

VAISHNAVI SURENDRA

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SUMMARY

Applied Economist and Researcher specializing in economics, causal inference, and experiment design. Experienced in designing large-scale decision systems for development and market 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; **led teaching teams** (12 graduate student instructors, 800+ students) and 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