



CPSP News Update

ICID•CIID

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)

New Delhi, India

September 2004

Country Policy Support Programme

CPSP Workshop, Egypt

A CPSP preparatory workshop was held on **3rd August 2004** in Egypt with an objective of introducing CPSP methodology, modeling approach and to present outcome of the studies carried out so far in China and India to other participating countries viz. Egypt, Mexico and Pakistan. Senior level water professionals/experts from Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egyptian National Committee (ENCID) and a professional from Mexican National Committee (MXCID) besides professionals from CPSP India team and Central Office, ICID participated in the workshop. Professionals from Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) were invited but could not make it to attend. During the workshop, presentations were made by experts from India, Egypt and Mexico. Participants made valuable suggestions for initiating CPSP studies in Egypt, Mexico and Pakistan. A preliminary CPSP studies in these three participating countries are anticipated to be completed by end of 2004 followed by a detailed study in phase II of the programme. H.E. Dr. M. Abu-Zeid, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation (Egypt) held discussions with the participants over a dinner meeting.

The workshop was held at Regional Center for Training and Water Studies (RCTWS), Six October City and was organized by ENCID under the leadership of Dr. M.H. Amer, Chairman.

Outcome

The main issues emanated from the discussions were as follows :

- Criteria for selecting river basins for further application of BHIWA model.
- Methodology that will be used for building water policies and method for its evaluation.
- Water use priorities (water for domestic use or water for irrigation, etc), and how it is addressed in the model.
- Level of geographical data resolution needed to run BHIWA model (detailed information to what extent?).
- BHIWA model does not deal with water quality modelling.
- BHIWA model deals only with water assessment and does not directly model socio-economic impacts .
- Risk assessment analysis is not included even in a simple way although the model is designed to make long-term prediction.



*Dr. M.H. Amer, Chairman, and staff of
ENCID*



CPSP Workshop participants

- Calibration part of the model needs further refinement.
- The model, at present, does not deal with food demand assessment & food imports.

In addition to these, further explanations was provided by ENCID delegates, regarding :

- Method used to address the different water policies in Egypt.
- Operation of High Aswan Dam (HAD).
- Technical feasibility of management of evaporation losses
- Sedimentation problem in Lake Nasser and its negative consequences on the HAD performance.
- Disposing excess floodwater in Toshka depression in some high flood years.

There were some comments made on the proposed application of the model on a part (5614 sq.km) of the "Présidio River Basin" presented by the Mexican delegate. During discussions, many delegates felt that it may be better to deal with a larger study area, and perhaps the full Présidio basin up to the sea could be used.

CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusions of the workshop were :

- BHIWA model that was successfully used in several river basins in China and India (basins area ranged from 20,000 to 40,000 km²) depends mainly on simple mathematical formulations using spreadsheet. A constraint of the BHIWA model is that it does not directly consider water quality or the socio-economic dimension of food and agriculture production.



Drip irrigated Corn in Egypt

The model is short in simulating some important parameters, e.g., socio-economic indicators, prediction scenarios management system, and scenarios evaluation.

- SRU is doing very good job in developing and modifying computer simulation tools for evaluating national water resource.
- In the near future, substantial modifications are expected in the BHIWA model, to suit the Egyptian conditions.
- BHIWA model will be applied to the River Nile Delta regions as part of the NWSP under the umbrella of the ICID.
- Knowledge transfer and inter-discussions among the national experts is encouraged in the coming phase of CPSP.
- BHIWA model could be efficient tool to help water resources decision makers in Egypt.
- Proposed tasks and activities of phase II of CPSP, as presented by Secretary General, ICID, were endorsed by all the participants. However, detailed work plan for phase II has to be prepared and discussed later during meeting in Moscow.