

ERIC S. OWUSU

25518 Joy Ln
Damascus, MD 20872

+1(860)328-9196 || ericsowusu@gmail.com || <https://ericsowusu.com>

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Production, Resource, and Development Economics

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Aug. 2016 - Nov. 2021

Doctor of Philosophy in *Agricultural and Resource Economics*

Master of Science in *Applied and Resource Economics (Dec. 2020)*

University of Ghana, Legon, Accra

Aug. 2006 - Dec. 2008

Master of Philosophy in *Agricultural Economics*

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Tech., Kumasi, Ghana

Aug. 2000 - May 2004

Bachelor of Science in *Agriculture (Economics major)*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

Postdoctoral Associate

Dec. 2021 - Dec. 2024

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Applied advanced statistical and econometric techniques to evaluate the impacts of international Produce Safety Rule (PSR) training programs, contributing to food safety capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Designed and implemented randomized controlled trials to assess the impact of PSR supplemental training materials on food safety knowledge, attitudes, and practices in Mexico, Chile, and Costa Rica, generating actionable insights for stakeholders.
- Conducted statistical analysis and data visualization of food expenditure data from USDA WWeiA/NHANES surveys, benchmarking findings against other datasets, such as the Consumer Expenditure Survey.
- Reviewed and refined large-scale survey datasets for accuracy, ensuring high data quality and reliability in economic modeling.

- Developed and presented comprehensive reports and data visualizations to technical and non-technical audiences, summarizing key findings and policy recommendations for improving food safety practices.
- Collaborated with international teams to plan and execute research projects, leveraging strong written and verbal communication skills to ensure alignment with project objectives.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug. 2016 - Aug. 2021

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2019, 2020 & 2021

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Applied advanced econometric and statistical models to analyze county-level irrigation water productivity in the U.S., integrating multi-source datasets including USDA Census of Agriculture, climatic data (PRISM), soil/topography data (USDA National Resource Inventory), and U.S. Geological Survey irrigation withdrawals.
- Conducted productivity and profitability analyses of legume production systems in Malawi using a large scale survey dataset collected via a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) platform, generating insights to support policy recommendations for the Feed-the-Future Peanut Innovation Lab.
- Led data collection and field survey coordination for the PIRE Water and Food Security Project in Ethiopia, ensuring accuracy and consistency in survey execution through the application of CAPI tools.
- Designed and delivered tutorials and lab sessions for ARE 5464: Cost-Benefit Analysis and Resource Management, providing students with practical instruction in economic decision-making methodologies and statistical tools.
- Produced visualizations and technical reports summarizing research findings for stakeholders, including funding agencies like the USDA and international organizations, demonstrating the relevance of econometric analysis for decision-making.

CSIR - Food Research Institute (FRI), Accra, Ghana

Research Scientist

Dec. 2010 - Jun. 2014

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Conducted *ex-ante* and *ex-post* impact assessments of pre-harvest and post-harvest rice technologies in Southern Ghana, integrating economic modeling techniques as part of the Africa Rice Center's Support to Rice Research in Africa (SRRiA) project.
- Applied econometric tools to evaluate consumer preferences for New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties—NERICA 1 and NERICA 4, providing actionable insights for market strategy development in urban Uganda. Published findings in *Outlook for Agriculture*.
- Led monitoring and evaluation efforts for the transfer of process and product technologies under the World Bank-sponsored West African Agricultural Productivity Program, ensuring the successful adoption of alternative food flour technologies in Southern Ghana.

- Produced comprehensive reports and policy recommendations based on data driven analyses, supporting stakeholder decision-making in agricultural research and development.
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary teams, applying advanced statistical techniques to inform project design and implementation strategies.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Accra, Ghana

Research Officer

Jul. 2008 - Nov. 2010

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Designed and implemented field surveys, performed data cleaning, and conducted statistical analyses to assess Ghana’s irrigation potential and identify agricultural water management solutions, as part of a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Applied advanced econometric and simulation techniques to adapt the Policy Dialogue Model Simulation for analyzing land and water use dynamics in the Niger Basin, contributing to improved decision making for resource allocation.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to integrate multi-source data, ensuring accuracy and reliability in project outputs.
- Prepared and presented detailed reports and data visualizations summarizing findings to funding agencies and stakeholders, driving actionable policy recommendations.
- Ensured high-quality data management practices to support long-term research objectives in agricultural and water resource management.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Grants

Produce Safety Training and Grower Capacity Building, Farm Performance, and United States Market Access by Mexican Growers Oct. 2024
Submitted to USDA NIFA-AFRI (650K)

Fellowships

Bishop-Carder Scholarship Spring. 2019
College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut

Predocctoral Fellowship Spring. 2021
Ag. & Resource Economics Department, University of Connecticut

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Spring. 2021
The Graduate School, University of Connecticut

RESEARCH

Journal Articles

Owusu, E. S., Narrod, C., Cordero, A. M., and Thimeos, N. Z. (n.d.) Produce Safety Rule Supplemental Training and Grower Learning Impact: Experimental Evidence from Latin America. Submitted to *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.

Owusu, E. S., Arouna, A., Yergo, W. G., Narrod, C. and Bravo-Ureta B. (n.d.) Digital Agricultural Extension and Productivity Impacts in Rice Farming: Lessons from Nigeria. Submitted to *Agricultural Economics*.

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. (2022). Reap when You Sow? The Productivity Impacts of Early Sowing in Malawi. *Agricultural Systems*. doi.org/10.1016/j.agry.2022.103412

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. (2021). Gender and Productivity Differentials in Smallholder Groundnut Farming in Malawi: Accounting for Technology Differences. *Journal of Development Studies*. doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2021.2008364

Britwum, K., **Owusu, E. S.** and Demont, M. (2020). Confronting genetic gains with markets: Retrospective lessons from New Rice for Africa (NERICA) in Uganda. *Outlook on Agriculture* 1-13. [doi: 10.1177/0030727020948967](https://doi.org/10.1177/0030727020948967)

Namara, R. E., Hope, L., **Owusu, E. S.**, De Fraiture, C. and Owusu, D. (2014). Adoption patterns and constraints pertaining to small-scale water lifting technologies in Ghana. *Agricultural Water Management* 131: 194-203. [doi:10.1016/j.agwat.2013.08.023](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2013.08.023).

Katic, P. G., Namara, R. E., Hope, L., **Owusu, E.** and Fujii, H. (2013). Rice and irrigation in West Africa: Achieving food security with agricultural water management strategies. *Water Resources and Economics* 1:75-92. [doi: 10.1016/j.wre.2013.03.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wre.2013.03.001).

Kamwamba-Mtethiwa, J., Namara, E. R., De Fraiture, C., Mangisoni, J. and **Owusu, E. S.** (2012). Treadle pump irrigation in Malawi: Adoption, gender and benefits. *Irrigation and Drainage* 61(5):583-595. [doi: 10.1002/ird.1665](https://doi.org/10.1002/ird.1665).

Research Reports

Narrod, C. and **Owusu, E. S.** (2023). Pilot controlled experiment to validate supplemental training materials on the Produce Safety Rule. Submitted to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. (2020). Gender gap in groundnut and soybean farm productivity: Evidence from central Malawi. Submitted to the USAID-funded Malawi Agricultural Diversification (AgDiv) and Feed-the-Future Peanut Innovation Lab.

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. (2019). Benefits and costs of groundnut and soybean production: A farm level analysis for Malawi. Submitted to the USAID-funded Malawi Agricultural Diversification (AgDiv) and Feed-the-Future Peanut Innovation Lab.

Bravo-Ureta, B. E. and **Owusu, E. S.** (2019). Baseline descriptive analysis of farm and household data collected in three Districts in Malawi during 2017-2018. Submitted to the USAID-funded Malawi Agricultural Diversification (AgDiv) and Feed-the-Future Peanut Innovation Lab.

Namara R. E., Awuni, J., Barry, B., Giordano, M., Hope, L., **Owusu, E. S.**, Forkuor, G. (2011). Smallholder shallow groundwater irrigation development in the Upper East Region of Ghana. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute. 35p. IWMI Research Report 143. (doi: [10.5337/2011.214](https://doi.org/10.5337/2011.214)).

Namara, R.E.; Barry, B.; **Owusu, E. S.**; Ogilvie, A. (2011). An overview of the development challenges and constraints of the Niger Basin and possible intervention strategies. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute. 34p. IWMI Working Paper 144. (doi: [10.5337/2011.206](https://doi.org/10.5337/2011.206)).

Conference Papers/Presentations

Owusu, E. S. and Narrod, C. Aid not Replace? Produce Safety Rule Supplemental Training and Grower Learning in Latin America (Presented at the 2024 AAEA Annual Meeting, July 28-31, New Orleans, LA).

Owusu, E. S., Arouna, A., Narrod, C., and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. Digital Extension and Productivity Impacts in Rice Farming: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Nigeria (Presented at the 2023 North American Productivity Workshop, June 12-15, Miami Herbert Business School, Miami, FL).

Owusu, E. S. and Narrod, C. International Produce Safety Rule Trainings and Food Safety Capacity Impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean (Presented at the 2023 AAEA Annual Meeting, July 23-25, Washington D.C.).

Owusu, E. S., Arouna, A. and Narrod, C. Is Personalized Better: Digital Advisory and Productivity Differentials in Rice Farming in Nigeria (Presented at the 2023 AAEA Annual Meeting, July 23-25, Washington D.C.).

Owusu, E. S. and Narrod, C. Monitoring and Evaluation of International Produce Safety Rule Trainings and Planned Behavioral Experiments (Presented at the 2022 AAEA Annual Meeting, August 1-3, Anaheim, CA).

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. Farm-level Innovation and Productivity: Evidence from Groundnut Farming in Malawi. (Presented at the 2020 AAEA Annual Meeting, virtual, August 10-11).

Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. Gender and productivity differentials: An analysis of groundnut farmers in Malawi. (Presented at the 2020 North American Productivity Workshop, virtual, June 8-12).

WORKSHOPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

Workshops and Trainings Attended

Google Advanced Data Analytics Professional Certificate course, May - December, 2024

Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate course, February - May, 2024

Quantitative Risk Assessment course offered by the JIFSAN, University of Maryland, College Park, June 27- July 1, 2022.

Qualitative Risk Assessment course offered by the JIFSAN, University of Maryland, College Park, June 8-10, 2022.

Êstimate: The Reduced Form Difference-in-differences course by Department of Economics, Michigan State University, December 14-15, 2021.

Êstimate econometrics course by the Department of Economics, Michigan State University, June 4-7, 2021.

Training on Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing tools for survey administration, World Bank, Washington D.C., USA, June 2017.

Professional Memberships

International Society for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

American Economic Association

International Association of Agricultural Economists