

Lauren Benavidez

1838 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
[LinkedIn](#)

Phone: 785-770-5819
Email: lsbenavi@ksu.edu

Education

Kansas State University: January 2021 – July 2022 (Expected)

MSc. Agricultural Economics

Thesis Project: *International Trade Impact on Food Security among selected Low and Low-Middle Income Countries*

Pan-American Agricultural School, Zamorano: January 2012 – December 2015

BSc. Agribusiness Management

Thesis: *Measuring the effects of DR-CAFTA over the exports of meat from Nicaragua to U.S.*

Experience: Research and Teaching

Kansas State University | Agricultural Economics Department: January 2021 - Present

Graduate Research Assistant:

- ✓ Research focused on International Trade and Food Security, Major Advisor: Dr. Tian Xia.

Kansas State University | Agricultural Economics Department: January 2021 – May 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

- ✓ Teaching assistant for AGE 315: Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems course, Dr. Logan Britton.

Kansas State University | Agricultural Economics Department: January 2015 – April 2015

Research Intern:

- ✓ Research work on international trade field, presenting weekly reports of literature review and collected data on the topic of wheat exports from U.S. to Asian countries.

Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School: 2013 – 2014

Teaching assistant:

Support on preparing course materials, advising junior students on final class project.

- ✓ Marketing Class (One trimester)
- ✓ International Trade I Class (One trimester)

Experience: Industry

Cafetalera Castellon S.A.: February 2016 – December 2020

Commercialization Manager:

Cafetalera Castellon is an industrial coffee processing company into final products (Roasted and ground coffee and cold brew coffee). The principal activities included:

- ✓ Managed all company import and export procedures.
- ✓ Managed relations (pricing and quality requirements) of raw material and packaging suppliers.
- ✓ Performed costing and pricing analysis for new and current products, considering material cost fluctuations, benchmarking of the target market, duties analysis and margin negotiations.

- ✓ Reviewed, analyzed and monthly reported to Administrative Manager and General Manager the financial statements of all separate business lines of the company.
- ✓ Provided support on potential customer's negotiations including work on private label products biddings and request of proposals.
- ✓ Supported Certifications Manager in the maintenance of the company's quality system and annual GFSI audits from procurement point of view.

Honors and Awards

2021: 1st place on AAEA Graduate Case Study competition, team representing Kansas State University
2021: 1st place on IFAMA Global Case Study competition, team representing Kansas State University, Graduate Level Category
2021-2022: Student Fellow of the Center of Risk Management, Education and Research, Kansas State University
2020: Assistantship by The Agricultural Economics department, Kansas State University
2015: Meritorious thesis by The Agribusiness Management department, Zamorano
2012: Full Scholarship for undergraduate studies by Dotal Fund of Zamorano, Zamorano

Publications

Calderon, M. and **Benavidez, L.** "Trade Across Borders and GDP: Are correlated variables? The Case of two selected countries in Central America", 2018 *Journal Review of Business Research*, International Academy of Business and Economics (IABE) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.18374/RBR-18-1.3>

Calderon, M. and **Benavidez, L.** "Road Selection for Trading Improvement: How to Select a Route for Product Transportation? The Case of a Coffee Producer in a Developing Country", 2017 *European Journal of Management*, International Academy of Business and Economics (IABE) – <http://www.iabe-doi.org/iabe-DOI/article.aspx?DOI=EJM-17-2.2>

Calderon, M. and **Benavidez, L.** "Measuring The Effects of Free Trade Agreements Over World Trade: The Case Of Dr-Cafta And Beef Exports From Nicaragua To United States" 2016, *International Journal of Business Strategy (IJBS)*, International Academy of Business and Economics (IABE) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.18374/IJBS-16-2.2>

Calderon, M. and **Benavidez, L.** "Do the free trade agreements have a negative effect over the consumers in the exporting country? The case of DR-CAFTA, Nicaragua and beef exports to U.S." 2015, *International Journal of Business Strategy (IJBS)*, International Academy of Business and Economics (IABE) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.18374/IJBS-15-3.1>

Conference Presentations

Benavidez L. and Xia T., "A Gravity Model of Central American Organic Coffee Trade with The U.S.". Oral Presentation at The Food Distribution Research Society Annual Meeting, Ag Summit 2021.

Submitted Papers

Benavidez L. and Xia T., "A Gravity Model of Central American Organic Coffee Trade with The U.S.", 2021 Target paper: *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, Food Distribution Research Society.

Languages

- ✓ Spanish: Native language
- ✓ English: Advanced (96 TOEFL iBT)

Software Skills

- ✓ R-Studio
- ✓ Microsoft Office
- ✓ Stata

Courses, seminars and Participations

2016-2019: Participation on different trade shows representing Cafetalera Castellon S.A. company:

- ✓ Expo West Trade Show (Anaheim, CA), PLMA (Private Label Manufacturers Association) Trade Show (Chicago, IL) and Food Taipei (Taipei, Taiwan)

2014: CREAN (Regional Congress of Economic and Business Administration), Zamorano.

Extracurricular activities

2021: Representative of Kansas State University subchapter on the AGEAP-US: Zamorano Alumni in US.

2021: Member of the Case Study Club and the GSAE Club (Graduate Students in Agricultural economics), Kansas State University

2012-2015 Participation on Nicaraguan cultural dance representation at the Pan-American festival, Zamorano, Honduras.

2013-2014 Participation on Training of Class 2016 and Class 2017, Zamorano, Honduras.