

# VAISHNAVI SURENDRA

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## SUMMARY

Applied Economist and Researcher specializing in causal inference and experiment design. Experienced in designing large-scale decision systems for development, market and climate adaptation contexts. Published in top journals and collaborated with global institutions to translate research into scalable, data-driven policy and product solutions.

## CORE SKILLS

Causal Inference · Experiment Design · Econometrics · Machine Learning · R · Python · Stata · Research Leadership · Cross-functional Collaboration

## EXPERIENCE

### Precision Development (PxD)

*Postdoctoral Researcher & Research Collaborator*

2021 - 2025

Instrumental in design and development of a **digital weather-forecast system** reaching **50K+ farmers**, improving decision-making and climate resilience; secured external funding and designed randomized experiments, surveys, and A/B tests to evaluate adoption and inclusivity; demonstrated a **3X benefit-cost ratio** and translated empirical findings into product and policy design; **mentored research teams** and built reproducible data systems for large-scale studies.

### University of California, Berkeley

*Postdoctoral Scholar, Graduate Student, Research & Teaching Assistant*

2014 - 2021

**Gates Foundation-funded** postdoctoral research on women's self-help groups in India applying causal inference to show that institutional capacity strengthened **households' resilience to economic shocks**; dissertation research combined econometrics, and **financial and geospatial data** to provide the first empirical evidence that **informal lenders** in India borrow from formal banks to on-lend to rural borrowers; organized initiatives advancing diversity in economics in **academic leadership roles**.

### The World Bank

*Consultant & Research Collaborator*

2015 - 2019

Collaborated on an **8K-household randomized evaluation** of Bihar's rural livelihoods program (**10M beneficiaries**); led econometric analysis and co-authored a peer-reviewed publication informing policy design.

## EDUCATION

### University of California, Berkeley

*Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics*

2020

### London School of Economics and Political Science

*MSc. In Economics*

2012

### Indian Institute of Technology Madras

*5-year Integrated MA in Economics (Bachelors & Masters)*

2011

*For research papers, funding secured, and public research communication, see [www.vaishnavisurendra.com](http://www.vaishnavisurendra.com)*