



**Ximena Maria Lopez Zieher**  
**Instituto de Investigaciones Fisiológicas y Ecológicas Vinculadas a la Agricultura (CONICET)**  
**Argentina**

I'm an Agronomical Engineer (BSc) and a PhD student in Ecology at the Institute for Agricultural Plant Physiology and Ecology (IFEVA-CONICET) and the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I'm studying the response of soil microbial communities to nutrient addition (NPK) in the Pampas grasslands, and the relationship between changes in microbial composition and soil functioning. My experimental site is one of the coordinated cross-site experiments of the Nutrient Network (<http://www.nutnet.org/>), an international research network that comprise more than 80 sites worldwide to study the impacts of human activity on grasslands ecosystems. During my PhD, I will focus on changes in nitrogen cycling, given the importance of this nutrient for meat production and the ongoing increase in nitrogen fertilizers use worldwide. Assessing the impact of anthropogenic disturbances in the soil biota is imperative to understand the effects on nutrient cycling and ecosystem services delivery from grasslands.