

## Profile

BINA AGARWAL is Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK. Prior to this, she was Director and Professor of Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, where she continues to be affiliated. Educated at the Universities of Cambridge and Delhi, she has held distinguished teaching and research positions at many universities, including Harvard, Princeton, Michigan, Minnesota (as the Winton Chair), and the New York University School of Law. She was Harvard's first Daniel Ingalls Visiting Professor and later a Research Fellow at the Ash Institute, Kennedy School of Government. She has also been a fellow of Radcliffe's Bunting Institute at Harvard.

Agarwal's research contributions cover both theory and empirical analysis, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged. An economist with a keen interest in interdisciplinary and intercountry explorations, her publications include 12 books and 84 academic papers. She writes especially from a political economy and gender perspective on diverse but interconnected subjects, such as property, land rights and livelihoods; environmental governance, sustainable development and collective action; agriculture, technology and food security; poverty and institutional transformation; legal change; and intersecting inequalities.

Her pioneering work on gender inequality in property and land, as well as on environmental issues, has had global impact. Among her best known works is [A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia](#) (Cambridge University Press, 1994) which was awarded the A.K. Coomaraswamy Book Prize 1996; the [Edgar Graham Book Prize 1996](#); and the K. H. Batheja Award 1996. The jury of the Edgar Graham prize called it 'a superb analysis', 'a classic landmark work of reference', and a 'lasting milestone' that would benefit a vast segment of the world's disadvantaged women. Her writings placed the issue of women's land rights centrally on the agenda of governments, civil society groups, and international agencies, and the issue is now included in the UN's sustainable development goals.

In her subsequent work, [Gender and Green Governance](#) (Oxford University Press 2010), Agarwal explores the impact of women's presence on forest governance and conservation, empirically demonstrating positive outcomes on both counts. Endorsing the book, Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom wrote: 'Bina Agarwal has crafted a book of central importance in today's world. ... With analytical rigour and originality, Agarwal bridges major gaps in our understanding of the difference women can make, when they are actively involved in forest governance.' Reviewers have praised this book as a 'tour de force', 'an extraordinarily rich mine of hypotheses and a model of careful testing', and 'a magisterial work of astounding erudition'. In 2016, Oxford University Press also published a three volume compendium of her selected papers, entitled *Gender Challenges*, which has been commended for its 'intellectual breadth, penetrating insightfulness, methodological firmness, and theoretical contributions'.

An original thinker and policy advocate, Agarwal brings to her work insights from both theory and field experience. In 2005, she spearheaded a successful campaign for the comprehensive amendment of the Hindu Inheritance law in India to make it gender equal. She also writes on policy matters for India's leading newspapers.

Agarwal has been [President of the International Society for Ecological Economics](#), Vice-President of the International Economic Association, and President of the International Association for Feminist Economics. She has served on the Boards of many international organisations, including the Global Development Network, UNRISD (Geneva), the UN Committee for Development Policy (New York), and the Future Earth Science Committee. She is currently a member of International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), and on the editorial boards of many academic journals. In 2016 she was elected an international member of the prestigious Accademia dei Lincei, Italy. She also holds honorary doctorates from the [Institute of Social Studies](#) in the Netherlands and the [University of Antwerp](#) in Belgium.

Agarwal has received many honours for her work. In 2002, she received the [Malcolm Adiseshiah award](#) for 'Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies', and in 2005 the Ramesh Chandra award for 'Outstanding Contributions to Agricultural Economics'. In 2008, Agarwal was honoured with a [Padma Shri](#) by the President of India for her contributions to education; and in 2010 she received the [Leontief Prize](#) from Tufts University 'for advancing the frontiers of economic thought.' She was also awarded the Order of agricultural merit (officer) by the Government of France in 2016. And in 2017 she received the [Agropolis Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize](#) for an 'Outstanding Career in Agricultural Development'.