



2014 BHEARD Scholar
Murshida Khan

Profile

Country of Study:	USA
University:	Louisiana State University
Department:	Renewable Natural Resources
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant — Ph.D.
Home Country:	Bangladesh
Home Institution:	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman Agricultural University
Home Position:	Assistant Professor
Mentored By:	Dr. Julie Anderson School of Renewable Natural Resources Louisiana State University

Research Area: Fisheries Technology

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2014

HOMETOWN: Pabna, Bangladesh

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural University, BANGLADESH

GRADUATE EDUCATION: Fisheries Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, BANGLADESH

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Quality Control of Fish and Fishery Products.

“Shrimp is one of the most important economic resources of Bangladesh. Shrimp exports play a vital role in the earnings and livelihood development of millions of poor coastal communities, but the issue relating to food safety and environmental quality did not receive the attention as was deserved,” says Murshida. As a result, she says the export of shrimp from Bangladesh has increasingly faced tougher conditions. “It is possible to overcome this situation only by improving the food safety and quality management system of this sector.”

Although shrimp farmers in Bangladesh no longer use banned antibiotics, Murshida says they frequently use currently approved chemicals to combat bacterial diseases. “Important, and often overlooked issues are the effects of overdoses of currently approved drugs (including how much residue remains in shrimp flesh); the effect on humans of those drugs due to long-time use; and identifying the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.”

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Returning home as a teacher to a public university of Bangladesh, Murshida plans to disseminate the acquired knowledge about the effects of microorganisms and antibiotics on shrimp as well as continuing collaborating research works with different quality control organization both in country and abroad. She hopes her research outcomes will aid in new findings on the quality deterioration of shrimp and also be helpful for policy formulation about seafood safety in Bangladesh.

“I am grateful to BHEARD program for selecting me as a scholar and giving me the opportunity to study at Louisiana State University (LSU), which is a renowned university providing excellent education and research facility. A PhD degree from such a university would be the milestone for the development of fisheries sector in Bangladesh.”

In her spare time, Murshida enjoys reading books, playing puzzled game on the computer and listening to music.