

**Minutes of the 27th Meeting of the
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)**

9 November 2016, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I)

9 November 2016, 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination, and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues and information system for African needs.

Members Present: (1) Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Chairman (South Africa); (2) Vice President Mohamed Wahba representing Vice President Hon. Samia El-Guindy (Egypt); (3) Vice President Hon. Adama Sangare (Mali representative); (4) Dr. Hassan Abo-albasher Ali (Sudan representative); (5) Eng. Thubelihle A. Thebe (Zimbabwe representative); (6) Er. Harish Varma representing Secretary General Er. Avinash Tyagi.

Observers: (i) President Dr. Saeed Nairizi; (ii) Vice President Hon. Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa); (iii) Vice President Hon. Felix Reinders (South Africa); (iv) Mr. Ouango François (Burkina Faso); (v) Mr. Jean Bernard Dambre (Burkina Faso); (vi) Mr. Traore S Omar (Burkina Faso); (vii) Dr. Ruey-Chy Kao (Chinese Taipei); (viii) Zeinab Behairy (Egypt); (ix) Jean-Yues Grosclaude (France); (x) Dr. Sylvain Perret (France); (xi) Mr. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan); (xii) Mr. Abdullahi Hassan (Somalia); (xiii) Ms. MJ Gabriel (South Africa); (xiv) Jan Potgieter (South Africa); (xv) Dr. Salih Hamad Hamid (Sudan); (xvi) Dr. Ahmed M. Adam (Sudan); (xvii) Hassan A Ali (Sudan).

Website: <http://afrwg.icidonline.org/>

AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. At the onset, the Chair welcomed all the members and briefed them on the various activities of the group viz. interim meeting of the WG, position paper on Green Revolution, strategy for capacity building, training program on on-farm water use, 4th African Regional Conference etc. During the meeting, the Chair requested all members who are unable to attend the annual face to face meeting to make use the WebEx/ video-conferencing facilities made available by the Central Office to contribute to the activities of the group.

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Brief report of the interim meeting of the WG on 27 April 2016, Egypt

2. Chair presented the brief report of the interim meeting of the working group held on 27 April 2016 in Egypt and shared with the members the document of "Capacity building strategy for Africa". The Chair highlighted that this strategy was adopted and approved during the AFRWG meeting in Montpellier in 2015. Chair further highlighted that this strategy is a living document and it will be updated every three years. The Chair thanked all the colleagues who submitted their inputs and comments during the development of the "Capacity building strategy for Africa". The majority of the participants agreed that this is a blue print for Africa and it needs to be implemented as soon as possible.

AFRWG Minutes Item 3: ICID Action Plan 2030 – Activities in African region

3. During the meeting, WG Chair presented draft Action Plan 2030 of the WG prepared by ICID Central office in consultation with him. Members reviewed the activities of the WG listed in the Action Plan 2030 and made suggestion with some initial ideas for actions and deliverables in respect of six organization goals of ICID. After deliberation it was agreed that the draft action plan may be taken as base for discussion together with the Capacity Building Strategy developed by the AFRWG as reference. WG Chair stressed the need of circulating the draft action plan to all members of AFRWG for inviting their feedbacks before its finalization. It was agreed that WG Chair would circulate action plan to all members and coordinate and facilitate finalization of the action plan of the AFRWG and its submission to the ICID Central Office.

AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Position paper on Green Revolution in Africa

4. As a follow-up of the recommendations of the 4th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage (ARCID) held in April 2016 at Aswan City, Egypt to prepare a position paper on 'Green Revolution in Africa', the ICID Central Office, in June 2016, circulated questionnaire to all members of the AFRWG including national committees requesting them to fill up the questionnaire and return to ICID by 15 August 2016. During the meeting, WG Chair briefly informed the members, background and status of the preparation of position paper on 'Green

Revolution in Africa'. The group noted that so far only three countries managed to submit the questionnaire to the ICID Central Office viz. Morocco, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Chair encouraged all members to fill-up the questionnaire and send back to the ICID Central Office as soon as possible. WG Chair made it very clear that the Green Revolution initiative is for Africa, therefore, African countries needs to be proactive and also support this initiative.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: Progress on implementation of the action program for Africa

AFRWG Minutes Item 5.1: Developments in irrigation and allied issues

5. During the meeting, the group noted and acknowledged that Southern African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) had successfully organized workshop on the theme "Rural fresh aquaculture" from 16-18 February 2016 in Malawi. Several participants from various countries including Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho etc. attended the workshop including senior government officials from the Malawian government. The chair of the group informed that SARIA planned to host a symposium in 2017 in South Africa. The aim of the symposium is to assess if SARIA has achieved its milestones and targets sets in 2012, identify new thematic areas for the next three years etc.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5.2: Strategy for capacity building in Africa

6. WG Chair informed that the capacity development strategy document has been adopted during the Egypt meeting as a dynamic and living document to be updated regularly every 3 years. WG Chair emphasized need for organizing a symposium in 2017 to assess the milestones and identify new themes as part of phase 2 of the strategy. It was agreed by the members to prepare a 3 years work plan for capacity building on irrigation and drainage and a questionnaire will be prepared and circulated to the African national committees for the training needs assessment. ICID President Dr Nairizi mentioned that ICID will support in approaching the funding agencies to seek financial support for implementing this work plan.

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Dissemination of Working Group's activities

7. Chair requested members for their active participation in the activities of the WG and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experience, as well as networking in order to keep themselves up-to-date with new developments, methods and innovative in the field of agriculture water management practices. Chair further requested members to contribute information/articles on their activities to the WG Chair as well as ICID Central Office so that same can be published in the ICID newsletter. WG Chair emphasized that members should make full use of WebEx platform for virtual meetings to ensure regular contribution to the activities of the group.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: Report on Training program on 'On-farm water use and management', 17-24 April 2016, Egypt

8. WG Chair and VP Wahba presented a detailed report of the Training program on "On-farm water use and management" organized from 17–24 April 2016 in Cairo, Egypt. The training course was organized by the Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) in partnership with ICID and the African Regional Working Group (AFRWG). Total 21 participants from 15 countries (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Iran, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia) participated in the training programme. The purpose of this capacity building training course was to capacitate scientists, agricultural and water managers on issues related to agricultural water management, irrigation, drainage management, soil – plant climate interactions, land degradation for irrigation including land levelling, irrigation methods, scientific design and layout of farm irrigation and drainage, efficiency at farm level, applications of modern techniques such as GIS and Remote Sensing for enhancing water use efficiencies at farm level, socio – economic and environmental aspects for water use efficiencies and increased productivity, water governance with focus on Water Users Associations, micro irrigation systems including drip, sprinklers, and rain gun for smallholder farmers, understanding water – energy – food nexus for better on farm management, hands on exercise for irrigation scheduling etc., participatory irrigation management, application of modern tools and modelling techniques for irrigation planning including crop water requirement, scheduling and management under different water supply scenarios, modern instruments and systems of irrigation such as sensor based weather data collection, flow measurement, soil water content measurement. WG Chair informed that he presented a paper titled "Understanding water – energy – food nexus for better on farm management" during the session on 17 April 2016. The WG noted that this was a very good training course meant to empower African scientists and professionals on water related issues. It was agreed that such training program should be regularly organised across all the African regions. Members were informed that after training programme participants attended 4th African Regional Conference at Aswan, Egypt.

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: Report on 4th African Regional Conference, 26-28 April 2016, Egypt

9. VP Wahba and WG Chair informed members that the Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) hosted ICID's 4th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage (ARCID) at historical city of Aswan, Egypt, during 26-28 April, 2016. The main theme of the conference was "Agricultural Land and Water

Management for Sustainability under Climate Variability” and three principal topics were (i) Water Use Management, (ii) Food Security and (iii) Research, Extension Services and Capacity Development. About 250 participants representing policy makers, water managers and other stakeholders from 31 countries from all over the world, mainly from Africa, attended the conference. The ARCID Conference was sponsored by a number of partners - ICID, ENCID, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, KRC, KCID, ICARDA, RTSWRI, NWRC, Arab Water Council, GIZ, WMRP, MWRI Planning Sector, Egypt Air, Banque du Cairo, FAO, National Bank of Egypt, among others. The main issues discussed in the conference were Global food problems and the role of irrigation and drainage, Emerging forces (Climate, urbanization, increase in energy prices), Water management challenges and water resources planning, Irrigation efficiency and crop productivity, Role of ICID in the African Green Revolution Global Initiative, Improving salt and water management, Use of non-conventional water in agricultural production, Public-private partnership, Stakeholders involvement and gender equality etc. One of the important recommendation of the conference was that ICID needs to prepare a position paper on second Green Revolution in Africa and to set up a mechanism to extend its support in the area of Agriculture water Management.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9: Review of membership of the group and countries

AFRWG Minutes Item 9.1: Membership of the group

10. During the meeting, Chair mentioned that in order to be a member of the working group, each National Committee need to nominate a professional and send his/ her CV to ICID Central Office. The group noted that in May 2016, the Central Office requested the National Committees of Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe to nominate a representative to join AFRWG to promote links, networking and also exchange of ideas among the African countries. WG Chair stressed and requested these NCs to nominate their representative as member of the WG. WG chair advised members/NCs to pursue non-member countries in their regional blocks to join the ICID as member. During discussion, it was agreed that National Committees should pay their annual membership subscription regularly and timely.

11. The AFRWG discussed and elected Vice President Dr. M.S. Wahba as the new Chair of the group, Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli as Vice Chair and Mr. Jean Bernard Dambre from Burkina Faso as Secretary of the WG. Membership status is given in **Annex 5 (page 33)**.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9.2: Membership of African countries

12. During the meeting, the group noted and appreciated the efforts being made by Egypt for development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all the North African countries, and holding elections to decide on the chairmanship and location of the office. It was highlighted by a representative from the North African region that the process is still going on and may take some more time.

AFRWG Minutes Item 10: Any other business

Webinar/ web-based seminar:

13. WG supported suggestion of organizing webinars which will promote sharing of vast expertise available with ICID fraternity with Members of the NCs. WG Chair requested members to provide their suggestions on the topics, which are relevant and of interest to the members of the AFRWG, on which webinar can be considered along with name of the relevant experts who could be contacted to develop webinars.

14. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and members.



