

In memory of Enrique Arias Jiménez

April 16th, 2020

With great sadness we received the news of the passing of our friend and colleague **Enrique Arias Jiménez**.



Enrique was one of the founding members of the Cactusnet, back on September 1992, in Santiago, Chile, as FAO officer, and even after his retirement in 2010 he continued working for his great passion for "the nopal", "the green gold", the "desert dromedary" as he liked to call it.

Enrique was a gentleman, noble, friend of few words and many deeds, generous, who helped many in different ways.

For **Enrique**, the nopal was a symbol of a better world, which along with some colleagues such as Giuseppe Barbera, dreamed that they would build through the CactusNet; he was a great leader in this.

Paolo Inglese said that **Enrique** was for CactusNet "like a lighthouse in the storm", he guided and served the scientific and technical development for rural populations in arid areas.

Respectful of democratic institutions, he worked for FAO for more than 25 years with loyalty and responsibility; he was fair, intellectually honest. Without his passionate, but concrete and politically correct support, we could never have achieved the goals we have achieved at CactusNet: "making the invisible cactus visible"!



He was impartial and never favored his Mexico, which he adored. Thank you

Enrique for making us a community based on values such as loyalty, professionalism, friendship, and the capacity to serve the rural poor. This is your legacy for many people who have benefited from your work.

At the same time these lines are written, sincere tributes and thanks to **Enrique** for his great work are landing in our mailbox from different parts of the world, his influence will have a great echo, not only in our CactusNet but in so many people who received his help and his advice. Thank you **Enrique** for being the way you were and for all your work on behalf of the most deprived.