

DR. SHAHID ZIA

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Education

Ph.D.	Agricultural Economics Oklahoma State University, Stillwater (USA). (On the Role of Honor)	1992.
M. Sc	Agricultural Marketing University of Agricultural, Faisalabad, Pakistan (With Honors, top position in the Faculty)	1985.
B. Sc	Agriculture University of Agricultural, Faisalabad, Pakistan (Won Three Merit Scholarships)	1982.

Key Qualifications and Skills

Dr Zia has a little over 25 years of experience of developing and managing diverse, complex multi-year and multi-donor programs across challenging social, economic and environmental conditions. He has strong competencies in all aspects of the program management cycle including people and relationship management, strategic planning, negotiation, financial disciplines, quality assurance and project M&E.

Currently, Dr Zia is working as Managing Director of Rural Business Development Centre (RBDC) , Dr. Zia led the organization develop rural business development strategy and worked with rural communities to develop agricultural value chains. In order to benefit from the development and experiences of other institutions, a national and international collaboration programme has been developed. RBDC has initiated research on climate change and rural livelihoods with Centre for Agriculture and Food Security, Coventry University, UK. RBDC also offers valuable services on research, development, public-private sector linkages, and microfinance for value chain development, evaluation of value chains and other programmes of national and international organizations. A training centre has also been built to provide capacity building services to national NGOs and farming communities. The Centre offers courses on selected value chains and rural development issues.

Dr. Zia has worked with many national and international institutions on a variety of different management and advisory positions and has worked in many countries of Asia, Middle East, and Africa. He has developed programmes and strategies humanitarian support, early relief, and rehabilitation of communities suffered natural calamities. After the earth quake in Kashmir and KPK in 2005, he developed and implemented a large programme for the

communities in Bagh Kashmir and rebuilt bridges, schools, houses and water resources and then helped communities develop and improve farming systems for sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, after the 2010 floods in Pakistan, Dr Zia helped Islamic Relief is developing a large flood relief programme and provided people with food and medicine, fodder, tools and seeds as a part of humanitarian support and early recovery.

Executive Director, Lok Sanjh Foundation As a founder and Executive Director, Dr. Zia led the organizational development of Lok Sanjh and its work with farming communities to develop and implement livelihood strategies, food security, community health care and improvement systems, and strategies to improve access to and quality of education for girls. Lok Sanjh also supports rural business development and value chains and marketing linkages of organic food. It engages youth in development and organizes Youth Earth Summit with school children annually. Lok Sanjh is working with 170 rural communities and has six Zonal Offices. Lok Sanjh's work on *sustainable livelihood*, water harvesting, and policy advocacy is quite strong and known in the country.

Executive Director, Sungi Development Foundation, Dr. Shahid Zia led Sungi, a leading Pakistani NGO with a budget of Rs. 170 million and 175 professional members of staff in seven zonal offices. The Foundation is working with a little over 200 communities. Poverty reduction strategy of Sungi mainly centered around *sustainable livelihoods* developed using *microfinance*, existing resource base, organized farmers, and contextually appropriate contemporary technologies. For the communities living in far flung mountain regions, Community-led health programmes were designed and implemented. Dr. Zia advised and supported the advocacy and campaign teams to develop campaign strategies for influencing government policies in favour of smallholder farmers and marginalized communities. Dr. Zia was quite instrumental in developing strategic relationships with government, donors and civil society organizations.

Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) . Dr. Zia served as of Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry program. He developed and implemented projects on *Climate Change*, biodiversity, Green Cotton, *Food Security*, Policies That Work for Sustainable Mountain Agriculture and *Water Harvesting* Policies for Mountain Regions. He also organized seminars, trainings and workshops for farmers, farmer's organizations and national counterpart scientists. With SDPI, Dr. Zia has worked on environment and sustainability issues of national and global importance.

Associate National Coordinator, PARC. With Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Dr. Zia has more than twelve years of experience in a variety of different roles in research and identifying farm constraints, formulation of research projects, marketing of farm products and farm inputs, and coordination and management of research projects. He served as Associate National Coordinator of Sustainable Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) of PARC and Farming System Research, a *USAID project*. He has worked on short term assignments in many countries like Thailand, Cyprus, Nepal, Jordan, Egypt, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Turkey, Libya.

PhD Scholar, Oklahoma State University, USA. As a PhD scholar at Oklahoma State University, Dr. Zia in his PhD dissertation has developed a model capable of analyzing farm financial health and cash flow problems, impact of improved technologies, and determine **risk efficient optimal cropping systems** at farm level. The model can be

adapted to be used for resource allocation and impact evaluation, and climate change impact studies.

Countries worked/Visited: USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Brazil, Bosnia, Kasovo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Keynia, South Africa, Malawi, Mali, Jordan, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Cyprus, UAE, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka.