

JENNY C. AKER

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: US citizen
Date of Birth: August 14, 1971

EDUCATION

2003-2008 University of California-Berkeley, Agricultural & Resource Economics
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2008
M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2005
Fields: Agricultural Policy Analysis, Applied Econometrics, Development Economics

1995-1997 Fletcher School, Tufts University
MALD in Development Economics and International Law, 1997

1989-1993 Duke University
A.B. in History and French (*magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa), 1993

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2008- Assistant Professor of Economics, Economics Department and Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA. On leave 2008/2009

2008/2009 Visiting Fellow, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2003-present External consultant for international non-governmental and research organizations, including CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, CHF International, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank. A full list of consultancies is provided under "Consultancies"

2000-2003 Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Catholic Relief Services. Ghana. Served as Deputy Regional Director for CRS' thirteen programs in West and Central Africa. Supervised a team of 6 regional technical advisors, developed a regional food security strategy, represented CRS in meetings with USAID, developed program design and evaluation tools and trained staff in agricultural marketing, food security, program design, evaluation and strategic planning.

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- 1998-2000 Regional Food Security and Monetization Advisor for West and Central Africa. Catholic Relief Services. Ghana.
Facilitated trainings in food security monitoring and analysis, conducted food security assessments and Bellmon (market) analyses, developed technical guidelines for conducting market analyses for food aid, provided support to the development of food security and agriculture program proposals in CRS' thirteen country programs in West and Central Africa.
- 1997/1998 Research Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire, Universite de Hassan-II, Rabat, Morocco.
Developed and implemented a food security and nutritional survey for 80 households and 100 children in the Ounein Valley of Morocco.
- Summer 1996 Economic Section. United States Embassy, Department of State, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- 1994-1995 Teaching Fellow, Casablanca American School, Casablanca, Morocco
- 1993-1994 Research Assistant, International Monetary Fund. Washington, D.C.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

- 2008-2009 Fell Fund, Oxford University, co-PI
- 2008-2009 CITRIS, University of California, co-PI
- 2008-2009 Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation (UC-Berkeley), co-PI
- Summer 2007 Awardee, Advanced Graduate Workshop on Globalization, Poverty and Development, Columbia University and the Brooks World Poverty Institute
- Summer 2007 Recipient of the Center for International and Development Economics Research (CIDER) Small Research Grant
- Spring 2007 Recipient of the Gordon Rausser Scholarship, University of California-Berkeley
- 2006 Ford Foundation
- June 2006 Recipient of the Rocca Dissertation Fellowship, University of California-Berkeley
- June 2005 Recipient of the International Bureau for Economic Research Small Grants Award, University of California-Berkeley
- 1997/1998 William J. Fulbright Fellowship, Morocco
- May 1997 Recipient of the Edmund A. Gullion Prize for high academic achievement, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
- 1996/1997 Recipient of the Sasakawa Young Leadership Fellowship, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

ACADEMIC PAPERS

- Aker, Jenny C. "Does Digital Divide or Provide? Information Technology, Search Costs and Cereal Market Performance in Niger" (May 2008). BREAD Working Paper No. 177.
- Aker, Jenny C. "Market Performance and Food Crises: The Case of Niger in 2005."
- Aker, Jenny C. "Social Networks and Household Welfare in Tanzania: Working Together to Get out of Poverty." (revise and resubmit, *Journal of African Economies*)
- Aker, Jenny C., A. Heiman, B. Williams and D. Zilberman. "Where the Market Meets the Economist: Marketing Tools and Technology Adoption." (revise and resubmit, *Agricultural Economics*).

POLICY PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

JENNY C. AKER

- Aker, Jenny C., Carlo del Ninno, Paul Dorosh, Menno Mulder-Sibanda and Setarah Razmara (2008). *Niger: Food Security and Safety Nets*.
- Aker, Jenny C. (2007). *The Structure, Conduct and Performance of the Cereals Market in Niger: Implications for Preparing for and Responding to Food Crises*. A Report for the World Bank.
- Aker, Jenny C. (2007). *The Cereals Market in Niger: Findings from the Post-Harvest Trader Survey and Recommendations for Future Food Security Analyses*. A Report for Chemonics/FEWS NET project.
- De Ruiter, Frank and Jenny C. Aker (forthcoming). *Human Interest Stories: Guidelines and Tools for Developing Human Interest Stories*. Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services and the American Red Cross.
- Aker, Jenny C. (2004). *Designing Title II Development Assistance Programs: Assessment, Analysis, Action A Resource Manual for CRS Country Programs*. Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services.
- Aker, Jenny C. (2003). *Catholic Relief Services Regional Strategic Plan for Sustainable Food Security in West Africa FY2003-FY2007*. Accra, Ghana: Catholic Relief Services.
- Aker, Jenny C. (2000). *General Considerations for Calculating Food Aid Rations in Title II Programs*. Mimeo. Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services.
- Aker, Jenny C. (1999). "The Bellmon Analysis," *PVO Monetization Manual*. Washington, D.C.: Food Aid Management.
- Aker, Jenny C. and Aicha Lemtouni (1999). "A Framework for Assessing Food Security in the Face of Globalization: The Case of Morocco." *Agroalimentaria*. No. 8.

INVITED SEMINARS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2008: University of Clermont-Ferrand, NEUDC, Thirteenth BREAD Conference on Development Economics (Brown University), Lehigh University, , Oxford University (Economics Seminar), Center for the Study of African Economies (Oxford University), Pacific Development Conference (UC-San Diego), Center for Global Development, Bates College, Williams College, Boston College, Fordham University, Tufts University, University of Virginia, University of Gottingen, University of Delaware.

2007: WGAPE Workshop (Stanford University), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Advanced Graduate Workshop on Globalization, Poverty and Development (Columbia University and the Brooks World Poverty Institute), Center for the Study of African Economics Conference (Oxford University), Pacific Development Conference (UC-Davis).

OTHER INFORMATION

Associations: American Association of Agricultural Economics, Association Internationale d'Economie Alimentaire et Agro-Industrielle (AIEA2). Humanitarian Practice Network

Languages: Fluent French, Intermediate Spanish, Beginning Hausa and Moroccan Arabic

Computing: STATA, MATLAB

Referee for the American Economic Review, World Development, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Studies.

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CONSULTANCIES

September-October 2008. Team leader for the baseline evaluation of a multi-year, multiple agency USAID/FFP-funded program in Mali.

January-May 2008. World Bank. Drafted a report on food security, food aid and safety nets in Niger for the World Bank.

December 2007. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Author of a commissioned report on using market information for designing early warning systems in West Africa.

September 2006-present. Catholic Relief Services/HQ. Primary author of a manual for designing a new Title II Multi-Year Assistance Proposal (MYAP).

August 2007. Catholic Relief Services Burundi. Facilitated a 5-day training on designing a Title II multi-year development program for CRS' and its partners programs in Burundi, Chad and Congo.

April-June 2007. World Bank. Analyzed and drafted a report on market performance in Niger during the 2005 food crisis.

February 2007. CHF International/CHAMP Rwanda. Facilitated a three-day workshop on developing a HIV/AIDS vision and strategy for the CHAMP consortium in Rwanda.

July 2006-May 2007. Catholic Relief Services, CARE International and World Vision International (WVI). Led the data collection process on market performance in Niger.

October 2006-February 2007. Chemonics International. Markets Advisor for the FEWS NET Project in Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.

May-June 2006. Catholic Relief Services/Burkina Faso. Evaluation team leader and agriculture team leader for the midterm evaluation of a USAID/Title II-funded multi-year development assistance program (DAP).

January-June 2006. Catholic Relief Services. Co-author of a manual on writing human interest stories.

July-September 2005. Catholic Relief Services/West Africa Regional Office. Conducted an empirical analysis of the impact of CRS/Niger's Title II program on participating households, and the capacity of such households to cope with the 2005 famine; provided technical support to CRS staff and partners in Senegal, Gambia and Liberia in designing agriculture and health interventions for a new Title II Multi-Year Assistance Proposal (MYAP).

January 2005. Catholic Relief Services/Rwanda. Provided technical support to CRS staff and partners in designing agriculture and HIV/AIDS interventions for a new Title II Multi-Year Assistance Proposal (MYAP).

August 2004. Catholic Relief Services/Burkina Faso. Conducted a week-long training on agricultural marketing for staff of Catholic Relief Services and their partners. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

July 2004, Catholic Relief Services/Mali. Designed an agricultural survey of the Kayes region in Mali, and used this information to facilitate the development of an agriculture strategic plan for CRS' program in Mali. Bamako and Kayes, Mali.

June 2004, Catholic Relief Services/Burundi. Served as the project design consultant for a USAID-funded peacebuilding project proposal for CRS in Burundi. Berkeley, CA.

March 2004, Catholic Relief Services/Program Quality Support Department. Authored CRS' "Development Assistance Program" manual. Berkeley, CA.

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January 2004, Catholic Relief Services/Human Resources Department. Served as a subject matter specialist for a CD-rom on payment methods, payment mechanisms and sales contracts for CRS' monetization programs. Baltimore, MD.