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EXPERIENCE

Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, January 2019–Present

Bring together governments and global partners to design and scale solutions that make agrifood systems more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. Build on decades of research on commodity prices, market volatility, and their impact on poverty and hunger to drive evidence-based strategies that help countries withstand shocks from climate, conflict, and global markets. Focus areas include advancing innovative financing instruments, expanding equitable access to healthy diets, and reinforcing supply chains to ensure stability and affordability for the most vulnerable.

Lead FAO's economic policy engagement in global SDG processes, especially Zero Hunger, and represent the organization at high-level forums shaping the global dialogue on agrifood systems transformation. Served on the Munich Security Conference Food Security Task Force, linking food security with national security and geopolitical risk. Co-chaired the UN's Global Crisis Response Group to the war in Ukraine, supporting the Black Sea Grain Initiative to reopen supply routes. Provide intellectual leadership for flagship publications and global public goods, including *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* and *The State of Food and Agriculture*, ensuring that cutting-edge economic analysis informs decision-making for poverty reduction and resilient food systems.

Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, The World Bank Group, Washington, D.C., 2016–2018

Steered international finance to channel billions toward vulnerable populations and build more resilient agriculture and food systems. Specifically, played a leading role in the capital increase of both the Bank and the International Finance Corporation, helping to secure record commitments — \$60 billion for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and \$5.5 billion for IFC — to bolster emerging economies, with food security, resilience, and inclusive growth at the core of the Group's strategic direction. Championed rural transformation by directing investments to agriculture and smallholder competitiveness. Positioned the Bank as a key partner in tackling food price volatility, strengthening financial mechanisms to stabilize markets and anchoring operations in empirical analysis to ensure accountability and impact.

Division Director, Trade and Institutions, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C., 2004–2016

Redefined how evidence informs policy by establishing global mechanisms and tools that continue to shape food security governance. Major accomplishments include the creation of

Agricultural Market Information System at the request of the G20, following the 2007–08 food crisis. AMIS is now the leading platform for monitoring agricultural markets and a landmark innovation in global food governance. Pioneered contract farming experiments in Vietnam, Peru, and Tanzania that expanded smallholder access to credit, technology, and secure markets, offering a model for inclusive value chains. Co-founded the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium, empowering African researchers and policymakers to design evidence-based agricultural and trade policies. Additional empirical work on infrastructure and governance demonstrated how investments in rural roads, electrification, telecommunications, and institutional quality can unlock productivity, reduce poverty, and attract development finance. Senior Research Fellow, 2004–07; Director of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007–16.

Senior Research Fellow, The University of Bonn’s Center for Development Research, Cologne, Germany, 2010–Present

Associate Professor, Universidad del Pacifico, Lima, Peru, 1999–2022

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Research, Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1999.

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1998.

M.A., Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1993.

B.A., Economics, Universidad del Pacifico, Lima, Peru, 1990.

PUBLICATIONS

Published peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book and conference proceedings chapters, working papers, policy briefs, institutional reports, and articles in news outlets. These have received more than 18,000 citations, with H-index of 64, and an i10-Index of 171, according to Google Scholar. RePEc’s ranking place the research within the 5% globally across all productivity and citation measures.

Journal Articles

Schneider, Kate R., Roseline Remans, Tesfaye Hailu Bekele, et al. “Governance and Resilience as Entry Points for Transforming Food Systems in the Countdown to 2030.” *Nature Food* 6 (2025): 105–116.

Schneider, Kate R., Jessica Fanzo, Lawrence Haddad, et al. “The State of Food Systems Worldwide in the Countdown to 2030.” *Nature Food* 4 (2023): 1090–1110.

Kennedy, Eileen T., Maximo Torero, Dariush Mozaffarian, et al. “Beyond the Food Systems Summit: Linking Recommendations to Action — The True Cost of Food.” *Current Developments in Nutrition* 7, no. 5 (2023): 100028.

Delgado, Luciana, Monica Schuster, and Maximo Torero. “Food Losses in Agrifood Systems: What We Know.” *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 15 (2023): 41-62.

Cattaneo, Andrea, Ahmad Sadiddin, Sara Vaz, et al. “Viewpoint: Ensuring Affordability of Diets in the Face of Shocks.” *Food Policy* 117 (2023): 102470.

Kornher, Lukas, Zaneta Kubik, Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu, et al. 2 “The Aid–Nutrition Link: Does Targeted Development Assistance Related to Food Systems Matter?” *World Development* 162 (2023): 106127.

Tubiello, Francesco N., Kevin Karl, Alessandro Flammini, et al. “Pre- and Post-Production Processes Increasingly Dominate Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Agri-Food Systems.” *Earth System Science Data* 14 (2022): 1795–1809.

Herrera-Catalán, Pedro, Coro Chasco, and Maximo Torero. “Spatial Spillover Effects of Agricultural Transport Costs in Peru.” *Land* 11, no. 1 (2022): 58.

Beyene Chichaibelu, Bezawit, Maksud Bekchanov, Joachim von Braun, et al. “The Global Cost of Reaching a World Without Hunger: Investment Costs and Policy Action Opportunities.” *Food Policy* 104 (2021): 102151.

Delgado, Luciana, Monica Schuster, and Maximo Torero. “On the Origins of Food Loss.” *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 43 (2021): 750–780.

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Delgado, Luciana, Monica Schuster, and Maximo Torero. “Quantity and Quality Food Losses Across the Value Chain: A Comparative Analysis.” *Food Policy* 98 (2021):101958.

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Fanzo, Jessica, Lawrence Haddad, Kate R. Schneider et al. “Viewpoint: Rigorous Monitoring Is Necessary to Guide Food System Transformation in the Countdown to the 2030 Global Goals.” *Food Policy*, 104 (2021): 102163.

Stathers, Tanya, Deirdre Holcroft, Lisa Kitinoja, et al. “A Scoping Review of Interventions for Crop Postharvest Loss Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.” *Nature Sustainability* 3 (2020): 821–835.

Piñeiro, Valeria, Joaquin Arias, Jochen Dürr, et al. “A Scoping Review on Incentives for Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Their Outcomes.” *Nature Sustainability* 3 (2020): 809–820.

Mitra, Sandip, Dilip Mookherjee, Maximo Torero, et al. "Asymmetric Information and Middleman Margins: An Experiment with West Bengal Potato Farmers." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 100, no. 1 (2018): 1–13.

Zhang, Jian, Songqing Jin, Maximo Torero, et al. "Teachers, Compensation, and Urban-Rural Gaps in Education Outcomes." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 100, no. 4 (2018): 1207–1223.

Martins-Filho, Carlos, Feng Yao, and Maximo Torero. "Nonparametric Estimation of Conditional Value-at-Risk and Expected Shortfall Based on Extreme Value Theory." *Econometric Theory* 34, no. 1 (2018): 23–67.

Hernandez, Manuel A., and Maximo Torero. "A Poverty-Sensitive Scorecard to Prioritize Lending and Grant Allocation: Evidence from Central America." *Food Policy* 77 (2018): 81–90.

Devaux, Andre, Maximo Torero, Jason Donovan, et al. "Agricultural Innovation and Inclusive Value-Chain Development: A Review." *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies* 8 (1) (2018): 99-123.

Barron, Manuel, and Maximo Torero. "Household Electrification and Indoor Air Pollution." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 86 (2017): 81–92.

Almanzar, Miguel, and Maximo Torero. "Distributional Effects of Growth and Public Expenditures in Africa: Estimates for Tanzania and Rwanda." *World Development* 95 (2017): 177–195.

Nakasone, Eduardo, and Maximo Torero. "A Text Message Away: ICTs as a Tool to Improve Food Security." *Agricultural Economics* 47 (2016): 49–59.

Chong, Alberto, Isabelle Cohen, Erica Field, et al. "Are There Nutrient-Based Poverty Traps? Evidence on Iron Deficiency and Schooling Attainment in Peru." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 8 (4) (2016): 222–255.

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Bernard, Tanguy, and Maximo Torero. "Social Interaction Effects and Connection to Electricity: Experimental Evidence from Rural Ethiopia." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 63, no. 3 (2015).

Torero, Maximo, and Angelino Viceisza. "To Remit or Not to Remit, That Is the Question: A Remittance Field Experiment." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 112 (2015): 221–236.

Torero, Maximo. "The Impact of Rural Electrification: Challenges and Ways Forward." *Revue d'économie du développement* 23(HS) (2015), 49-75.

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Nakasone, Eduardo, Maximo Torero, and Bart Minten. "The Power of Information: The ICT Revolution in Agricultural Development." *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 6 (2014): 533-550.

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Hernandez, Manuel A. and Maximo Torero. "Parametric Versus Nonparametric Methods in Risk Scoring: An Application to Microcredit." *Empirical Economics* 46 (2014): 1057-1079.

Castillo, Marco, Ragan Petrie, Maximo Torero, et al. "Gender Differences in Bargaining Outcomes: A Field Experiment on Discrimination." *Journal of Public Economics* 99 (2013): 35-48.

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Ñopo, Hugo, Jaime Saavedra, and Maximo Torero. "Ethnicity and Earnings in a Mixed-Race Labor Market." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 55, no. 4 (2007): 709–734.

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Books

Kalkuhl, Matthias, Joachim von Braun, and Maximo Torero. *Food Price Volatility and Its Implications for Food Security and Policy*. Cham: Springer, 2016.

Devaux, Andre, Maximo Torero, Jason Donovan, and Douglas Horton., eds. *Innovations for Inclusive Value-Chain Development: Successes and Challenges*. International Food Policy Research Institute, 2016.

von Grebmer, Klaus, Claudia Ringler, Mark W. Rosegrant, et al. *Global Hunger Index: The Challenge of Hunger: Ensuring Sustainable Food Security under Land, Water and Energy Stresses*. International Food Policy Research Institute, 2012.

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Trivelli, Carolina, Felipe Portocarrero, Guillermo Byrne, et al. *Mercado y Gestión de Microcrédito en el Perú*. Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social, 2004.

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Arregui, Patricia, and Maximo Torero. *Science and Technology Indicators for Latin America*. GRADE, 1999.

Chapters in Books and Conference Proceedings

von Braun, Joachim, Betiina Iseli, Maximo Torero, and Peter K. A. Turkson, Eds. “Food and Humanitarian Crises: Science and Policies for Prevention and Mitigation.” In *Pontificiae Academiae Scientiarum Scripta Varia* 154, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, 2024.

von Braun, Joachim, Kaosar Afsana, Louise O. Fresco, et al. “Food System Concepts and Definitions for Science and Political Action.” In *Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation*, edited by J. von Braun, K. Afsana, L. O. Fresco, and M. H. A. Hassan. Cham: Springer, 2023.

Herrero, Mario, Marta Hugas, Uma Lele, et al. “A Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns.” In *Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation*, edited by J. von Braun, K. Afsana, L. O. Fresco, and M. H. A. Hassan. Cham: Springer, 2023.

Laborde, David, and Maximo Torero. “Modeling Actions for Transforming Agrifood Systems.” In *Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation*, edited by J. von Braun, K. Afsana, L. O. Fresco, and M. H. A. Hassan. Cham: Springer, 2023.

Hendriks, Sheryl, Adrian de Groot Ruiz, Mario Herrero Acosta, et al. “The True Cost of Food: A Preliminary Assessment.” In *Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation*, edited by J. von Braun, K. Afsana, L. O. Fresco, and M. H. A. Hassan, 581–601. Cham: Springer, 2023.

Beyene Chichaibelu, Bezawit, Maksud Bekchanov, Joachim von Braun, et al. “The Global Cost of Reaching a World Without Hunger: Investment Costs and Policy Action Opportunities.” In *Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation*, edited by J. von Braun, K. Afsana, L. O. Fresco, and M. H. A. Hassan. Cham: Springer, 2023.

Torero, Maximo. “Robotics and AI in Food Security and Innovation: Why They Matter and How to Harness Their Power.” In *Robotics, AI, and Humanity*, edited by J. von Braun, S. Archer, M. Reichberg, and M. Sánchez Sorondo. Cham: Springer, 2021.

Torero, Maximo. “A Digital Revolution Without a Digital Divide for sub-Saharan Africa.” In *The Hidden Middle: A Quiet Revolution in the Private Sector Driving Agricultural Transformation*. Africa Agriculture Status Report 7:127-145. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), 2019.

Nakasone, Eduardo, and Maximo Torero. “Soap Operas for Female Micro Entrepreneur Training.” In *Information Technologies in Latin America*, edited by A. Chong. Anthem Press, 2019.

Torero, Maximo 2018. “Fallas del mercado y la vinculación de las cadenas de valor de los pequeños agricultores a los mercados.” In *SEPIA XVII Mesa Temática. Experiencias Latinoamericanas de Aplicación del Enfoque de Cadenas de Valor Inclusivas*, edited by M. Ordinola and D. Horton. Centro Internacional de la Papa, 2018.

Kalkuhl, Matthias, Joachim von Braun, and Maximo Torero. “Volatile and Extreme Food Prices, Food Security, and Policy: An Overview.” In *Food Price Volatility and Its Implications for Food Security and Policy*, edited by M. Kalkuhl, J. von Braun, and M. Torero. Cham: Springer, 2016.

Torero, Maximo. "Alternative Mechanisms to Reduce Food Price Volatility and Price Spikes: Policy Responses at the Global Level." In *Food Price Volatility and Its Implications for Food Security and Policy*, edited by M. Kalkuhl, J. von Braun, and M. Torero. Cham: Springer, 2016.

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Selected Other Publications

Institutional Publications

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025: Addressing High Food Price Inflation for Food Security and Nutrition*. Rome, 2025.

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024. Financing to End Hunger, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in All Its Forms*. Rome, 2024.

FAO. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2024. Value-Driven Transformation of Agrifood Systems*. Rome, 2024.

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FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable*. Rome, 2022.

FAO. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2022. Leveraging Automation in Agriculture for Transforming Agrifood Systems*. Rome, 2022.

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming Food Systems for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Affordable Healthy Diets for All*. Rome, 2021.

FAO. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2021. Making Agrifood Systems More Resilient to Shocks and Stresses*. Rome, 2021.

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets*. Rome, 2020.

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FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019. Safeguarding Against Economic Slowdowns and Downturns*. Rome, 2019.

FAO. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. Rome, 2019.

Opinion Articles

Letter: “Other Regions Must Study Latin America’s Progress on Hunger,” *Financial Times*, July 31, 2024.

“Our Food System Is Racking Up \$10 Trillion in Hidden Costs. It’s Time to Cut That Bill,” *Reuters*, November 8, 2023

“The Second Green Revolution Will Be Digitized,” *Project Syndicate*, January 20, 2023.

“Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine Should Not Cause a Hunger Crisis,” *The Los Angeles Times*, March 4, 2022.

“Ending Hunger Sustainably,” *Project Syndicate*, October 15, 2021.

“Without Food, There Can Be No Exit from The Pandemic,” *Nature*, April 23, 2020.

“How to Stop a Looming Food Crisis,” *Foreign Policy*, April 14, 2020.

“If We Want to Save Earth, We Need to Change How We Eat,” *The Hill*, November 18, 2019.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Quoted, profiled, or interviewed in depth for articles in, among others, *AFP, Al Jazeera, The Associated Press, Bloomberg, BBC, CGTN, CNBC, CNN, CNN Español, EFE, The Economist, Financial Times, Foreign Policy, Freakonomics, The Guardian, The Hill, The Independent, The LA Times, MacLean’s, The New York Times, Newsweek, National Public Radio, Politico, Project Syndicate, Reuters, Der Spiegel, Salon, Slate, Voice of America, The Washington Post, Wall Street*

Journal, El Mercurio (Chile), El Comercio (Peru), and other outlets in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED

National Institute of Health, “Iodine Deficiency and Gender Attitudes in Tanzania,” 2015–17.

National Science Foundation, “*AGER: Using Eye Tracking to Study Migrant Remittances and Its Welfare Implications*,” 2016–17.

European Commission, “Improving the Effectiveness of Policies and Strategic Investments in the Fertilizer Supply Chain for Some African Countries Taking into Account the Global- and Country-Level Market Structure and Constraints,” 2014–16.

European Commission, “Assessing Regional Food Reserves to Increase Resilience: Their Role in Safety Nets and in Reducing Price Volatility,” 2014–16.

CGIAR Research Program on Policies Institutions and Markets, “Flagship/Component on Linking Smallholders to Markets,” 2014–16.

U.S. Agency for International Development, “Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Strategy Support Program (LAC RSSP),” 2014–16.

European Commission, “Food Secure: Exploring the Future of Global Food and Nutrition Security,” 2013–16.

Swiss Development Cooperation, “Food Security in India: Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA),” 2013–16.

Millennium Challenge Corporation, “Impact Evaluation of Rural Electrification and Roads in El Salvador,” 2013–17.

Department for International Development, “Aflatoxin and Child Stunting,” 2012–15.

Inter-American Development Bank. “Impact of Rust Coffee in Central America,” 2013–14,

Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), “Rural Development and Poverty Reduction in Andean Countries: The Case of Peru,” 2013–14.

University of California, Los Angeles, “Diffusion of Technical Change in Traditional Agriculture in Peru,” 1996–97.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricole, Government of France, 2014.

Award for Outstanding Research on Development, Global Development Network, 2002. Selection committee chaired by Nicolas Stern, with members François Bourguignon, Masahiro Kawai, Nancy Birdsall, José María Fanelli, and Fernando Loayza.

Award for Outstanding Research on Development, Global Development Network, 2000. Selection committee chaired by Joseph E. Stiglitz, with members Nancy Birdsall, François Bourguignon, Takatoshi Ito, and Amartya Sen.

Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 2001–03.

University of California Dissertation Year Fellowship, 1997–98.

Ford Foundation-ISOP Interdisciplinary Program for Students of Development Areas, 1997–98.

British Foundation Fellowship, 1995–97.

Research and Teaching Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1994–97.

Inter-American Development Bank Fellowship, 1992–95.

Fulbright Fellowship, 1992–94.

Ford Foundation Fellowship, 1992–94.

National Award for the Best Bachelor's Dissertation, Peruvian Economic Consortium and International Development Research Center, Canada, 1992.

Honorable Mention on Bachelors and Licenciatura Dissertations, Universidad del Pacifico, Lima, Peru, 1990.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ADVISORY COUNCILS

- International Association of Agricultural Economics (2006-Present)
- American Agricultural Association (2006-Present)
- Member of the American Economic Association (1998-Present)
- European Economic Association (1999-Present)
- Econometric Society (1998-Present)
- Latin American Econometric Society (1998-Present)
- Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (1998-Present)
- Southern Regional Science Association (1998-Present)
- Group of Analysis for Development (GRADE), Member of board of Directors and Director of Executive Management Committee (1997-Present)
- Western Economic Association (1998-2000)

COUNTRIES OF EXPERTISE

- **Latin America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile
- **Central and Eastern Europe:** Armenia, Kosovo
- **Africa:** Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
- **Asia:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Vietnam

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French

REFERENCES

Joachim von Braun

Professor and Director of the Centre for Economic Development
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Senior Adviser, North America and Multilateral Affairs
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

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