


# Roberto Ariel Telleria Juarez

An industrious Agriculture Policy Specialist and Programme Manager with expertise in delivering effective leadership, vision, innovation, strategy and growth in developing countries

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Bridgetown, Barbados

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A PhD-qualified policy specialist and leader with 20 years of operational, project, and program management experience across the UN, NGO, and non-profit sectors. Demonstrates an outstanding track record in reducing poverty within developing countries by establishing high-impact partnerships, leading program design, overseeing performance management, driving strategic initiatives, and evaluating their outcomes. Possesses a deep understanding of how strategic development delivers tangible benefits for communities and beneficiaries. Adept at empowering individuals and teams by valuing their contributions and resolving differences amicably. Shows exceptional resilience, maintaining clarity and focus amid complexity and seamlessly moving between high-level strategy and detail-oriented tasks.

## KEY SKILLS

- |                        |                       |                             |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Program Management   | • Fundraising         | • Monitoring & Evaluation   | • Business Growth     |
| • Strategy & Planning  | • Budgetary Control   | • Networking & Facilitation | • Governance          |
| • Catalyst Leadership  | • Research & Analysis | • Negotiation & Diplomacy   | • Project Reporting   |
| • Community Engagement | • Capacity Building   | • Stakeholder Management    | • Conflict Resolution |

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### POLICY OFFICER

MAR 2024 – Present

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)), Bridgetown - Barbados**

- At the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean delivers integrated, coherent policy assistance aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework, swiftly addressing new requests to strengthen food and nutrition security, climate change agenda, climate-smart solutions for sustainable agriculture, and rural development at regional and country levels.
- Collaborates with technical and policy teams from headquarters and decentralized offices, fosters strategic partnerships, and coordinates cross-sectoral initiatives with UN counterparts. Designs, implements, and monitors policy programs, leads capacity-building efforts, and oversees the development of technical resources. Directs a multidisciplinary team, providing targeted policy support to Caribbean nations, the CARICOM Secretariat, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission.

### SENIOR POLICY SPECIALIST

DEC 2021 – DEC 2023

**International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)), Santa Cruz - Bolivia**

- Supported IFAD's Data Use Team in implementing the 50x2030 Initiative, enabling countries to enhance the use of agricultural and rural survey data for planning, policymaking, monitoring, and evaluating rural development, food systems transformation, climate commitments, and environmental and food security policies.
- Led technical assistance for country-level activities focused on producing indicators for evidence-based decision-making, including policy implementation, stakeholder engagement, policy dialogue, resource mobilization, advocacy, and negotiation. Developed capacity-building strategies, facilitated knowledge exchange, prepared training materials, and conducted training-of-trainers sessions.

### AGRICULTURAL POLICY SPECIALIST

JUN 2019 – NOV 2021

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)), Rome - Italy**

- Provided technical leadership for AGRISurvey's Data Use component, guiding policy analysis to advance agri-food systems transformation. Strengthened evidence-based policymaking and decision-making processes, and delivered capacity-building activities in Uganda, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Senegal.
- Promoted the use of science, technology, and innovation in cost-effective, cooperative-based agribusiness. Facilitated in-country policy dialogue, supported program formulation aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, and coordinated project evaluations among ministries of agriculture, farmer associations, NGOs, and UN agencies. Collaborated in mobilizing funding from partners such as USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Italian Cooperation.
- Authored critical technical documents and donor reports, prepared project and budget proposals, and represented the program in meetings with beneficiary countries, international institutions, local NGOs, and UN agencies—ensuring transparency and fostering cohesion across all stakeholder groups.

**UN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT****SEP 2016 – MAY 2019****FAO / World Food Programme (WFP) / World Bank****Investment Specialist – World Bank, Santa Cruz - Bolivia****Mar 2019 – May 2019**

- Identified key policies, programming, and investments in Bolivia to tackle poverty, food security, climate change, and resilience in domestic food systems.
- Developed methods to assess how climate change affects food security (availability, access, utilization, stability), leading to gender- and vulnerability-focused adaptation policies.
- Diagnosed institutional barriers in existing policies, programs, and projects that hindered effective government support for age- and gender-differentiated groups.
- Recommended measures such as strengthening institutional capacity, providing technical assistance, and strategically prioritizing investments.

**Senior Policy Evaluator – Econometria / WFP, Santa Cruz - Bolivia****Jul 2018 – Feb 2019**

- Devised methodologies for identifying good practices, lessons learned, and performing cost-benefit analyses in food security, nutrition, agriculture, and climate change. This included primary and secondary data collection, building databases, processing data, analyzing results, and disseminating findings.
- Evaluated projects aimed at improving smallholder livelihoods, enhancing production systems, and adapting to climate change, including government programs to reduce hunger and bolster domestic food production.
- Played a key role in promoting family resilience projects, encompassing the construction of small dams, schools, irrigation canals, solar tents, agricultural terraces, household water systems, roads, flash flood gabions, greenhouses, drainage ditches, water harvesting infrastructure, and communal gardens.

**IPC Policy and Investment Officer – FAO - Bangladesh, Philippines and Uganda****Sep 2016 – Dec 2017**

- Coordinated and implemented policy-related projects in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Uganda, testing enhancements for food security and poverty reduction while evaluating root causes of malnutrition, stunting, and resilience strategies.
- Supported government ministries in developing strategies for improved infrastructure, electricity, water, and social security, and prepared technical reports, methodologies, budgets, and deliverable matrices for donors.
- Organized senior-level workshops to validate country case study findings, identify capacity-building needs, and formulate policy proposals that increase the visibility and impact of project outputs.

**AGRICULTURAL POLICY SPECIALIST****AUG 2011 – JUL 2015****International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA, [www.icarda.org](http://www.icarda.org)), Amman - Jordan**

- Led agricultural policy-focused initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), coordinating research and development projects with government ministries and national research systems in Morocco, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, and Iraq—often under challenging political and social circumstances.
- Secured funding for numerous collaborative projects (CGIAR, IFAD, Australian and Italian governments), including a solar energy initiative in Morocco to enhance sustainable agriculture, improve irrigation efficiency, boost productivity, and reduce CO2 emissions. Also spearheaded a multi-country project in Jordan, Tunisia, and Syria to develop promising agricultural technologies and management practices.
- Implemented a new monitoring and evaluation system to assess household food security and poverty reduction in Afghanistan, while training government teams and community leaders on agricultural policies, international trade, subsidies, prices, inputs, and project writing.

**LECTURER AND PHD PROGRAMME COORDINATOR****MAR 2008 – JUN 2011****Autonomous University Gabriel René Moreno (UAGRM), Santa Cruz - Bolivia**

- Supported doctoral-level modules jointly at the UAGRM Business School (50% time) and the Bolivian NGO National Working Group for Participation (GNTP) (50% time).
- Coordinated two PhD programs - “PhD in Economics and Finance” and “PhD in Administration and Business Sciences”- overseeing research project preparation and lecturing in subjects such as “Microeconomics of Consumption and Production” and “Regional Integration and International Trade.”
- Assisted municipalities in Bolivia’s Beni and Pando departments with poverty reduction efforts, adolescent and youth empowerment, and gender equality initiatives.

## LECTURER

AUG 2005 – DEC 2007

### University of Reading – Reading, UK

Served as Lecturer for multiple modules during my PhD studies, including: 1) “*Management of Not-for-Profit Organizations*”; 2) “*Agricultural Policies for Developing Countries*”; 3) “*Economic Aspects of the Food Supply Chain*”; and 4) “*Food Business Group Project 2*”.

## AGRICULTURAL POLICY OFFICER, ECONOMIST

MAY 2002 – MAY 2005

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)), Rome - Italy

- Supported the FAO Policy Assistance Division and its agricultural-trade policy group in shaping and implementing agricultural policies.
- Provided technical assistance to the governments of Angola, Panama, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Tanzania, and several small Pacific Island states.
- Authored background papers to support countries negotiating WTO accession and published regional integration studies for CARICOM on market access, domestic support, and export competition.

## EARLIER CAREER

**Agricultural Economist** – ICARDA, Aleppo - Syria

Apr 2001 – Apr 2002

**Economist** – PRODEVAT, Cochabamba - Bolivia

Jul 1998 - Jul 1999

**Junior Economist** – FAO, Cochabamba - Bolivia

Jan 1997 - Jun 1998

## EDUCATION

**PhD Economics** – University of Reading, UK

Jan 2005 – Dec 2007

**MSc Agricultural Development Economics** – University of Reading, UK

Sep 1999 – Sep 2000

**Bachelor of Economics** – National University of Córdoba, Argentina

Feb 1990 – Dec 1995

## KEY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- World Bank (WB), “*Bolivia: Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems*”. La Paz, Bolivia, March 28 - 29, 2019.
- Food and agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), “*Integrated food security phase classification - Chronic Food Insecurity*”. Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 5-9, 2016.
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), “*Global Futures and IMPACT Training*”. WorldFish, Malaysia, April 28-May 9, 2014.
- Florida International University and Miami-Dade County – USA. “*Building the Productive, Efficient, and Equitable Municipality: New Challenges – New Opportunities*”. Miami, June 16 – 19, 2008.
- Purdue University, West Lafayette - USA. “*12th Annual Short Course in Global Trade Analysis - GTAP*”. Web-based modules from May 17 to July 18, 2004, and on-site training from August 7 to 13, 2004.
- Harvard University - John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge - USA. Two-week training course on “*The Practice of Trade Policy: Economics, Negotiations & Rules*”. September 28 - October 10, 2003.

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Proven ability to produce analytical materials that effectively use data, draw conclusions, and present recommendations in clear, accessible language for research outputs, project documents, and reports. Demonstrated by **51 publications**: Two books (one as editor), six book chapters, 17 peer-reviewed articles, and 26 working papers, and over 30 presentations at international conferences. All are available online at <https://robertotelleriajuarez.com>.

## AWARDS

- University of Reading **doctoral scholarship**, from Oct/2005 to Oct/2007.
- British **MSc "Chevening" scholarship**, from Oct/1999 to Sep/2000.
- **PhD thesis - Merit**, University of Reading - UK, December 2007.
- **MSc thesis - Distinction**, University of Reading - UK, September 2000.
- Several institutional distinctions, including prizes to research papers.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Status:** Bolivian, married, two children

**Date of Birth:** December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1970 (54 years old), La Paz - Bolivia

**Languages:** Spanish (mother tongue), English (fluent), Italian (advanced), and French/Portuguese (beginner)