

TOMOKO HARIGAYA

Chief Economist & Director of Research | Agricultural Development Economics & Impact Evaluation

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Development economist with nearly two decades of experience designing, evaluating, and scaling agricultural advisory programs for smallholder farmers across South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Leads research strategy at Precision Development (PxD), an organization that partners with governments to scale evidence-based innovations for smallholder farmers, directing randomized evaluations and iterative learning. Combines rigorous evidence generation with hands-on program delivery, translating field research into advisory systems that reach millions of farmers.

EMPLOYMENT

Chief Economist and Director of Research | Precision Development, Boston, MA

Nov 2019 – Present

- Set research strategy and lead the evidence agenda for programs that partner with governments to scale evidence-based innovations reaching smallholder farmers across South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Direct impact evaluations and iterative learning programs, including RCTs on weather forecast dissemination and input-use adoption.
- Lead development of large-scale funding proposals and shape organizational research strategy as the team scales.
- Build and lead a growing research team, overseeing hiring, mentoring, and performance management for research staff across multiple countries.

Director of Research and Interim Director of Programs | Precision Development, Boston, MA

May 2019 – Nov 2019

- Held joint responsibility for research strategy, program operations, and team leadership during a leadership transition.

Senior Researcher | Precision Development, Boston, MA

Aug 2017 – May 2019

- Designed and managed field-based impact evaluations of digital agricultural advisory services.

Research Consultant | Grameen Foundation, Cambridge, MA / Manila, Philippines

Oct 2012 – Nov 2013

- Designed an evaluation study of a mobile financial services product in the Philippines and advised on research design and evaluation strategies.

Innovations for Poverty Action | New Haven, CT / Manila, Philippines

Country Director, Philippines | *Jul 2006 – Jun 2009*

- Established IPA's Philippines country office and led its portfolio of randomized evaluations.

Research Associate | *Sep 2004 – Jun 2006*

- Supported design and field implementation of randomized controlled trials.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Public Policy | Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

May 2017

Dissertation: Delivering Financial Services to the Poor: Constraints on Access, Take-up, and Usage

Master of Science in Global Health and Population | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA

May 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Cum Laude | Williams College, Williamstown, MA

June 2000

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & WORKING PAPERS

- Abel M, Harigaya T, Kremer M, Zhu J. 2026. "The Effect of Reminders for Self-Set Goals on Productivity." *Journal of Development Economics*, 182, p103822.
- Cole S, Harigaya T, Killeen G, Krishna A. 2025. "Using Satellites and Phones to Evaluate and Promote Agricultural Technology Adoption: Evidence from Smallholder Farms in India." *Journal of Development Economics*, 176, p.103463.
- Cole S, Goldberg J, Harigaya T, Zhu J. 2025. "The Impact of Digital Agricultural Extension Service: Experimental Evidence from Rice Farmers in India." Working paper.
- Hoffman V, Doran M, Harigaya T. 2023. "Self-selection versus Population-based Sampling for Evaluation of an Agronomy Training Program in Uganda." *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 1-11.
- Fabregas R, Harigaya T, Kremer M. 2022. "Digital Agricultural Extension for Development" in *Development Engineering*. Springer.
- Harigaya T, Karlan D. 2014. "Chapter 5. Experimental Designs" in *The Practical Guide to Impact Assessments of Microinsurance*. Microinsurance Network.
- De Brauw A, Harigaya T. 2007. "Seasonal Migration and Improving Living Standards in Vietnam." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 89, No. 2, pp. 430-447.
- Giné X, Harigaya T, Karlan D, Nguyen Binh T. "Randomized Controlled Trials: An Example from Group versus Individual Liability." Asian Development Bank Economics and Research Department Technical Note Series #16.