

Roshan Saha

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206 Comer Hall, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology,
Auburn University

EDUCATION

- **Auburn University** *Fall 2021- present*
Auburn, United States
PhD, Applied Economics (Expected Summer 2025)
- **Jadavpur University** *2016 - 2018*
Kolkata, India
MA, Economics
- **Jadavpur University** *2013 2016*
Kolkata, India
BA, Economics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Observer Research Foundation** *September 2020 - August 2021*
India
Junior Fellow
- **Observer Research Foundation** *June 2018 - August 2020*
India
Research Assistant

RESEARCH

Areas of Interest: Development Economics; Production Economics; Economic impacts of Caste; Climate, Wages and Labor Migration.

• WORKING PAPERS

- *Caste Dominance in Agricultural Credit Markets, but for Whom? Evidence from India*
with Mykel R. Taylor & Valentina M. Hartarska ([Download Draft Here](#))

This study explores how caste affects access to rural credit markets in India, **exploring four possible pathways** identified from the literature: economic discrimination (statistical or taste-based); caste diversity and 'out-group' threats; enclave effects; and identity effects. The paper examines how caste diversity can increase caste-based differences in credit market outcomes. We also explore whether these differences exhibit any 'enclave effects'. Finally, we also explore the salience of caste identity- does the caste identity matter for all caste groups? We find that SC/STs consistently face unfavorable outcomes (lower probability of credit, lower loan amounts, and higher interest rates) compared to the OBC/Others. We also find that caste diversity increases the group-based differences in credit market outcomes, especially in districts dominated by the Others/OBC social groups. At the same time, in SC/ST dominated districts, we find that no such differences exist. The enclave effects are observed only for the OBC/Other individuals. This directly suggests that caste identities are more salient for OBC/Other

- *When it Rains, it Pours? Effect of Rainfall Shocks on Agricultural Wages in India*
with Sunjae Won & Mykel R. Taylor ([Download Draft Here](#))

This study examines how rainfall shocks, both excessive and deficient, affect agricultural wages in India by influencing labor supply decisions. We define rainfall shocks as deviations from historical rainfall percentiles (following Jayachandran 2006; Kaur 2019) and analyze their effects during key agricultural phases—sowing and harvesting. In order to avoid 'forward-looking' bias in the earlier definition of rainfall shocks, the previous 3-year rainfall distribution for each district-year is used as the reference period to redefine the rainfall shocks. The findings reveal that negative shocks have a stronger impact than positive ones. Using a more recent reference period, the estimates suggest that shocks in a single season do not influence male wages. Rather, negative sowing season rainfall shocks followed by either a negative or positive rainfall shock in the harvest season have positive and negative effect on wages, respectively. This study highlights the complex interaction between rainfall variability and agricultural labor markets.

- ***Cooking Fuel Choice and the Role of Women: Evidence from India*** [Under review at Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)]

with Indrani Mukherjee

Using comprehensive household-level data from the CEEW-IRES (2020), we focus on the effect that women-headed households have on cooking fuel choice. Estimates from a probit model suggest that women-headed households in high-firewood use states exhibit a higher probability of using LPG. We also investigate whether the intra-household decision-making process is being delegated to non-primary income earners, particularly in refilling LPG cylinders. Socio-religious identities, specifically caste, also impact cooking fuel choices. The findings suggest that marginalized sections, particularly Scheduled Tribes (ST), face additional challenges in adopting LPG, contributing to existing economic and social burdens. This paper provides valuable insights into the multifaceted factors shaping household decisions, shedding light on gender roles, socio-economic influences, and the implications for cooking fuel choices in the Indian context.

• WORK IN PROGRESS

- ***Conservation behavior of non-operating landowners in the United States (A Qualitative Analysis of Focus Group Discussions).***

with Mykel R. Taylor, Raymond Massey, Michele Segovia & Julio Penados.

- ***Oligopsony Market Power in Ghana Cocoa Sourcing***

with Festus Attah & Mykel R. Taylor.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR EXPERIENCE

• 2024

Delhi School of Economics Winter School New Delhi, India (December 2024)

When it rains, it pours? Effect of rainfall shocks on Male Agricultural Wages

Southern Agricultural Economics Association, Atlanta, GA

Oligopsony Market Power in Ghana Cocoa Sourcing

Southern Rural Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA

Farmers Perspective on Farm Stress in the US

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, New Orleans, LA

Caste Dominance in Rural Credit Markets: Evidence from India

• 2023

Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA

Role of Caste in Land Leasing and Credit Market Outcomes in India

Alabama Extension Ag Outlook Conference, Montgomery, AL

Farm Management Education: Insights from Industry Stakeholders

• 2022

Southern Agricultural Economics Association, Oklahoma City, OK

Determinants of Land Ownership and Lease Choice

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Finalist, **USDA Local Food Economics Data Visualization Challenge**, AAEA Annual Meeting 2024, New Orleans, LA

SOFTWARE SKILLS

L^AT_EX, Stata, R, NVivo

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Shear, Hannah E, Roshan Saha, Mykel R Taylor, and Maria A Boerngen (2024). "Farm Management Education: Insights from Industry Stakeholders". In: *Journal of the ASFMRA* 2024, pp. 130–140.

Book Chapters

- Ghosh, Nilanjan, Soumya Bhowmick, and Roshan Saha (2020). “Clean Water and Sanitation: India’s Present and Future Prospects”. In: *Sustainable Development Goals: An Indian Perspective*. Springer, pp. 95–105.
- Saha, Roshan (2022). “Land reforms and optimal farm size: linkages with rural inequality and socioeconomic development”. In: *Sustainable Development in Action: Examining Global North-South Divergences*, (New Delhi: ORF and Global Policy Journal, 2022).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), The Econometric Society (ES).

REFERENCES

1. **Dr. Mykel R. Taylor**
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3. **Dr. Valentina M. Hartarska**
Professor
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
College of Agriculture
Auburn University
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4. **Dr. Sunjae Won**
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology
College of Agriculture
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MISCELLANEOUS

- Citizenship: Indian
- Languages: Bengali (Native), English (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent)

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