

2016 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Oscar Cacho



Oscar Cacho is a professor, and the senior agricultural economist, in the Business School at the University of New England, Australia where he has worked since 1994. Oscar started his professional life as a marine biologist and later became an economist. Oscar's academic studies were completed in Mexico and the USA: BSc (marine biology, UAM), MSc (fisheries, Auburn), PhD (economics, Auburn). After completing his PhD, Oscar worked for two years as a research associate in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Auburn University focusing on economic optimization models for fish production. In 1990 he moved to Lincoln University New Zealand and worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Farm Management Department. During four years at Lincoln he researched and published on subjects ranging from plant and animal growth to dynamic optimization models and the use of object-oriented programming in simulation modelling.

Oscar's teaching areas cover: bio-economics; farm and resource management; agricultural risk analysis; natural resource economics; quantitative methods applied to economics; applied production and price analysis; applied computer programming; and business decision making. His research interests centre on the application of economics and biology (bio-economics) to tackle problems of sustainability in agriculture and natural resources and encompass: agricultural and resource economics; environmental economics; biosecurity economics; climate economics and policy; land-use change and forestry; biodiversity conservation; economics of fisheries and aquaculture. His recent work has been in two major areas: the role of carbon markets to address climate change and the economics of biosecurity to protect native ecosystems. Oscar has 145 publications on ResearchGate.net; he has 2424 citations, and an h-index of 28 on Google Scholar.

Oscar has obtained over \$2.4 Million in research funds as an academic at UNE. He has applied his interdisciplinary expertise to address a variety of problems in nature conservation, fisheries, aquaculture, grazing systems, invasive species management, climate policy and sustainable agriculture, both in Australia and internationally. Recently, he has been involved in projects on reduced deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in Indonesia; Climate-Smart Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa; and surveillance and control of invasive species in Australia and New Zealand, with funding from a variety of sources. Oscar has been a member of a Technical Advisory Group on Control of Invasive Species in the Galapagos Islands and a visiting expert at the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. Oscar has collaborated with international agencies (including FAO, ASB, CIFOR, ICRAF, ICLARM), universities (including ANU, The University of Melbourne, Monash University, McGill University), and State and Commonwealth government agencies (including the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, ABARES, Biosecurity Queensland, NSW DPI and VIC DPI).

Oscar Cacho has been an AARES member for more than 20 years and has contributed as Branch President, Branch Councillor, LOC member and LOC Chair. AARES recognises Oscar as a Distinguished Fellow for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics through teaching, research and consultancy.