

**AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AMRWG)  
New Delhi, India  
07 December 2009: 14:15-18:00 hours**

**Year of Establishment: 2003**

**Members** : (1) Dr. Luis Rendón Pimentel, Convener (Mexico, 2004); (2) Dr. Dennis Wichelns (USA, 2005); (3) Representative from Brazil; (4) Representative from Canada; (5) Representative from Chile; (6) Representative from Guyana; (7) Representative from Uruguay; and (8) Secretary General, ICID.

**Observers** : (1) Vice President Hon. José A. Ortiz Fdz.-Urrutia (Spain); (2) Representative from Portugal; and (3) Dr. Jaime Collado (Mexico, 2005).

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group**

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore, Pakistan in October 2008 will be confirmed.

**Item 2 : Review of Membership**

The ICID Central Office has requested (24 March 2009) National Committees of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guyana, Portugal and Uruguay to send nominations for the membership of the Working Group. Responses are awaited.

Further, there are 9 National Committees i.e. Argentina, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela, which have become '*deemed inactive*'. The Central Office has contacted (26 February 2009) and urged them to revive their memberships. In response, Argentina and Peru had indicated their inclination to join ICID in 2008. The Central Office is actively pursuing their membership and await their further response.

Central Office has also attempted (03 March 2009) to contact new (fresh) countries in Americas: Republic of Bolivia, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of El Salvador, Republic of Guatemala, Republic of Haiti, Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Puerto Rico, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago and Republic of Nicaragua, for the membership of ICID. The Central Office is actively pursuing their membership and await their further response.

As a result of similar efforts in early 2008, the Republic of Jamaica was admitted to ICID during 59<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting in October 2008 at Lahore, Pakistan. However, the 1<sup>st</sup> subscription from the Republic of Jamaica is still awaited.

**Item 3 : Election/nomination of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary**

At Kuala Lumpur (2006), Sacramento (2007) and Lahore (2008), the elections of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary could not be held during the WG meetings due to scarce attendance of members. It was therefore decided to defer the elections till next meeting in December 2009 at New Delhi, India (2009).

**Item 4 : Activities of the WG**

**4.1 Workshop on '*Food Vs Fuel : Implications for Water Resources*'**

During the Kuala Lumpur meeting (2006), the WG proposed to organize a workshop on "*Water Reforms and Pricing*" in October 2007 during the 58<sup>th</sup> IEC at Sacramento, USA. The Workshop could neither take place at Sacramento (2007) nor at Lahore (2008).

During the Lahore (2008) meeting, however, a new theme for the workshop was proposed as '*Food Vs Fuel: Implications for Water Resources*'. The Central Office prepared the announcement (scope, sub-theme etc.) of the

proposed workshop in consultation with Dr. Dennis Wilhelms (USA). The announcement has since been circulated to all National Committees of ICID, Chairs and members of ICID Workodies, ICID Office-Bearers, International Organizations and others.

The International Workshop on “*Food Vs Fuel : Implications for Water Resources*” is scheduled to be held on 07 December 2009, together with workbody’s its annual regular meeting. The scope of the workshop, topic, subtopics, deadlines and contact information are given in the **Annex 1**. Dr. Wichelms had consented to lead as the Chairman of the Workshop.

#### **4.2 Other activities**

The following activities are for discussions:

- Preparing an updated country profiles giving information on natural resources, agricultural production, irrigation and drainage features etc.
- Development of AMRWG website on the lines of other ICID workbodies.
- Identifying events taking place in Americas and participation.
- Fostering close bilateral/multilateral cooperation between Latin American National Committees.
- Others.....

Further, a workplan (a three year rolling plan) needs to be prepared to guide and assign activities under AMRWG to members for suitable follow up action.

#### **Item 5 : Any other business**

##### **Invitation from WMO**

ICID Central Office had received (05 February 2009) an invitation from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for its fifteenth session of Regional Association – IV, which was held on 24 April - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 at Nassau, The Bahamas. ICID is an accredited organization having consultative status with WMO and has attended some of the previous meetings of WMO. This was a good meeting opportunity for ICID to share information on our activities.

Central Office disseminated the information (17 February 2009) to ICID National Committees of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guyana, Mexico, Uruguay and USA (in Americas) with an indication that any of the NC’s representative interested to represent ICID at this Session may send their readiness to contribute to ICID Central Office.

No response was received and ICID could not therefore contribute by joining the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Session this year.

NCs of the region may kindly avail such opportunities to represent ICID in the emerging events that may be intimated in the future.

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**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
“FOOD VS FUEL: IMPLICATIONS FOR WATER RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY”  
07 December 2009, New Delhi, India**

Biofuel production has had a profound impact on agricultural production in recent years. As millions of tons of corn/maize are used to produce biofuel, a key question is frequently asked – What are the implications for water resources and food security?

As countries develop and populations increase, the demands for biofuels (to supplement fossil fuels) and cereals (food) will increase, leading to both food and fuel problems.

A common objection to biofuel production is that it diverts agricultural production away from food crops. In a food-insecure world, this diversion of resources can reduce the total food supply, increase food prices, and cause localized food shortages that limit the ability of poor in developing countries to access food. In some areas, higher food prices might benefit agricultural producers, but the net impact on the world's poor population is adverse. Given these important issues, we wish to discuss the following topics in this International Workshop:

- a. Current trends and patterns of biofuel production, by country/ region
- b. The impacts of biofuel crop production on land, water, and the environment
- c. The impacts of biofuel crop production on food prices in rural and urban areas
- d. Opportunities that increased biofuel production might provide for the rural poor
- e. The potential impacts of biofuel production on water demands and food supplies
- f. Perspectives on the options for 'food versus fuel' or 'food and fuel' when considering national policies and strategies
- g. Policy options to prevent negative impacts of biofuel crop production on natural resources and the livelihoods of the poor, in both rural and urban areas
- h. Outlook regarding next-generation biofuel crops that require less water and less prime agricultural land

The workshop is being organized by the American Regional Working Group of ICID during its 60<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> Asian regional Conference from 6 to 11 December 2009 at New Delhi, India.

**Deadlines:** Abstracts (500-600 words) by **1 October 2009 (extended)**

Full length papers by **1 November 2009 (extended)** [Presenters must submit full papers.]

**Contact Information:**

AMRWG Convenor: Dr Luis R. Pimental (Mexico), E-mail: josafat.caballero@cna.gob.mx;  
luis.rendon@cna.gob.mx

Workshop Chairman: Dr. Dennis Wichelns (USA), E-mail: dwichelns@csufresno.edu

Workshop Coordinator: Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, (India), E-mail : icid@icid.org

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
FOOD VS FUEL: IMPLICATIONS FOR WATER RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY'  
07 December 2009**

**During**

**60<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AND THE  
5<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
New Delhi, India, December 2009**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Papers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadlines** : Abstracts (500-600 words) by **1 October 2009 (extend)**; Full length papers by **1 November 2009 (extend)**.

**Registration Fee** : There is no separate registration fee for this workshop. However, participants must register for the main event i.e. 60<sup>th</sup> IEC and 5<sup>th</sup> ARC, 6-11 December 2009, New Delhi, India.

**Please access our websites** : <http://www.icid.org> and/ or <http://www.incid2009delhi.org/> for more information.

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