

Bjorn Van Campenhout

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Citizenship: Belgian

Profile:

Bjorn Van Campenhout is a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Associate Research Fellow at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), based in Belgium. His work focuses on agricultural economics and food policy in low- and middle-income countries, with emphasis on technology adoption, market participation, and rural extension systems. He brings behavioral science and social psychology into development economics to better understand farmer decision-making. Bjorn has conducted extensive fieldwork in East and Southern Africa, particularly in Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Malawi. He earned his PhD in Economics from KU Leuven and has been with IFPRI since 2011.

Education:

- D. Phil. Economics, K.U.Leuven, 2003-2009
- Master of Science in Advance Studies in Economics, K.U. Leuven, 1996-1998
- Master of Science in Economics, K.U. Leuven, 1994-1996
- Bachelor in Economic Sciences, K.U. Leuven, 1991-1994

Employment History and professional associations:

2025-present	Senior Research Fellow (I) at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2021-2025	Research Fellow (II) at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2015-present	Associate Scientific Researcher at LICOS Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance, Catholic University of Leuven (KU.Leuven), Belgium.
2013-2021	Research Fellow (I) at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2011- 2013	Post-doctoral Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), based in Kampala, Uganda.
2010	Post-doctoral researcher at LICOS, Catholic University of Leuven (K.U.Leuven), Research group Development and Food Policy, Belgium. (30 %)
2010	Lecturer at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Antwerp (UA-IDPM), Belgium. (20 %).
2003-2009	Research Assistant at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Antwerp (UA-IDPM), Belgium.
2002-2003	Research Associate at the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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- 2001-2002 Methodological Adviser, employed by Act NGO (now TRIAS), Belgium and working for Incomet NGO, Mafinga, Tanzania.
- 2000 Researcher at the KU.Leuven, Center for Economic Studies, Research Group Development Economics
- 2000 Research Associate at the University of Cambridge (UK), Department of Applied Economics, Research Group Development Economics.
- 1997-1999 Researcher at the KU.Leuven, Center for Economic Studies, Research Group Development Economics & Research Group Public Economics.

Publications in International Peer Reviewed Journals:

- Van Campenhout, B., Nabwire, L. (2025). “Buyer-side gender discrimination in bargaining: Evidence from seed sales in Uganda”, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, Volume 119, 102404.
- Mieke, C., Van Campenhout, B., Nabwire, L., Sparrow, R. and Spielman, DJ. (2025). “Miracle seeds: Biased expectations, complementary input use, and the dynamics of smallholder technology adoption”, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.
- Hidrobo, M., Kosec, K., Gartaula, H.N., Van Campenhout, B. and Carrillo, L., (2024). “Making complementary agricultural resources, technologies, and services more gender-responsive.”, *Global Food Security*, Volume 42, 100778.
- De, A., Mieke, C., Van Campenhout, B. (2024). “Gender bias in consumer perceptions: The case of agro-input dealers in Uganda.”, *Agricultural Systems*, Volume 217, 103954.
- Mogues, T, Van Campenhout, B., Mieke, C. and Kabunga, N. (2023), “The impact of community-based monitoring on public service delivery: A randomized control trial in Uganda”, *World Development* 172, 106374.
- Farnworth, C. R., Lecoutere, E., Galiè, A., Van Campenhout, B., Elias, M., Ihalainen, M., Roeven, L., Bharati, P., Valencia, A. M. P., Crossland, M., Vinceti, B., & Monterroso, I. (2023). “Methodologies for Researching Feminization of Agriculture: What Do They Tell Us?”, *Progress in Development Studies*, 23(3), 294–316.
- Lecoutere, E, Spielman, D. and Van Campenhout, B. (2023), “Empowering women through targeting information or role models: Evidence from an experiment in agricultural extension in Uganda”, *World Development* 167, 106240.
- Lecoutere, E. and Van Campenhout, B. (2023), “Joint Forces: The Impact of Intrahousehold Cooperation on Welfare in East African Agricultural Households”, *Feminist Economics* 29(1): 266-297.
- Van Campenhout, B., Lecoutere, E. and Spielman, D.J., (2023). Hiding or Pleasing: Spousal Disagreement Among Ugandan Maize Farmers, *The Journal of Development Studies* 53(1): 39-57.
- Van Campenhout, B. and De, A. (2023), Gendered Perceptions in Maize Supply Chains: Evidence from Uganda, *Development Policy Review*, 41 (2), e12662.
- Bagamba, F., Ntaky, P.R., Otim, G., Spielman, D.J. and Van Campenhout, B. (2023), Policy and performance in Uganda’s seed sector: Opportunities and challenges, *Development Policy Review*, 41 (3), e12665.

- Van Campenhout, B. (2022). “ICTs to address information inefficiencies in food supply chains”, *Agricultural Economics* 53(6): 968– 975.
- Ignowski, L., Minten, B., Van Campenhout, B. and Vandevelde, S. (2022). “Trade, Value Chain Technology and Prices: Evidence from Dairy in East Africa”, *Q Open*, qoac016.
- Spielman, D., Lecoutere, E., Makhija, S, and Van Campenhout, B. (2021). “ICTs and Agricultural Extension in Developing Countries”, *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 13(1): 177-201.
- Vandevelde, S., Van Campenhout, B. and Walukano, W. (2021), “Accounting for spillovers in assessing the effectiveness of video messages to improve potato seed quality: Evidence from Uganda”, *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension* 27(4): 503-534.
- Van Campenhout, B, Minten, B and Swinnen, J. (2021). “Domestic versus export-led agricultural transformation: Evidence from Uganda’s dairy value chain”, *Agricultural Economics* 52(5): 607-631.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2021). “The Role of Information in Agricultural Technology Adoption: Experimental Evidence from Rice Farmers in Uganda”, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 69(3): 1239-1272 .
- Van Campenhout, B., Spielman, D. J. and Lecoutere, E. (2021). “Information and communication technologies to provide agricultural advice to smallholder farmers: Experimental evidence from Uganda”, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 103(1): 317-337.
- Marivoet, W., Becquey, E. and Van Campenhout, B. (2019). “How well does the Food Consumption Score capture diet quantity, quality and adequacy across regions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)?”, *Food Security* 11(5): 1029–1049.
- Van Campenhout, B., Bizimungu, E, Smart, J and Kabunga, N. (2018). “Impact pathways of a participatory local governance initiative in Uganda - A qualitative exploration”, *Development in Practice* 28(8): 1046-1056.
- Van Campenhout, B., Pauw, K. and Minot, N. (2018), “The impact of food price shocks in Uganda – First order versus long-run effects”, *European Review of Agricultural Economics* 45(5): 783–807.
- Van Campenhout, B. and Bizimungu, E. (2018), “Risk and Returns of Sustainable Crop Intensification: The Case of Smallholder Rice and Potato Farmers in Uganda”, *Development Policy Review*, 36: O605–O633.
- Van Campenhout, B., Vandevelde, S., Walukano, W. and Van Asten, P., (2017), “Agricultural Extension Messages Using Video on Portable Devices Increased Knowledge about Seed Selection, Storage and Handling among Smallholder Potato Farmers in Southwestern Uganda”, *PLoS One*, 12(1), p.e0169557.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2017), “There’s an App for that? The Impact of Community Knowledge Workers in Uganda”, *Information, Communication & Society* 20(4): 530 – 550.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2016), “Fertility, Agricultural Labor Supply and Production: Instrumental Variable Evidence from Uganda”, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* 45(3): 581-607.

- Cassimon, D., Van Campenhout, B., Ferry, M and Raffinot, M. (2015), “Africa: Out of debt, into fiscal space? Dynamic Fiscal Impact of the Debt Relief Initiatives on African Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s”, *International Economics*, 144: 29–52
- Lecoutere, E., D’Exelle, B., and Van Campenhout, B. (2015), “Sharing Common Resources in Patriarchal and Status-based Societies: Evidence from Tanzania”, *Feminist Economics*, 21(3): 142-167.
- Van Campenhout, B., Lecoutere, E., and D’Exelle, B. (2015), “Inter-temporal and Spatial Price Dispersion Patterns and the Well-being of Maize Producers in Southern Tanzania”, *Journal of African Economies*, 24(2): 230:253.
- Van Campenhout, B., D’Exelle, B., and Lecoutere, E. (2015), “Equity-Efficiency Optimizing Resource Allocation: The Role of Time Preferences in a Repeated Irrigation Game”, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 77(2): 234-253.
- D’Exelle, B., Lecoutere, E. and Van Campenhout, B. (2012), “Equity-efficiency Trade-offs in Irrigation Water Sharing: Evidence from a Field Lab in Rural Tanzania”, *World Development* 40(12): 2537–2551.
- D’Exelle, B., Van Campenhout, B. and Lecoutere, E. (2012), “What Determines Impatience in Tanzania: Is it Poverty or Modernization?”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 48(4): 579-598.
- Van Campenhout, B., Cassimon, D. (2012), “Multiple equilibria in the dynamics of financial globalization: The role of institutions”, *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions & Money*, 22(2): 329–342
- Claessens, S., Cassimon, D. and Van Campenhout, B. (2009) “Evidence on Changes in Aid Allocation Criteria”, *World Bank Economic Review*, 23(2): 185-208.
- Cassimon, D and Van Campenhout, B. (2008) "Comparative Fiscal Effects of Debt Relief: an Application to African HIPC)s", *South African Journal of Economics*, 76(3): 427-442
- Mulenga, S. and Van Campenhout, B. (2008) “Decomposing Poverty Changes in Zambia: Growth, Inequality and Population Dynamics”, *African Development Review*, 20(2): 284 – 304
- Van Campenhout, B. (2007), "Modelling trends in food market integration: Method and an application to Tanzanian maize markets", *Food Policy*, 32(1): 112-127
- Van Campenhout, B. (2007), "Locally Adapted Poverty Indicators Derived from Participatory Wealth Rankings: A Case of Four Villages in Rural Tanzania", *Journal of African Economies*, 16(3): 406-438
- Cassimon, D , Van Campenhout B. (2007), "Aid Effectiveness, Debt Relief and Public Finance Response: Evidence from a Panel of HIPC)s", *Review of World Economics*, 143(4): 742-763

Chapters in Books:

- Van Campenhout, B., Sekabira, H. and Natterbo, F. (2017), “Chapter 9: Uganda: a new set of utility consistent poverty lines” In: Arndt, C. and Tarp, F. (eds), *Measuring Poverty and Well-being in Developing Countries.*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van Campenhout, B, Sekabira, H., and Aduayom, D.H., (2016), “Chaper 7: Poverty and its Dynamics in Uganda – Explorations using a New Set of Poverty Lines” In: Tarp, F., McKay, A and Arndt, C. (eds), *A Study of Growth and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Cassimon, D., Demetriades, P., and Van Campenhout, B. (2010), “Financial development, openness and institutions: explaining divergence in the dynamics of financial integration” In: Underhill, G., Blom, J. and Mügge, D. (eds), *From Reform to Crisis: Financial Integration and the 'New Architecture' of International Financial Governance.*, Cambridge University Press.
- Cassimon, D., Claessens, S., and Van Campenhout, B. (2010), “Empirical Evidence on Debt Relief and the New International Aid Architecture” In: Underhill, G., Blom, J. and Mügge, D. (eds), *From Reform to Crisis: Financial Integration and the 'New Architecture' of International Financial Governance.*, Cambridge University Press.

Selected Working Papers, Manuscripts, Blogs and Policy Documents:

- Mieke, C., Sparrow, R., Spielman, D., Van Campenhout, B. & Nabwire, L. (2025). “How misinformation and mismatched expectations reduce adoption of improved seeds”, Voxdev blog post.
- Van Campenhout, B., Nabwire, L., Kramer, B., Trachtman, C. and Abate, G.T., (2025). “Production and consumption traits and the adoption of improved maize varieties: Evidence from seed sample packs and cooking demonstrations”, IFPRI Discussion Paper 2331
- Mieke, C., Sparrow, R., Spielman, D., & Van Campenhout, B. (2023). “The (perceived) quality of agricultural technology and its adoption: Experimental evidence from Uganda”, IFPRI Discussion Paper 2918 (*submitted*).
- Van Campenhout, B., Mieke C., Spielman, D., Sparrow, R. (2022) “What changed when Ugandan farmers rated input quality and local vendor services”, The Conversation Blog Post.
- Nabwire, L., Van Campenhout, B., Minot, N., Kabir, R., Vos, R., Narayanan, S., Rice, B., Aredo, S.D. (2022). “Impact of COVID-19 on food value chains in Uganda: Results of surveys of farmers, traders, and processors”. IFPRI Working Paper.
- Van Campenhout, B., Kabunga, N., Mogues, T., Mieke, C. (2021). “Community advocacy forums and public service delivery in Uganda: Impact and the role of information, deliberation and administrative placement”, 3ie Impact Evaluation Report 136. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).
- Van Campenhout, B., Mieke C. (2021) “Does bottom-up monitoring improve public services? What we found in Uganda.” The Conversation Blog Post.
- Van Campenhout, B., Lecoutere, E. and Spielman, D. J. (2020). “Providing information to empower women in agriculture: Evidence from Uganda”, VoxDev oped.
- Van Campenhout, B., Nabwire, L. Minten, B. and Ariong, R.M. (2020). “Institutional and technological innovations to foster agro-industrialization in Uganda: Insights from the dairy value chain”, IFPRI Policy Note.
- Lecoutere, E., Spielman, D. J. and Van Campenhout, B. (2020). “Women’s empowerment, agricultural extension, and digitalization: Disentangling information and role-model effects in rural Uganda”, IFPRI Policy Note.
- Van Campenhout, B., Nabwire, L., Walukano, W., Kabunga, N., Bizimungu, E., and Smart, J. (2019). “Pathways to strengthen the quality of public service delivery in Uganda: Barazas as citizen advocacy forums”, Baraza Project Policy Note 01.

- Van Campenhout, B., Nattembo, F. and Pauw, K. (2018), “Evaluating the shifting priorities of Uganda’s agricultural extension services: A micro perspective”, USSP Policy Note 21.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2017), “Designing gender sensitive agricultural extension information campaigns”, IFPRI Research Blog.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2017), “How video can improve agricultural practices in Uganda”, IFPRI Research Blog.
- Nazziwa-Nviiri, L., Van Campenhout, B. and Amwonya, D. (2017), “Stimulating Agricultural Technology Adoption – Lessons from Fertilizer Use among Ugandan Potato Farmers”, IFPRI Discussion paper 01608.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2016), “Addressing knowledge gaps in rice growing in eastern Uganda. Experiment: Short videos can improve awareness of crop intensification techniques”, IFPRI Research Blog.
- Van Campenhout, B., Walukano, W., and Van Asten, P., (2016), “Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Rice Growing in Eastern Uganda”, Uganda Strategy Support Program Policy Note 20, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Kabunga, N., Mogues, T., Bizimungu, E., Erman, A., Van Campenhout, B. (2016), “The State of Public Service Delivery in Uganda: Report of a baseline survey“, IFPRI/3ie/OPM.
- Van Campenhout, B. (2016), “How does Credit affect Yields? Lessons from Potato and Rice Farmers in Uganda”, Uganda Strategy Support Program Policy Note 18, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Van Campenhout, B. (2015), “The dynamics of smallholder marketing behavior: Explorations using Ugandan and Mozambican panel data”, IFPRI discussion papers 1478.
- Van Campenhout, B., (2012), “Market integration in Mozambique: A non-parametric extension to the threshold model”, MozSSP Working Paper 4, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Van Campenhout, B. & Dercon, S., (2012), "Nonlinear dynamics of livestock assets: Evidence from Ethiopia," IFPRI discussion papers 1215.
- Mkenda, B.K., Van Campenhout, B., (2011), “Estimating Transaction Costs in Tanzanian Supply Chains”, International Growth Centre Working paper 11/0898.
- Lecoutere, E., D’Exelle, B. and Van Campenhout, B., 2010. Who Engages in Water Scarcity Conflicts? A Field Experiment with Irrigators in Semi-arid Africa. MICROCON Research Working Paper 31, Brighton: MICROCON.

Recent Research Grants and Awards:

- USAID grand for Space to Place Impact evaluation, with David Spielman, co-PI, USD 3,550,000, 2023-2027.
- Mastercard Foundation grant for research on WFP’s domestic procurement and maize value chain transformation in Uganda: assessing the impact of indirect conditional contracts on smallholder livelihoods, with Gashaw Abate, co-PI, USD 1,500,000, 2023-2026.
- OneCG Rethinking Food Markets Initiative Grant to do research on Incentivizing quality in dairy value chains - experimental evidence from Uganda, with Jordan Chamberlin, country case

lead, USD 300,000 2022-2024

- OneCG Market Intelligence Initiative Grant to do research on Increasing Adoption and Varietal Turnover of Seed—Consumer and Producer Side Interventions, with Berber Kramer, country case lead, USD 150,000 2022-2024.
- Grant from PIM/Belgian Government for research project on Innovating for resilient food supply chains in Africa, with Bart Minten, Jo Swinnen and Miet Maertens, EUR 300,000, 2021.
- NL-CGIAR Seed Systems Development (SSD) research grant on Policy and regulatory reform options for seed market development: Expanding the empirical evidence base in Uganda, with Robert Sparrow and others, USD 1,200,000, 2019-2021.
- CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research grant on 'Feminization' of agriculture: building evidence to debunk myths on current challenges and opportunities, with David Spielman and Els Lecoutere, USD 100,000, 2018-2021.
- Best Paper Focused on Gender Issues – 6th African Conference of Agricultural Economists for the paper: Empowering Women with Digital Extension in Uganda: Effects of Information and Role Models, Abuja, Nigeria, Sept 2019.
- Uma Lele Award for Best Contributed Paper on Gender – Honorable Mention, 30th International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Vancouver, Canada, August 2, 2018.
- Grant from PIM/Belgian Government for research project on Innovating for Efficient and Inclusive Value Chains in Africa, with Bart Minten, Jo Swinnen and Miet Maertens, USD 1,300,000, 2017-2020.
- Grant from FAO to investigate Shifting Priorities of Uganda's Agricultural Extension Services, USD 40,000, 2017-2018.
- Grant from USAID/Digital Green to study "The Role of Gender in ICT-mediated Agricultural Knowledge Transfer", with Els Lecoutere and David J. Spielman, USD 200,000, 2017-2018.
- Grant from International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie) to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of community advocacy forums (barazas) in Uganda, with Nassul Kabunga and Tewodaj Mogues, USD 1,000,000, 2014 – 2020.
- Grant from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to support research on Policy Action for Sustainable Intensification of Cropping Systems (PASIC) in Uganda, with IITA, EPRC and MAAIF, USD 5,000,000 over 2013 – 2018.
- Grant from Grameen Foundation to conduct an impact evaluation of community knowledge Workers (CKWs) in Uganda. USD 35,000, 2012.
- Grant from Uganda Ministry of Finance to conduct background research for the Poverty Status Report. USD 30,000, 2011.
- Grant from the University of Antwerp Research Fund to conduct research on smallholder farmers in Tanzania, with Ben D'exelle and Els Lecoutere, USD 45,000, 2008.

Editorial responsibilities:

- Academic editor for PloS One (2018-2023)
- Editor for European Journal of Development Research (2024-)

Aug, 2025

Refereeing for:

African Development Review; African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Agricultural and Resource Economics Review; Agricultural Economics; Agriculture and Human Values; American Journal of Agricultural Economics; China Economic Review; Development Policy Review; Emerging Markets Finance and Trade; Food Policy; Global Food Security; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies; Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of International Development; Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions & Money; Journal of Rural Studies, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Oxford Development Studies; Resources, Conservation & Recycling; Review of Development Economics; Scientific African; World Development.

Others:

Manage IFPRI's Uganda News and Research Update, a weekly newsletter to promote IFPRI's work in Uganda and East Africa.

Presented my work at numerous international conferences (eg. Amercian Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting (AAEA 2025), Denver, USA; 32st International Conference for Agricultural Economists (ICAE 2024), New Delhi, India; 31st International Conference for Agricultural Economists (ICAE 2021), 6th African Conference of the of Agricultural Economists (ACAE 2019), International Conference of Agricultural Economics (ICAE 2018), Vancouver, Canada, IFPRI RISE Research Day, 5th African Conference of the of Agricultural Economists (ACAE 2016), Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, International Conference of Agricultural Economics (ICAE 2015), Milan, Italy; Amercian Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting (AAEA 2014), Minneapolis, USA; Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE conferences – multiple editions); ICT4Ag, ...

Presented work and participated in various workshops, consultations and policy fora (eg. UNECA-IFPRI event on Capitalizing on African Trade: opportunities to develop regional food value chains (virtual) December 2021; Workshop on Gender, Agricultural Growth, and Rural Transformation Research in the CGIAR, Washington DC, USA, 2019; Keynote at 8th National Agricultural and Food Security Forum, Kampala, Uganda, 2019; ESSP brown bag seminar, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, 2019; Economics Seminar at Wageningen University, 2018; Participated in Revitalizing Agricultural Extension Workshop, Washington DC 2017; USDA round-table on Agricultural Trade and Markets, Washington DC, 2015; organized a policy dialog on agriculture in Uganda on June 11th 2015, together with the University of East Anglia and Overseas Development Institute; organized monthly research seminars at the Kampala office in Uganda, ...).