

# Didier Yélognissè ALIA

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND COMPETENCES

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- International development and international trade
- Impact assessment of policies, innovations, and institutional transformation on rural development
- Agricultural industrial Organization

## EDUCATION

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- 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD Student, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky
- Engineer Statistician Economist (MSc. in Economics and Applied Statistics), Institut Sous-régional de Statistiques et d'Economie Appliquée, Yaoundé Cameroon, 2006-2009
- MSc in Mathematics, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, 2005-2006
- BS in Mathematics, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, 2004-2005

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, Since August 2012.
  - *Research assistance on various projects*
    - Policy Analysis Matrix to evaluate agricultural and trade policies in Haiti
    - Off-farm income and input intensification in Kenya
  - *Dissertation research (Essays in sustainable input intensification and transform of agriculture in Africa)*
    - Impact of land access on-farm investment, productivity, and efficiency in Burkina Faso
    - Substitute or complement? How do fertilizer subsidies affect the adoption improved seeds and other improved farming practices in Burkina Faso?
- **Young International Professional - Research Assistant**, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Maastricht, Netherlands, June 2014-June 2015.
  - *Assessing policy coherence for development, looking at the spillover effects of OECD agricultural and trade policies on trade, agriculture, and food security in Tanzania.*
- **Research Assistant**, Program 3: 'Policy, Innovation Systems and Impact Assessment', Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), Cotonou, Benin, January 2010-July 2012
  - *Analysis of adoption and impact of rice technologies in Africa*
  - *Assessing the ex-ante impact of rice technologies for priority setting in Africa*
  - *Assessing the competitiveness of rice sector in African countries using PAM*
- **Consultant**, UNCTAD Virtual Institute, Sept 2013-May 2014
  - *Assess the "Heterogeneous welfare effect of cotton pricing on households in Benin"*
- **Consultant**, Institute of Empirical Research in Political Economics/World Bank, Dec. 2010-Apr 2011
  - *Contribute to the design and implementation of a large-scale World Bank funded*

*baseline survey for the evaluation of land titling reform in Benin (Plan Foncier Rural” Program)*

- **Consultant**, Direction of Statistics and Economics Studies, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis of Benin, October 2009-January 2010
  - *Report of the “Grand traits du commerce exterieur Beninois 2007-2008”*
- **Intern**, United Nations Development Program – Burkina Faso, summer 2008
  - *Assess the motives and impacts of private transfers in Burkina Faso*

## **ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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“Foundation of Development Policy”, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, MOOC by MIT on EDx  
“The Challenges of Global Poverty”, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> –May 2013, MOOC by MIT on EDx  
“USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights”, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> – Dec-31<sup>st</sup> 2015, USAID course on Canvas  
“Trade and Poverty”, September 1<sup>st</sup> -October 12, Online course by UNCTAD Virtual Institute

## **RESEARCH PAPERS**

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### **Publications**

- Smale, M., Y. Kusunose, M. Mathenge and **D. Alia**, “Destination or Distraction? Querying the Linkage between Off-farm Income and Farm Investments in Kenya,” Accepted for publication in the *Journal of African Economies*
- Alia, D.**, K. Jossa-Jouable, and R. Fiamohe (2015). “On poverty and persistence of poverty in Benin”. Forthcoming *Journal of Economic Studies*
- Alia, D.** (2014). “Geographical orientation of export in manufacturing sector in sub-Sahara Africa”. *Global Economy Journal* 15.3 (2015): 337-351.
- Fiamohe, R., **D. Alia**, Bamba, I., A. Diagne, and E. Amovin-Assagba (2015). “Transmission of rice prices from Thailand into West African markets: The case of Benin, Mali, and Senegal”, *Journal of African Business*, 16(1-2): 128-143
- Fiamohe, R., P. Seck, **D. Alia**, and A. Diagne (2013). “Price transmission analysis using threshold models: an application to local rice markets in Benin and Mali”, *Food security*, (5), pp 427-438

### **Book Chapters**

- Diagne, A, **D. Alia**, M. Wopereiss, K. Saito and T. Nakelse (2013). “Impact of Rice research on Income and Poverty in Africa: An Ex-ante Analysis”, book chapter in *Realizing Africa’s Rice Promise*. Wopereis, M.C.S., Johnson, D.E., Ahmadi N., Tollens, E. and Jalloh, A., CABI Publishing, October 2013 / Hardback / 480 Pages
- Diagne, A, **D. Alia**, E. Amovin-Assagba, M. Wopereiss, and K. Saito (2013). “Farmer perceptions of biophysical constraints in rice production in sub-Saharan Africa and potential impact of research”; book chapter in *Realizing Africa’s Rice Promise*. Wopereis, M.C.S., Johnson, D.E., Ahmadi N., Tollens, E., and Jalloh, A., CABI Publishing, October 2013 / Hardback / 480 Pages

### **Submitted Papers**

- Alia, D**, Diagne, A, Adegbola, P and Kinkinginhoue, F (2015). “Distributional impact of Nerica adoption on farmer expenditure in Benin: Quantile Treatment Effect estimation”. Under review

**Alia, D and R. Anago** “Foreign aid effectiveness in African economies: evidence from a threshold panel”, Submitted to *Journal of Economic Development* (AERC/UNU WIDER Working Paper)

**Alia, D, N, Ponty, and I. Kamga** “Altruism or exchange? A quest into the motives of inter-household private transfers in Burkina Faso”, Submitted to the *International Journal of Social Economics*

### **Completed working Papers**

- Heterogeneous welfare effects of cotton pricing on households in Benin (with Anne Floquet and Epiphane Adjovi)
- Institutional change, industrialization and structural change out of agriculture (with Michael Reed and Yoko Kusunose)
- Altruism or exchange? A quest into the motives of inter-household private transfers in Burkina Faso (with Nicholas Pony and Ignace Kamga)
- Estimating the causal effect of trade liberalization on economic growth using treatment effect framework (with Michael Reed and Sayed Saghaian)

### **Works in Progress**

- Assessing policy coherence for development : Spillover effect of OECD policies on food security in Tanzania (with Fabien Tondel, Solomon, Baregu, Festo Maro, Abel Songole, and Brecht Lein)
- Do Bilateral Investment Treaties promote or restrain large-scale land acquisition

### **Presentations at conferences**

#### **2016**

“Assessing policy coherence for development: Spillover effect of OECD policies on food security in Tanzania” Poster at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, San Antonio, TX, Feb 6, 2016

“How well are food co-ops doing: A member perspective analysis”, at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, San Antonio, TX, February 6-9, 2016

#### **2015**

“Assessing policy coherence for development: Spillover effect of OECD policies on food security in Tanzania” Poster at the 2016 intercultural Awareness Day of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky, October 14, 2015

“Destination or Distraction? Querying the Linkage between Off-farm Income and Farm”, 2015 CSAE conference on Economic Development in Africa, Oxford, UK, March 22-March 24

#### **2014**

“Institutional change, industrialization and structural change out of agriculture”, presented at the 2014 African Economic Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 1 – November 2, 2014

“Heterogeneous welfare effects of cotton pricing on households in Benin”, presented at the Trade and Poverty Workshop organized by UNCTAD, Geneva, Switzerland, Sept 8-11, 2014

“Foreign Aid effectiveness in African economies: evidence from threshold panel”, the 4th Young African Statistician Conference, Pretoria- South Africa, July 31 –August 2, 2014

“Multi-markets analysis of cereals prices transmission”, poster presentation at the 2014 AAEA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States, July 27-29, 2014

“The Dynamic Implication of Agricultural Research and Development Investment for Economic Development”, poster at the 2014 AAEA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Jul 27-29, 2014

### **2013**

“Rural media, agricultural technology adoption and productivity: evidence from small rice farmers in Burkina Faso”, presented at the African Association of Agricultural Economists, Hammamet, Tunisia, Sept 22-25. Also at the 2013 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> AfricaRice Congress, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Oct, 2013

“Estimating the causal effect of trade liberalization on economic growth using treatment effect framework”, Presented at the Kentucky Economics Association, Frankfort, KY, October, 2013

“Distributional impacts of Nerica adoption on farmer expenditure in Benin: Quantile Treatment Effect estimation”, World Statistics Congress, Hong Kong, China, August, 2013

### **2012**

“Impact of Rice research on Income and Poverty in Africa: An Ex-ante Analysis”, 28th International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, August 18–24, 2012

“Distributional impact of Nerica adoption on farmer expenditure in Benin: Quantile Treatment Effect estimation”, Kentucky Economics Association Georgetown, KY, Oct, 2012

### **2011**

“Foreign Aid effectiveness in African economies: evidence from threshold panel”, presented at the AERC/UNU-WIDER Workshop on "Macroeconomics of Aid", Nairobi, Kenya, Dec, 2011

## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

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2015	Best (3rd Place) Poster at the 2016 intercultural Awareness Day of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky
2014-2015	Young International Fellowship Program at ECDPM
2015	University of Kentucky travel grant to attend the 2015 CSAE annual conference on Economic Development in Africa, Oxford, UK, March 22-March 24, 2015
2014	African Development Bank travel grant to attend the 2014 African Economic Conference, Addis Abba Ethiopia, November 1 – November 2, 2014
2014	ISIBalo-Statistics South Africa travel grant to attend the 4th Young African Statistician Conference, Pretoria- South Africa, July 31 –August 2, 2014
2013	ISI Statistics South Africa travel grant to attend the 59th World Statistics Congress, Hong Kong- China, August, 2013
2012-2013	Graduate assistant Department of Agricultural Economics, University of

- Kentucky
- 2011-2012 AERC/UNU-WIDER Research Grant to analyze the effectiveness of foreign aid in Sub-Saharan Africa, Co-PI (with Anago, R.)
- 2006-2009 Best Student Award, Engineering Studies in Statistics and Economics at ISSEA
- 2006-2009 Scholarship, Government of France, for graduate studies in Statistics and Economics at the Sub-regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) of Yaoundé
- 2003-2006 Scholarship, VALLET Foundation (Paris) and the International Chair of Physics and Mathematics Applications of Cotonou for Undergraduate and Graduate studies in Mathematics at the University of Abomey-Calavi
- 2002-2006 Excellence Scholarship for Undergraduate and Graduate studies in Mathematics at University of Abomey-Calavi, Government of Benin
- 2002 Silver medal, 12th Pan-African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO) in Pretoria (South Africa)

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

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**Languages:** French (native speaker); English (fluent); Dutch (working proficiency)

**Computer skills:** R, STATA, SAS, GAMS, MATLAB, CSPRO, SPSS, EViews

**Professional memberships:** Affiliate member of IFPRI-AGRODEP Network, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, African Finance and Economic Association

## **REFERENCES**

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**Dr. Yoko Kusunose**, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, [yoko.kusunose@uky.edu](mailto:yoko.kusunose@uky.edu)

**Dr. Michael Reed**, Professor, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, [mrreed@uky.edu](mailto:mrreed@uky.edu)

**Dr. Aliou Diagne**, Associate Professor, University Gaston Berge, St Louis, Senegal, [aliouwork@gmail.com](mailto:aliouwork@gmail.com)

**Dr. Ibrahim Bamba**, Country Program Manager, IFAD, Rome, [i.bamba@ifad.org](mailto:i.bamba@ifad.org)