

ICID e-Bulletin

Managing water for sustainable agriculture



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8 December 2014



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International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established in 1950 as a scientific, technical and voluntary not-for-profit non-governmental international organization. ICID e-Bulletin is a compilation of news items of importance during the preceding week in respect of Agriculture, Climate Change, Drainage, Droughts, Floods, Food Security, Irrigation and Water Resources Management that might be of interest to the ICID fraternity. Feedbacks on the usefulness of the bulletin are solicited vikram@icid.org

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

66th IEC and 26th European Regional Conference, Montpellier, France, 11-16 October 2015.

<http://afeid.montpellier.cemagref.fr>

2nd World Irrigation Forum and 67th IEC, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 6-12 November 2016.

<http://www.rid.go.th/Thaicid/>

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AGRICULTURE

Zimbabwe: CBZ Bank raises \$53m for agriculture

3 December 2014

The country's largest locally-owned commercial bank, CBZ announced Wednesday that it had managed to raise US\$53 million for the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA). The funds were raised through AMA bills which were floated in June this year and targeted at raising US\$55 million for the procurement of maize produced during the 2013/14 agricultural season. As a result the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) has paid for 141,000 metric tonnes of maize out of the 250,000 tonnes delivered to their various depots. The success of the issue has allowed maize farmers to procure inputs in time for the 2014/15 agricultural season.

[http://www.newzimbabwe.com/business-19254-CBZ+raises+\\$53m+for+agriculture/business.aspx](http://www.newzimbabwe.com/business-19254-CBZ+raises+$53m+for+agriculture/business.aspx)

Supporting Tasmanian women in agriculture

29 November 2014

Primary industries are a key strength of the Tasmanian economy and the Liberal Government has a vision to grow the annual farm gate value of our produce to \$10 billion by 2050. Our Cultivating Prosperity in Agriculture Policy will see an investment of more than \$6.5 million over four years in a range of initiatives to help achieve Agrivision 2050. Speaking today to the annual Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) Christmas function, I was delighted to deliver on one of those initiatives - \$80,000 over

four years to TWiA to support rural women and the vital role they play in maintaining and strengthening our rural communities.

http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/supporting_tasmanian_women_in_agriculture

Ghana invests low in agriculture – SEND GHANA

28 November 2014

A Programme Officer of SEND-GHANA, Daniel Adotey Akai has urged government to tackle the low public investment in agriculture to save the sector from collapse. Speaking at a national dialogue on agriculture for stakeholders in the sector, Mr Akai said the low funding of the sector has negative implications on development and food security. He said out of the total budgeted amount of GH¢ 226 million earmarked for the agriculture sector in 2014, only GH¢ 121.80 million had been released as at the end of September. Mr Akai said about GH¢ 111.80 million of the actual sector expenditure, representing 91.8 per cent was spent on poverty related agricultural programmes.

<http://www.spyghana.com/ghana-invests-low-agriculture-send-ghana/>

Report: Double African agriculture R&D

27 November 2014

Sub-Saharan Africa's long-term food security faces a number of threats. A new report recommends speeding up agricultural productivity, but says a doubling of investment in research and development would be needed. The findings were released at the Forum for Agricultural Research conference in Johannesburg (11/26-28). The report is called Taking Stock of National Agricultural R&D Capacity in Africa South of the Sahara. It lists high population growth, deteriorating soil conditions, climate change and high prices as risk factors to food security.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/africa-agriculture-investment-27nov14/2536910.html>

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change impacts in Latin America and the Caribbean: Confronting the new climate normal

2 December 2014

Climate change is a clear and dire threat to Latin America and the Caribbean. A threat in which the region has had little or no role in the making, but in which it is already an important part of the solution. Dear friends, I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important and timely topic. The report we are launching today is the third in the Turn down the Heat series and, for the first time, covers our region. This report is based on the findings of a global research series commissioned by the World Bank to the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2014/12/02/climate-change-impacts-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-confronting-the-new-climate-normal>

How could climate change affect our weather in the year 2050?

1 December 2014

If humanity's greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase, the average temperature of the Earth's lower atmosphere could rise more than 4°C (7.2°F) by the end of the 21st century. But what does a global average temperature rise really mean? How would we experience it on a daily basis? To find out what could lie in store, WMO invited television weather presenters from around the world to imagine a "weather report from the year 2050." What they created are only possible scenarios, and not true forecasts. Nevertheless, they are based on the most up-to-date climate science, and they paint a compelling picture of what life could be like on a warmer planet.

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/news/Howcouldclimatechangeaffectourweatherintheyear2050.htm>
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DRAINAGE

USA: Drainage basin councils proposed in South Dakota

25 November 2014

PIERRE — South Dakota would be organized into nine drainage basins, with councils of local residents elected to manage water issues in them, under a proposal that received unanimous approval from the Legislature's watershed task force Monday. Currently, each of the 66 county commissions decides whether to regulate drainage. Most don't. Frequently disputes between landowners over damages were left unresolved or handled other ways, sometimes through lawsuits.

The task force's proposed solution calls for creating a new unit of elected government in South Dakota called "river basin natural resource districts" and every county would be in at least one. Some counties would be divided into multiple basins.

http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/local/proposed-river-basin-councils-would-deal-with-drainage-issues/article_5a30a495-7f31-5d08-a2e1-64dd0de3ceb5.html

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DROUGHTS

Deforestation may be at root of Brazil drought

4 December 2014

For weeks, the taps in her home have run dry as Sao Paulo has suffered its worst drought in eight decades, with rainfall at one-third the normal level. Without heavy and prolonged rain, the megacity of 23 million could soon run out of water, experts warn. "We are always thinking: The rain is coming, the rain is coming," said Oliveira. But it doesn't, and a growing consensus of scientists believes the answer to what is happening to Oliveria and her neighbors lies not in the sky above their heads but in decades of deforestation of Amazon rainforest hundreds of miles away. The cutting of trees, scientists say, is hindering the immense jungle's ability to absorb carbon from the air and to pull enough water through tree roots to supply gigantic "sky rivers" that move more moisture than the Amazon River itself.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/deforestation-root-brazil-drought-27355018>

China's looming water shortage

30 November 2014

The Diplomat has previously covered China's water pollution crisis, with the Chinese government reporting that nearly 60 percent of China's groundwater is polluted. But water scarcity, while obviously exacerbated by pollution, is also a severe problem for China, one that is tied up with complex questions about energy use, urbanization, and modernization. Water issues were highlighted recently by Premier Li Keqiang. He urged local governments to accelerate their work on dealing with water issues, from water conservation to water diversion projects. In a visit to China's Ministry of Water Resources, Li suggested providing more government funding for these projects and better support in the form of favorable policies.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/chinas-looming-water-shortage/>

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FLOODS

Floods hit drought stricken Brazil

26 November 2014

A heavy rain storm flooded large parts of Sao Paulo Tuesday just as evening commuters were leaving work causing travel headaches and traffic jams several miles long. A large, dark rain cloud hovered over the megacity of 20 million people dumping a short, heavy onslaught of rain that quickly flooded streets, highways and entire neighbourhoods. The flooding caused significant disruption to transport, with cars, buses and trains becoming stranded in the flood waters. The city of Sao Paulo and the surrounding region is in the midst of the worst drought it has have faced in 80 years. Government agencies said the rain brought some relief, but despite the problems it was causing, it would not be enough to impact stressed reservoirs that collectively sit at about 16% of capacity.

<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/uk/news/articles/floods-hit-drought-stricken-brazil/40759/>

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FOOD SECURITY

Towards achieving food security in Ghana

2 December 2014

A food secured nation is one that is able to produce enough to feed its citizenry till the next harvesting season, usually exporting surplus to less food secure nations. Such is not the case in Ghana. In Ghana, we have glut in the harvesting season followed by a sharp cut of food supply in the lean season, leading to shortages. In pursuance of higher profits, we also do not fully satisfy local demand before exporting to the international market. This African culture of self-denial and self-deprivation and the erratic nature of food supply lead to a state of periodic recurring food scarcity within the country. This is termed as food insecurity.

<http://www.spyghana.com/towards-acheiving-food-security-ghana/>

Food security: How will Sub-Saharan Africa handle soil fertility decline?

2 December 2014

VENTURES AFRICA – A recent East African workshop conducted in Nairobi by the United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES) discussed empirical assessments of sub-Saharan Africa's soil fertility which confirms a significant decline in soil fertility, the progression of which can worsen the food security situation in the region.

The workshop was set up to discuss and develop a joint research project across the region in order to stem the impact of climate change on soil fertility. Organizations represented at the workshop included the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and several universities from the continent.

<http://www.ventures-africa.com/2014/12/food-security-how-will-sub-saharan-africa-handle-soil-fertility-decline/>

IMF lauds WTO accord after India-US food security deal

30 November 2014

Washington: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has welcomed the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on public stock holding for food security, paving the way for signing the trade facilitation agreement for easing global custom rules. "I strongly welcome the decisions adopted by the general council of the WTO Nov 27, related to public stock holding for food security purposes, the trade facilitation agreement (TFA) and the post-Bali work," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said in a statement.

http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/international/imf-lauds-wto-accord-after-india-us-food-security-deal_113085.html

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IRRIGATION

Spain cuts use of irrigation water

3 December 2014

A study by Spain's National Federation of Irrigators (Fenacore) reveals that the country has reduced its yearly consumption of water for irrigation by 20%, which in terms of volume entails an annual saving of over 1,200 cubic hectometres. The results of this study have been presented at the Second Mediterranean Water Forum, held in Murcia. The report shows that Spain is the global leader in water saving for agricultural use, along with Israel. Spain is a leader in the capacity to produce more with less water, having almost half of its irrigated acreage (48%) equipped with drip irrigation systems.

<http://www.freshplaza.com/article/131710/Spain-cuts-use-of-irrigation-water>

Water sales open for new irrigation scheme based around the Southern Highlands in Tasmania

1 December 2014

Water sales from the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme are now open to farmers in the Bothwell area, a traditionally dry area of Tasmania. Chair of the scheme Richard Hallett is confident farmers will support the new scheme which has yet to receive federal government funding. "This is a very dry area

and also an area that's got enormous potential with some highly productive soils for high value cropping," says Mr Hallett. The Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme, worth over \$28 million, will deliver water to a potential 8 thousand hectares of arable land in the Bothwell area.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-12-01/water-sales-open-for-new-southern-highlands-irrigation-scheme/5930162>

World Bank and Japan provide US\$13 million for irrigation in Mozambique

26 November 2014

The World Bank and Japan contributed US\$13 million of the US\$90 million needed to carry out Mozambique's Sustainable Irrigation Development Project (Proirri), said the coordinator of the project, Manuel Magombe. The project, which intends to cover 5,500 hectares by 2017, in the provinces of Manica, Sofala and Zambezia, in central Mozambique, will have a first phase with 12 irrigation systems, including eight in Manica, covering a total of 193 hectares, two in Sofala to cover 160 hectares and an equal number in Zambezia for 210 hectares.

<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2014/11/26/world-bank-and-japan-provide-us13-million-for-irrigation-in-mozambique/>

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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Taiwan, Israel seek further cooperation on water technology

29 November 2014

Taiwan and Israel held a seminar in Taipei Friday aimed at seeking closer cooperation in the area of water resources management for daily and industrial uses. Noting that water scarcity is a challenge faced by many countries, Yang Wei-fuu, director general of Taiwan's Water Resources Agency, said that the seminar was an opportunity for participants from the two nations to explore potential future cooperation. The seminar was organized by the Water Resources Agency and the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei and brought representatives of seven Israeli water technology companies to meet with Taiwanese officials and businesspeople from the semiconductor, chemical, agriculture sectors amongst others.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20141129000016&cid=1105>

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LATEST PUBLICATION

FAO, 2014, SAFA (Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems) Guidelines, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems (SAFA) Guidelines were developed for assessing the impact of food and agriculture operations on the environment and people. The guiding vision of SAFA is that food and agriculture systems worldwide are characterized by all four dimensions of sustainability: good governance, environmental integrity, economic resilience and social well-being.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3957e.pdf>

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