

Eric S. Owusu, Ph.D.

Damascus, MD 20872

Applied Economist | Impact Evaluation | Food Systems & Agricultural Development

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Professional Profile

Applied Economist with over 15 years of experience conducting impact evaluation, agricultural technology adoption analysis, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) for food systems and agricultural development programs. Expertise in econometric modeling, productivity and efficiency analysis, and the design and implementation of large-scale field surveys. Proven record of peer-reviewed publications and policy-relevant analysis supporting CGIAR programs, USAID-funded initiatives, and international development partners. Extensive experience collaborating with national agricultural research systems and regional stakeholders across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States to generate evidence that informs agricultural policy, technology adoption, and program effectiveness.

Areas of Expertise

- MEL systems design
- Ex-ante and ex-post impact evaluation
- Agricultural technology adoption and scaling pathways
- Agricultural productivity and efficiency analysis
- Food systems transformation and agricultural development
- Farm management and resource economics
- Quantitative and econometric modeling (Stata, R, Python)
- Large-scale field survey design and CAPI-based data collection
- Gender and social inclusion in agricultural systems
- Database development, management, and open-data standards
- Grant proposal development and technical reporting

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)

Dissertation: *Three Essays on Agricultural Productivity and Resource Utilization*

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

Independent Consultant (IICA; AfricaRice; other partners)

Jan. 2025 – Present

- Provided technical leadership and consulting services to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) on impact evaluation, survey design, and econometric analysis.
- Designed and implemented MEL frameworks, including indicator tracking systems and results measurement tools.
- Conducted impact assessments of agricultural training and digital advisory interventions to support technology adoption and food systems strengthening.
- Prepared policy-oriented analytical reports.

Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), University of Maryland

Postdoctoral Associate

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2024

- Designed and implemented randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental evaluations of international agricultural training programs across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Integrated MEL principles into training validation and behavioral experimentation frameworks.
- Conducted ex-post impact evaluation of the digital agricultural advisory platform RiceAdvice on productivity and efficiency in Nigerian rice systems.
- Applied advanced econometric methods (stochastic frontier models, treatment effects models) to analyze technology adoption pathways and productivity outcomes.
- Led survey instrument design, enumerator training protocols, and multi-country data management processes.
- Communicated research findings to policymakers, development agencies, and academic audiences.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Graduate Research Assistant & Teaching Assistant

Aug. 2016 – Aug. 2021

- Conducted econometric analysis of irrigation water productivity across U.S. agricultural systems using integrated multi-source datasets (USDA, PRISM, USGS).
- Implemented productivity and profitability analyses of legume systems in Malawi using CAPI-based survey data.
- Contributed to ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of agricultural innovation impacts under the USAID Feed-the-Future Peanut Innovation Lab.
- Led CAPI deployment and data quality assurance under the PIRE Water and Food Security Project in Ethiopia.
- Delivered graduate-level instruction in cost-benefit analysis and resource management.

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

Research Scientist

Dec. 2010 – Jun. 2014

- Led monitoring and evaluation activities under the World Bank-funded West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP).
- Conducted impact assessments of rice innovations in collaboration with the AfricaRice.
- Evaluated consumer preferences and market performance of NERICA rice varieties in Uganda.

- Contributed to regional technology transfer initiatives linking research outputs to smallholder adoption pathways.
- Supervised field data collection teams and ensured rigorous data management standards.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Accra, Ghana

Research Officer

Jul. 2008 – Nov. 2010

- Designed and implemented surveys assessing irrigation potential and water management strategies in Ghana.
- Adapted the Policy Dialogue Model to simulate land and water allocation dynamics in the Niger Basin.
- Conducted economic risk and cost-effectiveness analyses of small-scale irrigation systems.
- Produced policy briefs and stakeholder reports to inform agricultural water governance.
- Ensured high-quality data management and documentation for long-term research programs.

Publications

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Owusu, E. S., Narrod, C., Cordero, A. M., and Thimeos, N. Z. (2026). Produce Safety Rule Supplemental Training and Grower Learning Impact: Experimental Evidence from Latin America. *Journal of Food Protection* 89(3): 100697. doi.org/10.1016/j.jfp.2026.100697.
- Owusu, E. S., Arouna, A., Yergo, W. G., Narrod, C., and Bravo-Ureta, B. (2025). Digital Agricultural Extension and Productivity Impacts in Rice Farming: Lessons from Nigeria. *Agricultural Economics* 57(1): e70079. doi.org/10.1111/agec.70079.
- Arouna, A., Owusu, E. S., Yergo, W. G., and Yabi, J. A. (2025). Can Site-specific Recommendations Reduce Technology and Managerial Gaps? Evidence from RiceAdvice in the Senegal River Valley. *Empirical Economics* 69: 1259-1285. doi.org/10.1007/s00181-025-02766-5
- Owusu, E. S. and Bravo-Ureta, B. E. (2022). Reap when You Sow? The Productivity Impacts of Early Sowing in Malawi. *Agricultural Systems* 199: 103412. doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.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* 58(5): 989-1013. 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* 49(4): 298-310. doi.org/10.1177/0030727020948967.

Selected 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.

Selected Trainings

- Google Basic and Advanced Data Analytics Professional Certificate, Coursera.
- Êstimate: Reduced-form Difference-in-Differences course, Michigan State University.
- Êstimate econometrics course, Michigan State University.
- CAPI survey implementation, World Bank.
- Experimental auctions, AfricaRice (Senegal and Uganda).
- Value Chain Analysis, AfricaRice and Catholic Relief Services.

Professional Memberships

- International Society for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- North-Eastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
- American Economic Association
- International Association of Agricultural Economists
- African Association of Agricultural Economics