

## SUMMARY

### **Akanksha Bajaj, Class of 2012**

**Description:** This research project seeks to understand why Indian farmers exposed to rainfall risk are reluctant to purchase formal insurance products that mitigate those risks. It includes exogenous natural variation in how well (informally) insured Indian farmers already are that stems from their membership-by birth into their sub-caste based risk-sharing network, with designed (randomized) variation in the trustworthiness of the insurance seller and the price of the contract offered.

**Responsibilities:** I was responsible for designing the baseline questionnaire and file the application to the Human Subjects Committee at Yale. I also got an opportunity to interact with other researchers involved in the project and I helped develop the marketing material for selling the insurance product in India.

**What I learned:** I was part of the starting up process of the project and in addition to learning to build a fool-proof survey questionnaire, I learned what a research start-up requires. I also learned to design insurance marketing materials.

**Opinion of SRO Experience:** I had a positive SRO experience. I enjoyed working with Professor Mobarak. He spent time explaining the details of the project to me and help me develop the necessary skills to ask the right questions in the best way possible.