

AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON WATER SAVING FOR AGRICULTURE (WG-WATS)
 New Delhi, India
 08 December 2009: 09:30-13:15 hours
Strategy Theme: Systems

Date of Establishment: 1994

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate: "To recognize proven water saving success, and to identify and promote successful water conservation".

Members : (1) VPH Eng. Hussein El-Atfy, Chairman (Egypt, 2000); (2) VPH Dr. Alain Vidal (France, 1995); (3) VPH Dr. J.M.M. Mendiluce (Spain, 1996); (4) Dr. Shiang-Kueen, Hsu (Chinese Taipei, 1997); (5) Mr. M. Datta (India, 2003); (6) Mr. Neil Louis Lacler (South Africa, 2003); (7) Prof. Atef Hamdy (Italy, 2004); (8) Mr. Kim Russell (Australia, 2005); (9) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran, 2006); (10) VPH Dr. Mark Svendsen (USA, 2007); (11) Dr. Yuanhua Li (China, 2007); and (12) Secretary General, ICID.

Working Group Website : <http://www.wg-wats.icidonline.org/>

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 1 : Review of the membership

The Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PANCID) has nominated (02 September 2009) Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Pakistan) for the membership of the WG. His CV will be made available during the meeting for consideration.

At Lahore (2008) meeting, nomination of Mr. Shakibaev Ilan Isataevich by Kazakhstan National Committee (KAZCID) was not accepted as he was neither present nor represented by KAZCID member at the meeting. The Central Office is in contact (01 January 2009) with KAZCID to confirm the above nomination or send a fresh nomination. Response is awaited.

VPH Dr. Alain Vidal, a nominee of AFEID in the Working Group has moved over to Challenge Programme on Water and Food (CPWF) in Colombo, Sri Lanka and has tendered apologies for serving working groups of ICID as he can no longer represent French National Committee. Central Office has taken up the matter with AFEID and if a substitute's name is available with CV, it will be placed before the meeting. Dr. Alain Vidal would however be joining us perhaps as an Observer of CPWF in IEC (*and present the Theme Report on 'Knowledge' – to conclude the tasks he handled*).

Attendance of members at the meetings held in 2007 and 2008 will be circulated at the meeting. It may be noted that representation of a member of the working group by any other representative of the concerned national committee is not deemed to be a contribution by a member. Refer to Annex 1 of PCSPOA Agenda (page A-9) and ICID by-law 3.1.7 which stipulates that members not contributing to the activities by attendance or correspondence for two consecutive years shall be replaced in consultation with their National Committees.

Accordingly, the Central Office is in contact with Australia, India, Italy and Spain for fresh nominations. Their responses, if received in time, will be placed during the meeting.

Item 2 : WG Publication on 'WatSave Scenario'

The Central Office has brought out an ICID document titled "*Water Saving in Agriculture*" which was released during the Lahore Congress (2008). The Central Office has sent a copy of the publication to all national committees, WatSave Award Winners and other members of the WG. The book is also available for sell at a discounted price of

US\$ 20. Mr. M. Ehsani from Iran informed IRNCID's readiness to translate the book in Persian language and publish it. Mr. Ehsani may wish to apprise the members.

Item 3 : WatSave awards

3.1 The 2009 Watsave awards

The Central Office has invited nominations from all national committees/ committee for the 'WatSave awards 2009' in January 2009. The announcement was published in ICID News Updates, Newsletters, posted on ICID website and was circulated among various water related International Organizations for a wider dissemination. The last date of receipt of nominations from the national committees to the Central Office was kept as 31 August 2009.

For the WatSave Awards 2009, in all 8 nominations from 4 national committees were received. The nominations received are being evaluated by an international 'Panel of Judges' appointed by the President, ICID. The awards will be declared and presented at the 60th IEC meeting scheduled to be held on 10 December 2009.

Further updates about the awards will be available during IEC meetings.

3.2 Sponsorship

The Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) has bagged the honour of sponsoring the WatSave awards 2009. The total award amounts to USD 6000 for three awards. The WG members may wish to record their gratitude to INCID for their kind gesture.

At Sacramento (2007), the WG reviewed various options for sponsoring the Watsave awards as suggested during earlier WG meetings. Some additional options were as below: (i) seek commercial sponsorship of the 'Technology award', allowing branding of the award if the sponsor wishes, (ii) place a Watsave contribution option on the Congress/ Conference registration form for host NC to consider

The WG proposed (2008) that the commercial sponsorship option could also be attempted when the present arrangement of sponsoring the awards by ICID National Committees does not yield success.

The WG may further deliberate. Appropriate recommendations about future sponsorship if made, it can be taken up by PCTA/IEC.

3.3 Review of Criteria and Evaluation Process for Watsave Awards

The revised (2008) versions of the 'Nomination Form', 'Conditions and Criteria' and 'Evaluation Proforma' are being used to invite watsave nominations from NCs. The revised proforma are accessible in ICID website <http://www.icid.org/awards.html#watsave>.

It has also been proposed (2008) to also consider the previous watsave winners for fresh awards provided the nomination is for a new and different water saving innovation as the purpose of the award is not just an award to the winner but to identify water saving technology and management among the ICID family and across the world. The WG may deliberate and recommend as appropriate to PCTA/IEC.

Further it has been observed that many nominations (more than one) have been received from the same NC for the same award category in the past. The idea of routing the nominations through the NC is to receive only one nomination per category per country after an initial scanning of the nominations for a sequential ordering based on merit and recommending only one.

The WG may consider and recommend the idea of 'one nomination per category per country' to PCTA/IEC. And also WG may suggest the 'clause' to be included additionally to reflect the above in the 'call circular' for 'WatSave' awards, in future.

Item 4 : Framework for cooperation and interaction among ICID member countries and work bodies

The WG has developed effective linkages with WG-IADWS (now WG-DROUGHT) and WG-PQW. At the Kuala Lumpur (2006) meeting, the WG had expressed its interest to link the WG's activities with the IPTRID [now Working Group on Technology and Research Uptake and Exchange (WG-TRUE)] and the newly proposed Working Group on Modernization of Irrigation Services (WG-MIS). The WG proposed to share and contribute/involve with other related working groups for carrying out joint activities like publication, workshop etc. The Chairman may like to nominate members to liaise with above mentioned WGs.

The WG may also like to discuss on the new ideas for developing / strengthening cooperation and interaction among ICID member countries.

Item 5 : Internal Workshop on 'Water saving innovations'

The WG has been attempting to organize an internal workshop on "Water saving innovations". The WG encourages interested national committees to come forward to hold an 'International Workshop' in order to provide a platform for exchanging the latest developments in water savings/ conservation in agriculture.

Recently, Chinese National Committee (CNCID) has brought out a document on water saving experiences in China. Taking a cue, the Central Office is in contact with the CNCID and also Indonesian National Committee (INACID) to explore the possibility of hosting such an international event. It would be useful if the workshop could include field visits to successful water saving irrigation schemes. Responses are awaited.

Item 6 : Newsletter and webpage of the working group

The WG members requested VPH Dr. Amer, representing Chairman VPH El-Atfy during Lahore meeting (2008) to publish the WG's Newsletter by compiling water saving related news items from ICID member countries, other international organizations, as well as to disseminate the progress of work plan and activities of the WG on annual basis. Response is waited.

Item 7 : Work plan

As the updated work plan was not available to discuss in the Lahore meeting (2008), the members requested the chairman to hold a virtual meeting to develop the work plan and solicit the views and comments of members in order to finalize it at the next meeting to be held in 2009.

VPH Dr. Amer requested (2008) all the members to actively involve themselves in developing the work plan by sending their views and proposals to the Chairman Dr. El Atfy. The 'water productivity' could be one of the items in the work plan.

The WG will firm up the work plan activities during this meeting up to 2013.

Item 8 : Any other business
