

## RAFAEL ISIDRO PARRA-PEÑA S.

Carrera 13 A # 127 A – 21 Apt 503, Bogotá, Colombia [rparrapena@gmail.com](mailto:rparrapena@gmail.com) +57 (317) 656 9289

• @RafaelParraPena [in https://co.linkedin.com/in/rafaeliparrapena](https://co.linkedin.com/in/rafaeliparrapena) <https://sites.google.com/view/rafaparrapena/home>

---

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom 2014-2019  
Doctor of Philosophy (Dphil in Economics) Thesis: “Three essays on conflict and climate effects in Colombia”

**M.A. in International Economics**, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom 2007-2008  
MA Thesis: “Industrial agglomerations and trade: a glance of Colombia from space”

**M.Sc. in Economics**, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia 2003-2005

**B.A. in Economics, plus Option in Management**, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia 1999-2003

**Teaching:** Universidad de Los Andes, Faculty of Economics, Bogotá, Colombia 2008-2012  
Course designed and taught: “Applied econometrics for economic development”

**Other international courses:** at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL, MIT), ECLAC-United Nations, Harvard University, Universidad of Uruguay, and Virginia Tech University.

---

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Project Director and Consultant**, Fedesarrollo (as an **associate research fellow**) and the World Bank, Bogotá, Colombia.  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2020-Present

Project Director, The Private Competitiveness Council (CPC) and Swisscontact (2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2020 – present)

- Project “Boosting Agricultural Productivity in Colombia”: assess the performance of agricultural policies and provide recommendations to address key challenges for the future. In addition, one of the main objective is to establish a roadmap for the Cocoa supply value chain which include specific actions to boost productivity. Project Beneficiaries are: the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), the National Planning Department (DNP), the Colombian Presidential Council for Competitiveness and the Agency “Productive Colombia” attached to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Government of Colombia.

Consultant, World Bank, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, LAC region (1<sup>st</sup> semester 2020)

- Contribute as a co-author of the Implementation Completion and Results (ICR) Report of the “Colombia Mainstreaming Sustainable Cattle Ranching (CMSCR)” project. The project activities focused on creating conditions for supporting the transformation of livestock production in selected areas of Colombia, from inefficient and extensive production systems towards sustainable systems (Silvopastoral Systems—SPS) that are more productive, climate resilient, biodiversity and carbon friendly.

**Director of the Sustainable Rural Development Unit**, National Planning Department (DNP), Government of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia

January 2018-1<sup>st</sup> January 2020

- Design, promote and assess rural and agricultural development policies in Colombia
- Contribute to formulate the Colombian National Development Plan
- Lead the “Pacts for growth”, known as “Pactos por el Crecimiento” (in Spanish) promoted by the Colombian Vice-Presidential Office, for some selected and promissory agricultural products. For example, one Pact sought to generate jobs in the cocoa sector economy, by supporting entrepreneurship and internationalization of the cocoa sector.
- Coordinate public investments in the agricultural sector
- Lead the elaboration of public policy documents (CONPES) for the agricultural sector
- Managing a team of circa 30 people, including two deputies
- Others related with agricultural economics and rural development public policy

- **Board Member (some selected institutions):** Agrosavia, ICA, UPRA, ANT, IGEC and CCI

**Director of the Centre for Coffee, Regional and Business Studies (CRECE),** Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC), Bogotá and Manizales, Colombia

October 2016-January 2018

- Overall responsibility for strategic leadership and direction of a research program to achieve the organisational vision, goals and objectives of the CRECE Board, which includes the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation.
- Lead the operational day-to-day activities and lift the portfolio to a new level of operational excellence and effectiveness.
- Responsible for all aspects of management and administration, its staff and consultants.

**Economist (summer period), followed by a consultant post,** International Finance Corporation (IFC), The World Bank, Washington, DC, United States of America

May 2012-Jun 2013

- Lead analysis on investment climate reforms concerning impacts on key macroeconomic variables such as job creation, domestic investment and/or FDI inflows.

**Policy Analyst (research associate),** International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), member of the GGIAR, Cali, Colombia

May 2011-May 2016

- Collaborate closely with the public sector, selected donor interventions and key actors to develop capacities to evaluate policy effects, draw lessons and build feedback loops so that insights are included in future public or donor policy design.
- Development of original research within the context of an interdisciplinary team, and publication of results together with support staff and colleagues.
- Assist in the design and preparation of additional grant requests for similar work on public policy in Central America, the Caribbean or the Andean Region of Latin America.

**Economist,** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) of the United Nations (UN), Bogotá, Colombia, and Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Several assignments according to the UN contract regulations: July to December 2002 (professional internship), October 2004 to August 2006, May to September 2008, January to October 2010, February to May 2011 (G6-UN staff contract) and September to November 2013 (external consultant)

Main tasks:

- Produce economic analysis, compile macroeconomic and social statistics, work on reports and presentations, estimate econometric models, liaise with government officials, and convey policy recommendations
- Main projects: elaborate the competitiveness reports for departments and a city of Colombia
- Internship at the Executive Secretary Office in Santiago de Chile: summarize research results on specific topics for incorporation in presentations, working papers, and policy briefs of the Executive Secretary Dr. Jose Antonio Ocampo (2002).

**Research Associate,** Center of Strategy and Competitiveness, School of Business, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

January - December 2009

Main projects:

- Doing Business in Colombia 2010, FIAS-IFC, World Bank Group: Contributed to calculation of “registering property” indicator for 21 cities in Colombia using IFC-World Bank methodology.
- Cluster Initiative, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB): I was involved in industrial clusters development and business climate projects

**Research Assistant,** United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Bogotá, Colombia

March –October 2004

- I assisted drafting the “United Nations Millennium Development Goals Colombia Report 2005”, including the collection and calculation of socioeconomic statistics.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

**External consultant in economics**, National Planning Department (DNP), Government of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia  
July 2004- March 2005

- I built a tax policy model to attract FDI in LAC countries (empirical testing using a panel data).

---

## SKILLS

*Computer:* STATA for econometrics and Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, and Power Point)

*Languages:* Spanish (native language), English (fluent) and some Italian (fair)

*Soft:* Strategic planning, project management, management, team leadership, teamwork, negotiation, leadership, seniority level

---

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

- Presentations in seminars, conferences, workshops at FAO, IFAD, OECD, LACEA, LASA, HiCN, RIMISP, ECLAC, Colombian Economy Congress, Faculty of Economics, University of the Andes, and many others.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles, working papers and policy briefs

#### Rafael Isidro Parra-Peña S.,

- With Rafael Puyana and Federico Yepes “Boosting Agricultural Productivity in Colombia – “Análisis de la productividad del sector agropecuario en Colombia y su impacto en temas como: encadenamientos productivos, sostenibilidad e internacionalización, en el marco del Programa Colombia más competitiva”, forthcoming 2021
- With Anna Roumani and Lucia Amiri-Talesh “Colombia: Mainstreaming Sustainable Cattle Ranching Project” Implementation Completion and Results Report (Report No: ICR00005139), The World Bank, December 17, 2020
- With Barry Reilly “Forest and Conflict”, in WP Series Economic Archives No. 492 (Bogotá: National Planning Department), 2019
- With Barry Reilly “Climate Variability and Theft in Colombia” in WP Series Economic Archives No. 481 (Bogotá: National Planning Department), 2019
- With Barry Reilly and Mark Lundy “Do violent incidents affects the duration of agribusiness contracts of smallholder farmers? Evidence from Colombia" in Cano, Carlos Gustavo, Ana María, María Teresa Ramírez and Ana María Tribin, “El Desarrollo Equitativo, Competitivo y Sostenible del Sector Agropecuario en Colombia” Central Bank of Colombia, 2016
- With Mark Lundy, Jana Bischler, Bilver Adrian Astorquiza, John Jairo Hurtado “Public private partnerships: only for the well-off? Evidence from the rural productive partnership project in Colombia” in WP Series Economic Archives No. 447 (Bogotá: National Planning Department)
- With Professor Barry Reilly “Do violent incidents affects the duration of agribusiness contracts of smallholder farmers? Evidence from Colombia”. 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of my Dphil in Economics, Thesis. Published in a Book of the Central Bank of Colombia (Banco de la República).
- With Mark Lundy, Carmen Lucia Jaramillo, Alexandra Amrein and John Hurtado. “Alianzas Productivas: Un instrumento efectivo de inclusión productiva, versátil ante diferentes condiciones de vulnerabilidad y contextos regionales” [Public-Private Productive Partnerships: an effective tool for social inclusion, flexible to different conditions and regional contexts]. Policy Brief, CIAT of CGIAR. 2015
- With Juan Carlos Ramírez, Laura González A. y Andrés Corredor F. “Escalafón de la competitividad de los departamentos en Colombia 2012-2013” [Colombian Regional Competitiveness Report 2012-2013 Edition], Studies and Perspectives Series 2014 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).
- With Massimiliano Santini “Investment Climate Reforms and Job Creation”, View Point on Public Policy, International Finance Corporation, World Bank. Internal/confidential document.
- With Liliana Ordoñez and Camilo Acosta “Pobreza, Brechas y Ruralidad en Colombia” [Poverty, Gaps and Rurality in Colombia]. Coyuntura Económica Fedesarrollo 2013
- With Juan Carlos Ramírez, “Metrópolis de Colombia. Aglomeraciones y desarrollo” [Cities of Colombia. Agglomerations and Development]. Studies and Perspectives Series No. 23” (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2013

- With Juan Carlos Ramírez “Variaciones en torno al escalafón de competitividad departamental en Colombia” [Colombian Regional Competitiveness Ranking. Some variations], Studies and Perspectives Series No. 26 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2013
- With Mark Lundy and Vail Miller, "Colombian Supply Chains: How Public Policy Shapes Agriculture" Policy Brief, CIAT of CGIAR. 2012
- With Liliana Ordoñez and Camilo Acosta “Policies for Bridging the Urban-Rural Gap in Colombia”. Policy Brief, CIAT of CGIAR. 2012
- With Juan Carlos Ramírez “Escalafón de la competitividad de los departamentos en Colombia 2009” [Colombian Regional Competitiveness Report 2009 Edition], Studies and Perspectives Series 2010 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).
- With Juan Carlos Ramírez “Escalafón de la competitividad de los departamentos en Colombia 2006” [Colombian Regional Competitiveness Report-2006 Edition], Studies and Perspectives Series No. 19 2009 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).
- With Juan Carlos Ramírez and Osorio Horacio, “Escalafón de la competitividad de los departamentos en Colombia 2000-2004” [Colombian Regional Competitiveness Report], Studies and Perspectives Series No. 16 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2007.
- With Fernando Mesa Parra, “Política tributaria como instrumento competitivo para captar la inversión extranjera directa: caso de América Latina” [Tax Policy as a Competitiveness Measure to Attract Foreign Direct Investment: The Latin American Experience], Macroeconomic Archives No. 313 (Bogotá: National Planning Department). 2006.

### **Chapters in Books, institutional reports and specific contribution**

- National Development Plan 2018-2022 “*Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad*”, National Planning Department (DNP), Bogotá, Colombia.
- World Bank, *Doing Business in Colombia 2010*, Washington, D.C.: World Bank (please see: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/documents/subnational/DB10-Subnational-Report-Colombia.pdf>).
- Centro de Estrategia y Competitividad de la Universidad de los Andes, *Fortalecimiento de la Competitividad de Clusters*, Componente transversal del programa de apoyo a la competitividad de clusters BID-FOMIN [Clusters Competitiveness Strengthening, transversal component to support cluster competitiveness of IADB-FOMIN], Forthcoming 2011.
- United Nations Development Program, *Hacia una Colombia equitativa e incluyente: informe de Colombia sobre los objetivos del milenio* [Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Colombia: Millennium Development Goals Report for Colombia], (Bogotá: United Nations and National Planning Department of Colombia). 2005.
- Bonilla, M. G., Ramirez, J.C., “Elementos estratégicos para afianzar y mejorar la competitividad del Valle del Cauca” [Strategy to Improve the Competitiveness of the Valle del Cauca Region of Colombia], Studies and Perspectives Series No. 9 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2006.
- Ramírez, J.C., “Temas no comerciales en la negociación comercial entre Colombia y Estados Unidos” [Non-Trade Issues in the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement], Studies and Perspectives Series No. 6 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2005.
- Ramírez, J.C., “Las negociaciones comerciales: Del Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas (ALCA) a un tratado de libre comercio (TLC) con Estados Unidos” [Trade Negotiations: From the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) toward a Free Trade Agreement with the United States], Series Studies and Perspectives Series No. 5 (Bogotá: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). 2005.

### **Highlighted articles in national/colombian newspapers**

- ECLAC, U.N, Colombian Office, “Competitividad regional: los rezagados aún no despegan” [Regional competitiveness: the ones that are left behind still don’t catch up], Portafolio (Colombia).
- Parra-Peña, R. I., “Capacidad de Innovar: Un Desafío Regional” [Capacity to Innovate: A Regional Challenge], Portafolio (Colombia)

### **References**

- References available on request.

## **RAFAEL ISIDRO PARRA-PEÑA SOMOZA**

### **Profile summary**

Dr. Rafael Isidro Parra-Peña holds a Dphil (Ph.D.) in Economics from the University of Sussex, in Brighton, United Kingdom. He also has a Master of Arts in International Economics from the University of Sussex, another Master and an Undergraduate Degree in Economics from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá.

During 2020 Dr. Rafael Isidro Parra-Peña S. has been working as Project Director and Consultant for Fedesarrollo, the Private Competitiveness Council, Swisscontact and the World Bank (Agriculture and Food Global Practice, LAC region). Between January 2018 and January 2020 Dr. Parra-Peña S. has been Director of the Directorate of Sustainable Rural Development (DDRS) of the National Planning Department (DNP), Government of Colombia, in Bogotá. He has previously served as Executive Director of the Center for Regional Coffee and Business Studies (CRECE), and as an economist at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, the International Finance Corporation (IFC- member of the World Bank Group) in Washington DC, and in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the United Nations in the offices of Santiago de Chile and in Bogotá, Colombia. Rafael has also been a consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the National Planning Department (DNP). Likewise, he has served as external lecturer of the Faculty of Economics at the University of the Andes in Bogotá.