

NAME: Edwin Orlaf VERA

SPECIALISATION: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT;
AGRICULTURE; LAND USE PLANNING; BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1949

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

QUALIFICATION: BSc. Agronomy, University of Concepcion; Chile, 1971
MSc. Land Use Planning and Land Evaluation, University of
Reading; UK, 1978
Ad-hoc studies for a CIM Diploma in Marketing, UK,
1991-1994

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS:** Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA-UK)

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH (fluent) SPANISH (mother tongue)
FRENCH (fair) PORTUGUESE (fair)

KEY EXPERIENCE

Since 1999 until now, Edwin Vera has been a Regional Director with responsibility for the development and management of project opportunities in the Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC) region.

Within development consultancy organisations and as an independent consultant, Edwin Vera has worked with private, public, non-profit making organisations and the main development agencies (DAs), including the European Commission, World Bank, DFID and Government Organisations.

His knowledge of international operations and his experience as project manager, resident company director, project director and coordinator and business development enables Edwin to undertake, manage and coordinate development projects throughout diverse regions worldwide.

His technical professional experience as Project Director / Coordinator, Land Use Planner and Agriculturalist, has provided Edwin Vera with a variety of important supporting capabilities:

- Comprehensive background and experience in all aspects of socio-economic, institutional, rural and agriculture development projects;
- Ability to deal with a variety of technical inputs in multi-disciplinary development projects;

- Ability to work successfully with international and local experts and to deal and co-ordinate with senior personnel of Development Agencies and Governments.
- Knowledge and experience with main DAs procedures for project management, from start-up to the orderly closedown of project activities;
- Ability to successfully deal with issues of project administration, accounts and financial planning and control procedures.

E.O.Vera is equally fluent in English and Spanish.

EXPERIENCE

July 2009 on-going:

UK, Technical Associate, Belmont Management Consultants Limited

Responsible for the development and management of project opportunities in Latin America & The Caribbean, bringing together the skills and resources of a group of individuals who collectively have a broad track record in agri-business.

1999 – 2009

LAC Region: Regional Director with HTSPE Limited, responsible for undertaking marketing, bidding and project management, as well as providing technical inputs to assignments in the Latin America & the Caribbean regions. Relevant assignments undertaken include:

➤ **2003-2008**

ECUADOR: Project Director / Coordinator; **“Integrated Socio-Economic Development of the River Paute Watershed Area” (EC)**. Responsible for the technical and administrative "backstopping" of the multi-discipline team assisting the "Basin Authority" (CG-Paute) in the implementation of the EC-funded programme (€ 14 millions). The project contributes to the reduction of poverty, improving of living conditions of the population of the Cuenca region and addresses the issues surrounding environmental decline, natural disaster hazards, rehabilitation of physical and social infrastructures, introduction of sustainable production practices, promotion of SMEs and income generation activities, in the rural and poor communities in the area of the Paute river basin, covering the Provinces of Azuay, Cañar and Morona Santiago, with a population of over 567,000 inhabitants

➤ **2007-2008**

NICARAGUA: Project Director / Coordinator for HTSPE Technical Assistance Sub-contract for the **“Feasibility Study, Environmental Impact Assessment and Final Design of the Nejapa to Izapa (N – I) and Puerto Sandino Road Rehabilitation Projects” (MCC / MCA Nicaragua)**. Responsible for the technical and administrative coordination and “backstopping” of two international experts undertaking the Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment (EISA) and the Resettlement and Environmental Plans of the proposed road rehabilitation and construction works.

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- **2007**
ECUADOR: Chief of the Technical Assistance; **“Integrated Socio-economic Development of the River Paute Watershed Area” (EC)**. In addition to his role as Project Director / Coordinator (see above), during the period of extension of the project acted as resident Chief of the Technical Assistance, in charge of the day-to-day coordination and administration of the team of international experts supporting the PMU of the newly created “basin authority” (CG-Paute; *Consejo de Gestión de Aguas de la Cuenca del Río Paute*). The work also involved technical and administrative support for the ordained “closing-down” of the project, following the required EC procedures and local practices.

 - **2005-2006**
JAMAICA: Project Director / Coordinator; **“Jamaica Inner Cities Basic Services Provision Programme - JICBSP” (WB / IBRD)**. Responsible for the technical and administrative "backstopping" of the multidisciplinary T/A team undertaking the WB-funded JICBSP programme. The purpose of the assignment was to formulate - based on public consultative processes - the project preparation documents, including detailed engineering drawings and specifications, for a US\$ 30 million program. The aim of the program was to improve access in targeted poor inner-city communities to basic services. Additionally the project aimed to reduce the incidence of crime and violence in the communities.

 - **2000-2005**
GUYANA; Project Director / Coordinator; **“Guyana Land Administration Support Programme – GLASP” (DFID)**. Technical, administrative and logistic support to the DFID-funded programme (£ 4 millions). The purpose of GLASP was to support the Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) to fulfill its role efficiently and equitably as outlined in legislation and consistent with Guyana's land tenure policy. There were three inter-related outputs including land tenure regularisation (LTR), reestablishment of the GLSC as a sustainable and client-oriented institution and support to continued land policy development.

 - **2001-2004**
EL SALVADOR; Project Director / Coordinator; **“Integrated Environmental Education and Creating Sensitivity at Local Level and in Selected Watershed” (EC)**. Responsible for the technical and administrative "backstopping" to the 3-year EC-funded programme (€3.7 millions) aimed at to increase public awareness and sensitisation of sustainable management, the development of watershed areas and natural resources and the plight of the population of eastern El Salvador through and integrated programme of environmental education. The project also included the formulation of a tri-national (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) management plan for the watershed areas of the River Lempa.

 - **1999-2005**
CARIBBEAN REGION; Project Director / Coordinator; **“Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Programme - CRAFP”;** (EDF). Responsible for the technical and administrative coordination of the technical team managing the CRAFP's PMCU. The EDF programme (with a budget of over € 24 millions), covered the 16 member countries of CARIFORUM and aimed to facilitate

investment in agriculture and fisheries development, support and promote SME initiation, promote diversification and market development and improve sector development support services with particular emphasis on the private sector.

➤ **2003-2004**

GUYANA; Project Director; **“Poor Rural Communities Support Project - PRCSSP”**; (CDB/IFAD/GoG). Responsible for technical support and administrative coordination of the HTSPE's "Technical Service Supplier (TSS)" contract. The PRCSSP, funded by the CDB, IFAD and the Gov. of Guyana, aimed to enhance the productive capacity of rural entrepreneurs, including small scale farmers and other micro-entrepreneurs, through training and access to technical support systems. The objective was to provide these entrepreneurs with the opportunities to improve their income-generating capacity and reduce incidence of poverty in rural areas. Through the TSS contract, a one-year pilot Technical Services to rural communities was implemented and monitored to address the lack of technical support for micro-entrepreneurs.

➤ **2001-2002**

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Project Director / Coordinator; **“Preparation of the National Environmental and Natural Resources Management Plan - NEMP”**; (WB / IBRD). Responsible for the technical and administrative support to the team of experts working in the World Bank supported programme. The Technical Assistance Team engaged in the preparation of the NEMP with the aims of strengthening the State's environmental management institutions, developing a participatory approach to the formulation of environment policies and building the national environment policy agenda for the future.

➤ **2000-2002**

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Project Director / Coordinator; **“Integrated Rural Development of the “Línea Noroeste – PROLINO” (EDF)**. During the last two years of this 7 years EDF funded project (€20 millions), was responsible for the technical support and administrative coordination of the multidiscipline team of international experts. The project aimed to develop and strengthen local institutions and infrastructure, including HR management, institutional strengthening in 20 communities, rural infrastructure, agricultural extension, community development, environmental protection and re-afforestation. The project was executed by a semi-autonomous entity managed by the long-term HTSPE technical assistance team with a national staff of 70.

➤ **2001**

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Project Coordinator; **“Preparation of an Action Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters in the Watershed Area of Yaque del Sur River”(EDF)**. Responsible for the technical coordination and logistic support to the technical assistance team undertaking the studies for the formulation of the Action Plan.

➤ **1999**

CHILE; Technical Supervisor; “**Integrated Development Programme in the Southern Regions**” (EC). During the last two months of the 4-years EC funded project, Edwin Vera undertook a technical assistance mission to support the closing-down of the project. Main inputs were on credit, accounting/finances and production of the final report. The project (with a budget of € 15 millions) promoted the socio-economic development of the least privileged sections of the population, including small-scale farmers and fishermen.

1995-1999

NICARAGUA; Project Director; “**Support to the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development of the Cuá-Bocay Municipality**” (EC). As the European Director, with HTSPE Ltd, based in Nicaragua, together with the National Co-director, Edwin Vera took responsibility for all the technical, administrative and financial aspects of the project. The 5-years project (with a budget of over €6.5 millions) formed part of EU-programme to aid the Government of Nicaragua, to support the socio-economic integration of the up-rooted, repatriated and displaced people of the region, as well as those generally affected by the war. The project involved numerous components and activities, aimed at: - the pacification and solving potentially conflictive problems in the area; - contribute to the rehabilitation and improvement of the socio-economic infrastructures; - reactivate traditional and appropriate agricultural production of the area; promote activities to ensure the rational and sustainable use of the natural resources and its preservation; organise economic activities aimed to create employment and production diversification. Focus was on the resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and conflict prevention when the project team was instrumental in facilitating discussion between armed groups and the Government. As Project Director Edwin Vera had to coordinate the technical input of the national staff of 60 experts and of international staff undertaking technical support missions. During this time the project was also involved in responding to natural disasters. In 1998 an emergency committee was formed in response to Hurricane Mitch. Rapid assessments were made and a strategy for emergency aid developed and delivered.

1992-1994

UK and Overseas Assignments; Private Consultant providing business development and technical support for projects in Latin America and Asia; including:

➤ **1993**

VENEZUELA; Land Use Planner/ Agriculture Soil Scientist (with Halcrow Group - HRM), “**Agricultural Development and Evaluation of the Botalon Irrigation Project**” (WB). The work involved technical assistance for the improvement of irrigated agricultural production in Agrarian Reform Settlements, preparation of a detailed Development Plan for rehabilitation and agricultural improvement of 400 ha (pilot farm) of irrigated land with production oriented towards export markets; and preparation of detailed terms of reference for further studies in 5,000 ha. Main responsibilities, amongst others, included the evaluation potential of the area and of individual ‘parcelas’, assessment of the land tenure situation of each ‘parcela’ (e.g., land titling, disputes, tenancy, etc.), land/soil suitability evaluation for irrigation development and land use planning.

➤ **1993**

INDIA: Rural Development Specialist (with Cargill Technical Services Ltd - CTS). Undertook a 'fact finding mission' and 'site visits' for the preparation of a proposal for the "**Kerala Minor Irrigation Project**". Had technical meetings with senior staff of the Irrigation Department and Agriculture Secretariat of the Kerala State and with relevant staff at the EC Delegation in New Delhi.

1991-92

UNITED KINGDOM: Business development, marketing of consultancy services and administration, with **Dale International Ltd. (UK)**.

1979-91

VARIOUS COUNTRIES & UNITED KINGDOM: Resident Director, Senior Soil and Land Resources Specialist, employed by **Dale International Ltd (UK)**. Undertook the following relevant assignments:

▪ **1985-1990**

INDONESIA; Resident Director; **Dale International Ltd.** Responsible for the Company's activities and projects in the area; including financial planning and control, business development, coordination and liaison with local consultancy companies, clients, donor agencies and government officials in Indonesia.

▪ **1981-1990**

INDONESIA: Senior Land Use Planning/Agricultural Soil Scientist and Team Co-ordinator; undertaking of '**Transmigration and Rural Settlement Planning Studies**' (**WB**), in the provinces of South Sumatra, Bengkulu, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya. These projects entailed the undertaking of numerous 'land resource surveys' at reconnaissance and detailed levels, including of soils, land use, water resources (surface and groundwater), topography, forestry, agriculture, socio-economics, road alignment, river navigability, socio-anthropology, etc. The work also involved the detailed physical planning of proposed development areas, including the formulation of appropriate farming systems and cropping patterns for each area. As the 'Land Use Planner/Agriculture Soil Specialist, E.O.Vera was responsible for: all aspects related to the soil and land resources surveys and overall suitability evaluation of proposed areas for agriculture or agro-industrial developments; the physical planning of the proposed development areas, including the 'settlement sites'. As Team Co-ordinator, E.O.Vera was in charge of the technical co-ordination of the projects, involving multi-disciplinary teams of expatriate and local specialists; and the editing and production of draft and final reports.

▪ **1983**

UNITED KINGDOM/UGANDA: UK based Technical Support Adviser to the "**Integrated Food Production and Rural Development Project in Eastern and Northern Uganda**" (**IFAD**). A regional rehabilitation project covering all aspect of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, rural credit, extension, research rural water supplies and socio-economic aspects. Main responsibilities included technical

advice and inputs in all matters related to the agriculture suitability of the soils, land use planning proposals and soil and water conservation.

- **1981**
UNITED KINGDOM/SAUDI ARABIA: Land Use/Soils Specialist, member of a study team assessing the potential of an area of over 100,000 ha. for **Irrigated Agriculture (Private Client)**. Conducted an exploratory soil survey of the area in order to identify suitable sites for development.
- **1980**
CAMEROON: Soils/Land Use Specialist, member of a feasibility study team to determine the viability of an “**Integrated Grain and Poultry Enterprise in the Benue Valley in the Garoua Region**” (Private Client). Was responsible for the organisation, co-ordination and undertaking of the ‘soil and land suitability surveys’ (reconnaissance survey of 50,000 ha. and semi-detailed survey of 10,000 ha.); also involved in the identification, design and planning of a 3,000 ha. farm.
- **1979-80**
LIBYA: Soil/Land Use Specialist, member of a team undertaking the “**Shatt al Badin Agriculture Scheme**” (Gov. of Libya). The project involved a number of multi-discipline semi-detailed surveys of 70,000 ha. and detailed surveys of 6,000 ha. to formulate an ‘**overall irrigated agricultural development**’ and to plan a number of intensive production smallholder schemes in the Shatt al Badin Area, between Benghazi and Ajdahbiya. Main responsibilities included: - compilation and evaluation of existing land resources and agriculture and soil surveys to assess the suitability of the area for irrigated agriculture development; - assistance in the setting up of a soil and water field analytical laboratory; - co-ordination and undertaking of ‘routine infiltration rate and hydraulic conductivity tests throughout the project area; - production of agriculture, soil and land suitability evaluation maps and reports.
- **1979**
TANZANIA: Land Use Specialist; member of a team evaluating 30,000 ha for “**Oilseed Production and Identification and Planning of two 5,000 ha. Estates in the Nachingwea area**” (GAPEX / GoT). Responsible for reconnaissance and detailed soil surveys and land suitability evaluation. The possibilities of irrigated crop production were investigated and based on the results of the soils and topographic surveys, plans for soil and water conservation measures were formulated.

1978

UNITED KINGDOM: Technical Demonstrator in Soil Science and Pedology at the Soil Science Department, University of Reading.

1971-1976

CHILE: Agriculturist/Technical Coordinator with the **Agrarian Reform Corporation – CORA; National Oilseed Company – COMARSA and Private Consultancy**. Undertook the following relevant assignments:

- **1974-1976**

Member of a team dealing with projects concerning sub-division and distribution plans of lands for the Agrarian Reform Corporation (CORA), involving the formulation of development plans of proposed settlement units. Main responsibilities included technical co-ordination of teams of specialist; undertaking land resources assessments and evaluation of proposed development areas; API of large areas and the undertaking of numerous soil surveys for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture production.

- **1973**

With the National Oilseed Company – COMARSA (private firm) was responsible for work on promotion, planning and technical assistance to the oilseed growers of sunflower, soybean and rapeseed crops in the Ñuble Province.

- **1971-1973**

Employed as and Agriculturalist and Land Use Planner by the Agrarian Reform Corporation – CORA (Chilean Government) with responsibilities for the management and planning of crop production under both irrigated and rain-fed conditions, on newly established land reform settlements, in the Province of Linares.