

AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON WATER MANAGEMENT IN WATER STRESSED REGIONS
(Erstwhile WG-IADWS) WG-DROUGHT
New Delhi, India
06 December 2009: 14:15-18:00 hours
Strategy Theme : Basin

Date of Establishment: 2008

Completion of the Mandate: 2014

Members: (1) Vice President Hon. Dr. S. Nairizi (Iran, 2008), Interim Chairman; (2) Vice President Hon Mr. F. Dimick (USA, 2008), Secretary; (3) Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK, 2008); (4) Mrs. Jianxin Mu (China, 2008); (5) Vice President Hon. Dr. Hussein El-Affy (Egypt, 2008); (6) Mr. Anthony John Horton (Australia, 2008); (7) Mr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy, 2008); (8) Dr. T. Watanabe (Japan, 2008); (9) Prof. Chang-Chi Cheng (Chinese Taipei, 2008); (10) Dr. Abraham Mehari Haile (The Netherlands, 2008); and (11) Secretary General, ICID.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the WG-DROUGHT

The minutes of the 1st meeting held at Lahore (2008), Pakistan will be confirmed during the meeting.

Item 2 : Review of membership

The Spanish National Committee of ICID (CERYD) has nominated (07 September 2009) Dr. Teodoro Estrela-Monreal (Spain) for the membership of the WG. His CV will be placed for consideration during the WG meeting.

The Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) has nominated (31 August 2009) Mr. Mohammad Sadegh Jafari (Iran) for the membership of the WG. His CV will be placed for consideration during the WG meeting.

The Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PANCID) has nominated (02 August 2009) Engr. Qazi Tallat Mahmood Siddiqui (Pakistan) for the membership of the WG. His CV will be placed for consideration during the WG meeting.

The nominations for membership of WG of Dr. Kiwood Park (Korea); Dr. Polevoy Anatoliy (Ukraine); and Dr. Benjamin de León Mojarro (Mexico) were deferred during Lahore (2008) meeting, since they were neither present nor represented during the WG meeting. The Central Office is in contact with concerned National Committees to confirm above nominations or send a fresh nomination. Responses are awaited.

2.1 Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

At Lahore (2008), the elections of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary could not be held during the WG meeting due to scarce attendance of members. It was decided to defer the elections till next meeting in New Delhi, India (2009).

Item 3 : WG-IADWS publication – “Irrigation under Drought and Water Scarcity”

ICID Central Office contacted (02 April 2009) Vice President Hon. Dr. S. Nairizi (Iran), Interim Chairman, and informed him about the WG final document on ‘Irrigation under Drought and Water Scarcity’ and its finalization. As per Item 2 of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the WG-DROUGHT (erstwhile WG-IADWS) held in Lahore, Pakistan, the Chairman was to compile the existing documents and distribute them by end of January 2009 to the Editorial Team of the WG. It was expected that each member of the Editorial Team would thoroughly read and make pertinent comments and corrections to the draft documents.

In view of above, the Central Office requested (02 April 2009) Chair to provide the draft final document for its circulation among Editorial Team and invite comments / suggestions and initiate the process of publishing it by December 2009 i.e. at the time of 60th IEC and 5th ARC at New Delhi, India. The issue was further discussed during Dr. Nairizi’s visit to ICID Central Office in May 2009. Response is awaited.

Further, Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, ICID Central Office was assigned to prepare a chapter on the historical background of the WG. The concerned chapter has since been submitted (28 June 2009) to the Chair and attached as **Annex 1** for information.

Item 4 : Drought Management Strategies

This thematic topic mainly intends to capture field experiences of the implementation of drought risk management strategies as far as livestock and crop production and rural livelihood improvements are concerned.

WG may discuss and assign the task of further development of the subject to one or more WG members.

Item 5 : Coping with Water Scarcity

The topics to be addressed under this theme include:

- Critical evaluation of the validity of the crop water requirement computations based on climate data as a tool to be used in coping with water scarcity;
- Approaches and strategies for incorporating economical justification when deciding on the amount of water to be allocated for agricultural production;
- Re-defining, as necessary, the conventional irrigation efficiency concept; and
- Desing, operation and maintenance of sand dams – Under-ground water reservoirs.

WG may discuss and assign the task of further development of the subject to one or more WG members.

Item 6 : Rainfall Management for Sustainable Agriculture

This topic may, at the outset, seem to be outside the scope of ICID. However, if the ultimate objective of the ICID – increasing agricultural productivity and improving rural livelihood – is to be realized, innovation and implementation of smart rainfall management technologies will be essential since 60% of global food production comes from rainfed agriculture. Furthermore, rainfall supports extensive forest areas that significantly contribute to livelihood of human and livestock; and sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Item 7 : Any other business

Seminar on ‘Managing Water Related Risks in Changing Climate at WWF-5

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized a session (1.3.3) on “Managing Water Related Risks in Changing Climate” on 17 March 2009 and invited ICID to be on the panel for discussion. Vice President Hon. Dr. S. Nairizi was requested to represent ICID at the 5th Forum. Dr. Nairizi may apprise the WG members.

Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends (UNCCD)

One of the International Organizations with which ICID has a good liaison is “UN-Convention to Combat Desertification” (UNCCD). Many documents and issues raise in UNCCD are also of interest to ICID work. Some of our workbodies have been looking into aspects of ‘land degradation’, ‘desertification’ and ‘sustainable land and water management’. WG-DROUGHT is one such workbody. Given the above, the information reflecting UNCCD’s International Scientific Consultation Process on “Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends was circulated among NCs and WG Chair.

The Scientific Conference and Consultation entitled “Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends” took place during 22-24 September 2009 at the UNCCD Conference of Parties’ 9th Session (COP-9) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

More information on the Conference is available at <<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstscicof/menu.php>>

Human Resources Survey for disaster and risk management

The UNDP and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) have jointly developed a questionnaire for profiling backgrounds of disaster and risk management practitioners. The Central Office circulated the questionnaire among WG members to get themselves registered to help in profiling the human resource base for reducing the risk of disasters and preparing for more effective response. The questionnaire is available at Survey Link : <<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22986VV9L7G>>

Draft White Papers on “Needs and “Capabilities” for Climate Information for the Water Sector

The World Meteorology Organization (WMO) has developed the two draft documents viz., “White Paper – Needs of Climate Information for Decision Making in the Water Sector” and “Application of the Climate Information and Prediction in the Water Sector : Capabilities” and requested ICID, among others, to peruse the documents and provide comments with a view to include those in the final version of the document to be presented at the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) Working Session to be held on 1st September 2009.

The Central Office shared (10 July 2009) the documents with Vice President Hon. Dr. S. Nairizi with request to provide comments. Dr. Nairizi may apprise the WG members.

**CHAPTER– HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE UNDER DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY (WG-IADWS)**

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established on 24 June, 1950 as a Scientific, Technical and Voluntary Not-for-profit Non-Governmental International Organization (NGO) with headquarters in New Delhi, India.

The Commission is dedicated to enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fibre for all people by improving water and land management and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands through appropriate management of water, environment and application of irrigation, drainage and flood management techniques.

Further, to provide an enabling environment for the development of ICID Capacity to undertake technical activities and embrace the principles and new priorities arising from emerging challenges (such as global climate change) as well as to empower ICID workbodies to address these priorities under the strategic direction of the Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (PCTA), the Committee develops programmes under four strategy themes, viz. (a) Basin, (b) System, (c) On-Farm, and (d) knowledge. The indicative embracing areas under the four basic Strategy Themes are –

(a) Basin

1. Policy/planning framework, economic and legal issues, institutional aspects.
2. Water and soil resources management, environment, sustainable development.

(b) System

3. Project management, traditional social structure, users participation, financial aspects.
4. Design, construction, rehabilitation, modernization, regulation of collective systems.

(c) On-Farm

5. Irrigation management and techniques on farm.
6. Drainage management and techniques on farm and in the catchment.

(d) Knowledge

7. Training, research, technology transfer, publications.
8. Flood management.

Each of the ICID technical workbodies which are reporting to PCTA are placed under one of the above themes appropriately.

The Working Group on Irrigated Agriculture under Drought and Water Scarcity (WG-IADWS) was established in 1996 under the Theme-Basin. The mandate of the WG was finalized after merging two erstwhile Working Groups (1996-1997). Prof. Farhoudi (Iran) was the Chairman of this new WG. The mandate then was as below:

- to identify and study the phenomena of drought in their various manifestations, and the ecological, social, economic and political implications thereof in the context of irrigated agriculture;
 - to identify research priorities which will contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives, and to promote the execution of this research; and
 - to provide guidelines for the formulation of policies and decision support strategies for the management of drought.
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Dr. S. Nairizi (Iran) was elected as the new Chairman of the Working Group in year 2000. The six revised sub-themes were established in year 2001 to take the agenda of the WG further as below:

- Sub-Theme 1** : Survey of publications on irrigation under condition of drought and water scarcity (Coordinator: Mr. Anthony Horton, Australia)
- Sub-Theme 2** : Develop/select appropriate indices to describe and quantify the implications of drought and aridity in relation to agricultural, ecological, social, economic and political issues (Coordinator : Dr. D.K. Paul, India)
- Sub-Theme 3** : Develop guidelines for – (i) Assessment of drought on irrigated agriculture (ii) Development of policies and management strategies for various drought and water scarcity situations (Coordinator : Dr. G.R. Backeberg, South Africa)
- Sub-Theme 4 & 5** : Investigate the application of long term weather forecasting for drought prediction and economic viability of drought early warning systems and Investigate and report on suitable technologies and agro-irrigation practices for the utilization of non-conventional water resources under conditions of drought and water scarcity (Coordinator : Dr. Ragab Ragab, UK in cooperation with Dr. Hussein El Atfy, Egypt)
- Sub-Theme 6** : Dissemination of products of this Working Group (Coordinator: Dr. S. Nairizi, Iran)

Further, the General Questionnaire on 'Water Status of CID Member Countries' has been in circulation for many years for compiling water status of member countries. Numerous workshops have been held and newsletters published. Year-wise activities of the WG are summarized below -

Year 1996-1997

The two erstwhile Working Groups, namely, Working Group on 'Highly Water Stressed Areas and the Working Group on Impact of Drought on Irrigated Agriculture' were merged to create a new Working Group with the proposed name Irrigated Agriculture under Drought and Water Scarcity', the mandate of which was formulated and chairmanship of Prof. J. Farhoudi (Iran) proposed.

Year 1997-1998

The newly created Working Group discussed its organization, creation of sub-themes and its cooperation with other Working Groups. The mandate and work plan of the Group were discussed.

Year 1998-1999

The mandate of this Working Group was finalized. The Chairman, Prof. Farhoudi (Iran) presented the draft General Questionnaire prepared by the Working Group on Highly Water Stressed Areas, under the Iranian National Committee. A status paper on activities of Work Team on Drought under the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) was presented at the ERWG meeting.

Year 1999-2000

A review of the general questionnaire on water status of ICID member countries was made. Cooperation of other ICID Working Groups was sought by Chairman Farhoudi on various on-going topics in the Working Group. Copies of the guidelines "How to work out a Drought Mitigation Strategy", prepared by Dr. Vermes of the Work Team on Drought under European Regional Working Group, were distributed.

Year 2000-2001

Dr. S. Nairizi (Iran) was elected as the new Chairman of the Working Group. The five-year action plan 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 for the Sub-Themes was discussed. Dr. Safwat Abdel-Dayem of World Bank (WB) suggested that the Chairman and Sub-Theme coordinators should approach WB for funding through their country representatives. Hungary, India, Poland and Iran have submitted the completed Questionnaire on the Water Status of ICID member countries.

Year 2001-2002

At Seoul, it was felt that many of the sub-theme activities were overlapping. The Working Group now has only six sub-themes as against the earlier 12 sub-themes. The Working Group desired to have an effective coordination with WG-CROP and ERWG. Prof. L. Vermes (Hungary) and Prof. B. Maticic (Slovenia) were working on Drought Mitigation Strategies which they shared with WG-IADWS. A workshop on 'Water Scarcity and Dry Land Agriculture' was held on 22 July 2002 in Montreal, Canada. The WG-IADWS considered cooperation with other international and regional organizations to procure and facilitate exchange of the information and experiences in the area of IADWS.

Year 2002-2003

Dr. S. Nairizi (Iran), Chairman of the WG prepared a summary report of about six completed General Questionnaire on "Water Status of ICID Member Countries" which were received from India, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Australia and Iran. Prof. Vermes (Hungary) also presented a brief outcome of the Bled Conference on "Drought Mitigation" which was held in April 2002 in Slovenia. Mr. A. Villocel (France) presented a document on "Guidelines for the Evaluation of Social Economic and Political Impacts and Drought and Water Scarcity" during the meeting. The WG now has its own website (<http://www.wg-iadws.icidonline.org>) where latest activities of WG can be reviewed.

Year 2003-2004

WG members were actively involved with activities of six sub-themes of the Working Group. WG-IADWS was in collaboration with ERWG on "Drought Mitigation Strategies" and with WG-PQW on "Guidelines for Crop Production under Water Limiting Conditions". An interim meeting of WG-IADWS was held on 13 July 2003 in Tehran, Iran. The WG brought out its 3rd Newsletter in December 2003.

Two workshops, namely, (i) "Drought Management Strategies" at Tehran (Iran) during 13-14 July 2003 and (ii) "Drought Management Strategies in Different Countries" at Montpellier (France) on 16 September 2003, were successfully held. Two new publications (i) "Drought Management Strategies in South Africa : Policy Requirements and Research Support for Irrigated Agriculture", (ii) "How to work out Drought Mitigation Strategy" and papers presented at the Montpellier workshop could be accessed on the WG website (<http://www.wg-iadws.icidonline.org>). A memorandum of understanding was agreed to with the FAO through interaction between the Chairman, WG-IADWS and Dr. M. Bazza of FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAORNE) for mutual cooperation.

Year 2004-2005

The WG-IADWS covered six sub-themes on various aspects of the mandate. A progress report on the Bibliography (Survey of publications on irrigation under conditions of drought and water scarcity) was presented. Dr. Paul (India) worked on indices to describe and qualify the implications of drought and aridity in relation to agricultural, social, economic and political issues. Dr. Hussein El Atfy (Egypt) provided an update of work being done by Egypt on long term weather forecasting. The WG organized a workshop on "Water Harvesting and Sustainable Agriculture" at Moscow, Russia. Ms. I. Beemerts from FAO presented a paper on "Coping with Water Scarcity in (Semi) and Areas". The proceedings are available on the WG website <http://www.wg-iadws.icidonline.org>. The 4th WG-IADWS Newsletter was published in 2004-05.

Year 2005-2006

A bibliography on Irrigation under Conditions of Drought and Water Scarcity has been completed. A CD of "Policy Guidelines for the Evaluation of Social, Economic and Political Impacts of Drought and Aridity" was distributed to the Working Group members. As a measure to disseminate case studies, it was decided to include case studies in the evaluation report. So far, ten countries have completed the questionnaire. The WG has successfully interacted with the ERWG Work Team on "Drought Mitigation Strategies". The 5th WG newsletter was published in August 2005.

In Beijing meeting, it was proposed to wind up the WG's activities by 2007 at Sacramento (USA).

Year 2006-2007

The Working Group has completed its mandate in 2007. A brief compilation on 'water status of member countries' has been prepared by Dr. S. Nairizi / Dr. Sabetraftar, Iran and circulated among the members. Mr. Ghinassi (Italy) contributed to the development of the guidelines on 'Crop Production under Water Limiting Conditions'. An internal workshop on 'Irrigation under Drought and Water Scarcity' was organized during the Kuala Lumpur meetings in 2006 where the concerned sub-theme coordinators addressed the WG members. A similar internal workshop has been proposed to be organized during the 58th IEC meetings in September-October 2007 at Sacramento, USA. During this workshop the draft document, the WG recommendations, possible position paper and future activities were be discussed. The final draft of the WG document will follow the framework indicated by Dr. G.R. Backeberg (South Africa) and it will be in the form of a guideline book. President Peter Lee participated in the SIWI Stockholm Water Week in 2006 and informed that ICID has been invited as a participant in UN Water Initiative and 'Coping with Water Scarcity' has been given the highest priority in this initiative. The Working Group will be considering this new development in its final document and also propose a role for ICID to play in this initiative.

The output of the workbody is a document/report in your hand prepared by the WG members under the leadership of Chairman Dr. S. Nairizi.

[Compiled by: Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID Central Office]
