

Bharat Ramaswami
Professor, Department of Economics
Ashoka University, Sonapat, India
<https://ramaswami-s-web-page.web.app>
bharat.ramaswami@ashoka.edu.in, isid.bharat@gmail.com

Employment History:

Professor, Ashoka University, 2019 onwards, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, 2003-2019, Associate Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, 1995-2003. Lecturer, Indian Statistical Institute, 1991-1995, Lecturer, Hindu College, Delhi, 1982-84.

Visiting Faculty Positions:

Professor, Ashoka University, 2016, JSPS Fellow, School of Social Sciences, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, May-June, 2008, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (1996, 2004), India Development Foundation, Gurgaon, India, October to April, 2003/04, Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden (1992, 1993, 1999), Visiting Scientist, Indian Statistical Institute, 1990-91, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, U.S.A. (1989/90)

Education:

Ph.D, Agricultural and Applied Economics, 1989
University of Minnesota, U.S.A.
(Dissertation: Incompleteness in Insurance: An Analysis of Crop Insurance Schemes
Thesis Committee: Vernon Eidman, Edward Foster, Ted Graham-Tomasi, Terry L. Roe (Chair), Jan Werner)

M. A. in Economics, First Class, 1982
Delhi School of Economics, Delhi.

B. A. (Hons) in Economics, First Class, 1980
University of Delhi, Delhi.

Honours:

Dayanatha Jha Memorial Lecture, National Centre for Agricultural Policy, New Delhi, May 2025

Invited Plenary Lecture, Association for Indian Economic and Financial Studies, Bhubaneshwar, July 2017.

Invited Plenary Lecture, Indian Econometric Society Meetings, Mumbai, 2013

Invited Speaker, Silver Jubilee International Conference of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, 2012.

Mahalanobis Memorial Medal for Quantitative Economics, 2004, Indian Econometric Society

Invited Keynote Paper, 62nd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, December, 2002.

University of Minnesota Doctoral Fellowship, 1989.

Sriram Traveling Fellowship, 1981.

Centre for Advanced Study Scholarship, 1980-82.

Research

Work in Progress

Deadweight Losses or Gains from In-kind Transfers: Experimental Evidence (with K. Abbink, G. Datt, L. Gangadharan and D.S. Negi)

Would sellers not cheat if they could get away it? Evidence from first offers in a field experiment (with S. Banerjee)

The Grain Penalty

Books/Monographs/Reports

A Human Rights Based Approach to Development in India, (edited with A. Kotwal and M. Hirsch), University of British Columbia Press, 2019

Agricultural Subsidies, XV Finance Commission, Government of India, 2019,
https://fincomindia.nic.in/writereaddata/html_en_files/fincom15/StudyReports/Agricultural%20subsidies.pdf

Measuring Food and Nutrition Security: An Independent Technical Assessment and User's Guide for Existing Indicators, (with U. Lele, W. Masters, J. Kinabo, J. V. Meenakshi, J. Tagwireyi), June 2016,
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsin/docs/1_FSIN-TWG_UsersGuide_12June2016.compressed.pdf

Report of the Committee for Evolving a Composite Development Index of States, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2013,
http://finmin.nic.in/reports/Report_CompDevState.pdf

Risk Management (with S. Ravi and S. D. Chopra), State of the Indian Farmer: A Millennium Study, Volume 22, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2004.
http://www.academicfoundation.com/n_detail/mill/vol22.asp

A Framework for Seed Policy Analysis in Developing Countries (with C. Pray), 1991, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C. Available as a Google Book. Portions reprinted in *Agricultural and Food Marketing in Developing Countries: Selected Readings*, 306-322, Ed. J. Abbot, CAB International, Oxford, 1993.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/framework-seed-policy-analysis-developing-countries>

Research Articles (by Area)

A. Structural Transformation, Labour, Trade

The Spatial Impact of Trade Liberalization: The Case of Edible Oils in India (with S. Bandyopadhyay), Accepted for publication, *Agricultural Economics*

The Agricultural Productivity Gap: Informality Matters (with R. Jat), Accepted for publication, *Journal of Development Economics*

Caste, Female Labor Supply, and the Gender Wage Gap in India: Boserup Revisited, (with K. Mahajan), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2017, 65 (2): 339-378.

Status, Caste and the Time Allocation of Women in Rural India, (with M. Eswaran and W. Wadhwa), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2013, 61(2): 313-333.

Economic Liberalization and Indian Economic Growth: What's the Evidence? (with A. Kotwal and W. Wadhwa), *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2011, 49:4, 1152-1199.

Sectoral Labour Flows and Agricultural Wages in India, 1983-2004: Has Growth Trickled Down? (with M. Eswaran, A. Kotwal and W. Wadhwa), 2009, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 44 (3), 46-55

Unemployment, Measure of, (with W. Wadhwa), *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, ed., Kaushik Basu, 2007, pp 539-542.

Economic Reforms in Agriculture and Rural Growth, (with A. Kotwal) in J. D. Sachs, A. Varshney and N. Bajpai (ed), *India in the Era of Economic Reforms*, pp 121-159, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Economic Reforms of Agriculture and Rural Growth (with A. Kotwal), 1998, *Journal of Policy Reform*, 2, 369-402.

B. Risk and Insurance

Basis Risk and the Demand for Catastrophic Rainfall Insurance (with D.S. Negi), *Q Open*, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1093/qopen/qoae009>

International Risk Sharing for Food Staples (with S. Bradford and D.S. Negi) *Journal of Development Economics*, 158 (2022): 102894.

International Trade and Risk Sharing in the Global Rice Market: The Impact of Foreign and Domestic Supply Shocks (with S. Jha and K. Kubo), *Asian Development Review*, 2016, Vol. 33, No. 1, 162-82.

Aggregation in Area Yield Crop Insurance: The Linear Additive Model (with T. Roe), 2004, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 86 (2): 420-31.

Labor Income and Risky Investments (with H. Andersson and B.S. Ramamurtie), 2003, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 50, 477-493.

Supply Response to Agricultural Insurance: Risk Reduction and Moral Hazard Effects, 1993, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 75: 914-925.

Production Risk and Optimal Input Decisions, 1992, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 74: 860-69.

Crop Insurance in Incomplete Markets (with T. Roe), 1992, in *Contributions to Insurance Economics*, 291-306, Ed. G. Dionne, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston.

C. Climate Change and Pollution

Assessing the costs of ozone pollution in India for wheat producers, consumers, and government food welfare policies (with Pandey, D., Sharps, K., Simpson, D., Cremades, R., Booth, N., Jamir, C., Büker, P., Sinha, V., Sinha, B. and Emberson, L.D.), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2023, 120(32), e2207081120.

The Distributional Impact of Climate Change: Why Food Prices Matter, (with E. Gupta and E. Somanathan), *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*, 5, pages 249–275, 2021.

D. Measurement

The Representative Agent Bias in Cost-of-Living Indices (with S. Bandyopadhyay), *Bulletin of Economic Research*, 2022, 74(1):155-78.

Unemployment, Measure of, (with W. Wadhwa), *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, ed., Kaushik Basu, 2007, pp 539-542.

E. Agricultural Technology

The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology: Farmers, Media and Opinion in India (with M. Murugkar, N. Lalitha and C. Pray), 2022, *Economic and Political Weekly*, LVII (12), 29-36

The Informational and Signaling Impacts of Labels: Experimental Evidence from India on GM Foods, (with S. Bansal and S. Chakravarty), *Environment and Development Economics*, 2013, 18, 701-722.

The Spread of Illegal Transgenic Cotton Varieties in India: Biosafety Regulation, Monopoly and Enforcement, 2012 (with N. Lalitha and C. Pray), *World Development*, 40:1, 177-188.

Impact of Bt Cotton: The Potential Future Benefits from Biotechnology in China and India (With C. Pray, L. Nagarajan, J. Huang, R. Hu), in G. Moschini, C. Carter and I. Sheldon (ed.), *Frontiers of Globalization: Genetically Modified Food and Global Welfare*, Emerald Books, 2011

Labels for GM Foods: What Can They Do? (with S. Bansal), 2010, *Economic and Political Weekly: Review of Agriculture*, XLV (26/27), 167-173.

Product Proliferation in India's Cotton Seed Market: Are There Too Many Varieties? (with M. Murugkar and M. Shelar), 2009, *Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization*: Vol. 7 : Iss.1, Article 2, 1-15.

India's Experience with Bt Cotton: Case Studies from Gujarat and Maharashtra (with N. Lalitha and P. K. Vishwanathan), in R. Tripp, (ed) *Biotechnology and Agricultural Development: Transgenic Cotton, Rural Institutions and Resource-Poor Farmers*, Routledge, London, 135-167, 2009.

Biofortified Crops and Biotechnology: A Political Economy Landscape for India, 2007, *AgBioForum, The Journal of Agrobiotechnology Management and Economics*, 10 (3): 170-77.

Pesticide Use Pattern among Cotton Cultivators in Gujarat (with N. Lalitha), *Frontiers of Agricultural Development in Gujarat*, ed., R. H. Dholakia, Centre for Management in Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management, 2007, pp 77-98.

Genetically Modified Crops and the Poor: Can India Realize the Potential? (with C. Pray), *The Gene Revolution: GM Crops and Unequal Development*, ed. S. Fukuda-Parr, Earthscan, London, 2007, pp 156-174.

Costs and Enforcement of Biotechnology Regulations in India and China, (with C. Pray, J. Huang, P. Bengali, R. Hu and H. Zhang), 2006, *International Journal of Technology and Globalization*, 2 (1/2), 137-157.

Benefits And Costs Of Biosafety Regulation in India and China (with C. E. Pray, J. Huang, R. Hu, Q. Wang, and P. Bengali), in R.E. Just, J.M. Alston, D. Zilberman (Eds.) *Regulating Agricultural Biotechnology: Economics and Policy*, Springer: New York, 2006.

The Cost of Biosafety Regulation: The Indian Experience, (with C. Pray and P. Bengali), 2005, *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, 44 (3): 267-289.

Understanding the Seed Industry: Contemporary Trends and Analytical Issues, 2002, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Conference Number, 57 (3): 417-429.

Dissemination of Private Hybrids and Crop Yields in the Semi-Arid Tropics of India, (with C. Pray and T. Kelley), 2002, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 57 (1): 39-51.

The Impact of Economic Reforms on R&D by the Indian Seed Industry (With C. Pray and T. Kelley), 2001, *Food Policy* 26 (6): 587-598.

Liberalization's Impact on the Indian Seed Industry: Competition, Research and Impact on Farmers (with C. Pray), 2001, *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 2 (3/4): 407-420.

F. Social Policy

Primary Education in India, (with W. Wadhwa and A. Kotwal), in *A Human Rights Based Approach to Development in India*, (edited with A. Kotwal and M. Hirsch), University of British Columbia Press, 2019

Hunger and Food Security Concerns for India, in *India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward*, Research and Information Systems, New Delhi, 2016, 13-21

Incremental Food Policy Reforms; What are the Possibilities? (with M. Murugkar) In S. Mahendra Dev and P. G. Babu (Ed.), *Development in India: Micro and Macro Perspectives*, Springer: New Delhi, 2015, 125-153.

Delivering Food Subsidy: The State and the Market (with A. Kotwal), in R. Herring (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Food, Politics and Society*, 301-326, Oxford University Press, 2015.

The Political Economy of Food Subsidy in India (with A. Kotwal and M. Murugkar), *The Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies*, 2012, 30 (2): 100-121.

The Percolation of Public Expenditure: Food Subsidies and the Poor in India and the Philippines, 2012 (with S. Jha), *India Policy Forum* 2011/12, 8: 95-138.

PDS Forever? (with A. Kotwal and M. Murugkar), 2011, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLVI (21), 72-76.

The Public Distribution System, *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, ed., Kaushik Basu, 2007, pp 430-433.

Reducing Subsidies on Household Fuels in India: How will it Affect the Poor?, (with S. Gangopadhyay and W. Wadhwa), 2005, *Energy Policy*, 33 (18), 2326-2336

Reforming Food Subsidies: Estimating the Gains from Self-targeting in India (with B. Dutta), 2004, *Review of Development Economics*, 8 (2): 309-324.

Efficiency and Equity of Food Market Interventions, 2002, Special Article, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 37 (12): 1129-1135.

Targeting and Efficiency in the Public Distribution System: Case of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, (with B. Dutta), 2001, Special Article, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXXVI (18), 1524-1532.

The Quality of the Public Distribution System: Why it Matters (with P. Balakrishnan), 1997, Special Article, *The Economic and Political Weekly*, XXXII (4), 162-165.

G. Government Interventions and Agricultural Markets

Product Proliferation in India's Cotton Seed Market: Are There Too Many Varieties? (with M. Murugkar and M. Shelar), 2009, *Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization*: Vol. 7: Iss.1, Article 2, 1-15.

Grower Heterogeneity and the Gains from Contract Farming: The Case of Indian Poultry (with P. S. BIRTHAL and P. K. Joshi), 2009, *Indian Growth and Development Review*, 2 (1): 56-74

Competition and Monopoly in the Indian Cotton Seed Market, (with M. Murugkar and M. Shelar), (2007), *Economic and Political Weekly*, September 15-21, 62 (37): 3781-3789.

Hedging and the Emergence of Commodity Futures: The Soya Oil Exchange in India (with J. B. Singh), *Review of Futures Markets*, 2007, 16 (1), 33-54.

The Size and Growth of the Agribusiness Sector in India (with J. B. Singh), in B. Debroy and A. U. Khan (ed) *Agribusiness and the Small Farmer*, 75-83, New Delhi: Angus & Grapher, 2006.

Food Prices and the Efficiency of Public Intervention: The Case of the Public Distribution System in India (with P. Balakrishnan), 2002, *Food Policy*, 27, 419-436.

Efficiency and Equity of Food Market Interventions, 2002, Special Article, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 37 (12): 1129-1135.

Forecasting Errors in the Absence of a Futures Market: Assessing the Speculative Efficiency of the Indian Wheat Market, June 2000, *Review of Development Economics*, 4 (2), 184-193.

Analyzing Public Intervention in Foodgrains Markets, (with P. Balakrishnan), N. Krishnaji and T. N. Krishnan (ed) *Public Support for Food Security*, pp 117-143, New Delhi: Sage, 2000.

Public Intervention and Private Speculation: The Case of Wheat Procurement (with P. Balakrishnan), 1995, *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 11, (2), 59-83.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Safety Nets and Food Programs in Asia: A Comparative Perspective (with S. Jha and A. Kotwal), ADB Economics Working Paper Series, No. 371, 2013.

<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30387/ewp-371.pdf>

Survey Design and Precision of ASER estimates (with W. Wadhwa), https://ramaswami-s-web-page.web.app/pdf_files/papers/asere.pdf

How Does Poverty Decline? Suggestive Evidence from India, 1983-1999, (with M. Eswaran, A. Kotwal and W. Wadhwa), BREAD Policy Paper, 2008.
http://ibread.org/bread/system/files/bread_ppapers/p014.pdf

Seasonal Price Risk and the Cost of Storage, Potato Markets in India and the United States, (with K. Fuglie), 2011, https://ramaswami-s-web-page.web.app/pdf_files/papers/Fuglie.pdf

Incompleteness in Insurance: An Analysis of the Multiplicative Case (with T. Roe), Economic Development Center, University of Minnesota, 1989.
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/7492/1/edc89-07.pdf>

Policy Engagement

Pre-Budget Consultations with Prime Minister, Pre-Budget Consultations with Finance Minister, several years.

Technical Group on Buffer Stock Policies for Foodgrains, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, 2025

Technical Working Group on measuring Food and Nutrition Security, Food Security Information Network, Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome, 2015.

Committee for Evolving a Composite Development Index of States, Ministry of Finance, 2013.

Index Committee, National Commodity Derivative Exchange, Mumbai, 2009-2010.

Technical Advisory Group on Development of Housing Start-Up Index, Reserve Bank of India, 2007

Empowered Committee on using overseas wheat derivatives market, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2007.

Advisor, Task Force on mechanisms to protect plantation growers from price volatility, July, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi, 2006.

Working Group on Risk Management in Agriculture for 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, 2006.

Working Group on Challenges and Opportunities for Globalization for 11th Five-Year Plan, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, June-August, 2006.

Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, June – August 2006.

Academic Service (substantial administrative appointments)

Ashoka University, Dean of Academic Affairs, 2020-23, Head, Department of Economics, 2019-20

Indian Statistical Institute, Head, Economics and Planning Unit, October 2012 – October 2013, Head, Planning Unit, 2005 - 2007

(Other academic assignments too numerous to mention)