

Name: Minazur Rahman

Country of Origin: Bangladesh

Country of Residence: Australia

Education: M.Sc. in Sustainable International Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Goettingen, Germany.

Passing year: January, 2016 (Winter Semester)

Specialization: International Agribusiness & Rural Development Economics

Position: Agronomy Coordinator

Remembrances of my entrance at the University of Goettingen:

After finishing my Bachelor degree (in Agriculture) and Master degree (in Business Administration) from Bangladesh, I was looking for an advance degree which could enhance more knowledge, skills and values in the area of Agribusiness. From Google, I got the information about the master degree program (Sustainable International Agriculture) of the University of Goettingen. I applied for the master degree program and got an optimistic response from the Admission Committee (Faculty of Agriculture). Afterward, I requested about the scholarship information and Grete Thinggaard ter Meulen (Academic Advisor of Student Affairs) sent me the link of different scholarship including the Erasmus Mundus scholarship. I applied for the Erasmus Mundus scholarship. As a final point, I got it and started my journey at the University of Goettingen. It sounds like bed of roses; but, I went through a tough and thrilled competition.

Study program, scientific and practical inputs:

From my understanding, SIA is a well-structured, scientific and project-oriented study program which provided students a clear knowledge and deepness thought about methodology, cooperative and skills. Moreover, the international and prominent faculty members added numerous current research findings in their class lectures. Therefore, students got the current facts and figures about the subject matter. Consequently, it also helped us to think which professor as well as topics he/she is interested to work in his/her master thesis dissertation. In different course, we also got the opportunity to exchange our thoughts with current PhD students. In addition, the most interesting part of SIA program was excursions which provided comprehensive practical experiences as well as perceive the farming, agribusiness and food processing industries in Germany as well as other European countries. Last but not least, the Faculty of Agriculture also provided different logistic and financial support to international students to do the field research for Master's thesis in their home and other countries.

I believe that this master degree program adequately helps to prepare myself for long term academic and career goals.

Career with Costa Group after finishing my study from University of Goettingen:

After finishing my study, I went back to my home (Bangladesh) and started to work as a “Lecture” at the American International University-Bangladesh. At the same time, I also applied for the skilled migration and came to Australia. The key reason is the rapid growing farming industry and diverse culture in Australia. As a result, there are a lot of opportunities for the farming background people to work in different agriculture and food processing industry.

As “Agronomy Coordinator”, currently I am directing the overall agronomic practices specifically irrigation water treatment, fertigation, insect, pest and disease management over 30 hectares of glasshouse owned and operated by Costa Group in Guyra, New South Wales, Australia.

Costa Group is Australia’s leading grower, packer, and marketer of premium quality fresh fruits and vegetables, operating in five core product categories, including glasshouse tomatoes, berries, mushrooms, citrus and avocados. Costa is also committed to sustainable growing and production practices. These quality fruits and vegetables are supplied to all the major Australian supermarket chains, as well as independent grocers and a range of food industry stakeholders. Costa also exports produce to North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Moreover, Costa has international operations with interests in five blueberry farms in Morocco and three berry farms in China (Source: Costa Group, Australia).