

Carlos SALA (1961-2013)

Carlos A. Sala was born in La Plata (Argentina) on September 17th, 1961. He obtained his graduate (1986) and postgraduate (1989) degrees from the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata. He was a professor and researcher at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of this University and CONICET (1986-1992). In 1992 he joined the sunflower breeding program of Nidera S.A., where he worked as sunflower breeder and geneticist until 1998. Since that moment he serves as Research Manager of the Biotechnology Department of Nidera SA., Venado Tuerto, Santa Fe, Argentina. He has under his responsibility the molecular breeding and the developing of new traits (mutagenesis applied to genetic improvement) of sunflower, wheat, soybeans, corn, and sorghum.

Carlos was full member of the National Biosafety Committee from SENASA, the Commission of Biotechnology of the Argentine Seed Association (ASA), the International Commission on application of molecular markers for the Protection of Intellectual Property of the ISF (International Seed Federation) and the Commission of Molecular Markers of CONASE (National Seed Commission).

He also served as an advisor of INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology) in the area of Genetic Resources, Breeding and Biotechnology and as a reviewer of research projects related to crop genetics and biotechnology for several Argentine and foreign entities (ASAGIR, CONICET, INTA, Ministry of Science and Technology). He was visiting Professor in Agrobiotechnology at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Buenos and he taught molecular breeding at different national and international courses.

He was director or member of the advisory board of 13 undergraduate and graduate theses from different universities (UNMdP, UNR, UBA, UCA, UNNOBA). He published over 70 papers, book chapters and scientific communications in national and international journals and conferences. He was co-obtentor of 20 lines, varieties or registered hybrids of sunflower and wheat, most of them developed through the application of marker-assisted selection and mutagenesis. He authored five patent applications in Argentina, USA, and Europe.

Carlos was member of ASAGIR, the Crop Science Society of America and ISA.

He died prematurely at the age of 52 following a hard battle with cancer.