

Blessing Ngozi Nsofor

(Formerly published as Blessing Ugwuanyi)

bugwuany@gmail.com | (806) 300-3842

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics (May 2020)

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

M.Sc. in Data Analytics (May 2024)

Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlanta, GA

M.Sc. in Agricultural and Applied Economics (August 2015)

University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and Farm Management (October 2010)

Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

Summa Cum Laude

CERTIFICATION

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria

Certified Accounting Technician (August 2009)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University–Kingsville (August 2024 – Present)

- Developed and taught courses in agricultural finance, farm management, entrepreneurship, decision analytics, trade, marketing, and agricultural risk management.
- Maintain an active applied economics research program in agricultural trade, food insecurity, risk, and food and agribusiness systems, with peer-reviewed publications, manuscripts under review, conference presentations, and graduate student mentorship.
- Lead and collaborate on external grant proposals addressing farm succession, agricultural resilience, data analytics, and food-system challenges.

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- Developed experiential learning and industry partnerships, including the Capital Farm Credit loan project.

Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR (August 2020 – July 2024)

- Taught undergraduate courses including Data Management, Financial Statements and Planning, Entrepreneurship, Risk Management, Futures and Options, Marketing of Agricultural Products, and International Agribusiness.
- Developed original syllabi, assignments, and assessments tailored to SAU's agribusiness program needs.
- Taught agribusiness entrepreneurship through business plan development and 90-second venture pitches to established entrepreneurs in a cross-college competition with the business school; students placed among the top three for three consecutive years.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Analytics Practicum – Credit Risk Modeling Intern

Equifax, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2024 – May 2024

- Developed credit-risk propensity models using Python and SQL to analyze large datasets and predict consumer financial behavior.
- Presented analytical findings and decision-relevant insights to Equifax stakeholders.

Research Assistant

Texas Tech University, August 2015 – May 2020

- Developed empirical models, designed surveys, analyzed primary and secondary data, and conducted research using R, Stata, SAS, and MATLAB.
- Contributed to research reports, conference presentations, and scholarly outputs.

Research Assistant

University of Wyoming, January 2013 – August 2015

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- Conducted applied economic analysis using GAMS and Stata and contributed to research reports, publications, and conference presentations.

Farm Manager

Saint Paul Ranch, Ogun State, Nigeria, January 2010 – August 2010

- Managed day-to-day farm operations, supervised employees, and supported production and profitability decisions.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Ugwuanyi, Blessing, Kolawole Ogundari, and Grant Trichel. (2026). “The Hidden Cost of Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Applied Economics Letters*, 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2026.2634865>.
- Garcia, Laila D., Ambrose O. Anoruo, Shad D. Nelson, Blessing N. Nsofor, Benjamin L. Turner, and Paul W. Holland. (2026). “Agronomically Applied Nitrogen Has the Same Fate Irrespective of Source: A Comprehensive Review of Synthetic and Organic Soil Nitrogen Sources.” *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, 28, 102983. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafr.2026.102983>.
- Solomonson, J. K., Wells, T., Rank, B. D., & Ugwuanyi, B. (2023). “What Factors Influence Students’ Decisions to Pursue Agricultural Degrees at Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture?” *NACTA Journal*.
- Devadoss, Stephen, Blessing Ugwuanyi, and William Ridley. (2021). “Determinants of Global Agricultural Trade.” *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing, and Chian Jones Ritten. (2016). “Explaining the Gender Wage Gap: The Role of Discrimination and the Mining Industry.” In *Gender and Work: Intersectionality, Resistance, and Identity*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Jones Ritten, Chian, and Blessing Ugwuanyi. (2015). “Is Wyoming Still the State of Equality?” *The Wyoming Lawyer* 32(2), 20–23.

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Submitted / Under Review

- Ugwuanyi, Blessing. “Renewal Uncertainty and the Effectiveness of Unilateral Trade Preferences: Evidence from the African Growth and Opportunity Act.” *The World Economy*. Submitted, 2026.
- Nsofor, Blessing. “Import Dependency and Spatial Spillovers in Food Insecurity: Evidence from Contiguous Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Journal of African Development*. Revise and resubmit; R2 submitted June 10, 2026.
- Ogundari, Kolawole, Taiwo Akinyemi, and Blessing Ugwuanyi. “Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa Before and After the 2007/08 Food Crisis: What Can We Learn?” *Outlook on Agriculture*. Submitted, 2025.

Working Papers / Manuscripts in Progress

- Ugwuanyi, Blessing. “Can Unilateral Trade Preferences Generate Broad-Based Development Without Complementary Productive Capacity? Evidence from AGOA.” Manuscript in progress, 2026.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing. “U.S.–China Trade War Spillovers in Sub-Saharan Africa’s Value Chains.” Manuscript in progress.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing. “A Theoretical Model Linking Food Insecurity and Mental Health within a General Equilibrium Framework.” Manuscript in progress.

Book

- Nsofor, Blessing. *The Plan: A Story-Based Guide to Futures, Options, and Risk Management*, forthcoming 2026. ISBN 979-8-9977103-0-9.

Conference Presentations

- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (July 2026). Trade Preferences, Policy Uncertainty, and Export Risk in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from AGOA. Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (April 2026). Import Dependency, Spatial Trade Spillovers, and Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Western Hemispheric Trade Conference, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX.

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- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (February 2026). AGOA at a Crossroads: Tariff Shocks and Sub-Saharan Africa's Export Vulnerability. Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meeting.
- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (February 2026). When Tariffs Hurt Twice: Food Insecurity and Mental *Health in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meeting.
- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (February 2025). Trade Restrictions, Food Security, and Mental Health: A Sentiment and Econometric Analysis of Sub-Saharan African Countries. Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Irving, TX.
- **Nsofor, Blessing.** (February 2025). Analysis of Trade Dependency and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa Using Spatial Econometric Models. Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Irving, TX.
- Solomonson, J. K., Wells, T., Rank, B. D., & **Ugwuanyi, Blessing.** (June 2022). What factors influence students' decisions to pursue agricultural degrees at non-land-grant colleges of agriculture? 68th Annual NACTA Conference, Wooster, OH.
- **Blessing Ugwuanyi** and Ryan Williams. "Extortion in the Presence of Market Power." Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. Jacksonville, FL: February 26, 2018.
- Williams, Ryan, **Blessing Ugwuanyi**, Joseph Young, and Vikram Baliga. "Estimation of Household Willingness to Pay for Water Conserving Landscape Design." Agricultural Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL: July 30 - August 1, 2017.
- **Blessing Ugwuanyi** and Chian Jones Ritten. "The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry and Discrimination." Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting. Victoria, BC: June 21-24, 2016.
- Williams, Ryan, **Blessing Ugwuanyi**, Joseph Young, and Vikram Baliga. "Estimation of Household Willingness to Pay for Water Conserving Landscape Design." Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Meeting. Pensacola, FL: June 21-23, 2016.
- **Blessing Ugwuanyi** and Chian Jones Ritten. "The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry and Discrimination." Poster Presentation. Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference. Vancouver, WA: May 11-13, 2016.

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- **Blessing Ugwuanyi** and Chian Jones Ritten. “The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of Discrimination and the Mining Industry.” University of Wyoming Agricultural and Applied Economics Seminar Series. Laramie, WY: October 2, 2015.
- Chian Jones Ritten and **Blessing Ugwuanyi**. “The Gender Wage Gap: The Role of the Mining Industry.” Biennial Women and Gender Research Conference. Vermillion, SD: April 9-10, 2015.

EXTERNAL GRANTS AND PROPOSALS

Submitted / Under Review:

- Ugwuanyi, Blessing (PI), Diane Friend (Co-PI), Kolawole Ogundari (Co-PI). Succession and Transition through Curriculum Development and Training for Small and Medium-Size Farms/Ranches, October 2025. USDA-AFRI. Total Amount Requested: \$620,114.96.
- Long Gao (PI), Ugwuanyi, Blessing (Co-PI), Benjamin Turner (Co-PI), Diane Friend (Co-PI). Adoption and Diversification for Agricultural Prosperity and Transformation (ADAPT): Linking AI Technology, Alternative Enterprise, and Well-being in Rural Resilience, October 2025. USDA-AFRI. Total Amount Requested: \$649,993.30.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing (PI). Economic and Behavioral Drivers of Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management Adoption (EB-IPPM), December 2025. USDA-AFRI. Total Amount Requested: \$339,680.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing (PI), Diane Friend (Co-PI). FARM-LIFE: Financial Aftershocks of Retaliatory Markets: Livelihoods, Income Volatility, Farm Stress, and Expectations for Succession, December 2025. USDA-AFRI. Total Amount Requested: \$576,953.00.

Submitted (Not Funded)

- Ugwuanyi, Blessing. (PI), Chumbley, S. B., & Turner, B. (Co-Project Directors). Future-Ready Agriculture: Machine Learning Capacity Building for Agriculture. USDA, November 2024. Total Amount Requested: \$149,913.14. Status: Not Funded.
- Ugwuanyi, Blessing (PI). From Shocks to Signals: Pilot Models for Food Insecurity Risk and Agricultural Resilience, October 2025. USDA-AFRI. Total Amount Requested: \$263,014.32.

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Awarded Internal Grant

- Southern Arkansas University Faculty Research Grant, March 2024: Awarded \$4,430

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

M.S. Thesis Chair and Co-Chair

- White, Natalie (M.S., Agribusiness) - Chair. Thesis: Industrial Metal Price Transmission to U.S. Agricultural Machinery Costs: The Role of Technology-Sector Capacity Utilization.
- Arumalla, Venkata Sai Sravani (M.S., Plant and Soil Science) – Co-Chair. Root Growth and Development of Deficit-Irrigated Roma Tomato.
- Chikapalli, Darshan (M.S., Plant and Soil Science) – Co-Chair. Using Blended Seawater as a Freshwater Conservation Strategy in Agriculture.
- Garcia, Laila (M.S., Environmental Systems Management) – Co-Chair. Effect of Biomass Amendment on Soil Content.

FELLOWSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- USDA–NIFA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Systems Thinking Faculty Fellow (2025–present).
- Certificate in Professional Development in Distance Education, TAMUK Division of Academic Affairs (Spring 2025).
- Completed five webinars in 2025 (Systems Thinking Fellowship and faculty development programs).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Graduate Research Assistantship, Texas Tech University (2015 – 2020)
- Award of Excellence (Graduate Paper Competition), Western Agricultural Economics Association, 2019
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Texas Tech University (2018 – 2019)
- CH Foundation Fellowship Award for Outstanding Incoming Students (2015 – 2019)

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- Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Wyoming (2013 – 2015)
- Distinguished Senate Award for Outstanding First-Class graduate, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria (2010)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Western Agricultural Economics Association (2018 - Present)
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2016 - Present)
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association (2016 – Present)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee:

- Western Agricultural Economics Association (Reviewer)
- Journal for the Advancement of Developing Economies (Reviewer)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCES

- Coordinator/Advisor, Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) Society, Southern Arkansas University Chapter (Fall 2021 – 2024).
 - Organized award ceremonies for top-performing students.
 - Advised the Delta Tau Alpha Society.
 - Promoted scholarships and collegiality among DTA members and non-DTA students.
- Facilitator/Judge, FFA regional contest, 2022 -2024

Academic Advisement and Mentorship (SAU) (August 2020 – May 2024)

- Advised approximately 30 students per semester to support timely degree progress.
- Supported students pursuing employment, graduate school, and professional programs.

Committee Service (SAU)

- Member, Discipline Committee, Southern Arkansas University (August 15, 2023 – 2024)

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- Member, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education faculty search committee (February 2, 2023 – 2024).
- Member, Assistant Professor of Animal Science faculty search committee (March 2, 2023 – 2024).
- Member, Entrepreneurial Access Resource Network Committee (December 1, 2022 – 2024).
 - Tasked with setting up an accessible resource base for upcoming entrepreneurs from Southern Arkansas.
- Member, Assistant Professor Computer Science Faculty Search Committee (September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022).
- Member, Non-Tenure Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity faculty search committee. (September 1, 2021 - October 17, 2022).
- Title IX Investigator, Southern Arkansas University. August 3, 2022 - 2024.
 - Investigate faculty members, staff, or student-reported Title IX violations.

Committee Service (TAMUK)

- University: Administrator Evaluation Committee.
- College: PhD Program Committee.
- Department: Strategic Planning Committee; MSc Agribusiness Program Revival Committee.
- Student Recruitment & Retention: Sponsored SAEA Quiz Bowl team (Spring 2025).
- Leadership: Spearheading TAMUK Delta Tau Alpha (DTA) honor society chapter.
- Undergraduate Mentorship: Guided student research leading to a co-authored paper under review.
- Industry Engagement: Developed partnership with Capital Farm Credit (student loan package projects, industry exposure).

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SKILLS

- Computing/Analytical: Financial modeling, Econometric analysis, Time Series Forecasting, STATA, R, Python, SAS, SQL, Tableau, PySpark, AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Azure, Big Data, Microsoft Office.
- Languages: English (fluent), Igbo (Native Proficiency), Yoruba (fluent), Pidgin (fluent).