

Roshan Saha

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

EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

RESEARCH

Areas of Interest: Development Economics, Production Economics, Caste Norms, Economic Sociology.

• WORKING PAPERS

- *Caste Dominance in Rural Credit Markets: 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, focusing on two key channels: discrimination (statistical or taste-based) and cultural proximity influenced by caste diversity. It examines how caste diversity can either increase credit disparities by eroding social trust or reduce prejudices through social learning. We find that credit disparities are more pronounced in districts dominated by Other Backward Castes or Others, while such differences are less evident in Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe-dominated areas. Discrimination and cultural proximity both play roles in shaping these outcomes.

- *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. The findings reveal that negative shocks have a stronger impact than positive ones. In the harvest season, negative shocks lead to male wage increases due to the substitution effect, while during sowing, wages decrease as the income effect dominates. This study highlights the complex interaction between rainfall variability and agricultural labor markets.

• 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.
- *Temporary Income Shocks and Migration: Revisiting Jati Networks*

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR EXPERIENCE

• 2024

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

COMPUTER 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.

ORF Occasional Paper Series

Ghosh, Nilanjan, Roshan Saha, and Soumya Bhowmick (2019). "A 'social' index for Ease of Doing Business". In: *ORF Occasional Paper*. Vol. 199.

Bhowmick, Soumya, Nilanjan Ghosh, and Roshan Saha (2020). "Tracking India's progress in clean water and sanitation: a sub-national analysis". In: *ORF Occasional Paper*. Vol. 250.

Kapurja, Preeti and Roshan Saha (2020). "Resource use efficiency and productivity: An analysis of India's food grain sector". In: *ORF Occasional Paper*. Vol. 229.

Saha, Roshan and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury (2021). "Building a Regional Approach to Energy Security for BIMSTEC". In: *ORF Occasional Paper* 326.

Saha, Roshan and Preeti Kapurja (2021). "Finding solutions to water scarcity: The potential of virtual water trade in agricultural products". In: *ORF Occasional Paper*. Vol. 298.

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)

REFERENCES

1. **Dr. Mykel R. Taylor**
Professor, Interim Head
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
College of Agriculture
Auburn University
mrt0055@auburn.edu
[Google Scholar](#)
PhD Advisor
2. **Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh**
Director
Centre for New Economic Diplomacy & ORF, Kolkata
nilanjanghosh@orfonline.org
[Google Scholar](#)
Advisor during my tenure at ORF, Kolkata
3. **Dr. Sunjae Won**
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
College of Agriculture
Auburn University
sunjaewon@auburn.edu
[Personal Website](#)
PhD Committee Member
4. **Dr Saikat Sinha Roy**
Professor (Former Head)
Department of Economics
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
saikat.sinharoy@jadavpuruniversity.in
[Google Scholar](#)
Professor during BA (Econ) and MA (Econ)

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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