

Dr. Thiagu Ranganathan

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Research Interests

Agricultural Economics, Developmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Impact Evaluation.

Education

Ph.D

2009–2013

Thesis: Agricultural Commodity Derivatives and Price Risk Management: A Case of Soybean Futures in India

Shailesh J Mehta School of Management,

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

PGDM

2004–2006

Branch: General Management

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)

B.E

2000–2004

Branch: Electronics Engineering

Mumbai University

Research and Work Experience

Assistant Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)

March 2014 onwards

Postdoctoral Fellow, Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network July 2013- February 2014

As a Postdoctoral Fellow at Researching Rainfed Agriculture (ResRA) Node in Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network, my research was concerned with characterizing risk and identifying the role of farmer's attitudes towards risk, ambiguity and loss on adoption of soil fertility management practices in rainfed regions of India.

Principal Investigator, ILO Microinsurance Innovation Facility, March 2011-June 2012

In a project supported by the ILO Microinsurance Innovation Research Grant, titled "Complementarities between Microinsurance products and Inequality Linkages: Field Experiments in Rural India" we (a team of three) studied the interactions between rainfall risk and other uninsured risks as well as effect of affiliation to social groups like caste, on the adoption of index-based weather insurance in Gujarat. We offered different variants of hypothetical price insurance products for the farmers in the sample. Based on their choices, we estimated the key aspects that influence their demand for market-based price insurance product.

Consultant, Quantitative Modeling and Research Labs, Mumbai, September 2008–April 2009

A core team member of the entrepreneurial venture in Mumbai along with an IIM Lucknow alumnus and an IIT Kanpur alumnus, I was responsible for acquiring and implementing significant projects for the firm. We worked in the area of time series forecasting and advanced statistical data analysis in the area of operations and supply chain management.

Consultant, Centre for Insurance and Risk Management, Chennai, April 2007– August 2008

As the head of the catastrophe risk management vertical at the centre, I undertook scoping and assessment studies for the design and delivery of flood and multi-drought insurance products in poor and backward geographies of India. During my stint at CIRM, I was also responsible for designing a personal accident insurance product for the local financial institution called Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services (KGFS) of IFMR network.

Senior Business Analyst, Cognizant Technology Solutions, June 2006 – April 2007

I was a part of the business development and knowledge development team in the Cognizant Technology Solutions' healthcare BPO vertical. Being the first job after my graduation, the stint at Cognizant introduced me to basic professional ethics and also provided me with a good opportunity to learn and interact with the stakeholders of a project.

Teaching Experience

Experience in teaching for 1st and 2nd year Master of Management Students:

- Taught **Quantitative Skills Lab (MGT 623)** using R – Term I, Autumn 2012 (Class Size: 120).
- Teaching Assistant in **Decision Models in Management (MGT 623)** – Term II, Autumn 2012.
- Teaching Assistant in **Business Research Methods (MGT 612)** – Term I, Spring 2011.
- Statistics case studies as a part of **Statistical Methods (MGT 603)** course – Term I, Autumn 2010.

Fellowships

- Principal Investigator, ILO Microinsurance Innovation Facility Research Grant, 10000 USD March 2011-June 2012 (with Sarthak Gaurav and Ashish Singh, IGIDR).
- YSSP Fellow, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) June-September 2011.
- SJMSOM Endowment Fellow for securing the highest CGPA among Doctoral Candidates (8.85/10) (2010).

Publications, Conferences and Workshops

Accepted in Refereed Journals:

1. Ranganathan, T., Gaurav, S. (2013). 'An Inquiry into the Composition of Farm Revenue Risk: The Case of Six Western Vidarbha Districts', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 48(26:27), pp. 125-28.
2. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2014). 'Does Hedging in Indian Futures Market benefit Farmers?', *Studies in Economics and Finance*. Forthcoming.
3. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2014). 'Market Efficiency in Indian Soybean Futures Markets', *International Journal of Emerging Markets*. Forthcoming.
4. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2013) 'Do commodity futures help in future spot price discovery? - An integrated approach', *Empirical Economics Letters*. Forthcoming.

Communicated in Refereed Journals:

1. Do Farmers Perceive Price Risk and Yield Risk Differently? An Inquiry using Experimental Approach (with Sarthak Gaurav and Ashish Singh).
2. Do Caste Affiliation and Social Interactions Affect Risk Attitudes and Adoption of Innovations? Evidence from Rainfall Insurance Adoption in Gujarat, India (with Sarthak Gaurav and Ashish Singh).
3. Hedging in Presence of Yield, Revenue and Rainfall Insurance (with Usha Ananthakumar)
4. Is Hedging in Indian Futures Effective for a Soybean Processor? (with Usha Ananthakumar)

5. Growth and Instability of Food Crop Production in Rainfed Districts of India (with Rajkumar Kumawat).
6. To Penalize or Immunize: What to do with the Bribe Giver? (with Debabrata Das).

Conferences and Seminars:

1. Ranganathan, T. (2014). ‘Risk and Risk Management in Rainfed Agriculture’, Invited Presentation at National Seminar on Agricultural Risk Management held at Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.
2. Ranganathan, T., Gaurav, S., Singh, A. (2013) ‘Demand for Price Insurance Products among Farmers in Gujarat, India: A Choice Experiment Based Approach’, Presentation prepared for accepted paper at 9th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development held at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.
3. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2013). ‘Hedging in Presence of Yield, Revenue and Rainfall Insurance’, Presentation prepared for accepted paper at 9th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development to be held at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.
4. Ranganathan, T., Arakal, J., J. (2010). ‘ATMNE: A Benign Trader in Search of a Buyer’, Presented at the International Conference on Challenges to Inclusive Growth in the Emerging Economies held at IIM Ahmedabad.
5. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2010). ‘Unit Root Tests: Give It a Break!’ Presented at the International Symposium of Forecasting held at San Diego, USA.
6. Ranganathan, T., Ananthakumar, U. (2010). ‘Testing Weak Market Efficiency in Presence of a Structural Break: A Case of Cotton at NCDEX’, Presented at The Golden Jubilee Conference of The Indian Econometric Society held at Jammu University.

Working Papers:

1. Singh, A., Gaurav, S., Ranganathan, T. ‘Do Caste Affiliation and Social Interactions Affect Risk Attitudes and Adoption of Innovations? Evidence from Rainfall Insurance Adoption in Gujarat, India’. ILO Microinsurance Innovation Facility Research Paper No.25. available at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/mifacility/download/repaper25.pdf>
2. Ranganathan, T., Das, D. ‘To Penalize or Immunize: What to do with the Bribe Giver?’, available at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2265179

Workshops:

1. Selected for graduate student workshop conducted by Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) of Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) held in Hong Kong from April 2-3, 2013.
2. Selected for Workshop in *Essential Econometrics in Finance* (2009) conducted by National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), Mumbai.

Certifications

- Successfully completed five online courses in Coursera with a statement of accomplishment: **Think Again: How to Reason and Argue** (offered by Duke University); **Game Theory** (offered by The Stanford University); **9/11 and its Aftermath – Part I** (offered by Duke University); **Markets with Frictions** (offered by University of Wisconsin-Madison); **Social and Economic Networks: Models and Analysis** (offered by Stanford University).

Computing Skills

- Programming Languages – C
- Knowledge of SAS, STATA, R, Eviews and Matlab.

References

1. Dr. Srijit Mishra, Associate Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai. E-mail: srijit@igidr.ac.in
2. Dr. Surajit Bhattacharyya, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay. E-mail: surajitb@iitb.ac.in