

Roberto Ariel Telleria Juarez

A results-driven development professional with extensive experience in programme management, agricultural policy, and investment preparation offering strong leadership, strategic vision, and a proven ability to advance high-impact initiatives in developing countries

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A PhD-qualified Senior Policy Specialist and Economist with over 20 years of experience across the UN system, IFIs, and research institutions. Demonstrates a strong record in leading policy and investment-related initiatives, managing multi-million-dollar project portfolios, advising governments, and building strategic partnerships with public and private stakeholders. Combines analytical rigor, diplomatic engagement, and high-level negotiation skills with deep sectoral knowledge of agriculture, food systems, climate resilience, and development economics. Fluent in Spanish and English, with extensive experience working in Bolivia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

KEY SKILLS

- Country strategy development
- Portfolio management
- Financial and economic analysis
- Investment and advisory support
- Resource mobilization
- Public-private sector liaison
- Multidisciplinary team leadership
- Negotiation and conflict resolution
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Contract management
- Due diligence and risk assessment
- Capacity building

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

POLICY OFFICER

Mar 2024 - Present

FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Bridgetown - Barbados

- Serve as Budget Holder (a role that carries the highest level of financial and operational responsibility within FAO project management) for 23 projects with a portfolio exceeding USD 30 million, ensuring fiduciary compliance, strategic resource allocation, timely output delivery, and close coordination with implementation teams assigned to each project.
- Lead strategic engagement with ministries, CARICOM, OECS, and development banks to align national programmes with investment opportunities and financing flows in advancing sustainable food systems, food and nutrition security, climate resilience, and rural development across Caribbean countries.
- Oversee full project cycle management through financial closure, including budget revisions, extensions, procurement oversight, and adherence to FAO's operational and financial procedures.
- Ensure accurate financial and operational data for results-based monitoring and submit consolidated progress, expenditure, and closure reports in line with official requirements.
- Mobilize and coordinate technical expertise from regional, subregional, and headquarters teams to ensure high-quality project implementation, supervision, and policy delivery.
- Lead multidisciplinary teams, build strategic partnerships with UN and regional actors, and guide the design, implementation, and monitoring of policy programmes and capacity-building initiatives.

SENIOR POLICY SPECIALIST - CONSULTANT

Dec 2021 - Dec 2023

IFAD, Santa Cruz - Bolivia

- Engaged in policy dialogue with ministries, private sector partners, producer organizations, and civil society, contributing to upstream work for government and private sector engagement.
- Supported IFAD's 50x2030 Initiative by enhancing national capacities to use agricultural and rural data for investment planning, policy formulation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Produced analytical materials to inform policy processes and guide investment decisions, including sector diagnostics, market assessments, and evidence-based recommendations relevant to private sector engagement.
- Facilitated technical consultations with government counterparts, private sector actors, and development partners to strengthen coordination, validate findings, and support the design of future investment and advisory opportunities.
- Designed and delivered capacity-building strategies tailored to government and stakeholder needs, enhancing institutional capabilities in project formulation, data-driven decision-making, and alignment with national development and investment priorities.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY SPECIALIST

Jun 2019 - Nov 2021

FAO HQ, Rome - Italy

- Guided analytical and investment-preparatory work for agrifood system transformation across Africa, Latin America, and Asia, identifying market constraints, and opportunities to develop pipelines aligned with country priorities.
- Facilitated policy dialogue with governments, private sector actors, and development partners to strengthen enabling environments, and support the development of high-impact investment and advisory opportunities.
- Coordinated project formulation processes and mobilized funding in collaboration with donors such as USAID, the Gates Foundation, and Italian Cooperation, ensuring alignment with national strategies and the needs of investors.
- Produced economic analyses and sector diagnostics to inform strategic decision-making, including assessments of regulatory frameworks, competitiveness, market dynamics, and investment feasibility.
- Prepared financing proposals that supported upstream private sector engagement by identifying viable business models, structuring investment concepts, and laying the groundwork for scalable, bankable transactions.

INTERNATIONAL FREELANCE CONSULTANT

Sep 2016 - May 2019

Consultant, World Bank, Santa Cruz - Bolivia

Mar 2019 - May 2019

- Identified investment opportunities in Bolivia's food systems, climate resilience, and agricultural sectors by assessing market conditions, private sector demand, and institutional readiness.
- Conducted analytical work on climate risks, food security vulnerabilities, regulatory barriers, and institutional constraints to inform sector strategies and strengthen due diligence.
- Recommended investment prioritization measures and policy reforms to improve the enabling environment and create a pipeline of viable, finance-ready opportunities.

Senior Policy Evaluator, Econometría, Santa Cruz - Bolivia

Jul 2018 - Feb 2019

- Evaluated agriculture, climate, and food-security initiatives to determine their investment performance, operational effectiveness, and alignment with national development priorities.
- Reviewed completed rural and community-level infrastructure, including water and irrigation systems, to assess their results, enhance government dialogue, and inform due diligence for future investment prospects.
- Applied economic, financial, and impact assessment approaches to identify lessons learned, scalable models, and opportunities to strengthen future private sector engagement.

IPC Policy and Investment Officer, FAO - Bangladesh, Philippines and Uganda

Sep 2016 - Dec 2017

- Coordinated policy initiatives assessing development challenges and identifying opportunities to strengthen food systems, rural economies, and resilience, with implications for future investment pipelines.
- Supported government ministries in formulating sector strategies for infrastructure, energy, water, and social services, and prepared technical analyses, budgets, and reporting tools aligned with donor and institutional requirements.
- Organized high-level consultations to identify capacity gaps, and shape policy recommendations, strengthening stakeholder alignment and enhancing uptake of project results.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY SPECIALIST

Aug 2011 - Jul 2015

ICARDA, Amman - Jordan

- Led agricultural policy and research initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa, working with government ministries and national research institutions in complex operating environments to identify development challenges and investment opportunities.
- Mobilized funding from partners such as CGIAR, IFAD, and bilateral donors, and managed multi-country programmes focused on sustainable technologies, irrigation efficiency, and climate-smart agricultural solutions.
- Established a monitoring and evaluation system to assess household food security and poverty outcomes, and trained government and community teams on agricultural policy, market dynamics, and programme design.

EARLIER CAREER

• University Lecturer , Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno, Santa Cruz - Bolivia	Mar 2008 - Jun 2011
• University Lecturer , University of Reading, Reading - UK	Aug 2005 - Dec 2007
• Agricultural Policy Officer - Economist , FAO, Rome - Italy	May 2002 - May 2005
• 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 generate high-quality analytical products that translate complex data into clear conclusions and actionable recommendations for decision-makers. Track record includes **51 publications** (two books; six book chapters; 17 peer-reviewed articles; and 26 working papers) and more than 30 presentations at international conferences, demonstrating strong communication skills and the capacity to inform policy dialogues, sector diagnostics, and investment strategies. 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 Sep/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 29th, 1970 (54 years old), La Paz - Bolivia

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