

Pragati Dahal

Personal Information

Current Position: Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech
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Education

- **Ph.D., Agricultural and Applied Economics**, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 2029
- **M.S., Applied Economics**, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 2025
- **B.S., Agriculture**, Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan, Nepal 2023

Research Experience

Journal Articles

- Thapa, A., Baral, D., **Dahal, P.**, Kharel, J., Dangal, A., Baral, S., Thapa, R., Poudel, P. & Khadka, R. (2025). Dietary Diversity and its Associated Factors among Children Aged 6-59 Months in Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Nepal. *Nepal Journal of Public Health*, 2(1), 50–56.
- Baral, D., Lama, D., Dangal, A., Baral, D., Kharel, J., Thapa, A., **Dahal, P.** & Baral, S. (2025). Ranking Predictors of Child Dietary Diversity in Nepal Using a Decision Tree. *Journal of Public Health Concern Trust (JPHECT)*, 2(1), 1–6.
- Joshi, A., Thapa, P., Adhikari, A., **Dahal, P.**, & Gautam, P. (2020). Determination of socio-economic factors influencing rural households' decision to raise goats in Sindhuli District, Nepal. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*, 12(4), 206–212.

Work in Progress

- **Broadband Expansion and Mental Health Outcomes: Causal Evidence from U.S. Counties**(manuscript in progress)
- **The Impact of Campaign Funds for Childcare Policies on Female Representation** (submitted to *Gender and Politics*)
- **Economic Efficiency of Mineral Oil-Insecticide Combinations in the Management of PVY** (manuscript)

Conferences

- Pragati Dahal, Alex Maas. “The Impact of Campaign Funds for Childcare Policies on Female Representation.” Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), June 23–25, 2024.

Posters

- Pragati Dahal, Christopher McIntosh. “Economic Efficiency of Mineral Oil-Insecticide Combinations in the Management of PVY.” Potato Expo, Orlando, FL, January 9–10, 2025.

Research and Professional Experience

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech 2025–Present
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho 2023–2025

Skills

- **Econometric Methods:** Difference-in-differences (staggered adoption), event study estimation, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, panel data analysis, causal inference in program evaluation
- **Statistical Computing:** Stata (primary; panel econometrics, FCC/CHR data processing), R (data visualization, spatial analysis), Python (data wrangling, automation)
- **Data Infrastructure:** FCC Form 477 broadband deployment data, County Health Rankings (CHR), CDC PLACES, American Community Survey (ACS) — multi-source panel construction at the county level
- **Research Design:** Natural experiment identification, treatment effect heterogeneity, pre-trend testing, policy impact evaluation
- **Policy Analysis:** Broadband infrastructure policy, rural health equity, federal communications and public health program evaluation
- **Other:** Input-output modeling, machine learning

Awards and Honors

- Joe and Terri Guenther Graduate Scholarship, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Idaho 2024/25
- Full scholarship to study BS Agriculture, Agriculture and Forestry University 2017–2022
- Gold Medal in Science (98/100) all over Nepal, Private and Boarding School Organization Nepal 2015