

Biography- Dr. Aftab Alam

I earned my masters (MSc; MPhil) and PhD degrees in Zoology, specializing in Aquaculture and Fisheries. I joined an ambitious R&D program at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in 1998, a joint undertaking by Japan and Saudi Arabia focused on water conservation and integrated food production. I helped establish the KACST recirculating aquaculture system and the first ever aquaponics system in the Middle East at KACST during 1999-2001. Beginning in 2008, I worked jointly with KACST and the Jeddah Fisheries Research Center of the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture to develop technology for the integrated marine aquaculture of fish and seaweeds, alleviating nutrient waste from aquaculture discharges by growing aquatic plants in these effluents to minimize coastal pollution.

My technical and operating experience led my appointment in 2012 as Senior Research Scientist at Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Center for Desert Agriculture, led by Prof. Nina Fedoroff. At KAUST, I worked with a team of eminent scientists to design recirculating aquaculture and aquaponics systems that could facilitate operation with both freshwater and saline water.

In 2015, I joined Edenworks, a New York based aquaponics technology company, as Vice President of Agriculture, leading R&D efforts along with a team of engineers, architects, and technologists.

I am co-inventor of four patent-pending technologies in the field and have published more than 25 refereed papers in high impact journals such as J. World Aquaculture Society, Aquacultural Engineering, Journal of Applied Aquaculture and Reviews in Aquaculture during my 22 years of career in research and development.