

## Sumedha Minocha

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### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Social Protection Programs, Gender, Nutrition, Health, Agriculture

### EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

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- PhD Applied Economics & Management, **Cornell University**, expected graduation May 2026  
Area of Concentration: International & Development economics
- M.S. Applied Economics & Management, **Cornell University**, 2022
- M.Sc. Economics, **Madras School of Economics**, 2013
- B.A. (H) Economics, **University of Delhi**, 2010

### PEER- REVIEWED PAPERS

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- Makkar, S., **Minocha, S.**, Bhat, K.G., John, A.T., Swaminathan, S., Thomas, T., Mannar, M.G.V., Kurpad, A.V. (2022). **“Iron Fortification through Universal Distribution of Double-Fortified Salt Can Increase Wages and Be Cost-Effective: An Ex-Ante Modeling Study in India”** The Journal of Nutrition 152 (2), 597-611 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/nxab378>
- John, A.T., Makkar, S., Swaminathan, S., **Minocha, S.**, Webb, P., Kurpad, A. (2021) **“Factors influencing household pulse consumption in India: A multilevel model analysis”** Global food security 29, 100534. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2021.100534>
- Makkar, S., **Minocha, S.**, Swaminathan, S., Kurpad, A. **“Can millets find a place on the Indian plate? A policy perspective”** Economic and Political Weekly, 68 (2), 607-653
- Ward, P.S., Spielman, D.J., Ortega, D.L., Kumar, N., **Minocha, S.** **“Demand for complementary financial and technological tools for managing drought risk”**. Accepted for publication in Economic Development and Cultural Change. <https://doi.org/10.1086/700632>
- **Minocha, S.**, Makkar, S., Swaminathan, S., Thomas, T., Webb, P., Kurpad, A. (2019) **“Supply and Demand of high quality protein foods in India: Trends and opportunities”**. Global Food Security 23: 139- 148. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2019.05.004>
- Shivakumar, N., **Minocha, S.**, Kurpad, A. (2018) **“Protein quality and the requirement of indispensable amino acids in Indians”** Indian Journal of Medical Research 148: 5 557-568 <http://www.ijmr.org.in/article.asp?issn=09715916;year=2018;volume=148;issue=5;spage=557;epage=568;aulast=Shivakumar>
- Swaminathan, S., Sinha, S., **Minocha, S.**, Makkar, S., Kurpad A.V. (2018). **“Are we eating too much? A critical reappraisal of the energy requirement in Indians”**. Proc Ind Natn Sci Acad 84: 4 809- 819. <http://www.insajournal.in/insajournal/index.php/proceedings/article/view/558>
- **Minocha, S.**, Thomas, T., Kurpad, A. (2018). **“Are ‘fruits and vegetables’ intake really what they seem in India?”**. European Journal of Clinical Nutrition 72: 603- 608. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41430-018-0094-1>
- **Minocha, S.**, Thomas, T., Kurpad, A (2017). **“Dietary Protein and the Health–Nutrition–Agriculture Connection in India”**. The Journal of Nutrition 147:7 1243- 1250. <https://doi.org/10.3945/jn.116.243980>

### WORKING PAPERS

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- **“Food Transfers, Program Uptake and Maternal Nutrition: Evidence from Integrated Child Development Services in India”** (Job Market Paper)  
I use a natural experiment in which I compare the impact of providing nutritious rations given as ready-to-cook food packets once in two months vs bundling this program with daily provision of nutritious cooked meals at village- based community centers. Quazi experimental methods were used to match village pairs based on observable variables and spatial distance across these two groups. Primary data was collected for a sample of ~930 pregnant women across two districts of Maharashtra in India in 2024-2025.

- **“Do maternal spot feeding programs effect birth weight? Evidence from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in India”**

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#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- Oral presentation on **“Modality of food transfers, uptake of services and low birth weight: Evidence from Integrated Child Development Services in India”** for One-CGIAR 2023 annual CGIAR gender research, 9-12 October 2023.
- Poster Presentation on **“Supply and Demand of high- quality protein foods in India: Trends and opportunities”** for Nutrition 2018, American Society of Nutrition, Boston, 9-12 June 2018.
- Oral presentation (for Young Scientists Award) on **“Demand and Supply of quality foods in India: The protein story”** for 49<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, Nutrition Society of India, Jorhat, 2- 4 November 2017.
- Selected for participation in **Bangalore Boston Nutrition Collaborative (BBNC)** program, Bangalore, January 2019.

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#### WORK EXPERIENCE

##### **St. Johns Research Institute, Bangalore**

Research Analyst, Division of Nutrition, 2016- 2019

##### **International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi**

Senior Research Assistant, Environment and Production Technology Division, 2013- 2016

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, AEM 2300: International Trade and Finance, Cornell University, Spring 2025

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#### AWARDS & GRANTS

- Dissertation Grant of \$53000, Tata- Cornell Institute, Cornell University
- Conference Travel Grant of \$700, Graduate School, Cornell University
- Cleared University Grants Commission- National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) in Economics for eligibility for Assistant Professorship in India, 2014
- Academic scholarship from Madras School of Economics for ranking amongst the top 3 in academic year 2011-2012.

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#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Research Advisor, Edify Green Solutions Pvt. Ltd
- Article Review for Journals: Food Policy, JAMA Network

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#### TECHNICAL SKILL SET

STATA, R, Microsoft Office (Basic), LaTeX (Basic), Open Data Kit, KoboToolBox, SurveyCTO, QGIS

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#### REFERENCES

Prabhu Pingali (PhD Committee Chair)

Professor of Applied Economics

Director of Tata-Cornell Institute

Cornell University

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Heather Schofield

Assistant Professor

SC Johnson College of Business

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[hws44@cornell.edu](mailto:hws44@cornell.edu)

John Hoddinott

H.E. Babcock Professor of Food & Nutrition

Economics and Policy

Nutritional Sciences and Charles H. Dyson School of

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