



## SHAFIQ FATIMA, PhD

Aquaculture has been my passion since childhood, when I used to play around the fish ponds at the family homestead. This passion led me to pursue Ph.D. in Aquaculture from the University of Tasmania in Australia, ranked among the top 300 universities in the world.

Following my studies, I became an

Associate Professor of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the Department of Zoology, Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) in Pakistan. Currently, I am working as a Fulbright visiting scholar at Virginia State University in the USA. The specialization in Fisheries and Aquaculture began at LCWU in 2015, but the program experienced significant growth when the American Soybean Association became involved in various academic activities under the WISHH/FEEDing Pakistan Program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. WISHH organized an international aquaculture conference, live Tilapia cooking competitions, industrial trainings, visits to fish feed mills and farms, World Fisheries Day events, and seminars. These activities played a pivotal role in inspiring young women at LCWU to pursue careers in aquaculture, resulting in a significant increase in program enrollments. Currently, the Fisheries and Aquaculture specialization boasts thirty students enrolled in both undergraduate and master's programs, with an additional ten students pursuing Ph.D. degrees. Three faculty members, including myself, have secured six external grant projects. These grants have been instrumental in establishing an Aquaculture research facility and developing laboratories. One noteworthy project, under the Technology Development Fund Program, facilitated an industrial linkage with SoyPak, successfully introducing in-pond raceway system technology to Pakistan. This initiative also included extensive outreach activities across all provinces of Pakistan, aimed at training fish farmers and other stakeholders in modern aquaculture technologies. We are small but we are making a difference in the lives of young women.