

Professional profile

Ph.D. in Agriculture and Food Science and Technology from the University of Lleida, & Ph.D. in Engineering and Advanced Technologies from the University of Barcelona. Freelance consultant and lecturer/speaker on innovation-based territorial development strategies and policies and R+D+i management for the agri-food sector, with a broad experience in Europe and Latam. Author of more than 40 JCR-indexed journal scientific articles and several extension contributions and lectures. Expert on agri-food technology, multivariate data analysis and quintuple-helix open innovation.

Twice-awarded with the National Prize to Excellence in Academic Performance of the Ministry for Education of the Spanish Government (2006 and 2008), and with the University of Lleida Ph.D. Extraordinary Award for his first doctoral thesis (2012).

Councilor for Education (2011-2013) and Mayor (2013-2018) of Albatàrrec (Lleida, Spain). Founding partner of the companies AKIS International, E-STRATOS Geosystems and Inaptek Automation. Part-time lecturer at the University of Lleida, and member of the managing board of the Official Association of Agricultural Engineers of Catalonia.

Current roles

- AKIS International: RDi Manager (2013).
- E-STRATOS Geosystems: Data Analyst (2017).
- Inaptek Automation: Founder and Sole Administrator (2017).
- University of Lleida: Part-time lecturer on Production and Innovation Management (2015).
- Official Association of Agricultural Engineers of Catalonia: Lleida province representative (2018).

Academic training

- Ph.D. Engineering and Advanced Technologies. University of Barcelona (2013).
- Ph.D. Agricultural and Food Science and Technology. University of Lleida (2012).
- Master of Research in Agricultural Production Systems. University of Lleida (2009).
- M.D. Agricultural Engineer. University of Lleida (2008).
- B.D. Agricultural Technical Engineer. University of Lleida (2006).

Previous expertise

- Distribuïdora Elèctrica d'Albatàrrec: President of the Management Board (2013-2018).
- Council of Albatàrrec (Lleida, Spain): Mayor (2013-2018).
- Agri-Food Research & Technology Institute (IRTA): Researcher (2013).
- Council of Albatàrrec (Lleida, Spain): Councilor for Education (2011-2013).
- University of Lleida: Researcher (2009-2012).
- Industries GMB SA: R&D technician (2008-2009).

Honors & awards

- Awarded by the Ministry for Education of the Spanish Government:
 - National Prize to Excellence in Academic Performance of the academic year 2007-2008, in the category of M.D. in Agricultural Engineering.
 - National Prize to Excellence in Academic Performance of the academic year 2005-2006, in the category of B.D. in Agricultural Engineering.

- Awarded by the University of Lleida:
 - Ph.D. Extraordinary Award (2012).
 - M.D. Agricultural Engineer Extraordinary Award (2009).
 - B.D. Agricultural Engineer Extraordinary Award (2007).
- *Confrare de Mèrit* (honorary member) of the Young Cava Producers Association of Sant Sadurní (2014).
- AKIS International: 1st Technological Innovation Award of the 2018 Sant Miquel Fair, for the irrigation management software *watmanPRO*. Lleida, Spain.
- Iberus-CLH Entrepreneurship Awards 2014. Finalist.

Other activities and expertise

- Expert of the INNOVACT Platform (www.innovactplatform.eu) on agri-food value chains and strategies for territorial development of cross-border regions.
- Lecturer at the *Master in Design and Direction of Labs and Projects of Social and Digital Innovation* of the University of Barcelona.
- Member of the *Focus Group on Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems* of the Spanish Ministry for Agriculture (2019-2020).
- Project evaluator for Program Ideas - Exploratory Research Projects (PCE), National Council for Scientific Research, Romania. Years 2011, 2015, 2016, 2019.
- KNX Certified Partner. Programmer of smart home & building automation in the KNX standard.
- Member of the Stakeholder Advisory Board of the H2020 project *SWS-Heating: Development and Validation of an Innovative Solar Compact Selective-Water-Sorbent-Based Heating System*, led by the National Technical University of Athens.
- AKIS International delegate at the General Advisory Board of the project *INNO4AGRO: an innovative ecosystem for a smart agri-food sector*, funded by the Catalan Government under the call for Projects of Specialization and Territorial Competitiveness (PECT) framed in the Catalan Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3CAT) and the 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund Operational Program.

Projects (selection)

- *Biolab Ponent: Collaborative territorial structure of open innovation to promote the systemic transition of the Lleida rural area towards the Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy model*. Reference initiative for the European Network for Rural Development, and cited as a reference practice in the Joint Research Center report "*Projecting Opportunities for INDUSTRIAL TRANSITIONS (POINT): Concepts, rationales and methodological guidelines for territorial reviews of industrial transition*".
- *Platform to increase productivity and competitiveness of the Andean fruit chains of avocado, passifloraceous and citrus fruits*. Colombia, Ecuador & Perú. AKIS International, 2017-2021. Funding agency: FONTAGRO / Inter-American Development Bank / IICA.
- *Biovalue: Instruments for strategic planning to generate employment linked to Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy: definition of business models and value chains*. Spain. AKIS International, 2020-2021. Funding agency: European Social Fund.
- *Model of platform for the comprehensive use, value and competitiveness addition of commercial fruit trees in the Andean region*. AKIS International, 2014-2017. Colombia. Funding agency: FONTAGRO / Inter-American Development Bank / IICA.
- *Implementation and training in the use of solar dehydrators to empower women in rural areas of Colombia in the post-conflict context*. AKIS International, 2018-2020. Colombia. Funding agency: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

- *Improvement of the resilience of family agriculture in the Andean zone of Colombia to climate change through localized irrigation.* AKIS International, 2017-2019. Colombia. Funding agency: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).
- *International Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Project Management.* Campus Iberus, 2015. Colombia. Funding Agency: Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos.
- *SIRiVE: EIP-agri Operational Group for the development of an Integrated System for the optimization of Irrigation doses of stone fruit trees in the Ebro Valley.* AKIS International, 2018-2021. Spain. Funding agency: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.
- *BIOkm0: EIP-agri Operational Group for the recovery of nutrients and their reuse in proximity crops for the development of circular bioeconomy in local communities.* AKIS International, 2018-2021. Spain. Funding agency: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.
- *agROBOfood: boosting the adoption of robotic technologies in the European agri-food sector. A network of Digital Innovation Hubs in Robotics.* E-STRATOS Geosystems, 2019-2023. Funding agency: H2020, European Commission.
- *5G Rural: First pilot of 5G technology application in a rural environment in Spain.* Mobile World Capital Foundation, Vodafone Engineering, Cisco Systems & AKIS International. 2019.
- *Improving Thermal Processing of Foods Sealed in Military-Ration Polymeric Trays (Phase I).* Washington State University, 2011. Funding agency: Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Department of Defense.

Relevant publications (selection of books and scientific papers) [*h-index*: 21]

- *Juice Processing: Quality, Safety and Value-Added Opportunities.* Falguera V, Ibarz A (Ed.). Boca Raton (FL, USA): CRC Press. 2014.
- *Ultraviolet in food preservation and processing.* Ibarz A, Garvín A, Falguera V. In: Bhattacharya S (Ed.). *Conventional and Advanced Food Processing Technologies.* Hoboken (NJ, USA): John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. 2015.
- *Potential use of cow manure for poly(lactic acid) production.* Garrido R, Cabeza LF, Falguera V, Pérez-Navarro O. *Sustainability*, 14(24), 16753. 2022.
- *An overview of bioplastic research on its relation to national policies.* Garrido R, Cabeza LF, Falguera V. *Sustainability*, 13(14), 7848. 2021.
- *An integrated approach to current trends in food consumption: Moving toward functional and organic products?* Falguera V, Aliguer N, Falguera M. *Food Control*, 26, 274-281. 2012.
- *Edible films and coatings: Structures, active functions and trends in their use.* Falguera V, Quintero JP, Jiménez A, Muñoz JA, Ibarz A. *Trends in Food Science & Technology*, 22, 292-303. 2011.
- *Characterization of polyphenol oxidase activity in juices from 12 underutilized tropical fruits with high agroindustrial potential.* Falguera V, Sánchez-Riaño AM, Quintero-Cerón JP, Rivera-Barrero CA, Méndez-Arteaga, JJ, Ibarz A. *Food and Bioprocess Technology*, 5, 2921-2927. 2012.
- *Modeling of absorbed radiation profiles in a system composed by a plane photoreactor and a single lamp.* Falguera V, Esplugas S, Vicente M, Ibarz A. *Food Research International*, 44, 3111-3114. 2011.
- *Kinetic and multivariate analysis of polyphenol oxidase inactivation by high pressure and temperature processing in apple juices made from six different varieties.* Falguera V, Gatiús F, Ibarz A, Barbosa-Cánovas GV. *Food and Bioprocess Technology*, 6, 2342-2352. 2013.
- *A new model to describe flow behavior of concentrated orange juice.* Falguera V, Ibarz A. *Food Biophysics*, 5, 114-119. 2010.