

**AGENDA FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
TASK FORCE FOR UPDATING AND MAINTENANCE OF  
MULTILINGUAL TECHNICAL DICTIONARY (TF-MTD)**

10 October 2017, 14.00-15.30 hours  
Mexico City, Mexico

**Presented by the Chairman**

**Year of Establishment: 2015**

**Mandate:** (a) to identify priority chapters and terms frequently referred/consulted by AWM professionals, (b) to consul/ invite professional organizations to collaborate in enriching chapters/terms, (c) to identify experts/ work bodies to review terms/chapters, (d) to encourage NCs in preparation and building of additional translations along with English/ French, (e) to identify interesting pictures/diagrams suitable to illustrate various terms, where required, and (f) to make it accessible on web/ Mobile

**Members:** (i) Chair of PCTA, Chairman, Chairs/nominee of (ii) WG IDM, (iii) WG-IOA, (iv) WG-SON-FARM, (v) WG-SDRG, (vi) WG-M&R, (vii) Representatives of FAO, (viii) Representative of IWMI, and (ix) Representative of ADB (x) Er. Avinash C. Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 1: Introduction of TF-MTD by the Chair**

1. The Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD) of all technical terms related to irrigation, drainage, flood management, environment, river training and allied disciplines is a flagship publication of the ICID. First published in English and French languages in 1967, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> edition (slightly modified) of the MTD (English-French) was brought out on CD-ROM in the year 2000 and 2002 respectively. Soon after the release of first edition in 1967, NCs felt the need to translate this useful dictionary into their own local languages also for the benefit of their national professionals working in that language. This was primarily the objective of naming the dictionary as 'multilingual'. Thus, with the commendable efforts of the NCs, MTD has been translated so far in 14 languages in the past, besides English and French. These national versions of the MTD were initially translated based on the first edition published in 1967. Some of the National Committees later also brought out their next translated editions in local languages based on the revisions.

2. Current 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2010) defines 9370 technical terms covered in 25 chapters. In this edition, in addition to English-French, the technical terms related to ICID activities were also included in four more languages i.e. Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Hindi (partially) which were made available by respective NCs. The MTD brings coherence in sharing and exchange of experiences and has proved to be highly useful for engineers, researchers, students, professionals, planners, designers, academics and all others related in the field of agriculture water management (AWM) with focus on irrigation and drainage. Any term definition can be printed/copied with option to download terms from ICID website. The key features of the dictionary include the followings:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9370 terms defined;</li> <li>• User-friendly interface;</li> <li>• Online up-date capability through download option;</li> <li>• Option for language selection;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 550 hyperlinked illustrations;</li> <li>• Search from keywords / chapters / topics / text</li> <li>• Option for printing/copying terms; and</li> <li>• Option to display English-French terms on single screen.</li> </ul>
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3. Since MTD was last updated in 2010, the IEC vide Resolution 2/67 approved establishment of a Task Force for Updating and Maintenance of MTD (TF-MTD) with a view to update the dictionary keeping in view the latest technological developments and advances in the AWM sector which may include changes / modification and addition of new terms along with inclusion of pictures, links and videos related to respective term. Establishment of TF-MTD was notified by ICID notification 14 of 2017 dated 10 July 2017 with the following mandate:

- (a) to identify priority chapters and terms frequently referred/consulted by AWM professionals
- (b) to consul/ invite professional organizations to collaborate in enriching chapters/terms
- (c) to identify experts/work bodies to review terms/chapters

- (d) to encourage NCs in preparation and building of additional translations along with English/ French
- (e) to identify interesting pictures/diagrams suitable to illustrate various terms, where required, and
- (f) to make it accessible on web/ Mobile

TF Chair will introduce scope of activities of the TF-MTD to the members.

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 2: Technical Dictionary on AWM of Other Organizations**

4. AGROVOC, managed by FAO, is a controlled vocabulary covering all areas of interest of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, including food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment etc. It is published by FAO and edited by a community of experts. It has some irrigation and drainage terms in it. However, the number of such terms is significantly less when compared to more than 3000 such items contained in MTD. National Agricultural Library (NAL)-USDA also provides a listing of irrigation and drainage terms, and is linked with AGROVOC. Definitions of few selected terms as given in MTD and in AGROVOC are shown in **Annex 1**. It would be worth exploring the integration of MTD with AGROVOC to make it easily available for agricultural professionals and practitioners. TF will review relevance of similar dictionary work related to AWM of other agencies such as FAO, IWMI etc. to avoid duplicity and may like to invite professional organizations to collaborate in enriching chapters/terms, as appropriate.

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 3: Process for updation of MTD**

5. With the developments in web technologies, many specialized international organizations have brought out dictionaries of terms that are relevant to their areas of expertise. In that respect some of the chapters/terms that were earlier included in ICID MTD may not be relevant to the present situation as they do not fall within the expertise of ICID network of experts. **Peripheral topics may not be included in next edition as these are more relevant to other agencies or being available in other dictionaries.** It is therefore important that ICID concentrates and keeps its focus on irrigation and drainage terms. Accordingly MTD chapters have been categorised in three categories based on priority as shown in Table at **Annex** along with suggestion for most appropriate ICID workbody who can undertake updation of MTD terms for that chapter.

6. TF may review the categorisation assigned to chapters according to its relevance to the core areas of irrigation and drainage as presented in table at **Annex 2** and suggest modifications required, if any so that workbodies can undertake activity of updation of MTD as per direction of TF. TF will also deliberate and advise on items which needs to be included as part of MTD such as pictorial and audio-visual descriptions, photos, hyperlinks to public domain information resources on a particular term etc.

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 4: Translation of MTD in various local languages**

7. Presently MTD is available in only few languages which include English, French, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Hindi (one chapter only). TF will discuss and advise on modalities of translation of MTD in different languages and how to encourage NCs in preparation and building of additional translations.

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 5: Dissemination and maintenance of MTD**

8. TF will discuss and recommend the means of wider dissemination of MTD including making it accessible through web/mobile as well mechanism to maintenance and periodical updation of the MTD.

**TF-MTD Agenda Item 6: Any other business**



**Comparison of MTD and AGROVOC Definitions of Selected Terms**

Term	MTD	AGROVOC
Irrigation	4611: Water application confined in time and space, enabling to meet the water requirements of a crop at a given time of its vegetative cycle or to bring the soil to the desired moisture level outside the vegetative cycle. The irrigation of a field includes one or more watering per season.	c_3954: Application of water to soil for the purpose of plant production (USDA-NAL)
Flood	4103: 1 - A relatively high flow or stage in a river, markedly higher than the usual; also the inundation of low land that may result therefrom. A body of water, rising, swelling and overflowing the land not usually thus covered. 2 - A flood wave travelling down a river system as well as a storm surge (i.e. a tidal wave combined with wind setup and heavy wave attack). According to the sources of the excess waters, floods can be classified into at least five categories: (a) Floods caused by snow melting in mountainous regions resulting in excess water in the lower valley areas. (b) Floods caused by the onrush of surges due to cyclonic storms in the oceans together with sea waves. (c) Floods caused by heavy rainfalls in excess of the conveyance capacities of rivers and other natural and man-made drainage channels. (d) Floods caused by ice jams, glacial debris, landslide debris dams and ice breakings in the upper reaches of rivers generally known as spring floods. (e) Floods caused by failure of man-made structures like dams, barrages, levees, and control structures.	c_2980: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland and/or tidal waters, and/or the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source. A great flow along a watercourse or a flow causing inundation of lands not normally covered by water. (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus - EIONET)
Drainage	5033: 1 - The removal of excess surface and groundwater from any area. May occur naturally or by virtue of man-made surface or subsurface conduits; also a system of such conduits. 2 - The mode or manner in which surface waters find their way into streams and rivers. 3 - The natural lines of depressions in an area through which storm water escapes to rivers and streams. 4 - The percolation of soil water below the root zone. 5 - An expression of the ease with which excess water can flow naturally from a soil or land surface, as `well drained` or `poorly drained`.	c_2372: Drainage is the natural or artificial removal of surface and sub-surface water from an area. The internal drainage of most agricultural soils is good enough to prevent severe waterlogging (anaerobic conditions that harm root growth), but many soils need artificial drainage to improve production or to manage water supplies. (DBpedia)
Canal	2993: A manmade or artificial channel for carrying water that can be used for navigation purposes, or for conveying water for irrigation, domestic or industrial purposes, etc.	c_26763: An artificial open waterway used for transportation, waterpower, or irrigation. (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus – EIONET)
Reservoir	1261: A body of water impounded by human activity.	c_8324: Artificial or natural area of water, used for storing water for domestic or industrial use. (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus – EIONET)
Weir	2245: 1 - A low dam or wall across a stream to raise the upstream level (illustrated). Termed `fixed-crest weir` or `ungated weir` when uncontrolled. 2 - A structure built across a stream or channel for the purpose of measuring flow. Sometimes described as `measuring weir` or `gauging weir`. Types of measuring weir include `broad crested`, `sharp crested`, `drowned`, or `submerged` and `free fall weir`. 3 - See 5442.	c_8352: No Link to English Definition
Wastewater	7338: Water carrying dissolved or suspended solids from homes, farms, businesses and industries.	c_8308: Wastewater, also written as waste water, is any water that has been adversely affected in quality by anthropogenic influence. Wastewater can originate from a combination of domestic, industrial, commercial or agricultural activities, surface runoff or stormwater, and from sewer inflow or infiltration. (DBpedia)

Term	MTD	AGROVOC
Soil	1585: The soil is a natural body of mineral and organic constituents, differentiated into horizons, of variable depth, which differs from the material below in morphology, physical make-up, chemical properties and composition, and biological characteristics. In agricultural soil science, the term soil is applied only to the thin upper part of the mantle rock penetrated by the roots of plants, which supplies them with water and other substances necessary for their existence. In civil engineering, soil includes all the loose or moderately cohesive deposits, such as gravels, sands, silts or clays, or any of their mixtures.	c_7156: Upper layer of the earth in which plants grow; for the different soils in a region, country, etc. use <7204>
Pond	1272: A small lake.	c_6105: No Link to English Definition
Crop	No definition as such.	c_1972: All useful plants, cultivated or not.

**General Remarks:** As can be seen from the above comparison, there are no exact matches between MTD and AGROVOC definitions for the selected higher level terms of the knowledge domain. It should also be noted that while MTD has been developed from scratch over a significantly long period, AGROVOC provides direct definition (as Scope Note for the term) for very few terms and relies heavily on other multi-lingual dictionaries and thesaurus.



**Priority wise listing of MTD Chapters**

<b>Category 1</b>	<b>Category 2</b>	<b>Category 3</b>
(5) Head works; <b>(WG-IDM)</b>	(2) Hydrology; <b>WMO, UNESCO, IAHS</b>	(1) General (statistics, units etc.);
(6) Design of irrigation canals; <b>(WG-IDM)</b>	(3) River hydraulics;	(4) Reclamation;
(7) Canal structures; <b>(WG-IDM)</b>	(10) Pumping stations (lifting devices);	(14) Construction materials;
(8) Project water management; <b>(WG-IDM)</b>	(18) Soil and water conservation;	(15) Construction techniques and equipment;
(9) Wells and drilling;	(22) Systems analysis;	(19) Environmental impacts;
(11) Irrigation systems and distribution of irrigation waters; <b>(WG-IOA)</b>	(24) Project planning;	(21) Computer technology;
(12) On-farm water management; <b>(WG-SON-FARM)</b>		(23) Hydraulic research;
(13) Design and construction of drainage systems; <b>(WG-SDG)</b>		(25) Climate change
(16) Automation in irrigation, drainage and flood control systems; <b>(WG-M&amp;R)</b>		
(17) Operation, maintenance and management; <b>(WG-M&amp;R and IDM)</b>		
(20) Flood control; <b>(WG-CAFM)</b>		



