

Piyush Gandhi

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Research Fields	Primary: Development Economics and Environmental Economics Secondary: Applied Microeconomics	
Education	University of California, Santa Cruz, USA PhD in Economics M.A. in Economics, Department of Economics Oxford University, UK MPhil Economics University of Delhi, India B.A. (Honors) Economics	2026 (expected) 2022 2019 2017
Employment and Research Experience	The World Bank, Consultant (DEC-Sustainability & Infrastructure) Good Business Lab, Senior Research Associate for Prof. Achyuta Adhvaryu (UCSD) and Anant Nyshadham (University of Michigan) Summer Intern, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (New Delhi, India)	2022-2023 2019-2021 2018
Job Market Paper	“Extinguishing the Blaze: Impact of Crop Residue Management on Stubble Burning in India” Crop residue burning is a major source of air pollution in India, driven by the short window between rice harvesting and wheat sowing, and limited awareness of sustainable alternatives. This study evaluates the impact of subsidizing early-maturity variety rice seeds (EMV) and providing technical training on residue management, using a randomized controlled trial in Punjab, India. Relative to the control group, providing subsidies alone increases sustainable harvesting by 1.59 acres. When combined with training, the effect rises to 4.03 acres, a statistically significant improvement over the subsidy-only group. Training enhances the impact of subsidies by promoting greater EMV adoption and addressing knowledge gaps in sustainable residue management. Treated farmers reported improved awareness and confidence in alternatives to burning, with some learning occurring even in the subsidy-only group. IV estimates suggest that adopting EMVs on one additional acre reduces burning by 0.38 acres. These findings offer the first causal evidence that India’s policy push for EMV seed adoption can effectively curb residue burning. A cost-benefit calculation suggests that spending \$3.2 per-acre on seed subsidy reduces CO ₂ emissions valued at \$53.73 per acre, highlighting the environmental and economic efficiency of scaling this policy intervention.	
Working Papers	“Does Micro-irrigation Save Energy? An Investigation in Gujarat, India” with Nick Hagerty and Ariel Zucker (under review, <i>Energy Economics</i>) “Credit access and firm pollution in India” with Patrick Behrer and Teevrat Garg “Evaluating Tools for Adaptation Strategies and Cost-Benefit Assessment of Coastal Climate Solutions in California” with Galina Hale, Borja Reguero and Drishan Banerjee “Call and Response: The Role of Organizational Incentives in Amplifying Worker Voice” with Achyuta Adhvaryu, Anant Nyshadham, Teresa Molina, and Smit Gade	

Research Grants	J-PAL SARWA Pilot Grant , with Aprajit Mahajan (\$75,000)	2025
	CEGA Development Economics Challenge (\$18,350)	2024
	Dissertation Research Grant, UC Santa Cruz (\$4,650)	2024
	Blum Scholar Grant, UC Santa Cruz (\$4,000)	2023
	Dissertation Research Grant, UC Santa Cruz (\$4,850)	2023
	PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (£22,450)	2023
	J-PAL ATAI Travel/ Proposal Development Grant (\$5,520)	2022
	Dissertation Research Grant, UC Santa Cruz (\$4,535)	2022
Fellowships, and Awards	UCSC Center for Coastal Climate Resilience Fellowship (\$32,430)	2025
	UCSC Agricultural Experiment Station Fellowship (\$6,000)	2025
	UCSC Grad Slam People's Choice Award	2025
	UCSC Graduate Symposium Best Presentation (Social Sciences)	2024 and 2025
	UCSC Grad Slam Best Presentation (Social Sciences)	2024
	UCSC Agricultural Experiment Station Fellowship (\$6,000)	2024
	UCSC Teaching Assistant Award for Excellence in Teaching	2023
	UCSC Eileen Brooks Memorial Research Paper Award (\$2,000)	2023
Presentations (Includes scheduled)	All California Labor Economics Conference, Stanford University	2025
	Economics Graduate Students' Conference, WashU in St. Louis	2025
	Structured Finance to Fund Climate Solutions, Washington DC	2025
	Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity & Inequality, Brazil	2025
	LAERE Conference, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia	2025
	Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training, UC Berkeley	2025
	Agricultural Experiment Station Symposium, UC Santa Cruz	2025
	Blum Scholar Research Presentations, UC Santa Cruz	2024
	Summer School in Environmental & Energy Economics, UC Berkeley	2023
	Europaeum Conference, Pantheon- Sorbonne University, France	2019
	Europaeum Conference, University of Helsinki, Finland	2018
	World Youth Forum, Egypt	2018
Coding Skills	Stata, R, SurveyCTO, Remote Sensing (Google Earth Engine), L ^A T _E X	
Languages	Hindi (Native), English (Advanced), Punjabi (Advanced)	