

Agenda for the Third Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON WATER AND CROPS (WG-CROP)
 Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 12 October 2010: 13:30-17:00 hours
Strategy Theme : On-Farm

Year of Establishment: 2007

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate: To promote the efficient use of water in crop production, to provide input to test crop water models, to investigate the use of energy crops for bio-fuel production, to develop techniques for rainfall harvesting, to promote the multifunctional use of water in paddy (rice) cultivation, to investigate the adaptation of agriculture to climate change and to promote low input agriculture.

Members: (1) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (UK, 2007); (2) Mr. Laurie C. Tollefson, Vice-Chairman (Canada,2009); (3) Vice President Hon. Dr. B.I. Maticic (Slovenia,2007); (4) Prof. M.E.V. Scarascia (Italy); (5) Prof. R.G. Allen (USA,2007); (6) VPH Cai Lingen (China,2007); (7) Dr. Y. Nakano (Japan,2007); (8) Mr. Tai Cheol Kim (Korea,2007); (9) Mr. Chen Yih-Rong (Chinese Taipei,2007); (10) Mr. Vincente Carelon (Spain,2007); (11) Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa,2007); (12) Dr. Florent Maraux (France,2007); (13) Dr. K. Yella Reddy (India,2009); (14) Ms. Jaleh Vaziri (Iran,2009); (15) Prof. Rai. Niaz (Pakistan,2009); and (16) Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observers: (i) FAO representative; (ii) Mr. Herbert H. van Lier (CIGR); (iii) Prof. D. Wrachien (Italy); and (iv) ICRISAT representative.

Website: <<http://www.wg-crop.icidonline.org>>.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting the WG-CROP

The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group held in December 2009 at New Delhi, India will be confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

The Japanese National Committee of ICID (JNC-ICID) has sent (19 May 2010) the nomination of Dr. Koji Inosako (Japan) for the membership of Working Group on Water and Crops (WG-CROP). Dr. Inosako's CV will be made available during the meeting for consideration.

2.1 Observer Status to ICRISAT

Following the ICRISAT's (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) presentation on biofuel and food crops during the New Delhi (2009) meeting of the WG, it was proposed to invite ICRISAT to be an observer in the WG. The ICID Central Office invited (25 June 2010) ICRISAT to be a '*Permanent Observer*' in the WG-CROP. Responding to ICID's invitation, ICRISAT has confirmed (01 July 2010) that Mr. C.L. Laxmipathi Gowda, Global Theme Leader – Crop Improvement, ICRISAT, Patancheru PO, Hyderabad, India will represent ICRISAT as a '*Permanent Observer*' in the WG. Members may note.

2.2 Election of new Secretary

The WG may consider electing a new Secretary for the WG during the meeting.

A ITEMS EMERGING FROM THE ERSTWHILE WG-CROP

Item 3 : Organic versus Conventional Farming

The WG members expressed their interest in studying organic agriculture during New Delhi meeting (2009). It has been desired to enlarge the activities in the field of organic versus conventional farming. Special emphasis is expected on the impacts of organic farming on the components of the water balance and on water quality. The Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with the Chairman on the issue. Response is awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 4 : Precision Agriculture

The WG had shown great interest in this area during the New Delhi (2009) meeting of the WG. The Chairman informed the members on the work carried out on the subject in one of the EU funded project "SAFIR" (*more information available at www.safir4eu.org*) and invited WG members to download the model developed and related documents from the project website.

In order to study the subject in depth and make a few presentations on "Precision Agriculture" during the meeting of the WG at Yogyakarta, the Central Office invited (30 April 2010) members to prepare and make presentations on the subject. Responses are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 5 : Website of WG

The Chairman and Central Office have been updating the WG activities in the webpage of WG-CROP from time to time. A lot of information, documents and links are available in the website.

Paper titled "Sweet Sorghum as a Biofuel Feedback : Can there be Food-Feed-Fuel Tradeoffs?" by P. Srinivas Rao (et al.), Scientist (Sorghum breeder), ICRISAT, was presented during the New Delhi (2009) meeting and is now available on the WG webpage.

The Central Office invited (30 April 2010) briefs on WG activities from the WG members for uploading on the webpage. New inputs on SALTMED model (2009) and related documents were also to be uploaded. Responses are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

B ITEMS EMERGING FROM THE NEW MANDATE

Item 6 : Promote the efficient use of water and low input in crop production

Promoting the efficient use of water and low input in crop production was discussed during the New Delhi (2009) meeting and two presentations were proposed to be made on the subject during the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting.

One of the presenters is expected to be Mr. Laurie C. Tollefson (Canada) focusing on his experiences from Canada and the other one was to be identified by the Chairman. The Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with Chairman and Mr. Laurie C. Tollefson (also Vice-Chairman of WG-CROP) on the subject.

In response, Mr. Tollefson has agreed (24 July 2010) to make his presentation on "Promoting the efficient use of water in crop production".

Item 7 : Provide input to test crop water models

Providing input to test crop water models was to be supported by some members and non-members once they get familiar with the model data requirements. As a first step, the SALTMED model was to be tried and a list of data requirement be prepared and circulated. Possibility of receiving contribution (data) from Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa) was expressed during New Delhi (2009) meeting.

The ICID Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with the Chairman and Dr. Andrew Sanewe on the subject. Responses are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 8 : Energy crops for bio-fuel production

'*Energy crops for bio-fuel production*' was of great interest but no activities have been planned so far. It was proposed to take up the issue for discussion again during the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting. To fuel the issue, the WG now has Mr. C.L. Laxmipathi Gowda, Global Theme Leader – Crop Improvement, ICRISAT, Patancheru PO, Hyderabad, India, on board as a '*Permanent Observer*' (refer Item 2).

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 9 : Develop techniques for rainfall harvesting

'*Developing techniques for rainfall harvesting*' was another interesting area for the WG. Dr. Ragab (UK) and Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa) are expected to make presentations on the subject during the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting. The Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with them for their presentations. Responses are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 10 : Multi-functionality of water use in paddy rice cultivation

'*Multi-functionality of water use in paddy rice cultivation*' was discussed in the New Delhi (2009) meeting and the item was deferred till the next meeting. The members may deliberate on the issue.

The Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with the Chairman on related issues for the discussion. Response is awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 11 : Adaptation of agriculture to climate change

'*Adaptation of agriculture to climate change*' was highly interesting to WG members and two presentations by Prof. Kim, Tai-Cheol (Korea) and Dr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy) have been planned for the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting.

The Central Office is in contact (04 July 2010) with the authors for their presentations. Responses from them are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the WG.

Item 12 : Work Plan

A three year rolling work plan needs to be developed.

12.1 International Workshop on '*Water Saving Practices in Agriculture*'

The International Workshop on '*Water Saving Practices in Agriculture*' has been scheduled to be held on 13 October 2010 during 09:00-12:30 hours at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Central Office has circulated (16 July 2010) the announcement to National Committees of ICID, Members of the WG-CROP and WG-WATS for inviting their valuable papers for the workshop. The sub-themes of the workshop are:

Theme 1: Field measurements for water saving and precise measurements of the water balance components

Theme 2: The role of water authorities and institution for water saving

- Theme 3: Operational control of water supplies for water saving
- Theme 4: Water management for water saving at farm level
- Theme 5: Re-use and cyclic use for water saving
- Theme 6: Computer support, modeling and decision support systems for water saving
- Theme 7: The role of the Industry in water savings
- Theme 8: Plant varieties selection *for water savings*

All members and others are encouraged to actively participate in the workshop to enrich its proceedings.

The Chairman may further apprise the WG.

Item 13 : Any other business

INWEPF Symposium in Thailand

The 5th THAICID National Symposium and 1st Thailand INWEPF (International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields) Symposium were jointly held on 17 June 2010 in Nonthaburi Province, Thailand. The symposium theme was *"Multiple Roles of Paddy Fields Related to Integrated Resources Management"*. For more information, please access their website at:

<<http://www.rid.go.th/thaicid/>> and <<http://kromchol.rid.go.th/ffd/inwepf/inwepf%20eng.html>>

FAO/UNW-DPC /ICID side event in Indonesia

A side event preceding the 61st International Executive Council (IEC) and 6th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) will be held during 8-9 October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This event will be jointly organized under the Framework of Cooperation between FAO / UNW-DPC / ICID, as a follow-up of the MoU, signed between ICID and UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC).

The goal of this event is to provide an overview of the most strategic applications of 'Aqua Crop' model of FAO in different agro-climate conditions. For more information please contact : Ms. Elisabeth Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Implementation Consultant, UNW-DPC, E-mail :<bernhardt@unwater.unu.edu> or <acquacrop@fao.org>. More information can be accessed at <www.unwater.unu.edu> as well.
