

Ram C. Bhujel, PhD

Research Associate Professor

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Ram completed MS (1994) & PhD (1999) from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand where he serves as Research Associate Professor and Founding Director of Aqua-Centre. He has been teaching and supervising post-graduate students since 2005. He was a post-doc visiting fellow at the University of Stirling, UK in 2000 & 2001 and at the University of Montpellier III, France in 2012. Ram is a sole author of books “**A Manual for Tilapia Business Management**” published by CABI, UK, and “**Statistics for Aquaculture**” by Wiley/Blackwell Science in collaboration with American Aquaculture Society. He has also published over 100 scientific papers and chaired several international conferences/seminars worldwide.

He has led EU funded curriculum development program for aquaculture in Asia beginning with the project “Improving Master’s Degree level education in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management in Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam” during 2005-2008 partnering with University of Stirling (UK), Univ. of Aveiro (Portugal), Royal Univ. of Agriculture (Cambodia), IAAS (Nepal), University of Forestry and Fisheries (Ho Chi Minh, VN), Research Aquaculture No. 1 (Hanoi, VN). Following up with this project, he designed and implemented, “**Linking the post-graduate education in aquaculture and aquatic resources management with its industries through internship program**” funded by EU under Asian Link programme, during Sept 2007 – Aug 2010 supporting over 100 students as well as teachers. He represented Asia for an EU project called “SARNISSA (Sustainable Aquaculture Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa)” through which aquaculture technologies are being transferred between Asia and Africa.

Ram plays an important role in promoting sustainable aquaculture and fisheries to ensure adequate supply aquatic food to the people. Competing globally, he again won a funding for the project “**Curriculum Development for Sustainable Seafood and Nutrition Security**” from EU Erasmus+ programme. Nine MSc curricula were developed. The project established/strengthened and nine sustainable seafood centres and launched innovative MSc programs in partner universities in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam in collaboration with four European partners from Greece, Norway and UK. He also coordinated a USAID project called, “Agriculture Learning Exchanges for Asia Regional Networking (AgLEARN)” as Deputy Chief of Party (2013-2016, budget approx. 1m USD). With this project, innovative agricultural technologies were transferred from Thailand to food deficit communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Nepal; three districts in each of these countries. He has been securing funds for research from EU companies e.g. Biomin, Delacon, Patent, Lucta etc. He has been designing and implementing several aquaculture training courses since 2011 attracting >700 senior officials worldwide. He designed Women in Aquaculture (WiA) program for Nepal, launched during 2000-2010 which became the most successful model project. He also designed and successfully launched a community development project in 11 rural villages of Myanmar funded by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Italy with the goal to reduce poverty by developing entrepreneurship in women (eWomen).

He served as one of the members of the global team of evaluators of the AAS (Agriculture and Aquatic Systems) programme of the CGIAR. He has gained an extensive practical experience working with FAO/UN (e.g. the Philippines & Zambia), WorldFish (Timor Leste), NACA (Nepal), USDA (Pakistan), US Soybean Export Council (Myanmar), NEPAD (Africa), SPC (Fiji) and several private sectors. He has been awarded a **GOLD MEDAL** by Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) in 2009. His main mission to help achieve food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and employment creation