MARCOS H. EASDALE
Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria
Argentina

I was born in Córdoba, Argentina. I am an agricultural engeneer (University of Córdoba), MSc Natural Resources, and Doctoral student in agricultural sciences at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am working at the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuria (INTA), agricultural experimental station located in Bariloche, Patagonia, Argentina.

My focus of study is the vulnerability of arid and semiarid rangelands as complex social-ecological systems. I am particularly interested in structural and functional features of arid and semiarid rangelands at the levels of farming systems and rural households, but considering the context of environmental and socio-economic changes at a regional scale. In this regard, I am involved in understanding some system properties of arid rangelands such as resistance and resilience, co-evolutionary processes and adaptations, and how farmers deal with different processes of change and disturbance factors, and the implications in terms of social-ecological vulnerability. The broad implications of my research are related to better understand technological innovation processes, with contributions to policy design regarding rangeland management and sustainable rural development.

In this direction, I permanently seek for different perspectives in order to promote more tied integration among different disciplines (e.g. social, ecological, agricultural), with a special emphasis on such integration both in the design of my research and in the analyses. I work with different methodologies and tools such as modeling, remote sensing, geographic information systems, network analysis applied both to social and ecological issues, and agent perceptions and decisions.

I am a member of a R&D team who is working on the development of an early warning system to deal with environmental variability in North Patagonia, with a focus on drought as a main source of varibility. Finally, another strong interest is related to the study of rural heterogeneity and farming diversity, and perceptions among different stakeholders or agents (e.g. professionals, farmers) regarding desertification, innovations and/or land use change.