

## **RUTH VARGAS HILL**

Markets, Trade and Institutions Division,  
International Food Policy Research Institute  
2033 K Street NW, Washington DC, 20006 USA

### **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

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#### **International Food Policy Research Institute**

Research Fellow (September 2008 – present)

Postdoctoral Fellow (January 2007 – September 2008)

#### **World Bank**

Consultant in the Development Economics Group, Agricultural and Rural Development (February 2005 – December 2006)

#### **Department of Economics, University of Oxford**

Research Officer at the Centre for the Study of African Economies (June 2005 – October 2005)

#### **United Nations Development Programme**

Consultant for the 2005 Human Development Report (October 2004 – January 2005)

Member of the 2001 Human Development Report research team (September 2000 – November 2001)

#### **Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford**

Course tutor and organiser for the Human Development Training Course (February– September 2002 and May – September 2004)

#### **World Bank**

Consultant for the Commodity Risk Management Group (November 2002 – November 2003)

### **EDUCATION**

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#### **DPhil in Economics**, University of Oxford, 2005

Thesis: *Risk, Production and Poverty: A Study of Coffee in Uganda*. Supervisor: Marcel Fafchamps. Examiners: Stefan Dercon and Simon Appleton.

#### **MSc in Economics for Development**, University of Oxford, 2000

Thesis: *Livestock as a Buffer Stock: Consumption Smoothing in India*. Supervisor: Marcel Fafchamps.  
Webb-Medley prize for ranking first.

#### **BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics**, University of Oxford, 1998

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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#### **Articles**

Breaking the Norm: An empirical investigation into the unraveling of good behavior with Eduardo Maruyama and Angelino Viceisza. *Journal of Development Economics*. Forthcoming.

An experiment on the impact of weather shocks and insurance on risky investment with Angelino Viceisza. *Experimental Economics*. Forthcoming.

- Investment and Abandonment Behavior of Rural Households: An Empirical Investigation, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 2010.
- Liberalisation and Producer Price Risk: Examining Subjective Expectations in Uganda, *Journal of African Economies*. 2010
- Using Stated Preferences and Beliefs to Identify the Impact of Risk on Poor Households, *Journal of Development Studies*. 2009
- Price transmission and trader entry in domestic commodity markets with Marcel Fafchamps, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 56(4). 2008.
- Quality Control in Non-Staple Food Markets: Evidence from India with Marcel Fafchamps and Bart Minten. *Agricultural Economics* 38(3). 2008
- Selling at the farm-gate or travelling to market with Marcel Fafchamps, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 37(3). 2005

### **Books, collections of briefs, and book chapters**

- Innovations in insuring the poor* edited with Maximo Torero. 2009. 2020 Focus, IFPRI: Washington DC.
- The poorest and the hungry: Assessments, Analyses and Actions* edited with Joachim von Braun and Rajul Pandya-Lorch. 2009. IFPRI: Washington DC.
- Quality Control and the Marketing of Non-Staple Crops in India with Marcel Fafchamps and Bart Minten in Jo Swinnen (ed) *Global Supply Chains, Standards and the Poor*. CABI Publications. 2007
- The determinants of investments in coffee trees in Uganda in *Governance, coordination and distribution along commodity value chains, Rome, 4-5 April 2006, FAO Commodities and Trade Proceedings No. 2*. FAO, Rome. 2007
- The network age: Creating new models of technical cooperation” with Sakiko Fukuda-Parr in Fukuda-Parr, Lopes and Malik (eds.) *Capacity for Development: New Solutions to Old Problems*. Earthscan, New York. 2002

### **Working papers and reports**

- Offering rainfall insurance to informal insurance groups: evidence from a field experiment in Ethiopia with Stefan Dercon, Ingo Outes-Leon, Daniel Clarke and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. Mimeo 2011.
- Adoption of weather-index insurance: Learning from willingness to pay among a panel of households in rural Ethiopia with John Hoddinott and Neha Kumar. IFPRI Discussion Paper. 2011.
- Flexible Insurance for Heterogeneous Farmers: Results from a Small-Scale Pilot in Ethiopia with Miguel Robles. Mimeo, IFPRI Discussion Paper. 2011.
- An experiment on the impact of weather shocks and insurance on risky investment with Angelino Viceisza. IFPRI Discussion Paper. 2010.
- Breaking the Norm: An empirical investigation into the unraveling of good behavior with Eduardo Maruyama and Angelino Viceisza IFPRI Discussion Paper 948. 2009
- Understanding the Investment and Abandonment Behavior of Poor Households. IFPRI Discussion Paper 783. 2008

Quality Control in Non-Staple Food Markets: Evidence from India with Marcel Fafchamps and Bart Minten. IFPRI Discussion Paper 717. 2007

The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger with Akhter U. Ahmed, Lisa C. Smith, Doris M. Wiesmann and Tim Frankenberger. IFPRI 2020 Discussion Paper 43. 2007.

Linking Laotian Farmers to Markets with Luc Christiaensen. World Bank Report, East Asia Sector. 2007

The Role of Risk in Shaping Production Decisions: an Empirical Analysis. Global Poverty Research Group Working Paper Series, No. 49. University of Oxford, 2006

Coffee Price Risk in the Market: Exporter, Trader and Producer Data from Uganda. Global Poverty Research Group Working Paper Series, No. 48. University of Oxford, 2006

The Marketing of Non-staple Crops in India with Marcel Fafchamps and Bart Minten. World Bank Report, South Asia Sector. 2006

Assessing rhetoric and reality in the predictability and volatility of aid. Human Development Report Background Paper 2005/25.

The transmission of international commodity prices to domestic producers with Marcel Fafchamps, Aliziki Kaudha and Robert Nsibirwa, Centre for the Study of African Economies Working Paper Series WPS/2003-14, University of Oxford, 2003.

## **RESEARCH AWARDS**

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| 2010      | Index Insurance Innovation Initiative (I4) awardees for “Insuring against the weather: Integrating generic weather index products with group-based savings and loans”   |
| 2010      | ILO Microinsurance Innovation Facility awardees for “Can We Relax Liquidity Constraints in Micro-Insurance Demand? Piloting an Innovative Design for Agricultural Insurance”  |
| 2010      | Winner in the AfD, Gates and World Bank Marketplace for Financial Innovations for “Using simple weather securities to insure rain-dependent farmers in Ethiopia”  |
| 2010      | 3ie Round 2 awardees for “Smallholder Farmer’ Access To Weather Securities: Impact On Consumption and Production Decisions”   |
| 2008      | Awarded a grant under the USAID PASSN-2008-01-1 RFP on “Analyzing the Relationships between Social Protection & Economic Growth” for “The welfare and behavioral impact of group based insurance provision in Ethiopia” |
| 2001–2004 | Research Studentship, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK   |

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Referee: Journal of Development Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of African Economies, Agricultural Economics, World Development