

**AGENDA FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON THEMES, TOPICS AND WORK PLANS OF  
FUTURE ICID EVENTS (SC-E-THEMES)**

08 October 2017: 17.00 – 18.30 Hours  
Mexico City, Mexico

**Terms of Reference (ToR):** (i) To deliberate and recommend the Themes, sub-themes of World Irrigation Forums and Theme and Questions of future Congresses, (ii) To set out format and technical contents of the Congress and WIFs, and (iii) To review the technical outputs and outcomes and suggest follow ups.

**Members:** (1) PH Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China), Chair; (2) VP Dr. Ding Kunlun, Chair, PCTA (China); (3) Mr. Ali Reza Salamat, Member, PCTA (Iran); (4) Mr. Franklin E. Dimick, Chair, WG-MWSCD (USA); (5) VP Dr. Abdelhafid Debbarh, Chair, WG-CDTE (Morocco); (6) VP Mr. Ian W. Makin, Chair, WG-M&R (UK); (7) Mr. Felix B. Reinders, Member, ITAC-WIF1 (South Africa); (8) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Member, ITAC-WIF2 (UK); (9) VP Bong Hoon Lee, Member, ITAC-23<sup>rd</sup> ICID Congress and (10) Er. Avinash C Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 1: ATR on the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Sub-Committee**

1. An Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Sub-Committee is placed at **Annex 1**.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 2: Theme and Topics for 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress, 2023**

2. The venue for the 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress is yet to be fixed, however, the Sub-Committee may suggest topics for Theme and Questions for the Congress. The list topics for Themes and Questions covered/ decided up to 24<sup>th</sup> ICID Congresses can be accessed or downloaded from [http://www.icid.org/congress\\_topics.pdf](http://www.icid.org/congress_topics.pdf). The suggested topics for the Theme and Congress Questions 64 and 65 will be provided at the meeting.

3. The members are invited to suggest topics for the Theme and Questions 64 and 65 for 25<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**SUPP: 3A.**

**Theme: Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture**

**Question 64: Innovative water resources that could be tapped for irrigated agriculture?**

**Question 65: On-farm techniques for saving water?**

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 3: Theme and Topics for 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum, 2022**

4. The venue for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum is yet to be fixed, however, the Sub-Committee may suggest topics for Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF4. The list of topics for Themes and Sub-Themes covered/decided upto WIF3, together with the Themes for World Water Forums (WWFs) up to 8<sup>th</sup> WWF can be accessed or downloaded from [http://www.icid.org/wwf-wif\\_topics.pdf](http://www.icid.org/wwf-wif_topics.pdf). The suggested topics for the Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF4 will be provided at the meeting.

5. The members are invited to suggest topics for the Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF4.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 4: Review the Outcome of WIF2, Chiang Mai, Thailand and Suggest Follow Ups**

6. The outcome of WIF2 brought out as the 'The Chiang Mai Forum Statement', based on the presentations and discussions during the Forum, is given at **Annex 2**.

7. The Sub-Committee is requested to suggest follow ups on the WIF2 Statement.

**SUPP: 7A.** Being one of the actions emanating from Farmers' Round Table held in Chiang Mai during WIF2 in November 2016, a background note for engaging farmers in ICID activities in order to achieve Agriculture Water Management for Sustainable Rural Development is attached at **Annex 3**.

**7B.** As a follow up to the decision taken at the Ministers' meeting during WIF2 in Chiang Mai, the first meeting of the High Level Advisory Group on "Partnership for Agriculture Water Management" is scheduled during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Mexico.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 5: A Review of the Technical Outputs of Congress Questions**

8 During the last few years, it has been observed that the response to the questions considered by the various Congresses are largely off the mark. The sub-Committee may like to deliberate on the subject. A brief Background Note will be presented to the sub-committee to initiate the discussions.

**SUPP: 8A.** In order to have meaningful dialogues during ICID Congresses, the answers to the Questions being deliberated at the Congress need to be of relevance to the ground situation. Hence, a discussion note initiating a thought process in this regard is attached at **Annex 4**.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business**



**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE  
Third Meeting of SC-E-THEMES  
09 November 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

Item	PCTA Recommendation	Decision of 66 <sup>th</sup> IEC	Action Taken
<b>2. Review of Name, ToR and Membership of the Sub-Committee</b>			
	Accepted the Sub-Committee's recommendation of revised composition and mandate and the permanent mechanism for formulating themes and topics for various ICID events.	Accepted the PCTA recommendation as per Resolution IEC-2/67 (Sr. No.1).	Notified the re-constitution of SC-E-THEMES with revised mandate and composition vide Notification No.13 of 2017 dated 05 May 2017.



### CHIANG MAI FORUM STATEMENT, 2016

Second World Irrigation Forum (WIF2) was held from 6 to 8 November 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Forum was organized by the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the Thailand National ICID Committee (THAICID) in cooperation with a number of International and National Partners that brought together representatives of various stakeholders involved in irrigation of all types at all scales. About 1200 participants from 71 countries, 10 International Organizations and 9 Ministers attended the Forum.

The main theme '**Water Management in a Changing World: Role of Irrigation for Sustainable Food Production**' recognizes that The world's population is growing rapidly and is expected to reach about 9 billion by 2050, mostly living in urban areas, which pose challenges in meeting the sharply growing water, food and energy demands. In order to feed this growing population it is estimated that agricultural production needs to be increased by about 70 % globally and by as much as 100 % in developing countries. It is likely that increased food production will have to be achieved with a reducing share of water for agriculture due to competition from other sectors including uncertainty due to climate change and variability. This calls for growing more with less water in a sustainable manner. New ways to grow food in ecologically and ethically responsible manners and expansion of irrigation to previously rainfed areas, along with supply and demand side management options will play a significant role in achieving this goal.

The key to sustainable development of irrigated agriculture in the changing environment and the on-going rural transformation lies around modernization of irrigation systems and related services to improve water use efficiency; improving water and land productivity supported by financial mechanisms; reform of management institutions; adoption of efficient water management techniques including recycling and reuse of waste water; use of modern technologies; increasing awareness about water scarcity and capacity development of service providers and farmers etc. with participation of all the stakeholders (public and private sector, academic and research institutions, industry, civil society, farmers' and their organizations etc.).

Within the context of the Main theme, more than 183 papers, short communications and posters were presented and discussed under three Sub-themes: (1) Key issues of irrigation and drainage in balancing water, food, energy and ecology; (2) Management of climatic extremes with focus on floods and droughts; (3) Key and smart actions to alleviate hunger and poverty through irrigation and drainage. In addition to the thematic sessions there were 17 Side events and an Exhibition.

A WIF first was the round table Ministerial meeting where Ministers from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sudan participating in the Second World Irrigation Forum, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand, under the chairmanship of Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, made a press release based on their deliberations on 6th November 2016. They agreed to establish a High Level Advisory Group on "**Partnerships for Agriculture Water Management**" as an action-oriented multi-stakeholder partnership. The objective is to support member countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and share experiences in implementation of targets related to agriculture water management which is key to both water and food security. It will also support the UN System efforts in monitoring the progress on related SDGs. The partnership will advocate strong policy support for higher investments in Agriculture Water Management (AWM) to ensure food and water security.

As a result of the presentations and discussions at the World Irrigation Forum, the following statements were agreed:

1. The great challenge for the coming decades will be to increase food production with fewer resources -water, soil, energy, and biodiversity.
2. In order to foster sustainable development, it is essential to maintain the balance between water, energy, food, and ecosystem services.
3. The issues that irrigation and drainage sector is facing are (a) safeguarding resource availability and its quality when designing new systems, (b) the operation and maintenance of existing systems and in turn their impact on resources and the environments that hold them, and (c) the stakeholder interaction and participation that lead to the governance of the systems and their underlying resources.
4. The future challenges require unconventional thinking and solutions. Thinking within the water-energy-ecosystem-food nexus framework with water resources at its heart is essential.
5. Increasing water supply to meet the future demand requires a more efficient water use, use of non-conventional water resources, and water harvesting.

6. Sustainability can only be achieved within a complete water chain approach and with full stakeholder involvement from start to end and from farmer to minister.
7. We need to adopt a more integrated holistic approach to understand and sustainably manage resources with the aim to produce more from less “more crop per drop per kilowatt” without hampering natural ecosystem services.
8. Climate change is recognized as one of the most serious and urgent issue for human society and global environment. In the context of agriculture, improving irrigation and drainage systems and rural development will play a key role in achieving the rural water and food security under impending climate change, especially in the developing countries.
9. To reduce the disaster risks, the global and local society or community need to assess the magnitudes, frequencies, and variabilities of weather and climate events; the exposure of the society for these events; and the vulnerability of the region and society to these extremes.
10. Under the given uncertainties in climate change impact projections, improving resilience by reinforcing the capability of societies to better cope with the extreme events is one of the most favoured approaches.
11. In the pursuit of information to support the policies and actions to alleviate hunger and poverty from a perspective of the role and impacts of irrigation and drainage, correlation must be provided between water scarcity, community and poverty.
12. One of the main goals of the international community is to eliminate hunger and poverty and in this perspective, through the Millennium Development Goals much progress has been achieved and evidence obtained. Sustainable Development Goals and various United Nations and other initiatives, intend to move forward this agenda by making it a part of the broader development frameworks.
13. The important elements of irrigation and drainage that affect the alleviation of hunger and poverty can be grouped into governance, rights-based development, water rights and pricing, management, efficiency improvement, and role of technology
14. Both the potential and the need to make use of innovative technology and solutions in irrigation are underlined and these can be used to cater the challenges in different sub-sectors with focus on maximizing productivity and efficiency, reducing water losses, achieving sustainable intensification and managing demands on water resources and the associated trade-offs.



## FARMERS' PARTICIPATION IN ICID ACTIVITIES

### Background

Farmers are the ultimate guardians and users of agricultural water and therefore the centrality of their role in any agricultural water management (AWM) stakeholder partnership is a key element for **food security through sustainable rural development**. It is important to note that from 2003 to 2006, ICID had a task force for "Suggesting Effective Mechanism for Farmers' Involvement in ICID Activities" (TF-EIF) with an elaborate ToR to enrich ICID activities by taking inputs from farming communities of member countries and NC's (please refer Appendix to Annex 3).

### Participation of Farmers in WIF2

In order to discuss the various AWM issues from the farmers' perspective, a smart farmer program was organized during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF 2) held in November 2016 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. Farmers from India, Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Thailand participated in the program to discuss and share their experiences on sustainable agriculture. The smart farmer program had a combination of activities like knowledge sharing and learning from renowned speakers via various sessions organized as part of the forum, deliberations among fellow farmers on their role in sustainable agriculture production and lastly practical knowledge and experience sharing via field visits. A special roundtable was organized on the theme 'Farmers' Contribution to Sustainable Agriculture Production' in one of the plenary sessions of WIF 2 to discuss issues related to AWM and gauge farmers' views on sustainable agriculture. As the farmers are always looking toward enhancing productivity with the available limited land and water resources while conserving environmental quality, three presentations by the ICID Annual WatSave Awardees were arranged as part of knowledge and experience sharing.

### Outcomes of WIF2

During the roundtable discussions of the smart farmer program, the farmers identified the urgent need of more effective participation of farmers in decision making related to irrigation and drainage. Also, the policies on sustainable agriculture production should address farmer's role and recognition. To achieve sustainable agriculture, participants underlined need for robust and inclusive policies. Most of the farmers agreed that although knowledge and technologies are available, tools for knowledge management and technology transfer are still inadequate and ineffective. This requires policy support for farmer's education and training and hence need for ICID to develop a farmer's initiative in close collaboration with relevant public, NGO's and private sector agencies and institutions.

WUA's provide an important link between irrigation policies and their outcomes. However, their composition and performance are primarily dependent on unique socio-economic environment of a country. There is also a need to look into women participation in the WUA's to get a holistic perspective of the issue. In addition, capacity building of the WUA's and farmers is an important way forward activity. It also emerged from the deliberations that use of ICT technologies need to be enhanced for wider awareness creation, sharing of knowledge, dissemination of information. Participating farmers also supported need of wider dissemination of the innovation and techniques developed by the ICID WatSave awardees for uptake among farming communities around the world.

### Issue for Discussion

Taking advantage of the momentum generated by the Farmers' Roundtable during WIF 2, it is an extremely significant opportunity to discuss potential mechanisms for ICID engagement with farmers' organizations. SDG 17 also calls for use of strategic partnerships as a tool to achieve the SDG's, ICID members and partners need to focus on and facilitate active participation of farming communities in agricultural water management at various levels. Development of country-specific tools for strengthening of WUA's is an area that deserves our common attention. Tacit AWM knowledge contained in traditional

In this respect, ICID's NC's have to take initiative and international partners such as FAO and World Bank can help take this initiative forward through their suggestions and previous experiences of working with civil societies and farmers' groups, including WUA's farming practices will also get an opportunity to precipitate, get validated and benefit our knowledge resources and know-how to be meaningful drivers of sustainable rural development. The Council will do well to deliberate on the ways and means to take further necessary steps in this direction.



**Appendix to Annex 3 [Appendix XXXII, Item 4]**

**TASK FORCE FOR 'SUGGESTING EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR FARMERS' INVOLVEMENT IN ICID ACTIVITIES' (TF-EIF)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

- (1) To consider representation of farmers/farmers' associations in ICID Workbodies and National Committees.
- (2) To consider promotion of signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ICID and international farming organizations, regional farmers organization, national farming organizations and concerned ICID regional groups.
- (3) To identify and study issues from a farmer's perspective, which are not covered presently under ICID workbody mandates.
- (4) Collate and share farmers' practical experiences on best practices in irrigation and drainage and marketing their produce.
- (5) To develop mechanisms for farmers' association and involvement with ICID activities, including in annual IEC's for local farmers.
- (6) To study the implication of pricing of water farm subsidies, WTO and other institutional issues that have the potential impact on irrigation farmers.



## **BACKGROUND NOTE ON OUTCOMES OF ICID CONGRESSES**

Over the years, as the horizon of ICID is moving from technical aspects of irrigation and drainage towards broader scope of water management, particularly since the XV Congress in 1997 in Hague, the Nederland, the themes of the Congress and in many cases the Questions have become more general in nature. Please visit the link [http://www.icid.org/congress\\_topics.pdf](http://www.icid.org/congress_topics.pdf) to see all the Questions taken by ICID Congresses. This note provides a brief background on the status of outcomes of Congresses and how it needs to be connected with the Stakeholders' Forum, the World Irrigation Forum, for initiating the discussions.

It has been observed that in the recent times, the statements coming out of the Congresses have been very general in nature and there is no mechanism to undertake any real follow up. As such the Congresses do serve a general purpose of exchanging information among experts from various countries but the outcomes in technical terms, unlike the outcomes of Congress questions of ICOLD Congresses.

Even the thread from the earlier Congresses is generally not picked up. For example, the topic of 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a Green Revolution have been dealt with through Questions 36, 40 and 49

### **XI Congress 1981, Grenoble, France**

Question 36: Improvement and modernization of existing irrigation and drainage systems

### **XIII Congress 1987, Casablanca, Morocco**

Question 40: Rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation and drainage projects for improving water management

### **XVII Congress 1999, Granada, Spain**

Question 49: Rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation and drainage systems

There is need for greater attention to these aspects.

The SC-Themes needs to take up the process of improvement in the outcomes. The concern, if considered important needs to be conveyed to the TAC Committees through the PCTA.

Similarly in the case of WIFs, which are aimed at receiving inputs from a larger community of Agriculture Water Management stakeholders, there is need to take the outcomes in ICID's areas of activities and work plan. A few of the outcomes of the WIF2 are:

1. The issues that irrigation and drainage sector is facing are (a) safeguarding resource availability and its quality when designing new systems, (b) the operation and maintenance of existing systems and in turn their impact on resources and the environments that hold them, and (c) the stakeholder interaction and participation that lead to the governance of the systems and their underlying resources.
2. Increasing water supply to meet the future demand requires a more efficient water use, use of non-conventional water resources, and water harvesting.
3. We need to adopt a more integrated holistic approach to understand and sustainably manage resources with the aim to produce more from less "more crop per drop per kilowatt" without hampering natural ecosystem services.
4. The important elements of irrigation and drainage that affect the alleviation of hunger and poverty can be grouped into governance, rights-based development, water rights and pricing, management, efficiency improvement, and role of technology.

These need to form the basis for the Questions of the subsequent Congresses.

