

Saurav Raj Kunwar

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Updated: November 2025

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

May 2020-Present

PhD, Agricultural and Applied Economics

Dissertation: Three essays on environmental services valuation and agricultural productivity

Committee: Prof. Teresa Serra, Prof. Scott Irwin, Prof. Robert Chambers,

Prof. Laura Gentry & Prof. Gary Schnitkey

University of Georgia

May 2020

MS, Agricultural and Applied Economics

Thesis: Understanding profitability of Georgia blueberry growers adopting a stochastic approach

Tribhuvan University

August 2017

BS, Agriculture

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Maryland

January 2023-May 2023

Research Scholar, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Advisor: Professor Robert Chambers

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Agricultural economics, production economics, environmental economics, applied econometrics, and risk and uncertainty.

RECENT PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. **Kunwar, S. R.**, Chambers, R. G., Gentry, L., & Serra, T. (2025). What are the Carbon Services from Cover-Crop Adoption Worth from Farmers' Perspective? *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
2. Chambers, R. G., **Kunwar, S. R.**, Quiggin, J., Serra, T., & Wang, S. (2025). Estimating Production and Environmental Efficiency under Uncertainty. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*.
3. **Kunwar, S. R.**, Fonsah, E. G., & Escalante, C. L. (2025). An Assessment of Profitability Using Monte Carlo Simulation Approach: A Case of Georgia Blueberry Industry. *Journal of Food Distribution Research*.
4. Fonsah, E.G., & **Kunwar, S.R.** (2024). Economics of Satsuma Citrus Production Using Drip Irrigation and Frost Protection in the United States. *Agricultural Research & Technology*, 28(4):1-11.
5. Fonsah, E. G., **Kunwar, S. R.**, & Diaz-Perez, J. C. (2023). Economic Evaluation of Bell Pepper Production Under Colored Shade Nets System in the Southeast Region of the USA. *African Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development*, 11(1), 001-007.
6. Bogati, S., **Kunwar, S. R.**, & Amgain, L. P. (2021). Assessment of Nutrient Expert®-Hybrid Maize Model on Productivity and Profitability of Winter Maize in Terai Region of Eastern Nepal. *Heliyon*, 7(10), e08096.
7. **Kunwar, S. R.**, Fonsah, E. G., & Ramirez, O. (2021). Understanding Profitability of Georgia Blueberry Growers Adopting a Stochastic Approach. *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, 52(856-2021-1301), 39-45.
8. **Kunwar, S. R.**, Bogati, S., Fonsah, E.G., & Amgain, L.P. (2019). Economic Assessment of Adopting Nutrient Expert® Wheat Model Vs Conventional Wheat Fertilizer Application Management in Morang, Nepal. *Journal of Agricultural Studies*, ISSN: 2166-0379, Vol 7(3): 38-48.

EXTENSION PUBLICATION

1. **Kunwar, S. R.**, & Fonsah, E. G. (2022). Economic Analysis of Southern Highbush Blueberry Production Using Drip Irrigation and Frost Protection in Georgia, USA. *The Journal of Extension*, 60(1), 11.
2. Fonsah, E. G., **Kunwar, S. R.**, Holland, R., Jacobs, J. & Curry, S. Southern highbush blueberry enterprise budget, Georgia. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia. **Developed the budget for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024** – Adopted by UGA Extension agents as the standard planning tool for enterprise analysis.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer - Aquaculture, Singh Academy, Nepal, 2017-18

- Taught aquaculture fundamentals to high school students.
- Delivered lectures and practical demonstrations.

Teaching Assistant-Commodity Price Analysis, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Spring 2024

- Prepared quiz questions and supported student Q&A
- Led assignment and quiz review sessions

ADVISING & PROGRAM COORDINATION

- **Graduate Mentor**

- PhD students, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Fall 2025
Taught Applied Production Economics to help develop their PhD dissertation.
- Master of Agribusiness Program, University of Georgia, 2023-24
Mentored a master's student in research design, data analysis, and thesis development.

- **Graduate Student Seminar Organizer, UIUC, AY 2023–24.**

Organized Food, Agriculture and Commodities Seminar Series with 9 departmental and 3 invited speakers, increasing student participation by 40%.

- **DEI Inclusive Curriculum Design Committee, UIUC.**

Contributed to inclusive course content and recruitment strategies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHING-LEARNING

AAEA Teaching Academy, 2025 – 2026.

Master Course in Online Teaching (MCOT), March 26–April 9, 2025. CITL, UIUC.

Cultivating Online Learning Communities, January 19, 2025. CITL, UIUC.

Graduate Academy for College Teaching, January 10–11, 2024. CITL, UIUC.

Micro Teaching, January 12, 2024. CITL, UIUC.

WORKING PAPERS

Pricing agricultural environmental services under policy-consistent normalizations (Job Market Paper)

Role of adaptation to climate change in agricultural total factor productivity (with Robert G. Chambers and Teresa Serra)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Environmental efficiencies and their determinants in the US Midwest (with Robert G. Chambers and Teresa Serra)

Relationship between farm profits, natural capital and management practices (with Laura Gentry and Teresa Serra)

Determinants of agricultural soil erosion: A panel data analysis (with Laura Gentry and Teresa Serra)

Runoff water quality in relation to farm management activities (with Laura Gentry and Teresa Serra)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Anthony Grano Fellowship, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) 2025
- Jon and Joanne Corzine Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2025
- Selected Representative for Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Washington, D.C. 2024
- Agricultural and Consumer Economics Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2023–2024
- M. Scott Scholarship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2023
- Selected in Global Young Scientists Summit 2023
- Stotler Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2020–2025
- Nepal Government Scholarship, Lamjung Campus, Nepal 2013–2017

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Reviewer: European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR), European Review of Agricultural Economics (ERA), Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AJARE), Frontiers in Environmental Science, and The Journal of Extension and Irrigation Science

LEADERSHIPS

Treasurer, Graduate Student Organization, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign AY 2022-23

Student Representative, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science
Lamjung Campus, Nepal AY 2015-16

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Kunwar, S. R., R. G. Chambers, & T. Serra. Value of Environmental Services from Agriculture. Big Sky Workshop, Montana State University and UC Davis, PERC. June 18-20, 2025.

Kunwar, S. R., R. G. Chambers, L. F. Gentry, & T. Serra. Shadow pricing carbon sequestration and GHG emissions. European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal. June 18-21, 2024.

Kunwar, S. R., R. G. Chambers, L. F. Gentry, & T. Serra. Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions shadow prices: A case of Illinois corn fields. North American Productivity Workshop, University of Miami, USA. June 12-15, 2023.

Kunwar, S. R., R. G. Chambers, L. F. Gentry, & T. Serra. Shadow prices of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions in Illinois. Commercial Agricultural Seminar, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. October 19, 2022.

Kunwar, S. R., E. G. Fonsah, & O. Ramirez. Understanding Profitability of Georgia Blueberry Growers Adopting a Stochastic Approach. 2020 Food Distribution Research Society Virtual Conference, USA, October 12-13, 2020.

Kunwar, S. R. & L. P. Amgain. Assessing productivity and profitability of wheat using Nutrient Expert wheat model in Nepal. 4th Symposium on Undergraduate Practicum Assessment organized by Research, Development, Training and Extension Center (RD-TEC), Nepal, 2017.

SKILLS

Business Analytics: Python, R, Stata, SAS, SPSS, GAMS

Quantitative & qualitative data analysis, machine learning, big data

Data-driven decision-making for agribusiness and food systems

Languages: English, Nepali, Hindi