



Benjamin Collier

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Benjamin Collier is a research analyst for GlobalAgRisk. His primary current project is building capacity among key stakeholders in northern Peru (e.g., banks, agricultural value chain members, farmer associations, NGOs, and the regional government) to manage severe weather risk, especially extreme El Niño risk, more efficiently through insurance. Colliers is also in the doctoral program for agricultural economics at the University of Kentucky. His dissertation research involves estimating the exposure of those banks in Peru to extreme El Niño and demonstrating a role for index insurance as a component of their risk management strategies. His other GlobalAgRisk project is advancing a State of Knowledge Report regarding the data requirements for developing and supporting an index insurance product. His professional interests include implementing innovations that reduce transaction costs for rural finance.

Positions Held

Date of Employment	Organization	Position Title	Description of Responsibilities
2007–Current	GlobalAgRisk	Research Analyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity to manage severe weather risk using financial mechanisms such as insurance in northern Peru through risk assessment, research, meetings, presentations, and papers • Authoring academic papers, case studies, reports, and presentations on index insurance and weather risk management • Performing applied research and data analysis • Developing funding proposals for innovative agricultural insurance programs in lower income countries

Date of Employment	Organization	Position Title	Description of Responsibilities
January–May 2009	Agricultural Economics Department, University of Kentucky	Teaching Assistant	AEC 626 Agriculture and Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing course materials • Lecturing on economic inequality and food security • Supervising student trip to the World Bank and International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC
August 2004–May 2007	Department of Psychology, University of Kentucky	Teaching Assistant	PSY 100 General Psychology PSY 215 Experimental Psychology PSY 427 Cognitive Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing weekly lectures to undergraduate students • Planning, formatting, and organizing course material • Assisting student groups in designing appropriate semester projects • Evaluating papers for proper formatting, writing clarity and style

Recent GlobalAgRisk Project Activities

February 2009	Reviewer for evaluation of navel orange insurance for the Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture
2007–2008	Project manager and co-author of World Bank Institute Market-based Risk Management for Development Online Courses: <i>Course II: Weather Risk Management for Agriculture</i>
2007–2008	Development of reports and presentations for Asian Development Bank Project TA-4480-VIE. <i>Developing Agricultural Insurance in Vietnam</i>
2007–2008	Development of reports and presentations for <i>Index-based Livestock Insurance Pilot Project</i> in Mongolia
2007	Co-author and course instructor of World Bank Institute Market-based Risk Management for Development Online Courses: <i>Course I: Comprehensive Introductory Course</i>

Education

Ph.D. Applicant	Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky
M.S. 2006	Psychology, University of Kentucky
B.A. 2003	Psychology, Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky

Representative Presentations and Conference Responsibilities

May 7, 2009	Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky	"The Effects of the 1998 El Niño on Loan Portfolio Performance in Northern Peru"
April 28–29, 2009	UNFCCC Technical Workshop under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, Cairo, Egypt	Facilitator for breakout group, "Increasing Economic Resilience to Climate Change at the National Level"
December 4–5, 2008	KfW Financial Sector Development Symposium, Berlin, Germany	"Mainstreaming Environment Finance Markets (II): The Role of Weather Insurance and the Carbon Market"

Representative Publications

Collier, B., J. R. Skees, and B. J. Barnett. "Weather Index Insurance and Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenges in Lower Income Countries." *The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance* 34(2009): 401–424.

Collier, B., A. G. Murphy, and J. R. Skees. "Course II: Market-based Risk Management Framework." The Market-based Risk Management for Development Distance Learning Program. Online Disaster Risk Management Learning Program prepared by GlobalAgRisk, Inc. World Bank Institute: Washington, D.C., 2008.

Collier, B., and J. R. Skees. "Morocco: Weather Index Insurance and Climate Change." Case Study in Market-based Risk Management for Development Course II: Weather Risk Management for Agriculture, Online Disaster Risk Management Learning Program prepared by GlobalAgRisk, Inc., in consultation with CRMG, 2008.

Collier, B., A. G. Murphy, and J. R. Skees. "India: From Pilot Programs to a Developing Market for Weather Index Insurance Products for Smallholder Farmers." Case Study in Market-based Risk Management for Development Course II: Weather Risk Management for Agriculture, Online Disaster Risk Management Learning Program prepared by GlobalAgRisk, Inc., in consultation with CRMG, 2008.

- Collier, B., A. G. Murphy, and J. R. Skees. "Mongolia: Public-Private Partnerships for Layering Risks." Case Study in Market-based Risk Management for Development Course II: Weather Risk Management for Agriculture, Online Disaster Risk Management Learning Program prepared by GlobalAgRisk, Inc., in consultation with CRMG, 2008.
- Collier, B., and J. R. Skees. "National Income Stabilization Account (NISA): Canadian Experience with Income Stabilization Accounts." Report prepared for the Dutch Government to be used for a Report to the European Union, April, 2008.
- Skees, J. R., B. J. Barnett, and B. Collier. "Agricultural Insurance: Background and Context for Climate Adaptation Discussions." Proceedings of the OECD Expert Workshop on Economic Aspects of Adaptation, Paris, France, April 7–8, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland, Forthcoming.
- Skees, J. R., L. Zhang, A. G. Murphy, and B. Collier. "Assessing the Demand for Weather Index Insurance in Shandong Province, China." Report prepared for the Zurich Insurance Company, Zurich, Switzerland, October, 2008.
- Skees, J. R., and B. Collier. "Mainstreaming Environment Finance Markets (II): The Role of Carbon and Weather Markets." Report prepared for Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Financial Sector Development Symposium, Berlin, Germany, October 2008.
- Skees, J. R., and B. Collier. "The Potential of Weather Index Insurance for Spurring a Green Revolution in Africa." Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa Policy Makers' and Private Sector Convening, Nairobi, Kenya, June 23–25, 2008.
- Skees, J. R., and B. Collier. "The Group Risk Plan (GRP) and the Gross Revenue Insurance Product (GRIP): U.S. Experience with Area Index Insurance." Report prepared for the Dutch Government to be used for a Report to the European Union, April 2008.
- Skees, J. R., A. G. Murphy, B. Collier, and J. Roth. "Scaling Up Index Insurance: What Is Needed for the Next Big Leap Forward?" Weather insurance review prepared by the MicroInsurance Centre and GlobalAgRisk for Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), December, 2007.
- Skees, J. R., and B. Collier. "Weather Risks, Index Insurance, and Developing Financial Services for the Rural Poor." *Microfinance Insights* 5(2007): 31–33.