

## 2019 CLIFF-GRADS Awardees



### **María Carolina Scorcione Turcato** **Argentina**

*Studying at:* University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Hosted by:* National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA), Chile

#### **What is your academic background?**

I'm a PhD student at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I study agricultural science. My thesis topic is the effects of specific plant extracts on ruminal fermentation and greenhouse gas emissions. I also work at Microbiology Laboratory, Institute of Pathobiology and Climatic Change Laboratory, CICVyA INTA Castelar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I try to develop molecular techniques for studying ruminal bacteria density and diversity involved in methanogenesis.

#### **Which project have you been selected for?**

“Directed evolution of rumen microbial cultures towards the identification and stimulation of electron sinks alternative to methanogenesis”, supervised by Emilio M. Ungerfeld.

#### **How will this award impact your study?**

The impact of this award will undoubtedly be positive. I am convinced that this training will allow me to go deeper on the obtained results and to complete the third stage of my doctoral work, looking at the changes in the ruminal, methanogenic microbiota. In addition, there is a need to enhance methodological skills on methane measurement techniques and the implementation of new technologies for the study of ruminal microbiota, which this training help with. Through my interaction and training with other more experienced researchers I will be able to learn more methodologies and develop new skills to discuss my work. This will not only benefit me but will also help my work group in Argentina.

#### **Tell us a bit more about yourself?**

I am originally from the province of Córdoba in Argentina, which is characterized by its beautiful mountains, the highest at 2790 meters above sea level. This ecosystem is characterized by having several medicinal plant species. Since I was little I was curious and wanted to understand what was happening around me, that's why I studied agronomy. I am passionate about trail running and I am also a natural science teacher of teenagers.

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