

Ajay K. Jha, PhD, MBA

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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Professional Experience:

January 2007-- to-date: Program Director-Agribusiness and International Development, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

- Developed USDA-CSREES funded project on “Economically Sustainable Cropping Strategies for Small and Medium Sized Farms in an Increasingly Scarce Water Environment” (2006-2009): Managing multidisciplinary, interagency, and integrated program to assist small and medium-sized farms in identifying economic, agronomic, and environmentally sustainable strategies in a limited water resource environment through on-farm research and demonstration (12 locations in Colorado) which covers 6,000 farmers’ welfare.
- Worked with stakeholders for planning, implementing and monitoring farm demonstration, water management, technology transfer, capacity building program for farm operations. Priorities innovative outreach and education program to assist farmers for water allocation and crop rotation decisions.
- Developed grant funding documents, develop communication linkage with diverse stakeholders & strategic partners for leveraging the impact of program
- Program Director for USAID program grants (\$20 million) on behalf of Colorado State University for “Afghanistan Water, Agriculture, and Technology Transfer Program (AWATT)” for Sustainable water and agriculture development creation of micro-enterprise for rural Afghanistan. This grant has been funded to multi-consortium partners (Colorado State, New Mexico State, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and Southern Illinois University Carbondale) and the four Afghanistan universities (Balkh University, Nangarhar University, Herat University, and Kabul University), Afghanistan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) , Ministry of Water and Energy, and Afghanistan Ministry of Higher Education, International development organizations, private sector and other local developmental organizations (NGO’s, PRT’s and ALP’s) in Afghanistan. Project aim is to develop an integrated approach for small farm development by improving production and market linkage.

**March 2002-December 2005: Biotechnology Research and Tech transfer Program
Manager, Colorado State University.**

- Executed diverse funded research program and work with multidisciplinary team for agricultural research and development.
- Monitored and evaluated ongoing research program on salt tolerant, weed infestation on agriculture managed ecosystem and conserving high valued horticultural plants.
- Managed multiple stakeholders (researchers, educationist, policy makers) meetings
- Monitored budgeting and funding for field and laboratory research
- Developed collaboration with similar interest area of researcher in the CSU campus
- Established 100 grape varieties for cold tolerance and higher yielding in Colorado fields
- Establish greenhouse value-added production and course development for Graduate program.

March 2000-December 2001: Agribusiness Advisor, Govt. of India, New Delhi, India.

- Developed and implemented project entitled “Early Warning System for Monitoring Indian Agriculture” covered in all the agro-climatic regions and zones (sub-regions) of India for monitoring of 11 major crops of food security. The agricultural situation, crop conditions, input availability and markets were studied and area, yield and production of crops are estimated through development of model using historical data on agro climatic factors and inputs with the help of remote sensing data analysis.
- Appraised and evaluated poverty alleviation programs for Ministry of rural development, Govt. of India.

October 1996 – March 2000: Advisor – Indo-Israel Agribusiness and Trade, Gov’t. of Israel.

- Coordinated several agricultural demonstration and technology transfer farm in different agro climatic zones in India for higher agriculture productivity and profitability using Israeli Drip irrigation, customized know how and agriculture management practices.
- Established “Indo-Israeli Center for Agriculture Technology Assessment and Transfer (CATAT) Research and Demonstration Farm” in Indian Agriculture

Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi to demonstrate Indian and Israeli innovative agriculture technology for value added crop production and income generation for small landholding Indian farmers.

- Developed 50 “On-the-spot training” workshops, for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka on diverse topics of agriculture, water management, horticulture and rural enterprising through the support of International Development and Cooperation (CINADCO) from Israel.
- Reviewed Indo-Israel research and development grant proposals and priorities the high impact grants. Managed performance based contracts, grants and evaluations of impacts and reporting of performance.

2005-2007: Business Management related work:

July 2005-December 2006: Program Coordinator for GSSE program and Advisor to Bright Light Innovation start-up, College of Business, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

- Developed business plan and BOP (bottom of pyramid) marketing strategy for smokeless stoves for India and Nepal for eliminating indoor air pollution. The project later on came under Envirofit International and funded by Shell Foundation
- Conceptualized and addressed poverty, environmental degradation which has potential to bring light, heat and cooking component together for the rural poverty stricken part of the world.
- Coordinated the market testing in 3 states of India for BOP market feedback

January 2006-July 2006: Consultant to Office of Economic Development (OED), City of Denver for OED Corporate University project.

- Established the first Corporate OED University for City and County of Denver for the professional development and ongoing capacity building for OED employee and business partners of metro Denver.
- Created a knowledge management system, communication strategy and customer service roadmap for OED.

EDUCATION:

Colorado State University, College of Business, Fort Collins, MBA, 2007
University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, Ph.D. Biotechnology, 1997

Patna University, Patna, India, M.S. Biology, 1991

TEACHING: H454 Capstone course for enterprise development for Horticulture
BG 460 International Developments

Graduate Supervision 2008: 2 Masters and 6 undergraduate research

Served as committee member for Kristie Wasserbach (MS candidate): University of Colorado, Denver and supervised jointly thesis with Prof. Ann Komara on “Bridging phyto-remediation technology and cultural plants in land refills in India”.

OTHERS:

Awards and Recognitions:

- OSD for The President of Israel H.E. Ezer Weizman, during his visit in 1997 to Cochin, India.
- Mentor for Sustainable business competition team for Global Sustainable Enterprise, College of Business, University of Washington, Seattle on “Rural telemedicine business for India” 2007.
- Mentor for Sustainable business competition team for Global Sustainable Enterprise, College of Business, University of Washington, Seattle on “Rural mobile banking business for West Africa” 2007.
- Fifth Annual Bard Center Business Plan Competition Award, CU Denver for idea on new start up “Bright Light Innovations” May 2006.
- Sustainable Venture Business Plan Competition Award, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado, Boulder, February 2006,.
- Colorado State University Apartment Life Diversity Award for Year 2003 and 2004.
- National Merit Fellowship for Graduate program, Ministry of Human Resources, Govt. of India (1985-1991).
- Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) and University Grant Commission (UGC awarded Senior Research Fellowship (1991-1993).
- Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering (GATE) Fellowship by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi on behalf of Science and Technology, Govt. of India (1994-1997).
- National Chancellor’s List 05-06.
- Founder of NaturaTech LLC and Agroecosystems.
- Advisor for social enterprise “Samman Foundation” in India.

Members of Professional Institutions:

- American society for Horticulture Science (ASHS).
- International Association of Biotechnology.
- International Life Science Institute (ILSI).
- Center for Technology Initiative (CFTI), New Delhi, India.
- Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC)
- Confederation of Indian Industry Agribusiness Sub-committee, New Delhi, India
- Indo-Israeli Agribusiness Chamber, Mumbai, India
- Member, Bihar Science, Technology and Industrial Council, Gov't. of Bihar, India.
- Member of UN Asian Chapter on Combating Desertification

Consulting Project:

- Uganda Regional Development Project - for African Development Bank (AfDB).
- Ghana, Ministry of Food– AFRAM Plains Development – Project of AfDB.
- Kazakhstan: Technology and Institutional Development for Sustainable Management-Asian Development Bank (ADB) Funded Project.
- Govt. of India project on “System management for agribusiness development”.
- Govt. of India- Agricultural Processed Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry project on “Post Harvest Center (Cool Chain, Refrigeration and material handling system) and export value chain”.
- USAID and Israel Ministry of External Affairs Joint Project on “Integrated Regional Rural Economic Planning and Development Program (IRREDP)” for Orissa State, India.
- Consultant for “Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Association” for technology transfer.

Visiting Faculty:

- National Institute of Banking Studies and Corporate Management (NIBSCOM), New Delhi, India, 2000-2001.
- Program on “Microfinance for Rural Enterprises”, Oriental Bank of Commerce Development Institute, New Delhi, 1999-2000.
- Banker Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, NABARD, India, 1998-2000.
- Banaras Hindu University, 2007.

Sponsored Grants:

Funded Project

- 8/31/2007 (Fiscal Year 2008)—CO-PI: Ajay K. Jha (1172) – Afghanistan Water, Agriculture and Technology Transfer Program (AWATT)—\$4,997,000.- (2008-2011).

Year 2009 Pending projects

- 3/24/2009 (Fiscal Year 2009)—CO- PI: Jha Ajay K (1172)—DOS-AID-Agency for Inter. Development--USAID-Peru: New Private Sector Competitiveness and Poverty Reduction and Alleviation Activity--\$14,590,600.-
- 2/18/2009 (Fiscal Year 2009)--Primary PI: Jha, Ajay K (1172)--City University of New York--USAID/Bangladesh 2008 Annual Program Statement (APS)APS Number: USAID-BANGLADESH-388-08-004-APSPost-cyclone SIDR ...-- \$2,636,000.-
- Fiscal Year 2009--Primary PI: Jha, Ajay K (1172)--New Mexico State University--Improving Agricultural Production Practices and Marketing Linkages for Small Farmers in Eastern Sri Lanka--\$635,000.-
- Fiscal Year 2009—Co-PI: Jha, Ajay K. (1172)--University of Colorado-- Strategic Assessment and Regional Economic Impact Analysis of Biofuel in Colorado--\$74,956.00.

Countries of Work Experience:

India, Israel, Nepal, Canada, USA, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Holland, France, England.

Publications – for 2008 only:

- Lindenmayer, B., Hansen, N., Crookston, M., Brummer, J. and **Jha A.** 2008. “Strategies for Reducing Alfalfa Consumptive Water Use”. 28th Annual American Geophysical Union Hydrology Day Conference, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. pp: 52-61.

- Pritchett, J., Thorvaldson J., Hansen N. and **Jha, A.** 2008. “Limited Irrigation Adoption and Water Leasing in Colorado”. 28th Annual Geophysical Union Hydrology Day Conference. Colorado State University. Fort Collins, CO. pp: 107-115.
- Thorvaldson, J., Pritchett, J., **Jha, A.** and Hansen, N. 2008. “Opportunities and Challenges for Colorado’s South Platte Basin”. Production and Farm Management Fact Sheet. PFMR 08-02. Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. 4 pages.
- **Jha, A.** and Pritchett, J. 2008. “Afghanistan Water, Agriculture, and Technology Transfer (AWATT)”. Colorado Water Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2008, Volume 25 (5): 26-27.

Academic Invited/Selected/Contributed Papers/ Seminars:

- Pritchett, J., Hansen, N. and **Jha, A.** 2008. Developing Economically Sustainable Cropping Strategies for Small and Medium Sized Farms: An Update. USDA-NRI- Small and Medium Sized Farms Project Directors Meeting, July 28, 2008. Manchester, NH.
- Pritchett, J., Thorvaldson, J., Hansen, N. and **Jha, A.** 2008. “Water Leases and Limited Irrigation: Opportunities and Challenges for Colorado’s South Platte Basin.” Conference Proceedings from Urbanization of Irrigated Land and Water Transfers. US Committee on Irrigation and Drainage. Scottsdale, AZ. May 28-31, 2008.
- Pritchett, J., Thorvaldson, J., Hansen, N. and **Jha, A.** 2008. “Limited Irrigation Adoption and Water Leasing in Colorado”. 28th Annual Geophysical Union. Hydrology Days. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. pp: 107-115.
- Pritchett, J., Hansen, N. and **Jha, A.** 2008. “Developing Economically Sustainable Cropping Strategies for Small and Medium Sized Farms in an Increasingly Scarce Water Environment”. Colorado Agriculture Experiment Station Annual Meeting. Fort Collins, CO. January 11, 2008.
- **Jha, A. 2008.** Agricultural Innovation and future of Agricultural Sustainability under global resource Limitation. Bihar Science Congress, Patna University, Patna, India. May 5, 2008.
- **Jha, A. 2008.** Agribusiness and management issues in South East Asia. Faculty of Management, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. May 12, 2008.

- **Jha, A.** 2008. Agricultural Innovation and Technology Transfer. Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. May 12, 2008.
- **Jha, A.** 2008. Bridging phyto-remediation technology and cultural plants in landfill to improve water quality and add recreational open space. Department of Botany, University of Delhi, India. May 20, 2008,
- **Jha, A.** 2008. Demonstration Farm and Technology Transfer - USAID – AWATT program perspective, Chicago AWATT meeting, June 27, 2008.
- **Jha, A.** 2008. The AWATT program and Technology transfer approach. New Mexico State University Alcala Research Station, NM. August 5, 2008.
- **Jha, A.** 2008. Afghanistan perspective for Development. College of Agriculture, Southern University of Illinois, Carbondale. August 7, 2009
- **Jha, A.** 2008. Afghanistan water, agriculture technology and transfer (AWATT) - A perspective of future Ag and water scenario in Afghanistan. CSU International Water Initiative Committee Meeting, CSU International Program, Laurel Halls, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. September 30, 2008.
- **Jha, A.** 2008. Mission Impossible: Afghanistan Water and Agriculture Development Project. DARE seminar series, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. November 19, 2008.
- **Jha, A., Davies, S. and Oad, R.** 2008. Afghanistan water, agriculture technology and transfer (AWATT) on-farm demonstration and capacity building initiative “Consultative AWATT workshop”, Kabul, Afghanistan. November 30, 2008.

Outreach Program for 2008:

- Developed Building for the future: Farm Manager’s Workshop, A Tuesday Workshop Series: February 26th, March 11 and 25th, 2008, Logan County Extension office, Sterling. Eight farm operations (20 individuals) participated for this workshop.
- Organized limited irrigation stakeholder meet in collaboration with Water research unit of USDA-ARS Fort Collins.

- Organized Advisory committee meeting of stakeholders for South Platte and other Bio-energy and water related stakeholders, Colorado.