

Shakira L. Wingate

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Dear Selection Committee of The Germany-CGIAR++ Science and Impact Hub: Junior Scientist Program,

When faced with the challenge of understanding anything or anyone, most people ask questions. Some go out and search on their own or with others. Others may consider a fact, a fact, because stories past over meals or fire pits are considered secured truth more than individual quests. Besides which option that someone takes, I have gathered that I am the person who grabs one's own map and compass, draws my own map, dives into the questions, and meet others that consider the challenge of bridging understanding as exciting as I do.

In light of my current status as a student at Technische Hochschule Köln, I am preparing to present questions for the completion of my master thesis. With the assistance and support of The Germany-CGIAR++ Science and Impact Hub, I hope to bring my compass, map, and a series of questions to Egypt to explore and perform field research within aquaponics with the support of WorldFish Egypt, under the thesis supervision of Dr. Ahmed Nasr-Allah and his team at World Fish and Dr. Manfred Fink at the Technische Hochschule Koeln/ University of Applied Sciences (TH Köln). We hope to collaborate on modeling the nutrient dynamics and the water balance of a localized aquaponics system.

I am equipped to fulfill the requirements of the program and my research objectives. I can see that you all are looking for a candidate who has a passion of impact-oriented research in agriculture, technical skills in their field, cultural awareness, and independent. My qualifications align with the requirements listed in the call for applications as I have previous work experience, independent research, and education in this area. To name a few of my qualifications, in my master's degree program I have taken courses such as "Sustainability of Renewable Energy" where we used scientific methods and theories to assess a sustainable energy supply for a particular country and "International Development and Cooperation with a focus on models of private sector participation. Here, I learned more about interventions of energy, a key component of the CeREA project at World Fish Egypt and aquaponics. As a WASH facilitator in Peru, I launched and assisted technical quality control and validation of water infrastructure along multiple sites and provided workshops to sanitation and hygiene employees throughout the region. Highlighting, independence, and my passion for discoveries in water. In addition, my time at GIZ, I supported partnership coordination where I presented and created reports and results. I then took nexus frameworks to my other positions to ensure interventions contributed to capacity building and sustainability. A key concept, in this research.

I hope to apply the skills that I have learned in the past while conducting research in Egypt. Receiving these funds would allow me to have a successful collaboration with the team at World Fish Egypt and with university staff without the financial burden. The funds would allow us to complete the research we need to try to move the needle slightly in the field of aquaponics in terms of optimization. We envision that the results we will receive will allow others to grab their maps for additional discovery and impacts within aquaponics.

Best Regards,



Shakira Wingate