



**Title of Project**

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in the Field of Agriculture

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**TIRF Research Topic Investigated**

Content-based Instruction

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**Project Summary**

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has been explored in varied occupational and educational contexts, with most studies focusing on post-secondary learners. Research on ESP in the occupational context of agriculture is very limited, particularly regarding the English language needs and contexts of high school learners. This study focuses on the English language needs of Chilean high school students enrolled in a vocational education and training (VET) program in agriculture. First, through needs analysis (NA), conducted in the first phase of the study (from Sept. to Nov. 2019), I identified real-world tasks that require English in the work of agricultural technicians. Based on these tasks, in a second research phase, pedagogic tasks will be developed and applied in the language classes of participating schools. This will fulfil the study's overriding aim of exploring teachers' and students' views of pedagogic language tasks which are directly relevant to real-world contexts of agricultural professions.

This application seeks funding for the follow-up research stage, in which participants include English as a foreign language (EFL) teachers and year-twelve students from three high schools providing VET programs in agriculture. Through a workshop intervention, interviews, questionnaires, and classroom observation, the study will shed light on how pedagogic tasks derived from NA are perceived by teachers and learners, and how they are implemented in L2 classrooms. Findings will inform pedagogy such as teaching practice and task design. It will also inform materials and curriculum development regarding the English language skills relevant to VET students and their future professions.