

Leopoldo Andres Dimas Rodriguez

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EDUCATION

B.Sc. Agribusiness Management Engineering
Zamorano University, Francisco Morazán

Honduras, Nov 2025

M.Sc. Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

USA, May 2028

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kansas State University
Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant – MSc program
Department of Agricultural Economics

Manhattan, Kansas, present -May 2028

- Pursue an MSc in Agricultural Economics with a focus on applied economic research and quantitative methods.
- Support faculty research projects through data management, analysis, and literature review.
- Assist with undergraduate instruction and course-related activities in agricultural economics.
- Apply econometric and statistical methods to agricultural and economic research.

The Ohio State University
Research Assistant – pre-doc intern program
Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

Columbus, Ohio, Aug-Nov 2025

- Collaborate on academic publications and applied research projects.
- Conduct data analysis related to agricultural economics, sustainability, and rural development.
- Course auditing at Ph.D. level on Microeconomic Theory (Econ 8711-12).

Zamorano University
Full-time undergraduate student
Department of Agribusiness Management

Honduras, 2022-2025

Zamorano University is recognized as a leading agricultural institution in Latin America, renowned for its hands-on educational model and strong emphasis on sustainable agribusiness and rural development.

- Completed Undergraduate thesis titled: “*Hedonic Price Analysis of Central American Specialty Coffee Auctions from 2016 to 2024*”
 - Collected and compiled auction data from Central American specialty coffee competitions spanning 2016–2024.
 - Applied hedonic price modeling to identify the influence of quality attributes, origin, and buyer characteristics on final prices.
 - Interpreted econometric results to assess market trends and value determinants within the regional specialty coffee sector.
- Worked in multiple applied research laboratories, particularly in the Sustainable Consumption and Neuromarketing Laboratory.

- Completed extensive hands-on training in the university's productive units, including crop production, livestock, agro-industrial processing and environmental development:

Field Work:

- **Molecular Diagnosis:** Identified plant diseases through laboratory analysis and implemented biological control techniques.
- **Tissue Culture:** Propagated plants in vitro and maintained sterile conditions in growth chambers.
- **Plant Health:** Monitored pest/disease incidence and applied integrated management practices.
- **Soil Management and Conservation:** Performed soil analyses and implemented conservation tillage practices.
- **Irrigation Systems:** Installed and maintained drip and sprinkler systems for efficient water use.
- **Organic and Regenerative Agriculture:** Cultivated vegetables under organic standards to evaluate productivity and soil quality.
- **Post-Harvest Handling:** Implemented quality control protocols for sorting, washing, and packaging vegetables.
- **Horticultural Processing:** Operated machinery for cutting, freezing, and labeling horticultural products.
- **Seed Processing:** Cleaned, classified, and treated seeds to ensure purity and germination standards.
- **Biodiversity Club at Zamorano University (2022–2025):** Promoted environmental conservation initiatives and student-led biodiversity research.

Management:

- **Farm Management:** Prepared production budgets and evaluated profitability of agricultural enterprises.
- **Finance:** Analyzed cost structures and sustainable finance production.
- **Digital Marketing:** Designed promotional materials and basic campaigns for agribusiness ventures.
- **Neuromarketing:** Designed sensory and behavioral evaluations to understand consumer preferences for agricultural products.
- **Data Collection:** Developed structured surveys and sampling methods for farm and market data.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Analyzed experimental data using Excel, Stata and Power BI to support agribusiness decisions
- **Entrepreneurship Club at Zamorano University (2024–2025):** Supported workshops and student projects focused on innovation and agribusiness development.

Regional Congress on Economics, Entrepreneurship and Business 2024

Honduras, 2024

Organizing Committee Member and Master of Ceremonies

Annual academic event focused on innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship within the agribusiness sector, organized by students and faculty from Zamorano University.

- Served as a member of the organizing board responsible for planning and implementing the regional congress.
- Coordinated communication and logistics with invited speakers, sponsors, and university authorities.
- Led the opening and closing ceremonies, presenting before a multidisciplinary audience of academics, professionals, and students.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA COVERAGE

Villacis, A. & **Dimas, L.** (2026). “*Valentine’s Day and Chocolate in 2026: Love, Prices, and the Cocoa Market*”. Economic outlook for Ohio Agriculture, Extension Bulletin. The Ohio State University, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE). Available at: aede.osu.edu/extension/bulletins

Villacis, A., Ñaupari, P., & **Dimas, L.** (2025). “*Trick-or-Treat Trends: U.S. Chocolate Market Panorama for Halloween 2025*”. Economic outlook for Ohio Agriculture, Extension Bulletin. The Ohio State University, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE). Available at: aede.osu.edu/bulletins/chocolate2025

- *Media Covered in:*

The Guardian (2025). Halloween candy prices rising, spooked by Trump’s tariffs and climate change. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/30/halloween-candy-prices-trump-tariffs-climate-change>.

AOL: <https://www.aol.com/articles/halloween-candy-prices-rising-spooked-110056686.html>

The Independent (2025). Halloween candy prices have nearly doubled in five years as sticker shock continues to hit America. Available at: <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/halloween-candy-prices-inflation-b2854530.html>.

Yahoo! Finance Canada: <https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/halloween-candy-prices-nearly-doubled-143839545.html>

AOL: <https://www.aol.co.uk/news/halloween-candy-prices-nearly-doubled-143839051.html?guccounter=1>

Newswav: https://newswav.com/article/halloween-candy-prices-have-nearly-doubled-in-five-years-as-sticker-shock-c-A2510_5fhlhw

Inkl: <https://www.inkl.com/news/halloween-candy-prices-have-nearly-doubled-in-five-years-as-sticker-shock-continues-to-hit-america>

NBCnews (2025). Data shows Halloween candy prices are even higher in 2025 than they were in 2024. Available at: <https://www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/data-shows-halloween-candy-prices-are-even-higher-2025-2024-rcna238904>.

Yahoo! finance: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-experts-halloween-candy-prices-090000509.html?guccounter=1>

AOL: <https://www.aol.com/articles/graphic-halloween-candy-startling-rise-090000678.html>

msn: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/graphic-halloween-candy-s-startling-rise-in-price/ar-AA1Ppnog>

Villacis, A., Ñaupari, P., & **Dimas, L.** (2025). “*Structural Trends in the U.S. Coffee Market*”. Economic Outlook for Ohio Agriculture, Extension Bulletin. The Ohio State University, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE). Available at: aede.osu.edu/bulletins

Dimas, L., Calix, M., Sandoval, S. (2025). *Hedonic Price Analysis of Central American Specialty Coffee Auctions from 2016 to 2024*. In *Proceedings of the LACCEI International Multiconference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (LEIRD)*. Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI). <https://dx.doi.org/10.18687/LEIRD2025.1.1.867>

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Dimas, L., Calix, M., Sandoval, S. (December 1-2, 2025). *Hedonic Price Analysis of Central American Specialty Coffee Auctions from 2016 to 2024* [conference presentation]. LACCEI International Multiconference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (LEIRD), Cartagena, Colombia. <https://dx.doi.org/10.18687/LEIRD2025.1.1.867>

Dimas, L., Calix, M., Sandoval, S. (October 24-25, 2025). *Hedonic Price Analysis of Central American Specialty Coffee Auctions from 2016 to 2024* [scientific poster presentation]. The 11th Zamorano Symposium in the U.S., The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), Wooster, Ohio, USA.

Dimas, L., Calix, M., Sandoval, S. (November 14, 2025). *Hedonic Price Analysis of Central American Specialty Coffee Auctions from 2016 to 2024* [scientific poster presentation]. 2025 Zamorano Research Conference, Francisco Morazan, Honduras.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native), English (C1 (CEFR), certified by TOEFL), Japanese (JLPT N4 (Basic level))

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Courses

*Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas – **Forecasting Science*** (April-June 2026)

Developed analytical skills in forecasting methods, trend analysis, and data interpretation for decision-making and business planning.

*Harvard ManageMentor – **Global Collaboration*** (Jun 2025)

Completed professional training focused on cross-cultural teamwork, communication, and leadership.

*Temixa Consulting – **Business Intelligence with Excel and Power BI*** (May 2024)

Developed data analytics and visualization skills for evidence-based decision-making in agribusiness.

*Harvard ManageMentor – **Business Plan Development*** (Feb 2024)

Learned to design and evaluate sustainable business models in agricultural and agribusiness contexts.

Seminars and Conferences

*Participant – **Le Salon de l'Agriculture*** (Paris, France, 2025)

Attended international sessions on agricultural innovation, sustainability, and global market trends.

*Participant – **1st International Rice Expo-Convention*** (San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 2024)

Participated in discussions and exhibitions on advances in rice production and trade competitiveness.

HONORS

***High Honors Student** – Zamorano University Top Academic Standing* (2022–2025)

Maintained academic excellence with a GPA ranking above the 90th percentile among all class members.

***Department Representative** – Agribusiness Management Program, Zamorano University* (Aug 2025)

Selected by faculty to represent the Department of Agribusiness Management in outreach and academic events.

***Class Vice President** – Agribusiness Management Class of 2025* (2024–2025)

Elected to coordinate class initiatives, funding management, professional development activities, and communication with faculty.

REFERENCES

Alexis Villacis

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA
villacis.9@osu.edu

Luis Sandoval

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA
luis.sandoval@ttu.edu

Arie Sanders

Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, Department of Agribusiness Management
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