

## **Profile of Dr Uttam Deb**

Dr Uttam Deb is an agricultural economist with expertise in aquaculture and fisheries economics. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), USA. He is involved in teaching and research. His current research studies focus on understanding effect of brands on seafood demand in the United States; competitiveness of U.S. aquaculture in the global seafood system; and quantification of direct, indirect and induced contribution of aquaculture and fisheries sub-sector to the economy of Arkansas. He is conducting a study on impacts of aquaculture/ fisheries research in UAPB. He is also studying economic feasibility and profitability of fish production (feed) technologies developed in the UAPB research laboratories.

He was educated at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) from where he received B.Sc. Agricultural Economics (Honours) degree with First Class 2<sup>nd</sup> position in 1985 and M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics degree with First Class First position in 1986. He obtained Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1995. He conducted doctoral dissertation research titled "Human Capital and Agricultural Growth in Bangladesh" at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Dr Deb's post-doctoral research was at the ICRISAT. He has completed a post-graduate certificate programme in Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy from the Carleton University.

Prior to the UAPB, he worked as Principal Scientist (Economics) at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India. At ICRISAT, he conducted research on poverty, inequality and development pathways. He also coordinated database management, policy research and capacity building activities of the Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) project. Dr. Deb was an agricultural economist the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). He was the Head of Research at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading think-tank in Bangladesh. He has worked as members in various consultative bodies of the Government of Bangladesh. He has carried out research for several international organizations including World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and WorldFish Center.

He has proven record of scientific excellence in completed research works. As author and co-author, he has more than 250 publications including 31 journal articles, 10 books and monographs, 38 book chapters, 2 Thesis, 14 policy briefs, 44 international conference papers, 37 national conference/ seminar papers, 30 working papers/ research reports, 16 poster papers and 4 Book Reviews. He is a lead contributor of 29 corporate publications of the CPD. He published 27 articles in newspapers and professional magazines.

As Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, Project Manager and team member, Dr. Deb has implemented a number of research projects at the ICRISAT and Centre for Policy Dialogue which were funded by the Asian Development Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CIDA, DFID (UK), European Commission, IDRC Canada, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Overseas Development Institute (ODI,UK), South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI), UNDP Bangladesh and World Economic Forum.

He is a successful communicator of research findings to the policy makers and wider audience. He writes in the newspapers and professional magazines. He has provided interviews to the national and international media including British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Voice of America (VoA) and leading television channels and newspapers in Bangladesh on issues related to agriculture, food security, inflation, trade policy and economic development.