

## Sebastian Saa Ph.D.

████████████████████ Associate Director, Agricultural Research, Almond Board of California.

As a highly experienced pomologist with a specialization in fruit tree nutrition and management, I have spent the last 15 years designing and executing experimental trials and translating outputs into actionable grower management material. My expertise primarily lies in almonds, but I also have extensive experience in walnuts, table grapes, cherries, and other major deciduous fruit trees.

During my seven years at the Almond Board of California, I have successfully identified and prioritized research programs that improve almond production. As the primary liaison with our outreach team and research partners, I initiate, evaluate, and translate research knowledge to our almond industry, which has resulted in higher yields, improved sustainability, and reduced input costs for growers. I have a track-record of driving positive change with high impact, such as developing and implementing guidelines on tree nutrition, rootstock selection, and salinity management for important CA specialty crops. Additionally, I possess strong verbal and written communication skills, excellent planning, and organization abilities, and I am an effective team leader.

### I. EDUCATION

#### POSTGRADUATE

2009 - 2013	Ph.D. in Horticulture and Agronomy with a specialization in fruit tree nutrition and management of almond trees. Horticulture and Agronomy Program. University of California, Davis, USA. Guiding Professors: Patrick Brown, Bruce Lampinen, Emilio Laca, and Ted DeJong. Awarded scholarship for academic performance.
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#### UNDERGRADUATE

2003 - 2006	B.A. in Agronomy, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
2006 - 2008	Degree with honors in Agricultural Engineering with a specialization in pomology, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

### II. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 – Present	Associate Director, Agricultural Research, Almond Board of California, California, USA.
2018 – 2020	Senior Manager, Agricultural Research, Almond Board of California, California, USA.
2015 – 2018	Independent Pomology Consultant in Almonds, Walnuts, and Table Grapes for growers and processors in Chile.

2015 - 2018	Project Scientist II, University of California, Davis, USA.
2014 - 2018	Assistant Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile (PUCV).
2013 - 2014	Postdoctoral Researcher in the lab of Dr. Patrick Brown, University of California, Davis, USA.
2009 - 2013	Graduate Student Researcher, Fruit Nutrition Laboratory (Professor: Dr. Patrick Brown). University of California, Davis, USA.

### III. HIGHLIGHTED INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- As an independent consultant, I achieved significant success in improving almond productivity for numerous almond growers and investors in Chile. In addition, I learned, developed and implemented successful economic and financial strategies for agribusiness.
- I have delivered numerous of presentations on best management practices in almond production, both in California and internationally, including countries such as Australia, Portugal, Italy, Spain, France, and Chile.
- As the lead content creator, I am responsible for crafting and executing the majority of the production content presented at The Almond Conference in Sacramento, CA each year.
- I have developed and written key information to improve yield productivity in the areas of plant nutrition, irrigation management, pest management, rootstocks, and varieties. My work has helped almond growers achieve higher yields, improve sustainability and reduce input costs.
- I have designed and implemented strategic research plans in irrigation, breeding, and nutrients for the almond industry, resulting in improved yields and higher quality almonds.
- My work in scientific publications and communications includes keynote speeches at multiple scientific and extension conventions, **31 scientific publications with an H-index of 12 and 483 citations. I have also edited two books and authored three book chapters.**
- I am the main author of key industry reports that have been instrumental for the almond industry. My reports include a complete assessment of the Iberian almond production and a comprehensive evaluation of almond varieties and their productivity.

### IV. CERTIFICATIONS

2023	Management Development Program, UC Davis
2020	Supervisory Skills, UC Davis
2015	Certificate in Teaching. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso
2015	Advances in Walnut Production. University of California, Davis, USA.
2014	Principles of Fruit & Nut Tree Growth, Cropping and Management. University of California, Davis, USA.

## **V. TECHNICAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

I possess advanced knowledge and expertise in various software programs, including Microsoft Suite, SigmaPlot, JMP, SmartSimple, and SmartSheet Management Software. I also have vast knowledge in precision tools available in the marketplace to optimize water use efficiency, nutrient use efficiency, soil health, pest and disease control, spray and harvest efficiency, orchard configuration and training.

I am a native Spanish speaker with bilingual fluency in Spanish and English.