

EMILY SCHMIDT

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International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC

Emily Schmidt has 20 years of experience in applied research, large-scale program management, policy engagement, and in-country collaboration across Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Schmidt's work integrates rigorous economic analysis with partnership building across governments, multilateral institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, translating data-driven evidence into policy action and investment impact. Schmidt currently leads the IFPRI's Pacific region engagement via the [Papua New Guinea Country Strategy Support Program](#) (PNG-CSSP). Starting in 2018 with pilot seed funding, Schmidt grew the PNG-CSSP from under \$1 million USD to a \$22 million USD program, resulting in: 1) co-drafting the PNG National Food Security Policy with the Natl. Dept. of Agriculture and Livestock; 2) establishing a macro-economic analysis unit within the Natl. Dept. of Planning and Monitoring; 3) estimating and reporting the first, country-endorsed poverty and child stunting statistics since 2009; and 4) drafting the World Bank (WB) agriculture country diagnostic for the WB Country Economic Memorandum. Schmidt's research spans development economics and spatial analysis, with a focus on food and nutrition security, rural employment diversification, agricultural production innovation, value chain development, and climate resilience.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Research & Analysis: Applied development economics • Household survey design & management • Poverty & welfare measurement • Food & nutrition security analysis • GIS & spatial analysis • Value chain analysis • Impact evaluation

Leadership & Program Management: Multi-donor program design & management • Grant acquisition • Multi-stakeholder partnership development • Team leadership • Strategic communications • Donor relations (DFAT, ACIAR, World Bank, ADB, IFAD)

Policy & Industry Engagement: National agricultural & food security policy design • Agricultural investment strategy • Agri-food systems & value chains • Private sector engagement • Climate resilience & rural livelihoods • Emergency risk & early warning systems

Teaching & Capacity Strengthening: University & government researcher training • GIS & remote sensing instruction • Data analysis mentorship • Curriculum & training manual development • Peer-reviewed publishing

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Development Strategies and Governance Unit,
Papua New Guinea Country Program Leader & Senior Research Fellow (2021 – 2026)

- Program leader / principal investigator on [Papua New Guinea country strategy support program](#) including donor and government engagement, data collection and analysis, and capacity strengthening at universities, research institutes and government departments.
- Principal investigator for PNG agriculture investment strategy, in collaboration with PNG and Australia governments and other donor partners (World Bank, ADB and IFAD).
- Designed, analyzed and managed [2023 Rural Household Survey in Papua New Guinea](#) (13,300 downloads) to inform poverty, welfare and nutrition indicators, employment, and rural household resilience

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Development Strategies and Governance Unit, **Senior Research Fellow** (2017 – 2022)

- Designed, implemented and managed 2018 [Papua New Guinea Household Survey on Food Systems](#) (10,400 downloads)
- Led Agriculture Country Diagnostic for World Bank Country Economic Memorandum
- Conducted policy dialogue with key stakeholders (national and subnational government partners and development community) on data-driven policy opportunities to improve food security and child nutrition

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Development Strategies and Governance Unit, **Associate Research Fellow** (2014-17)

- Co-led Myanmar (Mon State) Rural Household Survey, collaborating with Myanmar government and the Myanmar Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) to develop survey sample, draft questionnaires, and analyze data
- Designed and led global value chain evaluation for sesame seed supply for McDonalds Corporation
- Designed and analyzed Ethiopia Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Household Panel Survey, and led evaluation of impacts of soil and water conservation projects on hydrological systems, agricultural production and farmer incomes to inform World Bank SLM Program

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Development Strategies and Governance Unit, **Ethiopia Country Program Coordinator and Senior Research Analyst - Ethiopia** (2009-2013)

- Led Ethiopian Housing and Population Census Atlas analysis and publication.
- Designed and taught spatial analysis courses for the Ethiopia Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopian Development Research Institute, and Ministry of Agriculture.
- Served as interim Ethiopia Country Program Leader from June 2009 - December 2010, managing IFPRI-Ethiopia office mid-term program evaluation, program research pillars, and government and donor relations

World Bank, Finance and Economics Unit – Rural and Spatial Development Department, **Junior Professional Associate** (2007-2009)

- Analyzed transportation corridors and rural-urban transformation opportunities across Southern Africa with focus on Mozambique economic impacts, including a background paper for the Mozambique Country Economic Memorandum.
- Designed and taught hands-on GIS and remote sensing courses for World Bank HQ; Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Malawi Ministry of Agriculture.
- Developed a natural disaster risk platform for Central America in collaboration with the World Bank Panama country team, integrating spatial and demographic data to support emergency planning and response.

Plan International, **Program Evaluation Analyst - Bolivia** (2006-2007)

- Worked with Bolivia National Institute of Statistics to evaluate rural population access to birth registration services across Bolivia
- Designed and implemented expansive focus group surveys across rural Bolivia and analyzed and reported results to Plan International leadership and Bolivia provincial authorities

National Union of Eritrean Women, **Program Analyst – Eritrea** (2006)

- Led grant proposal writing team for JICA program focused on women's reproductive health and early child nutrition

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Civil Engineering	University of Colorado, USA (2013)
M.A. International Development Studies	George Washington University, USA (2007)
B.A. Spanish, Fine Arts	Colorado State University, USA (2002)

LANGUAGES

- English - Native
- Spanish – Master fluency in writing and speaking
- Italian – Master fluency in writing and speaking

GRANTS FUNDED

Proposal Title	Project dates	Donor	Value (USD)	Country
PNG-Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Policy (AFNP) Program: Agri-food System Research to Inform Growth	2025 - 2028	ACIAR	3,792,600	PNG
Assessing Opportunities to Expand Fresh Food Value Chains in Papua New Guinea	2025 - 2026	IFAD	200,000	PNG
Papua New Guinea Agriculture Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program (PNG-CSSP)	2024 - 2028	DFAT	5,209,520	PNG
Papua New Guinea Agriculture Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program (PNG-CSSP)	2024 - 2028	ACIAR	3,160,500	PNG
Ongoing Demand-driven Analysis and Capacity Strengthening in PNG	2023 - 2024	DFAT	674,536	PNG
Agriculture Sector Analysis to Inform the World Bank Country Economic Memorandum for Papua New Guinea	2022	World Bank	48,709	PNG
Short-term Macro-modeling Analysis for Papua New Guinea	2020	DFAT	192,000	PNG
Informing Investment for an Inclusive Agricultural Transformation Strategy in PNG	2019 - 2023	DFAT	5,640,856	PNG
Monitoring, Analysis, and Capacity Strengthening for Real-time Policy Engagement	2019 - 2022	DFAT	3,123,898	PNG
Papua New Guinea Rural Survey to Examine Food System Resilience	2017 - 2019	DFAT	990,956	PNG
Baseline and Impact Evaluation of the Sustainable Land Management Program [SLMP]	2010 - 2011	World Bank	397,000	Ethiopia

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts under review

Schmidt, E., R. Mukerjee, B. Holtemeyer, & H. Gimiseve. ‘Gold runs through these trees’: Preferences for ecosystems payment programs in Papua New Guinea. *Sustainability Science – Under Review*

Schmidt, E., R. Mukerjee, & V. Mueller. Earning Less and Spending More: Women’s Entrepreneurship and Child Education Investments in Papua New Guinea. *Review of Economics of the Household – Under Review*

Peer Reviewed publications

- Leight, J., R. Mukerjee, & E. Schmidt. 2026. The gendered effects of rainfall on early childhood nutrition: Evidence from Papua New Guinea. *Economics Letters*. 268: 113123. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2026.113123>.
- Mahrt, K., E. Schmidt, P. Fang, & R. Mukerjee. 2026. Nutrition sensitive poverty and its correlates in Papua New Guinea: incorporating healthy diet targets into poverty measurement. *Food Security*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-026-01694-1>.
- Schmidt, E. & P. Fang. 2021. Papua New Guinea agri-food trade and household consumption trends point towards dietary change and increased overweight and obesity prevalence. *Globalization and Health* 17, 135. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-021-00787-0>.
- Schmidt, E., R. Gilbert, & P. Dorosh. 2021. Impacts of COVID-19 related income and rice price shocks on household welfare in Papua New Guinea. *Agricultural Economics*. 52(3): 391-406. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12625>.
- Schmidt, E., R. Gilbert, B. Holtemeyer, & K. Mahrt. 2021. Poverty analysis in the lowlands of Papua New Guinea underscores climate vulnerability and need for income flexibility. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. 65(1): 171-191. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12404>.
- Kosec, K., C.H. Mo, E. Schmidt, J. Song. 2021. Perceptions of relative deprivation and women's empowerment. *World Development*. 138. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105218>.
- Schmidt, E., V. Mueller & G. Rosenbach. 2020. Rural households in Papua New Guinea afford better diets with income from small businesses. *Food Policy* 97. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2020.101964>.
- Mueller, V., Schmidt, E., & Kirkleeng, D. 2020. Structural Change and Women's Employment Potential in Myanmar. *International Regional Science Review* 43(5): 450-476. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0160017620925139>.
- Schmidt, E. & Thomas, T. 2020. Cropland Expansion. In *Ethiopia's Agrifood System: Past trends, present challenges, and future scenarios*. Dorosh, P.A; and Minten, B. (Eds.) Washington, DC.
- Benson, T., Schmidt, E., Namusoke, H., Temple, V.J., Holtemeyer, etal. 2020. Limits to commercially iodized salt to address dietary iodine deficiency in rural Papua New Guinea. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 29(2): 414-422. [https://doi.org/10.6133/apjcn.202007_29\(2\).0024](https://doi.org/10.6133/apjcn.202007_29(2).0024).
- Schmidt, E., Dorosh, P., Kedir Jemal, M., & Smart, J. 2020. Urbanization and Structural Transformation. In *Ethiopia's Agrifood System: Past trends, present challenges, and future scenarios*. Dorosh, P.A; and Minten, B. (Eds.) Washington, DC
- Schmidt, E. & Woldeyes Bekele, F. 2019. Rural youth and employment in Ethiopia. In *Youth and jobs in rural Africa: Beyond stylized facts*. Mueller, V. and Thurlow, J. (Eds.). Chapter 5, Pp. 109-136. New York, NY: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Oxford University Press.
- Mueller, V., Schmidt, E., Lozano, N., & Murray, S. 2019. Implications of Migration on Employment and Occupational Transitions in Tanzania. *International Regional Science Review* 42(2): 181-206. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0160017617751029>.
- Schmidt, E. & Tadesse, F. 2019. The impact of sustainable land management on household crop production in the Blue Nile Basin, Ethiopia. *Land Degradation and Development*. 30(7): 777-787.

- Kosec, K. Ghebru, H., Holtemeyer, B., Mueller, V., & **Schmidt, E.** 2018. The effect of land access on youth employment and migration decisions: Evidence from rural Ethiopia. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 100(3): 931-954. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aax087>.
- Arndt, C., Dale, A., Hatzenbuehler, P., Kyle, J., Matshe, I., Schlosser, A., & **Schmidt, E.** 2018. A data revolution for agricultural production statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Ghanaian Journal of Economics* 6(1): 54-73.
- Kedir Jemal, M., **Schmidt, E.**, & Tilahun, H. 2018. Market access, teff production, and fertilizer use over time. In: Minten, B. et al (eds.). *The economics of teff: Exploring Ethiopia's biggest cash crop*. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Schmidt, E.**, Chinowsky, P., Robinson, S., & Strzepek, K. 2017. Determinants and impact of sustainable land management (SLM) investments: A systems evaluation in the Blue Nile Basin, Ethiopia. *Agricultural Economics* 45(5): 613-627. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12361>.
- Dorosh, P., **Schmidt, E.**, & Thurlow, J. 2016. Agricultural Growth, Poverty and the Rural Non-Farm Economy: A Spatial Economywide Analysis. In: Spielman, D.J. et al. (eds.). *Agriculture and the Rural Economy in Pakistan: Issues, Outlooks, and Policy Priorities*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Schmidt, E.** & Zemadim, B. 2015. Expanding sustainable land management in Ethiopia: Scenarios for improved agricultural water management in the Blue Nile. *Agricultural Water Management* 158: 166-178. <https://doi:10.1016/j.agwat.2015.05.001>.
- Lall, S.V., Schroeder, E., & **Schmidt, E.** 2014. Identifying Spatial Efficiency–Equity Trade-offs in Territorial Development Policies: Evidence from Uganda. *The Journal of Development Studies* 50(12): 1717-33. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2014.957277>.
- Schmidt, E.** & Tadesse, F. 2014. Sustainable agriculture in the Blue Nile Basin: land and watershed management practices in Ethiopia. *Environment and Development Economics* 19: 648-667. <https://doi:10.1017/S1355770X13000570>.
- Chamberlin, J. & **Schmidt, E.** 2012. Ethiopian Agriculture: A dynamic geographic perspective. In: Dorosh, P.A. & Rashid, S. (eds.). *Food and Agriculture in Ethiopia: Progress and Policy Challenges*. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute and University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Dorosh, P., Wang, H., You, L., & **Schmidt, E.** 2012. Road connectivity, population and crop production in Sub-Saharan Africa: Spatial correlations and analysis. *Agricultural Economics* 43(1): 89-103. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-0862.2011.00567>.
- Dorosh, P., **Schmidt, E.**, & Shiferaw, A. 2012. Economic Growth without Structural Transformation: The Case of Ethiopia. *Journal of African Development* 14(2):7-40. <https://doi.org/10.5325/jafrideve.14.2.0007>.

Recent Working Papers

- Schmidt, E.**, I. Anamo, H. Gimiseve, M. Kedir Jemal, B. Minten et al. 2026. Understanding the fresh produce value chain in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea Food Policy Strengthening Working Paper 12. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/182348>.
- Minten, B., **E. Schmidt**, I. Anamo, H. Gimiseve, G. Hayoge, M. Kedir Jemal, et al. 2026. Market flows and price patterns of fresh produce in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea Food Policy Strengthening

Working Paper 13. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/182349>.

Schmidt, E., I. Anamo, H. Gimiseve, G. Hayoge, M. Kedir Jemal, et al. 2026. Synopsis: Evolution of and opportunities for the fresh produce value chain in PNG. Papua New Guinea Food Policy Strengthening Working Paper 14. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/182350>.

Mahrt, K., **E. Schmidt**, P. Fang, & R. Mukerjee. 2025. Household wellbeing in rural Papua New Guinea: Poverty analysis from the 2023 PNG Rural Household Survey. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2326. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/173408>

Fang, P., I. Anamo, H. Gimiseve, G. Hayoge, R. Mukerjee, **E. Schmidt**, & X. Zhang. 2025. Commercialization of Papua New Guinea's vegetable sector: Identifying constraints using quantitative, qualitative, and large language model methods. Papua New Guinea Food Policy Strengthening Working Paper 7. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/175558>.

Schmidt, E., P. Fang, M. Jemal, K. Mahrt, R. Mukerjee, G. Rosenbach & S. Yadav. 2024. PNG Rural Household Survey (2023) Report. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/140437>.

Joseph, J., G. Hayoge, H. Sikas-Iha, P. Dorosh, **E. Schmidt**, & M. Kedir Jemal. 2024. Potential impacts of an El Niño related drought on sweet potato consumption and prices in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea Project Note 12. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/140447>.

Gimiseve, H., N. Miamba, B. Na'ata, P. Dorosh, **E. Schmidt** & S. Yadav. 2024. Effects of a partial ban on Papua New Guinea's imports of poultry products. Papua New Guinea Project Note 13. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/140446>.

Arua, S., R. Gondo, A. Kinau, A. Kotto, P. Dorosh, **E. Schmidt**, & J. Tian. 2024. The impacts of production and price shocks on the coffee industry in PNG. Papua New Guinea Project Note 14. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/140479>.

Fang, P., D. Benny, R. Ovah, A. Roberts, **E. Schmidt**, & E. Solomon. 2023. Constraints facing rural poultry production in PNG: The role of input suppliers. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2193. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.136756>.

Schmidt, E. & P.A. Dorosh. 2022. Impacts of the COVID-19-driven rise in global rice prices on consumers in Papua New Guinea. In *COVID-19 and global food security: Two years later*, eds. John McDermott and Johan Swinnen. Part Two: Agricultural Production and Value Chains, Chpt. 16, Pp. 102-104. https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896294226_16.

Schmidt, E., P. Fang, & K. Mahrt. 2022. Rural household welfare in Papua New Guinea: Food security and nutrition challenges. Papua New Guinea Food Policy Strengthening Working Paper 3. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.136311>.