

**Name:** Félix Sebastián Riera

**Country of Origin:** Argentina

**Finished SIA:** 2012

Short-bio

Félix Sebastián Riera is a former economist from Mendoza, a semi-arid province in the west of Argentina. He grew up in the arid Andes of Argentina; where the water law is older than the constitution and the resource is considered vital for economic development. His professional career has been strongly dedicated to deal with rural development projects that seek to improve the access to quality water and benchmark the resource management against scarcity.

Graduated in Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (UNCuyo) focused his professional career in the agricultural sector and extended his knowledge through the joint GWDG-Talca SIA Programme with agribusiness and rural development economics focus.

Since the joint SIA Programme at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in Germany and Universidad de Talca in Chile, I became intimate aware about the job that international organizations do worldwide. This connection became more closely during my field research in Southern Eastern Africa.

While the early stage of the master Programme provided interesting insights of applied science in the agribusiness in Chile; the second part of the Programme had a greater scientific focus into the developing world.

The Programme allowed me to not only to extend my knowledge into world's development critical agenda but also to approach to the society from my professional activity, how to narrow the gaps between scientific work and practical issues.

This allowed me to experience one of the greatest human memories I have participated, that was my master thesis work in South-East Africa. My internship at ICRISAT in Malawi did not only allowed me to contribute with my knowledge on institutional economics to the region's development but provided me with the highest feedback of life-long lessons, understanding of the critical stages of development and strong appreciation for happiness.

Later, as a multi-functional consultant, I was involved in rural development projects at different stages. As a FAO Argentina National Consultant, I analyzed the agro-social and economic feasibility of irrigation projects nationwide; seeking to improve the process of adding value to regional economies through agriculture. Additionally, I assisted the National University of Cuyo in several research and social impact extension activities.

At the moment, I have finalized my Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics with focus in the use of water in agriculture. I am working remotely with a personal project of precision agriculture in arid areas of Argentina and assessing the productivity gaps in water use for grapevine production in Argentina, Chile and Bolivia.