

## M. ALEXANDRA PERALTA

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As for September 24, 2013

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. *Expected Fall 2013.*

Dissertation: Impact evaluation of an economic development opt-in program: effects on agricultural income, household wealth, and levels of trust.

Guidance committee: Scott M. Swinton, Mywish Maredia, Songqing Jin, Jeffrey Wooldridge and Robert Shupp.

*Fields of study.*

Primary fields: Development economics, impact evaluation, field experiments.

Secondary fields: Environmental and resource economics, applied micro-econometrics.

**Master of Science.** Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. Michigan State University. 2012.

M.S. Research paper: “Food vs. Wood: Dynamic Choices for Kenyan Smallholders.”

**Economista.** Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia. 2002. (Equivalent to B.S. plus one year).

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**Research Assistant.** Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University.

Analyzed the impact of a pro-poor rural development project for improving agricultural value chains in Angola. January – May 2013.

Designed and implemented the economic impact evaluation, including a survey of 578 households, for the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Catholic Relief Services “Agriculture for Basic Needs Project-A4N” in Nicaragua. January 2010- December 2012.

Designed a linear programming aid tool for MSU power plant to minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in compliance with Chicago Climate Exchange goals. Coordinated a group of five undergraduate students in studying University water use reduction. August 2007 - December 2009.

**Assistant Coordinator.** Challenge Program for Water and Food. International Center for Tropical Agriculture, CIAT. Cali, Colombia. July 2005 - July 2007.

Synthesized research results of projects related to water management and collective action.

**Instructor.** Universidad Javeriana (Cali). 2004.

Taught Development Economics at undergraduate level.

**Research Assistant.** Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Universidad del Valle. Cali, Colombia. September 1999 – January 2002.

Conducted regional and national economic trend analysis.

## **Other work experience**

**Economist.** Planning and Development office. Universidad del Valle. Cali, Colombia. 2002-2005.

Analyzed public policy in higher education.

**Consultant.** Asociación Universitaria Iberoamericana de Postgrado, AUIP. Cali, Colombia. 2004.

Planned and designed postgraduate academic programs.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Journal Articles**

Peralta, M.A & S.M. Swinton. 2013. "Food vs. Food: Dynamic choices for Kenyan Smallholders". Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. (Submitted).

Peralta, M.A. & R. Shupp. 2013. "Trust, Trust Attitudes and Group Participation in Rural Development Activities". Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics. Michigan State University. (Submitted).

Johnson, N., J. Garcia, J.E. Rubiano, M. Quintero, R.D. Estrada, E. Mwangi, A. Moreno, A. Peralta, & S. Granados (2009). "Water and poverty in two Colombian watersheds". *Water Alternatives* 2(1): 34-52

Peralta, A, J. García, and N. Johnson (2007). "Dinámica y definición de pobreza en los Andes colombianos: enfoques participativos versus enfoques objetivos". *Desarrollo y Sociedad* 58:209-243. (Dynamics and Definitions of Poverty in the Colombian Andes: Participatory vs. Objective Approaches).

### **Presented Papers**

Peralta, M.A. and S.M. Swinton. 2013. "Impact Assessment with Opt-in interventions: Evidence from a rural development project in Nicaragua". Paper presented to: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and Canadian Applied Economics Society (CAES) meetings, Washington DC, August 4-6, 2013.

Peralta, M.A., S.M. Swinton, and M. Maredia. 2012. "Accounting for selection bias in impact analysis of a rural development program: An application using propensity score matching." Contributed poster. 28th Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 18-24, 2012.

Peralta, M.A., S.M. Swinton, and M. Maredia. "Accounting for selection bias from data collection: an example from the Agriculture for Basic Needs project in Nicaragua". Paper presented to: Conference Mind the Gap: From Evidence to Impact, Cuernavaca, Mexico, June 15-17, 2011.

Peralta M.A., and S.M. Swinton. "Food vs. Wood: Dynamic Choices for Kenyan Smallholders". Selected paper prepared at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's 2009 AAEA & ACCI Joint Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, July 26-28, 2009

### **Other presentations, posters.**

Peralta, M.A., J. Garcia & N. Johnson. "Dynamics and Definitions of Poverty in the Colombian Andes: Participatory vs. Objective Approaches". Honorable Mention. Graduate Student Research Symposium, Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics. Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. January 18<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Peralta, M.A., J. Garcia & N. Johnson. "Dynamics and Definitions of Poverty in the Colombian Andes: Participatory vs. Objective Approaches". Abstract and poster presented at International Forum for Water and Food. Vientiane, Laos, November 12-17, 2006.

Rubiano, J. and M.A. Peralta. "Scaling up in Water Research Projects". Abstract presented at International Forum for Water and Food. Vientiane, Laos, November 12-17, 2006.

### **Reports**

Peralta, M.A. and S.M. Swinton. 2012. "Evaluación económica de impacto del proyecto 'Agricultura para Necesidades Básicas' A4N en Nicaragua." Report to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Central America office. August 24, 2012.

Peralta, M.A. and S.M. Swinton. 2011. "Activos de los productores participantes y no participantes en el proyecto Agricultura para Necesidades Básicas (A4N) en Nicaragua: Comparación a partir de la línea base 2009." Report to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Central America office. March 31, 2011.

Peralta, M.A. and S.M. Swinton 2009. "Decision Aid to Minimize the Cost of Meeting MSU's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals: Pilot Test Results." Environmental Stewardship Systems Team Briefing Paper No. 09-2. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. November. <http://www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/content/documents/decisionaidtoreduceghgs.pdf>

Peralta, M.A. and S.M. Swinton 2008. "Costs and Returns Analysis of Library First Floor Restroom Renovation and Implications of Conservation Savings for MSU Facilities Replacement Scheduling." Environmental Stewardship Systems Team Briefing Paper No. 08-5. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. <http://www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/content/documents/restroom%20renovation.pdf>

### **GRANTS**

Economic Impact Evaluation of the Howard Buffet-Catholic Relief Services (CRS) "Agriculture for Basic Needs Project-A4N" in Nicaragua. January 2010-2012 (\$113,916, with S.M. Swinton).

Analysis of farmers' choices between timber trees and food crops in western Kenya. Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa (PRESA) at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and the Consultative Group for International Research in Agriculture (CGIAR) Challenge Program for Water and Food (CPWF). July-August 2008 (\$12,653).

### **AWARDS**

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University. 2013 (\$6,000).

C.S. Mott Pre-doctoral Fellowship in Conservation Agriculture, Michigan State University 2009-2012 (\$34,000).

Fulbright fellowship for graduate studies. 2007-2009.

Fellowship for outstanding GPA, Universidad del Valle, 3 semesters (January-June 1995, September-December 1996, February-July 1997).

## **LEADERSHIP AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Fulbright Colombia, 2013.

External evaluator Fulbright Grant 2014.

Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. East Lansing MI.

Search committee member, Assistant Professor of International Development Economics, 2013

President, Graduate Student Organization, 2011-2012.

Member, Graduate Policy Committee, 2011-2012.

Coordinator, Brown Bag seminar series, 2009-2010.

Department of Economics. Universidad del Valle. Cali, Colombia.

Vice President, Grupo de Estudiantes de Economía (Group of students of economics), 1998.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)

Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association (LACEA)

## **LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), Spanish (native).

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Scott M. Swinton  
Professor and Associate Chairperson  
Department of Agricultural, Food  
and Resource Economics  
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446. W Circle Drive Rm. 202  
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Department of Agricultural, Food  
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