Prabin Adhikari
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Professional Summary

Ph.D. candidate in Applied Economics at the University of Florida specializing in causal inference, econometrics, and behavioral economics. Experienced in analyzing large-scale consumer datasets, designing randomized experiments, and developing predictive models using R and Python. Skilled in difference-in-differences, discrete choice modeling, and machine learning to generate data-driven insights for policy and business decision-making.

Education

University of Florida, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences — Aug 2023 – Aug 2027
Doctor of Philosophy, Applied Economics
CGPA: 3.83

University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Science — Aug 2021 – May 2023
Master of Science, Agricultural and Applied Economics
CGPA: 3.89

Agriculture and Forestry University, College of Agriculture — Jan 2015 – Jul 2019
Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Operation and Management
CGPA: 3.78

Work Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida — Aug 2023 – Present

- Designed and conducted neuroeconomic laboratory experiments using EEG to identify cognitive biases and evaluate behavioral nudges promoting healthier food choices.
- Analyzed Nielsen consumer purchase data covering 60,000+ households and 5.6 million household-week observations merged with NOAA weather exposure data to estimate causal effects of heatwaves using difference-in-differences and fixed-effects models.
- Processed and analyzed large-scale consumer datasets using R and Python, developing reproducible pipelines for data cleaning, merging, and statistical modeling.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Georgia — Aug 2021 – May 2023

- Conducted econometric analysis of consumer survey data to estimate demand heterogeneity and willingness-to-pay.
- Estimated discrete choice models (random parameter logit, latent class) and built predictive models using random forest and gradient boosting.

Agriculture Extension Officer, Annapurna Rural Municipality — Aug 2020 – Jul 2021

- Provided technical and economic guidance to farmers on crop production, improving adoption of modern agricultural practices.
- Collected and analyzed production and market information to support local agricultural policy and planning.

Farm Manager, Firfirey Organics — Mar 2020 – Jun 2020

- Managed farm production planning, labor coordination, and logistics for organic vegetable operations.

Research Intern, Nepal Agricultural Research Council Dec 2019 – Feb 2020

- Assisted with agricultural economics research projects involving field data collection, statistical analysis, and report preparation.

Selected Research

Weather Shocks and Food Choices

Constructed a large household-week panel dataset combining Nielsen consumer purchase data with weather exposure measures to estimate the impact of extreme heat on unhealthy food spending using fixed-effects and difference-in-differences methods.

State Marketing Programs and Consumer Demand

Designed and implemented a discrete choice experiment to evaluate how targeted marketing messages influence consumer demand for state-branded agricultural products.

Attribution Bias and Food Valuation

Developed a neuroeconomic laboratory experiment combining BDM auctions and EEG measurements to study how cognitive biases influence consumer valuation and decision-making.

Technical Skills

Programming: R, Python, SQL, Stata, SAS

Econometrics: Difference-in-differences, fixed effects, instrumental variables, discrete choice models, causal inference

Machine Learning: Random forest, gradient boosting, support vector machines, neural networks

AI / LLM Tools: OpenAI API, Hugging Face, transformers

Visualization & Tools: Tableau, Power BI, ggplot2, AWS (S3, EC2), Git, UNIX/Linux

Selected Presentations

- Adhikari, P., Kassas, B., Nayga Jr., R. (2026). *Weather Shocks and Food Choices: Evidence from U.S. Household Grocery Purchases.* Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting 2026, Kansas City, MO.
- Adhikari, P., Kassas, B., Magnier, A., Chen, L. (2026). *Enhancing State Marketing Program Effectiveness in Out-of-State Markets.* Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting 2026, Louisville, KY.
- Adhikari, P., Kassas, B., Magnier, A., Chen, L. (2025). *Consumer Valuation of State-Branded Agricultural Products.* Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting 2025, Tampa, FL.
- Adhikari, P., Aiya, F. (2025). *AMAGGI: Growing with Sustainability in the Grain Trading Business.* AAEA/WAEA Annual Meeting 2025, Denver, CO.

Awards and Honors

- AAEA Case Study Competition – 1st Place (2025)
- IFAMA Case Study Competition – 3rd Place (2025)
- Ofelia Anzola Memorial Scholarship (2025)
- Grinter Fellowship – University of Florida (2023–2024)
- Graduate Student Council Travel Grant – University of Florida (2026)
- AAEA Trust Travel Grant – AAEA Annual Meeting (2026)