

Promesse Essolema

Graduate Student in Economics | York University

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Research Fields

Primary: International Trade and Regional Integration, Development Economics

Secondary: Digital Economy and Finance, Agricultural and Food Economics, Applied Econometrics

Focus: Empirical analysis of how digital connectivity, financial technology, and trade policy shape trade and welfare.

Education

MA in Economics

York University

Sept 2026 – Present

Toronto, Canada

MSc in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics

University of Guelph

Sept 2022 – Jun 2024

Guelph, Canada

Specialization: International Trade & Development Studies

Thesis: “E-Commerce as a Resilience Strategy: Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Canada’s Agri-Food Trade”

Supervisor: Dr. Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor

Selected coursework: Advanced Microeconomic Theory, International Trade Theory, Economic Growth, Quantitative Methods

BSc in Agribusiness (Agricultural & Resource Economics)

University for Development Studies

Sept 2017 – Sept 2021

Ghana

Distinction: First Class Honours

Working Papers and Publications

Manuscripts Submitted

- **Essolema, P.** & Kobara, Y.M. (2026). “Digital Financial Transactions and Private Sector Credit: The Dominant Role of Banking-Sector Risk.” Submitted to *Journal of African Business*.
- Doni, P., **Essolema, P.**, Kobara, Y.M., & Adjanta, E.V. (2026). “The Savings Effects of Mobile Banking: Evidence from Adoption and Dis-adoption from a Regional Household Panel Data in West Africa.” Submitted to *World Development*.

Works in Progress

- “Internet Connectivity and Bilateral Agri-Food Trade” (with S.K. Afesorgbor)
- “Mobile Banking and Household Welfare: Consumption, Poverty, and the Mobile-Channel Mechanism across the COVID Period in Eight WAEMU Countries” (with Y.M. Kobara, & Doni, P)
- “Modeling Bilateral Tariff Impacts in Integrated Markets: A Vertically Integrated Partial Equilibrium Analysis of the U.S.–Canada Pork Trade Dispute” (with José Nuño)

Policy and Public Writing

- Afesorgbor, S.K., **Essolema, P.**, & Welage, N.U. (2025). “U.S. tariff threat: How it will impact different products and industries.” *The Conversation*. [\[Link\]](#)

Research Experience

Research Associate

Jun 2024 – Aug 2026

Department of Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics

University of Guelph, Canada

- Conducted policy-oriented research on the preparedness and resilience of Canada's and Ontario's agri-food sector to tariff, trade-dispute, animal-disease, and supply-chain shocks, across projects supported by the **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA)**.
- Co-developed partial-equilibrium simulation models for Ontario, Quebec, and Western Canada to evaluate bilateral tariff disruptions, disease outbreaks, and trade diversion.
- Constructed and harmonized high-frequency trade, price, production, and market datasets for Canadian pork, livestock, dairy, and broader agri-food sectors.
- Led and contributed to econometric studies using gravity models, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, dynamic panels, and high-dimensional fixed effects; co-authored manuscripts and policy outputs.

Research and Teaching Assistant

Oct 2021 – Sept 2022

Department of Agricultural and Food Economics

University for Development Studies, Ghana

- Contributed to field research on sustainable agricultural practices, rural development, and climate adaptation in Northern Ghana; collected and analyzed household survey data in STATA.
- Led tutorial sessions for Development Economics and Data Analysis courses.

Conference Presentations

- Presented “Digital Trade and Agri-Food Resilience: Evidence from Canada” at the **Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference**, Ottawa (2024, 2025), and the **Canadian Agricultural Economics Society Annual Meeting**, Winnipeg (2024).

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2026

Department of Economics

York University, Toronto

- ECON 1530 (Introductory Mathematical Economics I).

Teaching & Research Assistant

Oct 2022 – Jun 2024

University of Guelph

Canada

- Instructed tutorials for FARE*3250 (Food Security, Nutrition and International Development), FARE*1300 (Poverty, Food & Hunger), and IDEV*1000 (Development and Global Inequalities); 150+ students.
- Developed problem sets and grading rubrics; provided one-on-one academic consultation.

Awards and Scholarships

- **York Graduate Scholarship** and **York University Graduate Fellowship** (2026) – York University
- **George Morris Scholarship Award** (2022) – University of Guelph

Technical Skills and Languages

- **Software:** STATA (advanced), R (tidyverse, fixest, plm, gravity), LaTeX.
- **Methods:** PPML gravity, high-dimensional fixed effects, panel and dynamic panel methods, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, time series, partial-equilibrium simulation, network analysis.
- **Data:** UN Comtrade, CEPII BACI, WITS, Global Trade Atlas, World Bank, Statistics Canada, EHCVM household surveys.
- **Languages:** English (fluent), French (native).

Service and Leadership

- **National Judiciary Board Chairman**, Agribusiness Students Association of Ghana (2019–2021).