

## No Superhero

SIA was a harbor for me. It invited me to join and taste the feel of science. It was my gate to a new world, the world of Academia.

According to the Statement of Purpose (SOP) that I submitted for the application to the SIA program in 2009, it seems that I badly wanted to SAVE THE WORLD (Didn't we all, my friends?). The naive-me went on and on saying, "Go Organic!", "Help the people!". At the end of the passionate essay, I stated my after-SIA plan. The young-me was somehow so convinced that he could become a superhero saving the world after the prestigious 2-year program at SIA.

Unfortunately, SIA's curriculum did not include subjects, e.g. "Introduction to the methods to save the world (101)". Instead I learned about science. The 2-year of experience filled me with a lesson how to plan, execute, analyze and communicate science. And, surprisingly, I loved it.

At the end of my SIA-period, I finally came to a conclusion that I can't be a superhero flying around and saving the world. Betraying my promise as stated in my SOP, I dreamed a new dream, a smaller dream. I chose to become a researcher, a scientist. In order to become one, I went through a painful metamorphosis as a PhD student, and thank God, I made it.

And here I am, a hungry, poor and needy postdoc, the form of the life that I never wanted to have. And I still dream to move forward, to be a help of finding meaningful discoveries in the realm of agricultural sciences.

SIA made me down-size my dream. My passion for sustainable agriculture is not as magnificent as before. But it surely is more tangible and real now.

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