



## Steve Wiggins

Research Fellow, Agricultural Development and Policy  
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### PROFILE

Steve Wiggins has worked extensively on rural markets throughout his 35-year career, above all those that apply to smallholders in Africa, their operation of rural labour markets, the rural non-farm economy and specific application of market analysis to crises of food insecurity, providing the basis for policy recommendations on pro-poor market development. He has led ODI's work on food price dynamics in national, regional and international markets since 2008, analysing drivers and impacts of price spikes and assessing policy responses.

### Country Experience

- Africa: The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India (Tamil Nadu)
- Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

### Other key attributes

- Languages: Fluent in Spanish and reading comprehension of French and Portuguese
- Awarded "2012 Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning", by the Agricultural Economics Society
- President of the Agricultural Economics Society (AES) 2014-15

### QUALIFICATIONS

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| 1991 | <b>PhD in Administration and Management</b><br>University of Reading, Reading, UK       |
| 1978 | <b>MA (Econ.) in Agricultural Economics</b><br>University of Manchester, Manchester, UK |
| 1975 | <b>MA in Geography</b><br>University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK                        |

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### CAREER

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| 2002 – Present | <b>Research Fellow - Agricultural Development and Policy</b><br><b>Overseas Development Institute, London, UK</b> |
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Recent and ongoing assignments:

- Writer of two recent Evidence on Demand Topic Guides, which are designed to support Livelihoods Advisers within DFID: (2015 - publication pending) '*Stepping out of Agriculture*' and (2014) '*Leveraging the private sector to promote agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods*'.

- Lead the *Commercialisations theme* for the *Future Agricultures Consortium* and worked with colleagues in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania studying changes in villages where the commercialisation of smallholder agriculture is taking place. (DFID, 2006-2014)
- *'Leaping and Learning: Linking smallholders to markets in Africa'*. Led a research project engaged on studying how best to improve the functioning of supply chains to link small farmers to markets more effectively and efficiently, with colleagues at Imperial College London (DFID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2011-13).
- *'Sustainable smallholder agricultural development's contribution to food security and nutrition'*  
Author of policy briefing paper to review the evidence showing how sustainable smallholder agricultural development can contribute to food security and nutrition. This policy brief was used by the Hunger Alliance for advocacy during 2013, when the UK chaired the G8. (Hunger Alliance, 2012-13).
- *'Agricultural development policy: a contemporary agenda'*  
Author of background paper for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which summarises the current state of thinking on agricultural policies for development. (GIZ 2013)
- Wrote chapter reviewing the state of knowledge and policy issues for the rural non-farm economy, drafted for a book summarizing proceedings of a Jan 2011 conference at IFAD on small farmers (IFAD, 2011).
- *High Food Prices*  
Research lead on a portfolio of work triggered by the global food price crisis of 2007/08, looking at causes of high food prices; price transmission from world to domestic markets; impacts on poor and vulnerable people; and policy responses both to mitigate high and volatile prices, as well as to alleviate harm to those vulnerable to higher food prices.  
Also drafted briefs on national-level food crises and emergencies linked to food price volatility, including Niger in 2010 and in the Horn & East Africa in 2011. (DFID, 2007-present).
- *Impacts over-nutrition in the developing world*  
Lead author on ADP's 2014 flagship report, *'Future Diets'*, which analyses the causes of the rapid rise in the numbers of people overweight and obese in the developing world and the potential policy responses. Currently working on a project - *'Changing Relative Prices of Different Food'* – which intends to contribute to the academic body of work around drivers of over-nutrition leading to overweight and obesity by shedding light on and informing about trends in the relative prices of different foodstuffs across a sample of countries in the developing world. (DFID, 2014/15)

1983 -  
2002

**Lecturer (Agricultural Economics)  
University of Reading, Reading, UK**

Teaching, largely to postgraduate students, on agricultural and rural development, including: agricultural project planning, appraisal & management; economics of agricultural and rural development; management; environmental issues.

- 1980 - 1983**     **Technical Cooperation Officer (Kenya)**  
**Overseas Development Administration, London, UK**  
 Acted as first Coordinator of the Embu, Meru, and Isiolo Programme, a multisectoral package of rural development projects for dryland development in three Districts of Kenya.
- 1979**     **Technical Cooperation Officer (El Salvador)**  
**Overseas Development Administration, London, UK**  
 Member of a small team studying environmental problems in the Acelhuate River basin of El Salvador. Prepared a cost-benefit analysis of soil conservation works using a novel method, helped draft large parts of the final technical reports, and devised a monitoring system for soil conservation projects.
- 1977**     **Economist - Sir William Halcrow & Partners, London, UK**  
 Concerned with the design of irrigation and drainage works along the Jubones River of southern Ecuador. Helped prepare and draft economic appraisals and a report on the agriculture of the area.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2014) Rural Wages in Asia' ODI, London
- Wiggins, S.; Keats, S. (2014) Topic Guide: Leveraging the private sector to promote agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods. Evidence on Demand, UK  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.12774/eod\\_tg.september2014.wigginskeats](http://dx.doi.org/10.12774/eod_tg.september2014.wigginskeats)
- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2014) 'Future Diets- Implications for agriculture and food prices' ODI, London
- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2013) 'Leaping and learning: linking smallholders to markets' Imperial College London.
- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2013) 'Smallholder agriculture's contribution to better nutrition' ODI, London
- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2013) 'Looking back, peering forward: food prices and the food price spike of 2007/08' ODI, London
- Wiggins et al. (2013) Agricultural development policy: a contemporary agenda. Background Paper for GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany
- Wiggins (2012) 'Small farm commercialisation in Africa: A guide to issues and policies'. Policy Brief no. 50. Working Paper, Future Agricultures Consortium
- Wiggins, S and Keats, S. (2012) 'China: are changes afoot for cereals?' ODI, London
- Poulton, C., Kydd, J., Wiggins, S. and Dorward, A. (2006) 'State Intervention for Food Price Stabilisation in Africa: Can It Work?' Food Policy, 31(4): 342–356
- Wiggins, S. (2005) 'Success Stories from African Agriculture: What are the Key Elements of Success?' IDS Bulletin, 36 (2), 17–22
- Wiggins, S., Marfo, K. and Anchirinah, V. (2004) 'Protecting the forest or the people? Environmental policies and livelihoods in the forest margins of southern Ghana', World Development, 32 (11) 1939–1956

Wiggins, S., Keilback, N., Preibisch, K. Proctor, S., Rivera, G. H. and Rodriguez, G. M. (2002) 'Agricultural policy reform and rural livelihoods in central Mexico', *Journal of Development Studies*, 38 (4), 179–202

Preibisch, K., Rivera, G. H. and Wiggins, S. (2002) 'Defending food security in a free-market economy: The gendered dimensions of restructuring in rural Mexico' *Human Organization*, 61 (1), 68–79

Wiggins, S. and Proctor, S. (2001) 'How Special Are Rural Areas? The Economic Implications of Location for Rural Development', *Development Policy Review*, 19 (4), 427–436

Irz, X., Lin, L., Thirtle, C. and Wiggins, S. (2001), 'Agricultural Growth and Poverty Alleviation', *Development Policy Review*, 19 (4), 449–466

Wiggins, S. (2000) 'Interpreting changes from the 1970s to the 1990s in African agriculture through village studies', *World Development*, 28 (4), 631-662