consequence of the ensuing: socio-political instabilities; outside debt burden; unemployment rate; and weakness in savings on organizational productivity. Therefore, this study recommends a permanent mechanism of supervision for economic efficiency indicators; promotion of a factual and evocative employment policy for the youth; and the enforcement of granting financial aid to enterprises to assist them in having high added value to improve organizational productivity.

Key words: Economic efficiency, technical efficiency, allocative efficiency, productivity, profit.

INTRODUCTION

In this study, we intend to think about economic efficiency in Côte d'Ivoire. The notion of efficiency can be defined by dissociating what comes from technical origin from what is due to a bad choice, in terms of inputs combination, compared to the price of the inputs. According to Farrell (1957) the technical efficiency measure the way that a firm chooses the quantity of inputs that is used in the production process when the factors' use propositions are given. The technical efficiency which evaluates the way the firm chooses the ratio of the different inputs compared to the market price that is supposed competitive. The economic efficiency is determined by the combination of the technical efficiency with the allocative efficiency. It refers to the concepts of productivity, performance, quality and profit on the one hand, and of the reduction of the total strength employed and of the costs on the other hand. The concept of economic efficiency will be associated to the criterion of value. Thus, any change inclined to increase the value is considered as an effective change and inefficient in the contrary.

The objective of this article is to identify the explanatory

factors of the economic efficiency or inefficiency in Côte d'Ivoire. In a specific way, we wish to analyze the organization of the production, determine the contribution of the form of organization to the productivity, study the impact of the institutional environment on the productivity and identify the level of performance of the sectors of economy production. The answer to these questions will lead to the identification of sources and of the determinants of the efficiency or inefficiency of the Ivorian economy.

Since some years, the socio-political instability has brought about a disorganization of the production machinery and an irrational use of the production factors. Furthermore, this instability has brought about the loss of qualified manpower which immigrated towards others countries. So, we postulate in favor of the main hypothesis according to which this situation has got negative effects on the efficiency of the Ivorian economy. This study whose results can be used by the authorities to act on the sources of the inefficiency is a contribution to the improvement of the global efficiency of the economy.

To evaluate this efficiency, we use the frontier production approach. We dispose unbalanced panel data related to 3,000 observed enterprises from 2003 - 2006 and shared out in 15 activity sectors of production of the

Ivorian economy. As the estimation of the efficiency depends on the nature of the frontier (deterministic or stochastic), it seems important to test it. In the stochastic frontier, the individual efficiency is estimated by the conditional mathematical expectation because the individual efficiency is not directly identifiable. In consideration of previous works of Lesueur and Plane (1995, 1998) which limit themselves to the analysis of the technical efficiency of the Ivorian firms, this study is, for us, the first application of the economic efficiency in Côte d'Ivoire, in the context of likelihood frontier estimation method.

This article is presented as follows: the first section shows the methodological aspects and efficiency concepts; the second one shows the frontier model and the Ivorian relative data; as for the third one, it indicates the results of the analysis.

CONCEPTS AND EFFICIENCY EVALUATION METHODS

In this section, an outline of concepts of efficiency in connection with the economic literature is presented. Then, efficiency estimation methods are recalled and an account related to the determinants of the efficiency is done.

Concepts of efficiency

The measure of the efficiency appeared in Koopmans (1951) who was interested in the production analysis and in Debreu (1951) who introduced resources utilization coefficient. In 1957, Farrell argued that the firm's efficiency can be calculated empirically and he proposed, for the first time, an innovation method of efficiency frontier estimation from real situations of production observations.

Following N'Gbo (1991) and Atkinson and Cornwell (1994) studies, we can consider that a production unit is effective technically if, from the inputs it possesses, it produces the maximum of possible outputs or if, to produce a given quantity of outputs, it uses the smallest possible quantities of outputs. Briec et al. (2006) keep on by explaining that the technical efficiency degree measure of a production unit permits to surround if this last one can increase its production without consuming, at the same time, more resources, or reduce the use of at least one input by conserving at the same time, the same level of production.

A definition of the allocative efficiency is in the article of Rodriguez-Alves et al. (2007). They consider that the allocative efficiency puts in relation to the inputs utilizations by the enterprise according to the current prices on the market. The allocative efficiency is necessary if the firm maximizes its profits or minimizes its costs at a given level of production. These two hypotheses of behavior permit to define an optimum combination of inputs and the measure of the allocative efficiency is got by comparing the minimum cost of production of a quantity of outputs at the cost incurred effectively by the firm.

The economic efficiency is measured by the global economic performance of the firm, that is, by its ability to make its operations profitable. Farrell (1957) defined the economic efficiency by the product of technical efficiency and the allocative efficiency. According to his example, it appears that a firm cannot be 100% efficient economically if it is not 100% efficient technically and at the same time 100% efficient allocatively. The economic efficiency can be separated into two distinct criteria and is therefore only the resultant of those two measures. As it is shown by Coelli, Prasada

and Battese (1998), Amara and Robert (2000) or again Ajibefun and Daramola (2003), this definition seems to be accepted universally.

Efficiency estimation methods

The frontier estimation methods can be classified according to the frontier planned form, according to the estimation technique used to get it and according to the nature and the supposed properties of the gap between the observed production and the optimal production. The classification according to the frontier form permits to distinguish between the parametric approaches and the nonparametric approaches. The parametric approach presents a function including explicit parameters (Cobb-Douglas, CES, Translog, etc.). Nuama (2006) indicates that the parametric approach is the one which presents a function including explicit parameters. In the case of a parametric function, many econometrical techniques and non econometrical ones permit to estimate the production or the cost frontiers parameters: the least squares method or the maximum likelihood method. The nonparametric frontiers have the particularity not to impose any pre-established form to the frontier (Murillo-Zamorano, 2004).

The nonparametric approach is then used when the production process cannot be identified by a functional form. The convexity of the production is the only differentiation element of the non parametric approaches. It makes it possible to distinguish the convex nonparametric approach from that non convex. The former was used by Farrell in 1957 for the first time. The production frontier proposed by Farrell is linear and it imposes some constant outputs at the scale. Two methods (Data Envelopment Analysis and Free Disposal Hull) help to estimate the parametric approach of the production frontier. The first method consists in estimating a convex envelop while the second one permits to arrange the firms in a growing order, so as to estimate a frontier in the form of stairs. An application of the first method with some data related to the Ivorian written press can be observed in Nuama (2002) study. The mathematical program planning helps to estimate the nonparametric approach frontiers. It is about some descriptive methods which use as support the linear program planning or the quadratic program planning (Leleu, 2006). The nature of the gaps between the observed production and the maximum production distinguishes the stochastic frontiers from the deterministic frontiers. In fact, if we suppose that the gaps are only explained by the inefficiency of the producer, we qualify the frontier of having a deterministic nature. If, on the contrary, we estimate that the gaps are explained at the same time by the inefficiency of the producer and by some random elements which do not depend on the producer, we say that the frontier has a stochastic nature Kumbhakar and Lovell, 2000).

In short, the efficiency of a firm or of a sector can be measured through some parametric and nonparametric approaches which differ primarily by the assumptions concerning the residues. A production or a cost frontier will be parametric if we impose a deterministic functional form (Cobb-Douglas, Translog, etc.). If we suppose that any gap between the estimated function and the observations is considered as coming from the producer's inefficiency, and stochastic, if the gaps are explained by both the producer's inefficiency and some random elements which are not under the owner's control. The parametric approaches impose a functional form that presuppose the frontier form, whereas the nonparametric approaches impose less structure to the frontier but they suppose the absence of random errors.

Efficiency determinants

The economic efficiency measure permits to identify the potential gains of profit in the studied sector. The resulting inefficiency can

be explained by some factors such as the size of the exploitation, the age and the instruction level of the head of the exploitation, etc. From a political point of view, it is interesting to search the sources of the inefficiency and to identify the determinants. The authorities can act on the determinants thus identified to improve the global efficiency. The first habitual question asked is how to explain the differential of efficiency observed between the exploitations and/or between the sectors? For this purpose, many methods are used. There is the method in only one stage called production frontier with composed errors and with incorporated effects of inefficiency proposed by Battese and Coelli (1992).

Another method also used to explain the inefficiencies has got two stages: first of all the inefficiencies are estimated from a parametric or nonparametric frontier then a regression of the scores of efficiency is done on the variable determinants. In general, this supposes that the variables explaining the efficiency are the ones related to the characteristics of the owners and the exploitations; they are different from the production factors. This hypothesis is introduced to avoid the bias included in the first stage, according to which the efficiency level is independent of those variables while in the second stage, they are considered as dependent. According to Murillo-Zamorano (2004), the methods give equivalent results. The advantage of this method is that in case of specification error in the second stage, the bias affects only the determinants estimated coefficients and not the frontiers coefficients. As Lovell (2000) asserts, this method can be used for the non parametric approach and for the parametric approach as well. The regression done in the second stage is possible thanks to the OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) method or a Tobit model to take into account the truncated characteristic (between 0 and 1) of the dependent variable (efficiency).

Frontier model and Ivorian firms data

This section concerns the presentation of the kept frontier model and the analysis of the scores of the economic efficiency. It ends with an analysis of the Ivorian firms' data and some variables.

The frontier model

We keep, in this study, the parametric approach of the stochastic production frontier. Actually, we suppose that the gaps are not only explained by the inefficiency of the producer. They are the result of both the producer's inefficiency and some random elements which do not depend on the producer.

Following Meeusen and Van den Broeck (1977) and Lovell and Schmidt (1977) who proposed independently stochastic production frontier models, and N'Gbo (1994) who worked from data of

unbalanced panel, we consider the following production frontier:

$$\ln y_{it} = \ln[f(x_{it}, \beta)] + v_{it} - u_i \quad (1)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T_i$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$

Where y_{it} is the production of the i^{th} firm at the t^{th} period; x_{it} is a vector (x_{it}) of the inputs of the i^{th} firm at the t^{th} period; β est a vector (β) of the unknown technological parameters of the frontier; T_i represents the number of observations of the i^{th} firm; N represents the

numbers of firms; v_{it} is the habitual symmetrical error term. It represents the gap due to the risks which influence the production and which are not directly under the control of the manager and u_i is a term of non negative error representing the inefficiency and supposed unvarying within the

time. The frontier (1) is stochastic V in the sense where it combines the two terms of error u_i and v_{it} . In the deterministic frontier, the

term V_{it} does not appear explicitly. This type of frontier does not take into account the classical error term and a gap compared to the production frontier is considered as due to the inefficiency.

The relation (1) can also be written under the form:

$$\ln y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \psi_{it} \quad (2)$$

$$\psi_{it} = v_{it} - u_i$$

The vector of input x_{it} can be disintegrated in several explanatory variables such as the proper capitals (CP), the capital productivity (PC), the employment level (NE), the work productivity (PT), the inputs volume (VI), the investments in the in-service training (FC) and the equipments and other infrastructures (EI).

Thus, Equation (2) becomes:

$$\ln y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 CP_{it} + \beta_2 PC_{it} + \beta_3 NE_{it} + \beta_4 PT_{it} + \beta_5 VI_{it} + \beta_6 FC_{it} + \beta_7 EI_{it} + \psi_{it} \quad (3)$$

The production frontier (3) can be estimated by the OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) method or by the maximum likelihood method if we

specify the distributions of the terms of error u_i and v_{it} .

If we consider the maximum likelihood method, following Aigner, Lovell and Schmidt (1977) and Balk (2003), we take a normal

distribution for v , that is to say that $v \sim N(0, \sigma_v^2)$ and a truncated central normal distribution on the left in zero for u_i , that

is to say $u_i \rightarrow \left[N(0, \sigma_u^2) \right]$. The joined density for v and u knowing that the two distributions are independent is the written like this:

$$f(\mu, v) = \frac{1}{\pi \sigma_u \sigma_v} \exp \left[-\left(\frac{u^2}{2\sigma_u^2} \right) - \left(\frac{v^2}{2\sigma_v^2} \right) \right] \quad (4)$$

If we replace v in terms of u , we obtain:

$$f(\mu, \psi) = \frac{1}{\pi \sigma_u \sigma_v} \exp \left[-\left(\frac{u^2}{2\sigma_u^2} \right) - \left(\frac{\psi + u}{2\sigma_v^2} \right)^2 \right] \quad (5)$$

Now let's calculate the density of ψ by integrating equation (5) compared to u . We have:

$$f(\psi) = \left(\frac{2}{\sigma} \right) f^* \left(\frac{\psi}{\sigma} \right) \left[1 - F^* \left(\frac{\psi}{\sigma} \right) \right] \quad (6)$$

With $-\infty \leq \psi \leq +\infty$, $\sigma^2 = \sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2$ et $\lambda = \sigma_u / \sigma_v$.

$F^*(.)$ indicates the function of sharing out a reduced centered normal distribution and $f^*(.)$ its density. Let's signal out that the

considered as a measure of the relative variability of two sources of inefficiency. $\frac{\sigma_u^2}{\sigma_v^2} \rightarrow 0$ implies that $\frac{\sigma_u^2}{\sigma_v^2}$ and/or that $\sigma_u^2 \rightarrow 0$, which means that the random shocks dominate in the

explanation of the inefficiency. In the same way, when then the gaps to the frontier are essentially due to the technical inefficiency.

If we consider the least squares method, model (2) can be written:

$$\ln y_{it} = \beta_0 - \beta_j' X_{it} + (v_{it} - (u_i - \mu)) \quad (7)$$

We can parameterize it again as follows:

$$\ln y_{it} = \beta_0' - \beta_j' X_{it} + \psi'_{it} \quad (8)$$

With $\beta_0 = (\beta - \mu)$;

$$\psi'_{it} = v_{it} - (u_i - E(u)) = v_{it} - (u_i - \mu) = \psi + \mu$$

The estimation procedure of (8) can be done in two stages. On the

one hand, as distribution of β_j is symmetrical, we estimate (8) by ordinary least squares; all the β_j will be unbiased. On the other hand, we completely identify the frontier by estimating β_0 and μ .

To do so, a particular distribution μ for each the terms of error must be specified. Thus, we can estimate β by the moments

method and then μ .

We determine the economic efficiency from the estimation of a system of equations composed of a production function and of the first order conditions of the production cost minimization. This method developed by Schmidt and Lovell (1979) is applied by Ferreira and Steel (2007).

The economic efficiency scores

The economic efficiency scores are not obtained by the product between the technical efficiency scores and those of allocative efficiency.

In terms of profit, a firm efficiency can be estimated from the models of frontier used to measure the technical efficiency of the firms (Ali and Flinn, 1989). For a model in the logarithm form, the technical efficiency (ET) of the firm i is given by:

$$ET_i = \frac{\beta_j' X_{ij} \exp(\mu_{it})}{\beta_j' X_{ij} \hat{\mu}} = \exp(-u_{it}) \quad (9)$$

$$\hat{\mu}_i = \max_j (\delta_j^*) - \delta_i^* \quad (10)$$

Following Schmidt and Sickles (1984) and Goaid and Ben Ayed-

efficiency rests on the use of the predictor (i^*) which is BLUP (Best linear unbiased predictor). After the estimation of the frontier (3), we obtain:

Mouelhi (2000), we consider that the estimation of the technical

$$\hat{\mu}_i^* = \frac{-\sigma_{\mu} \sum_{t=1}^T (u_{it} - \beta_0 - X_{it} \beta^*)}{T \sigma_{\mu}^2 + \sigma_v^2}$$

While using the parametric approach for the determination of the technical efficiency scores, we will estimate a stochastic production frontier from the Cobb-Douglas type with the help of the frontier 4.1 program (Coelli, 1996). The software of frontier 4.1 provides by iteration the elasticity of the production frontier, the scores of technical efficiency and the determinants coefficient. The parameters of the stochastic production frontier will be estimated by the likelihood maximum method. After the function initialization by ordinary least squares method, the program initiates some iterations.

Thereby, by choosing its production program, the firm must take account of their relative prices on the market, in addition to the technical parameters. So the allocative efficiency consists in choosing the best inputs productive combination on account of their prices in order to optimize the profit or minimize the costs at a given production level. Thus, for a vector of the factor's prices, the production equation is given by the following equation:

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^7 P_i X_i \quad (12)$$

X_i represents the quantities of the production factors and i varying from 1 to 7 and corresponds to the different variables of the frontier (3). With the hypothesis that all the factors are variable and have some prices on the market, we associate some prices (P_i) to the inputs. Then, the firms try to minimize their production cost.

The minimization of the cost in the sectors of activity mentioned above will be considered as a problem of optimization under

constraint:

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^7 P_i X_i$$

Min $Y = f(CP, PC, NE, PT, VI, FC, EI)$ s/c (13)

The resolution of this optimization problem by the Lagrange formula permits to obtain the following equation of inputs requirement:

$$X_i = \lambda Y \beta_i / P_i \quad (14)$$

In order to eliminate the variables X_j and Y , let's consider the ratios X_j / X_1

of the required quantity of input: X_j / X_1 , with j varying from 2 to 7. After the resolution of these ratios, we can deduce the equations X_2, \dots, X_7 and substitute them in the frontier. Thus we obtain X_1 as the level of production function Y , Cobb-Douglas production frontier and prices parameters. So we come to a dual cost function that equals to:

$$C = KY^p \prod_{i=1}^7 \beta_i^{1/r} \quad (15)$$

où $r = \beta_i$ et $K = r^* [A^* \beta_1^{\beta_1} * \beta_2^{\beta_2} * \beta_3^{\beta_3} * \beta_4^{\beta_4} * \beta_5^{\beta_5} * \beta_6^{\beta_6} * \beta_7^{\beta_7}]^{-1/r}$

Table 1. The average representatively of the firms.

The different sectors of activity	Number of firms	Number of firms (%)	Added value (%)
Agriculture, hunting and sylviculture	70	2.33	6
Fishing, pisciculture, aquaculture	8	0.27	5
Extractive activities	24	0.80	4
Manufacturing activities	454	15.13	7
Production and distribution of electricity, de gas and water	8	0.27	5
Construction and public works	173	5.77	6
Trade, vehicles and domestic articles repairing	1.321	44.03	12
Hôtels and restaurants	38	1.27	8
Transports, activities of transport and communications helpers	221	7.37	8
Financial activities	70	2.33	11
Estate services, hires and services to enterprises	459	15.30	9
Public administration activities	5	0.17	6
Éducation	82	2.73	6
Health and welfare activities	38	1.27	5
Individual or group activities	29	0.97	4
Household activities as employers of the domestic personnel	0	0.00	0
Extraterritorial organizations activities	0	0.00	0
Total	3,000	100	100

Source: Banque des données financières of INS, Côte d'Ivoire.

from 1 to 15 to take into account the 15 sectors of activity) during the year t , adjusted by the random term of error. Under its linear form, the dual cost frontier becomes:

$$\ln C_{zt} = K + 1/r \ln(Y_{zt}) + \alpha_1 \ln(P1_{zt}) + \alpha_2 \ln(P2_{zt}) + \alpha_3 \ln(P3_{zt}) + \alpha_4 \ln(P4_{zt}) + \alpha_5 \ln(P5_{zt}) + \alpha_6 \ln(P6_{zt}) + \alpha_7 \ln(P7_{zt}) \quad (16)$$

With $\alpha_i = \beta_r^i$. The different P_i are characteristics of the production factors prices. The coefficients of $K, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_7$ are parameters obtained analytically and minimizing the function of cost under the constraint of the reached production level. For a given level of production, the economic efficiency is by definition the relation between the minimum cost and the observed cost. Following Albouchi, Bachta and Jacquet (2005), we note that the economic efficiency is:

$$EE_{iezt} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^7 X_{iezt}}{\sum_{i=1}^7 X_{iezt}} \quad (17)$$

The acronym EE indicates the economic efficiency and X_{iezt} is the quantity of efficient economic factor.

Analysis of Ivorian firms data and the variables

We have at our disposal a data basis provided by Banque des Données Financières (BDF), an agency of Institute National de la Statistique (INS). The sample of the study concerns a total of 3,000 firms shared out in the 15 sectors of activity in the Ivorian economy

in accordance with the Nomenclature of activities of states members of AFRISAT (Sub-Saharan Africa economics and statistics Observatory). These firms represent themselves alone about 63% of the national added value and 72% of the employment. The collected data concern the technical capital, the productivity of the capital, the level of employment, the productivity of work, the volume of inputs, the investments in the in-service training and the equipments and other infrastructures. They are observed on the period going from 2003 - 2006. It was difficult for us to get the recent data because they are not purged yet by the competent structure of INS.

The table below indicates the covered sector representation of the variables of the frontier panel. The added value is implicitly taken into account in the calculation of the capital productivity and the work productivity.

The total size of the used panel is 12,000 observations because 3,000 enterprises are observed over four years from 2003 - 2006. With regard to Table 1, a good representative of sectors « trade, vehicles and domestic articles repairing » is remarkable. It is the sector of activity that includes the greater number of firms. Then come, by order of representation, the sectors like « estate services, hires and services to enterprises » and « manufacturing activities ». The sectors of activity where we find less firms are the sector « household activities as employers of the domestic personnel » and the sector « extraterritorial organizations activities ». These sectors remain under-represented because of the non availability of the data. Yet, this example of sample has no incidence on the empirical results insofar as the estimations of the stochastic production frontier are carried out by sector. With the study of contributions percentages in terms of added values, we can observe that the most represented sectors are « trade, vehicles and domestic articles repairing », « financial activities », « estate services, hires and services to enterprises » and « manufacturing activities ». It seems that there is a high correlation between the number of firms in a given sector and its contribution in terms of added value.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the variables of the production frontier.

Variables of the frontier	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Dev.
Technical capital	6.54 e + 09	256 980	1.55 e + 11	6.45 e + 09
Capital productivity	52.98	135	68 623.05	974.81
Employment level	63.01	5	11 451	338.64
Work productivity	53.31	204	38 032.50	611.59
Inputs volume	1.39 e + 08	143 678	7.18 e + 10	1.28 e + 09
In-service training	5.02 e + 08	508 402	8.18 e + 10	3.86 e + 09
Equipments and other infrastructures	1.26 e + 08	198 231	8.47 e + 10	1.50 e + 09

Source: Estimation from the statistics of the Banque des Données Financières, INS (2006).

Seven variables have been identified in the production frontier. The availability of the variables such as the employment level (which include senior executives, senior experts and junior executives, technicians, skilled workers, employees, unskilled workers and apprentice), inputs volume, the amount of the investments in the in-service training and the equipments and other infrastructures volume has relatively been easy. The availability of the variables related to the capital productivity and the work productivity was not obvious.

The different productivities of capital and works have been calculated from the roughly added value deflated by the general consumption price index. The work productivity takes account of the salary. The relative salary of the personnel has been measured by bringing near the average salary of each enterprise to the average salary of their activity branch to which they belong respectively. In order to take account of the effect of the structure of qualification, the average salary has been, on the one hand, regressed on the counseling rate (report of the executives to the global employment). The residue of the relative salary originated from that regression has been kept as a measure to incite the salary of the personnel. As Lesueur and Plane (1998) indicated it, we maintain that the evaluation of the capital stock from the BDF data is delicate. The book-keeping rule generally forces the enterprises to record their investments at the active for the acquisition value of the goods. Then, the equipments are amortized taking account of their probable length of life according to a digressive or linear mode. The rough value of the immobilization, closer to the active of the balance sheet so much as the goods is not relegated to a lower position, whereas the net accountable value decreases on account of the supposed law of mortality. To evaluate the rough capital stock of each period correctly, complementary information (not available in the basis of data) such as the delivery age of the equipments and their replacement value are necessary; Moreover, the data do not allow us to take account of possible operations of legal re-evaluation of the balance sheets which were able to appear concerning some enterprises.

For all these reasons, we preferred to evaluate the stock of the fixed capital from the net investments put together. In order words, we suppose that the value of the available capital is better evaluated when we take account of the legal modalities of amortization rather than when we disregard its usury. A price index for the rough formation of the fixed capital of the Ivoirian productive sector basis 100 in 1995 has been kept as a deflator of the net investments put together. We give an idea of the statistics concerning the used different variables in the production frontier. As it is possible to observe it through the last column of the Table 2, the gaps between the sectors of activity for a common variable are very important. They can possibly introduce some bias in the estimations. That's why the resort to the logarithm is recommended. This mathematical procedure of variables transformation in time

series has the advantages to standardize them and to stabilize them (Greene, 2005).

RESULTS PRESENTATION

The results will be presented in three phases. First, it will be about to indicate the production frontier estimation results, then to present the technical, allocative and economic efficiency scores and finally to bring out the determinants of Ivoirian enterprises efficiency. To obtain the estimation results of the production frontier, we resorted to the maximum likelihood method applied by the program Frontier 4.1. The production frontier estimation results specified in Equation (3) are presented in Table 3. These results refer to the 15 sectors of activity

observed γ on the period from 2003 - 2006. The value of gamma (γ) teaches us that the gap compared to the frontier is explained

by the inefficiency of γ the sector at

58%. The evaluation of (γ), significantly different from zero, indicates the existence of the productive inefficiencies. This result means that the gap between the observed production and the potential production of the studied

sectors is partly due to their inefficiency. The

value of gamma (γ) can appear relatively weak compared to the exploitations (N'Gbo, 1994).

Actually, in our study, 42% of the gaps between the observed exploitation and the potential production of the 15 sectors of activity linked to some random effects including measure errors, which can come from the

nature of the data. However, (γ) is significantly inferior to 1, which

justifies the importance of the γ stochastic error

term. The closer the value of (γ) is to 1, the weaker the difference between the results from a stochastic estimation and those from a deterministic estimation

(Bric et al., 2006). On the other hand, the value of (η) is not significantly different from zero, which shows that the level of the technical inefficiency has not changed much on the observation period.

For a deeper analysis, we now consider the cost frontier as it was identified in equation (16). The dual cost

Table 3. Parameters estimation of the stochastic production frontier.

Independent variables	Coefficients	Values	t-test
Constant	β_0	0.167	0.735
Technical capital	β_1	0.535*	0.416
Capital productivity	β_2	0.133***	1.842
Employment level	β_3	0.098	0.541
Work productivity	β_4	0.267**	2.953
Inputs volume	β_5	0.510*	5.299
In-service training	β_6	0.129***	1.606
Equipments and other infrastructures	β_7	0.334**	2.032
Sigma squared	σ^2	0.043***	1.429
Gamma	γ	0.582**	2.573
Eta	η	0.026	0.428

Source: Estimation from the statistics of the Banque des Données Financières, INS (2006). Significant at 1%, (**)
Significant at 5%, (***) Significant at 10%.

frontier is derived from the frontier of stochastic production analytically. It permitted to estimate and to decompose the economic efficiency into two parts: technical and allocative efficiency. The results are presented per sector of activity in Table 4.

The cost frontier (16) estimation results inspire the following comments: none of the sectors of activity is 100% efficient. The scores of efficiency obtained permit to conclude that the sector « extractive activities » is the most efficient on the technical level and on the economical level as well. So, this sector valorizes more its productive resources than the others. Then, the sectors « production and distribution of electricity, gas and water », « construction and public works » and « financial activities » come by order of economic efficiency. Yet, the sectors which are less efficient are the sectors « fishing, pisciculture, aquaculture », « health activities and welfare » and « transports, activities of transport and communication helpers ». Globally over the period 2003 - 2006 with a panel of 3,000 enterprises, we can consider that the Ivorian economy is not efficient economically. The average score of the economic efficiency is 0.528. These results indicate that the scientific knowledge and the innovation that occurred locally are used to produce goods with some employments and some combinations of less efficient available inputs. The environment of sociopolitical instability has therefore disorganized the productive equipment and has got negative effects on the economic efficiency in Côte d'Ivoire. The results from Tobit model concerning technical, allocative and economic efficiency levels of the 15 sectors of activity are represented in Table 5. We resort

to Tobit model to take account of the truncated aspect (between 0 and 1) of the score of efficiency.

We suppose, in this study, that the factors which affect the level of technical, allocative and economic efficiency are the following: the enterprise's size measured by the personnel, the institutional environment, the organization's form, the added value, the immobilized assets, the national saving, the financial debt and the annual unemployment rate. The institutional environment variable is a mute variable. It takes the value 0 between 2003 and 2004 and the value 1 in 2005 and 2006. The figure 0 means that the sociopolitical environment is not stable and the Figure 1 indicates that it is serene. These different values are in harmony with the variations of the risk-country index. The variable « *organization form* » related to the juridical structure of the enterprises will be considered as a mute variable too. It will take the value 1 for public companies and 0 for the other forms of organization.

Those factors effects on the efficiency level are estimated by the Tobit method regression with the software Shazam. It presents two advantages: its easiness of manipulation and the act that the truncated aspect of the score of efficiency which takes values included between 0 and 1 are taken into account. The model is:

$$EFF = f(TE, EVI, FO, VA, AI, EN, DF, TC) \quad (18)$$

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With $t = 2003 - 2006$, $i = ET, EA, EE$ and ET

Table 4. The comparison of the scores of efficiency for each sector.

The different sectors of activity	Technical efficiency	Allocative efficiency	Economic efficiency
Agriculture, hunting and sylviculture	0.932	0.637	0.594
Fishing, pisciculture and aquaculture	0.855	0.539	0.461
Extractive activities	0.954	0.861	0.821
Manufacturing activities	0.870	0.662	0.576
Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	0.947	0.819	0.776
Construction and public works	0.891	0.762	0.679
Trade, vehicles and domestic articles repairing	0.673	0.675	0.454
Hotels and restaurants	0.848	0.607	0.515
Transports, activities of transport and communication helpers	0.889	0.491	0.436
Financial activities	0.872	0.723	0.630
Estate services, hires and services to enterprises	0.763	0.581	0.443
Public administration activities	0.776	0.527	0.409
Education	0.635	0.620	0.394
Health and welfare activities	0.594	0.648	0.384
Individual or group activities	0.572	0.683	0.390
Household activities as employers of the domestic personnel	0	0	0
Activities of extraterritorial organizations	0	0	0
Maximum	0.954	0.861	0.821
Minimum	0.635	0.491	0.394
Mean	0.805	0.656	0.531

Source: Estimation from the statistics of the Banque des Données Financières, INS (2006).

Table 5. Scores of efficiency determinants estimation.

Determinants	Technical efficiency		Allocative efficiency		Economic efficiency	
	Coefficients	t-test	Coefficients	t-test	Coefficients	t-test
Constant	1.875*	7.542	0.372	1.602	4.803*	6.867
TE	0.076*	-3.444	0.348	1.432	0.123*	5.054
EVI	-0.641*	-3.452	0.701**	2.453	0.649**	1.993
FO	0.482*	-4.098	-0.567	1.270	0.495***	1.481
VA	-0.785*	-3.763	0.832*	5.082	-0.788*	5.162
AI	-0.690*	-3.644	-0.734	-1.408	-0.695*	4.352
EN	-0.953*	-4.128	0.765*	-4.633	0.801**	1.972
DF	-0.902*	3.902	0.873	-0.762	-0.894*	4.388
TC	0.437 10 ^{-0.00} **	-1.568	-0.677 10 ^{-0.00} **	1.274	0.522 10 ^{-0.00} **	-8.054
R ²	0.938	-	0.876	-	0.914	-
Log likelihood	176	-	129	-	145	-

Source: Estimation from the statistics of the Banque des Données Financières, INS (2006). (*) Significant at 1%, (**) Significant at 5%, (***) Significant at 10%.

representing the technical efficiency, EA indicating the allocative efficiency and EE being the economic efficiency. The results are indicated as shown in Table 5. With regard to these results, we can affirm that the effects of the enterprise's size, the institutional environment, the organization's form, the national saving, the financial debts and the unemployment rate are statistically significant. A firm with a bigger size improves its

technical, allocative and economic efficiency. It is the example of the great companies settled down in Côte d'Ivoire such as Unilever, Filtisac or Nestlé which are very well quoted at the region stock exchange (BRVM). In the same way, an institutional environment more and more stable and credible favors the allocative and economic efficiency. This assertion is in conformity with the conclusion of Girod (2006). The results also show that

the organization's form is a factor that improves the technical and economical efficiency. The mobilization of the national saving constitutes a vector which improves the allocative and economic efficiency. This contribution of the saving to the global productivity has been analysed by many authors such as Alesina, Ardagna, Perotti and Schiantarelli (2002) or De Mello, Kongrud and Price (2004).

The relationship between efficiency level and financial debt shows that the enterprises which are more in debt are technically and economically the less efficient ones. This explains itself by the fact that the weight of the contracted with some suppliers annihilates the efforts of strategic organization and of productive investments. An enterprise with the capacity to finance and another one which needs finances do not have the same strategic general policies. These questions of external debt efficiency have been recently dealt with by Loxley and Sackey (2008). The results they come to are identical to ours. Concerning the added value, it was a negative effect and is statistically significant on the level of technical and economic efficiency. This result indicates that an important volume of turnover or of the added value is not necessary the expression of a technical or economic efficiency.

The effect of the unemployment rate on the levels of efficiency is significant. So it is possible to argue that the structure of the employment is an essential determinant of the levels of technical, allocative and economic efficiency. These results are in conform with the analyses of Gavrel and Lebon (2004) dealing with the links between the level of unemployment and the efficiency of the work market. In fact, while using a model of matching with differentiation of the qualifications, they show that the introduction of the minimum salary improves the appropriateness of the workers with the employments making the "bad" associations impossible and consequently improves the efficiency of the work market.

On the whole, we can note that the Ivorian productive system has been disorganized by the sociopolitical crisis which intervened in September, 2002. It partly justifies the economic inefficiency observed empirically. This inefficiency is essentially determined by the size of the enterprises, the institutional environment, the form of organization, the national saving, the financial debts and the level of employment. Some propositions for a better use of the resources can be made.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATIONS

Our analysis tried to understand and explain the determinants of the economic efficiency or economic inefficiency in Côte d'Ivoire. This study has its justification in the presence of sociopolitical crisis which established a sociopolitical instability and disorganized the production system. The additional effect of the use of the production factors which are not really rational and of the qualified manpower which immigrated towards other countries

have probably had an influence on the economic efficiency. Therefore, some questions are to be put: is it possible to argue that the Ivorian enterprises are efficient economically? These are the questionable points.

To answer them, we have used the data from the bank of financial data of INS. These data are related to 3,000 firms observe over the period from 2003 - 2006. The estimation of stochastic production frontier and the analysis of scores of efficiency have permitted to show that the production system is not efficient economically. Thus, the economic analysis has permitted to confirm the main research hypothesis. The results indicate that the gap between the observed production and the potential production is 20%. This important gap between the degrees of efficiency of the 15 sectors of activity shows that there are enormous possibilities to increase their efficiency. The estimation of a Tobit model has then permitted to identify the explanatory factors of the economic inefficiency. They are the size of enterprises, the institutional environment, the form of the organization, the national saving, the financial debts and the level of employment.

On the bias of these results, some recommendations in terms of economic policies can be made. The lack of information about the movements of the populations linked to the sociopolitical instability does not permit us to argue that the qualified manpower which immigrated towards other countries has disorganized the productive system. Nevertheless, as the size of the enterprises is an explanatory factor of the economic inefficiency, we suggest that people who decide and managers give proof of a better mastery of the size of their personnel. That leads to a deep analysis of the recruitment policy and more adapted ergonomics. The results also indicate that the institutional environment has got some negative effects on the economic efficiency in Côte d'Ivoire. So the sociopolitical crisis has made the foundations of the economy fragile and has led to a non optimal combination of available inputs. At this stage, it seems appropriate to invite the political actors to establish a peaceful and stable climate in order to improve the efficiency of the enterprises settled down in Côte d'Ivoire.

According to the results obtained, the national saving is a factor of economic inefficiency. So, we estimate that the government should continue to sensitise the populations about the validity of the mobilization of saving for a greater assistance to the enterprises. The efforts to grant financial aid are necessary in order to help the firms which have a strong added value and which are job suppliers so as to improve the organization of their productive system. We remain convinced that the application of all these proposals will contribute to a better use of the resources.

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