

Jordan Chamberlin

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Within CIMMYT's Sustainable Agrifood System Program, I lead a global research team that evaluates trends, drivers and impacts of rural transformation in developing countries. A major thread of this work is focused on the evaluation of extension methods and information technology innovations for guiding on-farm investments and technology change in smallholder systems. This work uses rigorous ex post approaches to evaluating piloted interventions (e.g., randomized control trials), as well as spatially-explicit ex ante modeling work that integrates agronomy, soil science and economics to inform scaling strategies over time and space. Other research activities include work to understand how rapid evolution of rural land, labor and financial services markets are changing the incentives and enabling conditions for on-farm technology change in developing countries. More broadly, my research interests focus on how policies and investments can best influence rural development trajectories towards desired social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Experience

CIMMYT , Principal Scientist	Nairobi, Kenya: 2024 – present
CIMMYT , Senior Scientist	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 2015 – 2021 Nairobi, Kenya: 2022 – 2024
FAO , Economist	Rome, Italy: 2021 – 2022
Michigan State University , Assistant Professor	Lusaka, Zambia: 2013 – 2015
IFPRI , Scientist	Washington, DC: 2001 – 2004 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 2001 – 2008

Education

PhD Michigan State University , Agricultural Economics	Mar 2013
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Publications

Journal Articles

- Chamberlin, J.**, W. J. Burke, and H. Ngoma (2026). "Smallholder farm management under evolving land institutions: Evidence from Zambia". In: *Land Use Policy* 166, p. 108011. doi: [10.1016/j.landusepol.2026.108011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2026.108011) 🔗.
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- Harris, D., K. Mausch, and **J. Chamberlin** (2024). "Land and technology requirements for economically prosperous smallholder farming in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Tanzania". In: *Outlook on Agriculture*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00307270241248667>.
- Jaleta, M., J. V. Silva, V. Ruganzu, S. M. Mvuyekure, E. Mujanama, R. Voss, **J. Chamberlin**, and F. Baudron (2024). "Is agricultural lime a profitable investment for African smallholders? Evidence from Rwanda". In: *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 19.1, pp. 1–18. doi: [10.53936/afjare.2024.19\(1\).1](https://doi.org/10.53936/afjare.2024.19(1).1).
- Mondschein, Z., A. Paliwal, T. S. Sida, **J. Chamberlin**, R. Wang, and M. Jain (2024). "Mapping field-level maize yields in Ethiopian smallholder systems using Sentinel-2 imagery". In: *Remote Sensing* 16.18, p. 3451. doi: [10.3390/rs16183451](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs16183451).
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- Abate, G. T., K. A. Abay, **J. Chamberlin**, Y. Kassim, D. J. Spielman, and M. P. J. Tabe-Ojong (2023). "Digital tools and agricultural market transformation in Africa: Why are they not at scale yet, and what will it take to get there?" In: *Food Policy* 116, p. 102439. doi: [10.1016/j.foodpol.2023.102439](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2023.102439).
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Journal Special Issues

- Abay, K., **J. Chamberlin**, D. Spielman, and P. Chivenge (2025). *Fertilizer and soil health policies in the context of global supply disruptions and economic crises*. Special issue of *Food Policy*. Editors of special issue. URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10WH33V24L>.
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Books

Jayne, T.S., **J. Chamberlin**, and R. Benfica, eds. (2019). *The Transformation of Rural Africa*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-138-32549-4.

Book Chapters

Chamberlin, J. and J. Sumberg (2021). “Are young people transforming the rural economy?” In: *Youth and the Rural Economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Ed. by J. Sumberg. CABI Publishing. Chap. 6, pp. 92–124.

Chamberlin, J., F.K. Yeboah, and J. Sumberg (2021). “Young people and land”. In: *Youth and the Rural Economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Ed. by J. Sumberg. CABI Publishing. Chap. 4, pp. 58–77.

Oosterom, M., **J. Chamberlin**, and J. Sumberg (2021). “Empirical windows on African rural youth”. In: *Youth and the Rural Economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Ed. by J. Sumberg. CABI Publishing. Chap. 2, pp. 23–42.

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RECENT UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND TEACHING

Recent external PhD advisor/committee member service: KU Leuven (Bioeconomics), Leibniz University Hannover (Economics), Wageningen University (Plant Production Systems), Purdue University (Agricultural Economics), University of Minnesota (Applied Economics), Lund University (Geography).

GRANTS

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2024–2025). “Reinvestment: Guiding Acid Soils Management Investments in Africa.” BMGF investment number INV-068374 (PI: Chamberlin; lead proposal) \$1,500,000 USD.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2020–2024). “Guiding Acid Soils Management Investments in Africa (GAIA).” BMGF investment number INV-002829 (PI: Chamberlin; co-lead proposal development) \$5,000,000 USD.

International Food Policy Research Institute (2018–2020). Policies, Institutions and Markets CRP Flagship 2 project “Ongoing transformations in Africa’s rural factor markets: Implications for growth, productivity and welfare.” (PI: Chamberlin) \$240,000 USD.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2019–2020). “Taking Maize Agronomy to Scale in Africa.” (PI: Chamberlin) \$1,300,000 USD.

USAID (2019–2020). Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification: Geospatial and Farming Systems Consortium. “Spatial profitability of alternative production strategies in maize-based smallholder farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa.” (PI: Chamberlin) \$200,000 USD.

CGIAR Gender Platform (2019). “Rural Out-Migration and the Feminization of Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa: A Multi-Country, Mixed-Methods Study.” (PI: Chamberlin) \$50,000 USD.

SKILLS

Human languages: English (native), Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (operational), Amharic (basic), Italian (basic)

Programming languages: R, Stata/Mata