

# FRANCISCO CEBALLOS

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## Professional Experience

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<b>International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</b> - Markets, Trade, and Institutions Unit	
Research Fellow	2020-Present
Associate Research Fellow	2018-2020
Senior Research Analyst	2015-2018
Research Analyst.	2012-2015
<b>The World Bank</b>	2010-2012
Consultant. Office of the Chief Economist for Latin America	
<b>Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF)</b>	2010-2011
Consultant. Research and Development Department	
<b>The World Bank</b>	2006-2012
Research Assistant. Development Economics Unit	
<b>Criteria Investors</b>	2005-2006
Fixed Income Analyst	
<b>Torcuato Di Tella University</b>	2004-2005
Research Assistant. CEI	

## Fields of Interest

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Development and agricultural economics. Agricultural insurance and risk-mitigation for smallholder farmers.  
Migration and human mobility. Sustainable healthy diets. Digital tools for agriculture and development.  
Impact evaluation of development interventions.

## Education

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<b>PhD in Agricultural Economics</b> – <i>Georg-August-Universität Göttingen</i>	2014-2017
Göttingen, Germany. <i>Magna cum laude</i>	
Advisors: <i>Matin Qaim, Máximo Torero, Oliver Musshoff</i>	
Dissertation: <i>Demand and Design Considerations for Smallholder Farmers' Weather Index Insurance Products</i>	
<u>2017 Ernst Meyer Prize of The Geneva Association for best doctoral thesis in risk and insurance economics</u>	
<b>Project Management for Community Development</b> – <i>University of the Witwatersrand</i>	2009
Johannesburg, South Africa	
<b>M.S. in Finance</b> – <i>Torcuato Di Tella University</i>	2004-2005
Buenos Aires, Argentina. GPA: 9.32/10 ( <i>Full Scholarship</i> )	
<b>B.S. in Economics</b> – <i>Torcuato Di Tella University</i>	2000-2003
Buenos Aires, Argentina. Minor in Business Economics. GPA: 8.73/10 ( <i>Full Scholarship</i> )	

## Journal Articles

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**“Business aspects along the rural-urban continuum, outlet type, and gender of ownership among MSMEs in the Vietnamese food environment,”** with F. Aguilar, A. de Brauw, T. Nguyen, and M. van den Berg, 2026. *Under review*.

**“The Migration Propensity Index: A tool to anticipate migration decisions in Central America,”** with M.A. Hernandez, M. Almanzar, S. Constenla, and A. Espinoza Hernandez, 2026. *Under review*.

**“Price and volatility transmission from international to domestic food and fertilizer markets in Central America,”** with M.A. Hernandez, M.L. Berrospi, V. Perego, M. Brown, and E. Lopez Mora, 2026. *Agricultural Economics* 57(1): e70071.

**“COVID-19 and rural livelihoods: lessons from a longer-term assessment and the path to recovery,”** with M.L. Berrospi, M.A. Hernandez, and C. Paz, 2026. *World Development* 197, 107200.

**“COVID-19 and extreme weather: Impacts on food security and migration attitudes in the rural area of Guatemala,”** with M.A. Hernandez and C. Paz, 2024. *World Development* 173: 106422.

**“Is agricultural insurance fulfilling its promise for the developing world?”** with B. Kramer, P. Hazell, H. Alderman, N. Kumar, and A. Timu, 2022. *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 14: 291-311.

**“Short-term impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition in rural Guatemala: Phone-based farm household survey evidence,”** with M.A. Hernandez and C. Paz, 2021. *Agricultural Economics* 52(3): 477-494.

**“Crop prices, farm incomes and food security during the COVID-19 pandemic in India: Phone-based producer survey evidence from Haryana State,”** with B. Kramer and S. Kannan, 2021. *Agricultural Economics* 52(3): 525-542.

**“Improving the performance of index insurance using crop models and phenological monitoring,”** with M. Afshar, T. Foster, T.P. Higginbottom, B. Parkes, K. Hufkens, S. Mansabdar, and B. Kramer, 2021. *Remote Sensing* 13(5): 924.

**“Demand heterogeneity for index-based insurance: The case for flexible products,”** with M. Robles, 2020. *Journal of Development Economics* 146: 102515.

**“Impacts of a national lockdown on smallholder farmers’ income and food security: Empirical evidence from two states in India,”** with B. Kramer and S. Kannan, 2020. *World Development* 136: 105069.

**“Assessing the use of cell phones to monitor health and nutrition interventions: Evidence from rural Guatemala,”** with M.A. Hernandez, F. Olivet, and C. Paz, 2020. *PLoS ONE* 15(11): e0240526.

**“Weather dataset choice introduces uncertainty to estimates of crop yield responses to climate variability and change,”** with B. Parkes, T. Higginbottom, K. Hufkens, B. Kramer, and T. Foster, 2019. *Environmental Research Letters* 14(12), 124089.

**“The feasibility of picture-based insurance (PBI): Smartphone pictures for affordable crop insurance,”** with B. Kramer and M. Robles, 2019. *Development Engineering* 4, 100042.

**“Monitoring crop phenology using a smartphone based near-surface remote sensing approach,”** with K. Hufkens, E. Melaas, M. Mann, T. Foster, M. Robles, and B. Kramer, 2018. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 265: 327-337.

**“Grain price and volatility transmission from international to domestic markets in developing countries,”** with Manuel Hernandez, Nicholas Minot, and Miguel Robles, 2017. *World Development* 94: 305-320.

**“Demand for a simple weather insurance product in India: Theory and evidence,”** with Miguel Robles and Ruth Vargas Hill, 2016. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 98(4): 1250-1270.

## Book Chapters

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“Agricultural insurance: Policies and programs for reducing farmer risk,” with P. Hazell, R. Hill, and B. Kramer, 2025. In Global Food Policy Report 2025: Food Policy: Lessons and Priorities for a Changing World, J. Swinnen and C. Barrett, eds. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

“Short-term impacts of COVID-19 in rural Guatemala: Call for a closer, continuous look at the food security and nutritional patterns of vulnerable families,” with M.A. Hernandez and C. Paz, 2022. In COVID-19 and Global Food Security: Two Years Later, J. McDermott and J. Swinnen, eds.

“Insurance opportunities against weather risks for smallholder farmers in Africa,” with J. Ulimwengu, T. Makombe, and M. Robles, 2017. In ReSAKSS 2016 Annual Trends and Outlook Report.

“Transmission of food price volatility from international to domestic markets: Evidence from Africa, Latin America, and South Asia,” with M. Hernandez, N. Minot, and M. Robles, 2016. In Food Price Volatility and Its Implications for Food Security and Policy, M. Kalkuhl, J. von Braun, and M. Torero, eds., Springer.

“Insurance opportunities against weather risks for the rural poor,” with M. Robles, 2014. In Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security, S. Fan, R. Pandya-Lorch, and S. Yosef, eds., International Food Policy Research Institute.

“Emerging issues in financial development: Lessons from Latin America – Overview,” with T. Didier and S.L. Schmukler, 2013. In Emerging Issues in Financial Development: Lessons from Latin America, T. Didier and S.L. Schmukler, eds. Inter-American Development Bank, UN-ECLAC, and the World Bank.

“Financial globalization in emerging countries: Diversification vs. offshoring,” with T. Didier and S.L. Schmukler, 2013. In New Paradigms for Financial Regulation: Emerging Market Perspectives, M.B. Lamberte and E. Prasad, eds., ADBI and Brookings Institution.

## Working Papers

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“Better alone? Assessing women empowerment after a family member migrates,” with A.S. Domínguez, J. Heckert, M.A. Hernandez, and F. Paz, 2025. Fragile and Conflict-Affected Food Systems Working Paper.

“Out-of-sample validation of the external and internal Migration Propensity Index (MPI) in Honduras,” with M.A. Hernandez, 2025. IFPRI Working Paper.

“Impacts of personalized picture-based crop advisories: Experimental evidence from India and Kenya,” with A. Chugh and B. Kramer, 2024. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2322.

“External and Internal Migration Propensity Index (MPI) for Honduras: Out-of-sample Validation,” with M.A. Hernandez and A. Espinoza Hernandez, 2024. IFPRI Working Paper.

“The role of asymmetric information in multi-peril picture-based crop insurance: Field experiment in India,” with B. Kramer, 2021. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2088.

“Assessing feasibility and effects of personalized remote advisories based on smartphone pictures: A formative evaluation in India,” with S. Kannan and B. Kramer, 2021. CCAFS Working Paper 406.

“Assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on the coffee value chain in Guatemala: Evidence from coffee growers in the Midwest and East,” with M. Hernandez, C. Paz, and M.L. Berrospi, 2021. IFPRI Project Note, December 2021.

“Show me what you eat: Assessing diets remotely through pictures,” with M. Hernandez, 2021. IFPRI Project Note.

“The Migration Propensity Index (MPI): An application to Guatemala,” with M. Hernandez, 2020. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1953.

“From index to indemnity insurance using digital technology: Demand for picture-based crop insurance,” with B. Kramer, 2019. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1890.

“Enhancing adaptive capacity through climate-smart insurance: Theory and evidence from India,” with B. Kramer, 2018.

“Estimating spatial basis risk in rainfall index insurance: Methodology and application to excess rainfall insurance in Uruguay,” 2016. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1595.

## Other Selected Publications

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**“Playbook for designing and implementing Picture-Based Insurance,”** with S. Dejene Areo, P. Gaur, S. Kannan, B. Kramer, S. Pattnaik, and C. Waweru, 2024. <https://exchange.dial.global/playbooks/picturebased-insurance-pbi>

**“Women’s empowerment and migration: A review of the current literature and promising areas for future work,”** with J. Heckert, 2024. Issue Brief, CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

**“Digital technologies for financial inclusion of smallholder farmers: Needs assessment in three states of India,”** with S. Kannan, V. Singh, and B. Kramer, 2019. IFPRI Project Note.

**“Picture-Based Insurance: Is It sustainable? Effects on willingness to pay, adverse selection, and moral hazard,”** with B. Kramer, M. Krupoff, M.S. Toor, A. Mishra, S. Karekar, and M. Robles. IFPRI Project Note, 2017.

**“Picture-Based Crop Insurance: Is It feasible? Using farmers’ smartphone pictures to minimize the costs of loss verification,”** with B. Kramer, K. Hufkens, E. Melaas, A. Mishra, M. Mann, M.S. Toor, and M. Robles. IFPRI Project Note, 2017.

## Professional Service

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Reviewer for: Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Systems, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, Global Food Security, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, QOpen, Remote Sensing, Risk Management and Insurance Review, World Development

## Languages

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Spanish	Native
English	Oral and written proficiency
French	Basic communication skills. 1 <sup>st</sup> year Alliance Française Buenos Aires, 2000
Russian	Basic communication skills

## Computer Skills

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Extensive experience in **Stata**. Experience in CAPI survey design with **SurveyToGo**, **SurveyCTO**, and **CSPro**. Proficiency in **Excel** and **Visual Basic** programming. Mathematical programming in **Matlab**, **R**, and **Gauss**. Geographic data management and analysis with **ArcGIS**. Experience overseeing **app** and **web** development.