

Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the  
**TASK FORCE ON FINANCING WATER FOR AGRICULTURE (TF-FIN)**  
Tehran, Iran  
17 October 2011: 09:00-12:30 hours

**Year of Establishment: 2007**

**Mandate:** The focus of the TF will be to get a better understanding and insight (assessment) of: (i) the required investments and beneficiaries of those investments in agricultural water, (ii) the presently available financing mechanisms and constraints for maintaining or improving physical irrigation capacity; and (iii) the expected changes and innovations for more appropriate financing mechanisms to enable sustainable water use for food production.

**Members:** (1) Dr. Gerhard R. Backeberg, Chairman (South Africa 2009); (2) Mr. Eric Viala, Vice Chairman (USA, 2007); (3) Dr. Sylvain-Roger Perret, Secretary (France, 2010); (4) Mr. E. Farhadi (Iran, 2009); (5) Dr. K. Yamaoka (Japan 2009); (6) Mr. V.K. Chawla (India, 2009); (7) Dr. Brian Davidson (Australia, 2009); and (8) Secretary General, ICID.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of TF-FIN**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of TF-FIN held in October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia will be confirmed.

**Item 2 : Membership of the Task Force**

The nominations of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sial (Pakistan) and Mrs. Ananya Ray (India) were deferred during New Delhi (2009) and Yogyakarta (2010) meetings, since they were neither present nor represented during the WG meeting. The Central Office invited (04 May 2011) the Pakistan National Committee of ICID (PANCID) and Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) to confirm above nominations and/ or send fresh nominations. Responses are awaited.

Mr. Eric Viala (USA) has neither been present nor actively contributing to the activities of the TF-FIN for the past meetings (2008, 2009 and 2010). Central Office requested (04 May 2011) the U.S. National Committee of ICID (USCID) to confirm above nomination or send a fresh nomination. Response is awaited.

No other new nominations have been received so far.

**Item 3 : Activity report of TF-FIN as per accepted Work Plan**

At the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting, the proposed work plan (**Annex**) of TF-FIN was discussed and accepted, subject to continuation of the TF-FIN.

Central Office circulated the minutes of the TF-FIN held in Yogyakarta to the members of the TF-FIN. The members were informed of the Internal Workshop held on 12 October 2010 as per work plan. Dr. S.R. Perret (France), Dr. B. Davidson (Australia), Prof. K. Yamaoka (Japan) and Dr. G.R. Backeberg (South Africa) presented their case studies during the workshop.

It was observed that the participation and attendance of other country representatives at the workshop of TF-FIN was not satisfactory. Four members were present out of eight current members, besides four other observers. Throughout the workshop preparation process, invitations and reminders were repeatedly sent to members for their attendance and contributions.

The Central Office informed (04 January 2011) the four country members' i.e. Pakistan, India, Iran and USA, that the continuation of the Task Force was dependent on their contributions to the TF. The TF members present considered that it was not worth continuing the TF based on contributions from four members only.

It was discussed whether the members representing India, Pakistan, Iran and the USA should be given another opportunity to submit their papers on the workshop topic. It was agreed that ICID Central Office contact these specific members with an invitation to submit their contributions to the workshop. These contributions must adhere to the already distributed guidelines.

In response, two members i.e. Mr. Bashir Ahmed Sial (Pakistan) and Ms. Ananya Ray (India) have submitted their country papers titled "*Pakistan Policies and Strategies on Financing and Implementation of Current Water User Charging Systems in Irrigation*" and "*Country Policy and Strategies on Financing and Implementation of Current Water User Charging Systems in Irrigation: Case Study of India*", respectively. Responses from remaining two member countries are awaited.

The chairman may apprise the members.

**Item 4 : Planned Workshop on 'Water Use Charging Systems and Available Financing of Irrigation: Case Studies for Cross-Country Comparisons' during TF-FIN meeting in Tehran, 2011; and Proposed full-day workshop of TF-FIN in Australia, 2012**

At the Yogyakarta meeting (2010), the TF decided to conditionally organize a workshop on the topic "*Water Use Charging Systems and Available Financing of Irrigation: Case Studies for Cross-Country Comparisons*" during TF-FIN meeting in October 2011 at Tehran, Iran.

A full day (17 October 2011) has been provided to the TF for its meeting (09:00-12:30 hours) and workshop (13:30-17:00 hours), to be held during Tehran Congress. During the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting it was also agreed that continuation of the Task Force was conditional on at least **three** of **four** country members submitting papers on the 2010 workshop theme. Even by allowing additional time after the set deadline of January 2011, only two member countries responded (refer to Item 3 above). The required conditions were therefore not met and after consultation between the Chairman and Secretary, it was decided not to proceed with the planned workshop in Tehran.

The potential organization of a full day workshop in Australia in 2012 will be considered during the Tehran meeting of the TF.

**Item 5 : Selected option for publication of workshop papers by TF-FIN members**

Three different options for concluding the activities of the TF-FIN were considered during the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting: (i) an ICID position paper; (ii) a special issue of ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage; and (iii) a report on Task Force activities, with possibility to publish papers from the report. Discussion and selection of the preferred option will be considered during the Tehran meeting of the TF.

**Item 6 : Conclusion of activities of the Task Force**

Two alternatives are proposed for conclusion of the activities of TF: (1) Reporting (depending on selected option under Item 5 above) based on papers submitted and presented during workshops in New Delhi (2009) and Yogyakarta (2010); or (2) Reporting on the afore-mentioned workshop papers **plus** specific country papers on "Water use charging systems and available financing systems" as case studies for country comparisons. These papers will have to be completed by June 2012 at the latest. Discussion of the preferred alternative will be considered during the Tehran meeting of the TF.

The papers of workshops held in 2009 and 2010 **with or without** these additional papers will form the basis for a report / position of the TF-FIN on conclusion of its activities for reporting to the IEC in 2012.

**Item 7 : Any other business**

## WORK PLAN

- Background for establishing the Task Force on Financing Water for Agriculture (originally established in September 2007 but active since December 2009)

In order to sustain food security and the economic contribution of the agricultural sector to society, adaptation of agricultural water management and associated institutions and infrastructure are necessary in many regions, due to the rapidly changing natural, social, economic and political environment.

In recent years it is widely accepted that water management for agriculture must be approached in a holistic way. This starts from the national water system, through the river basin and irrigation scheme system up to the farming system. At each level of complexity different decision-makers have responsibilities which impact on the whole system. These inter-relationships are particularly relevant to the question of sustainable financing of water for agriculture, specifically for the development of irrigation schemes.

Redirection of investments is to take place to meet the MDGs and to face the challenge of population growth, malnutrition and poverty, increasing competition for land and water, and the requirement to protect the ecology. New challenges are appearing that make adaptation to climate change and increasing energy costs essential.

Investors in water supply projects for agriculture are tending to evaluate the complete food value chain (farming inputs-crop production-distribution-processing-storage-retailing-consumption). In addition to traditional markets, potential new markets are emerging, such as consumer driven demand for processed, ready-made food. Apart from farmers and water service operators at the irrigation scheme level, a range of actors are involved through backward (upstream) and forward (downstream) linkages up to the consumer.

Future investments in water for agriculture will therefore be analyzed differently than has conventionally been done in the past. This includes the scale of projects, the collective interests which initiate or support development projects and the sources of funding to finance the projects. Clear guidelines for individual/collective action, private/public responsibility and national/international financiers will be useful to direct investments in water for agriculture.

- To better understand the above complexity, the Task Force on Financing Water for Agriculture (TF-FIN) formulated three main questions as a guideline for the work plan:
  1. What are the priorities for financing infrastructure for agriculture?  
(Expansion or efficiency improvement of irrigated agriculture; small-scale subsistence or large-scale commercial enterprises)
  2. Who should pay for these investments?  
(Public or private interests or both)
  3. What financing mechanisms are most appropriate?  
(Review of a mix of policy instruments that are complementary but consistent)

These questions are the basis for the plan of action over the next 3 years. In order to effectively perform the tasks, it was agreed during the meeting held in December 2009 in New Delhi to focus on the core issues and not to duplicate material that is generally available in the literature. Given the nature of ICID task forces or working groups, namely representation of member countries, the effective way is to (1) share country experiences through (2) the expert country representatives by means of (3) annual workshops. That contribution can then form the basis for a report of the TF:FIN and conclusion of the activities.

- The following topics for workshops are considered appropriate:
  - 2009:** Principles and approaches to guide development and financing of water supply for irrigation schemes.
  - 2010:** Country policies and strategies on financing and implementation of current water user charging systems in irrigation.

**2011:** Water user charging systems and available financing of irrigation: Case studies and cross-country comparisons

**2012:** Proceedings or report by the Task Force on priorities for financing water for agriculture, public or private sources and appropriate financing mechanisms.

- For successful completion of these tasks two issues are paramount: First, all task force members must prepare papers on the country they are representing for the specific workshop topic per meeting. If a specific member is not interested or capable of preparing the paper, they are free or obliged to nominate a colleague from that country to do so. Second, the content of the paper for each topic must be informed by the questions which guide the activities of the Task Force. If this is consistently done, it should be possible to have proceedings in two parts, principles and practices, highlighting the similarities and differences of wide ranging situations in ICID member countries. The proceedings will obviously have an introduction and conclusion, with a summary or synthesis.

Frameworks, guidelines and responsibilities for papers presented during workshops as well as the final proceedings or position paper will be discussed during consecutive Task Force meetings.

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