

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON WATER AND CROPS (WG-CROP)
 New Delhi, India
 07 December 2009: 14:15-18:00 hours
Strategy Theme: On-Farm

Year of Establishment: 2007

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Revised Mandate: To promote the efficient use of water in crop production, to provide input to test crop water models, to investigate the use of energy crops for biofuel production, to develop techniques for rainfall harvesting, to promote the multi-functionality of water use in paddy rice cultivation, to investigate the adaptation of agriculture to climate change and to promote low input agriculture.

Members present: (1) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (UK); (2) Prof. E.V. Scarascia (Italy) represented by Dr. Graziano Ghinassi; (3) Mr. L.C. Tollefson (Canada); (4) Mr. Tai Cheol Kim (Korea); and (5) Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa) represented by Ms. Sue Walker.

Observers : (i) Dr. K. Yella Reddy (India); (ii) Dr. Z. Behairy (India); (iii) Dr. A.B. Khot (India); (iv) Dr. C. Venkata Reddy (India); (v) Dr. M.K. Sharma (India); (vi) Er. J.S. Sodhi (India); (vii) Dr. Jaleh Vaziri (Iran); (viii) Mr. V.B. Nath (India); (ix) Dr. M. Arshad (Pakistan); (x) Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad (Pakistan); (xi) Mr. Heinz Sourell (Germany); (xii) Mr. Rambhau Shirode (India); (xiii) Mr. Takanori Nagano (Japan); (xiv) Mr. Rishi Srivastava (India); (xv) Dr. Srinivas Rao (India); (xvi) Er. S. Vishnu Vardhan (India); (xvii) Dr. R.B. Singandhupe (India); (xviii) Dr. M.J. Kaledhonuar (India); (xix) Dr. A.K. Suresh (India); (xx) Mr. K. Kuwabara (India); (xxi) Dr. Sándor Szalai (Hungary); and (xxii) Mr. T.V. Satyanarayana (India).

Website: <<http://www.wg-crop.icidonline.org>>.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the WG-CROP

The minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore, Pakistan (2008) were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

The Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) has nominated (08 September 2009) Dr. K. Yella Reddy (India) for the membership of the WG. The WG has accepted the nomination.

The Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) has nominated (31 August 2009) Ms. Jaleh Vaziri (Iran) for the membership of the WG. The WG has accepted the nomination.

The Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PANCID) has nominated (19 August 2009) Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz (Pakistan) for the membership of the WG. The WG has accepted the nomination.

The Japanese National Committee of ICID (JNC-ICID) has nominated (11 August 2008) Dr. Koji Inosako (Japan) in place of Prof. Dr. Yoshisuke Nakano for the membership of the WG. His nomination was deferred to next meeting as the candidate was not available.

2.1 Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Mr. L.C. Tollefson (Canada) has been elected as Vice Chairman of the WG. The search will continue for the Secretary. Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK) continues to be the Chairman.

(A) ITEMS EMERGING FROM ERSTWHILE WG-CROP**Item 3 : Organic versus Conventional Farming**

The WG is still interested in studying organic agriculture. However, no activity has been planned for the time being.

Item 4 : Precision Agriculture

The WG showed great interest in this area and a couple of presentation will be made during the next meeting in 2010. The Chairman informed the WG on the work carried out on the subject in one of the EU funded project "SAFIR" (*more information available at www.safir4eu.org*) and invited WG members to download the model developed and related documents from the project web site. The Chairman informed the WG of using minimum input of water and fertilizers and the advantage of using the Partial Root Drying (PRD) method to minimize water use.

Item 5 : Website of WG

The Chairman highlighted the contents of the WG website and its benefit to the WG members. The website will soon be updated with new input on SALTMED model (2009) and related documents.

Item 6 : WG report on closure of erstwhile WG-CROP (1997-2007)

The Chairman distributed the 10 years report on achievements and highlighted the most important outputs. It was clear that the WG had a very impressive list of outputs which included FAO Irrigation and Drainage paper 56 which is now widely used worldwide in estimating the crop water requirement and deciding on the irrigation scheduling.

(B) ITEMS EMERGING FROM NEW MANDATE**Item 7 : Promote the efficient use of water in crop production**

Promoting efficient use of water in crop production is important and two presentations are being planned for next meeting in 2010. One of the presenter will be the new Vice-Chairman Mr. L.C. Tollefson (Canada) focusing on his experiences from Canada.

Item 8 : Provide input to test crop water models

Providing input to test crop water models will be supported by some members (and non members) once they get familiar with model data requirements. As a first step, the SALTMED model will be tried and a list of data requirement will be circulated. There may be a possibility of receiving contribution (data) from Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa).

Item 9 : Energy crops for biofuel production

Energy crops for biofuel production are of great interest but no activity has been planned for next year. The issue will be discussed once again during next meeting in 2010. An excellent presentation was made by Dr. Srinivas Rao from ICRISAT, India regarding their experiences with energy crops in India.

Item 10 : Develop techniques for rainfall harvesting

Developing techniques for rainfall harvesting is another interesting area for the WG. The Chairman and possibly Dr. Andrew Sanewe will make presentations on the subject during the next meeting in 2010.

Item 11 : Multi-functionality of water use in paddy rice cultivation

Discussion on the subject was deferred till the next meeting in 2010.

Item 12 : Adaptation of agriculture to climate change

Adaptation of agriculture to climate change was highly supported by members and two presentations i.e. from Mr. Tai Cheol Kim (Korea) and Dr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy) will be made during the next meeting in 2010.

Item 13 : Promote low input agriculture

This area overlaps with Item 7 and both will be covered by two presentations.

Item 14 : Work Plan

The long term plan was not possible due to the limited number of WG members present. However, plan for next year has been achieved as mentioned under different items above. The main event will be the workshop on "Water Saving in Conservation Agriculture".

14.1 Workshop on 'Water Savings in Conservation Agriculture'

It has been agreed that this workshop will take place during the next meeting of the WG in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in October 2010. Dr. Mustaq Ahmad, Executive Director of the South Asian Conservation Agriculture Network, Pakistan and Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Faisalabad University, Pakistan will be cooperating with the WG in organizing this workshop. The Indonesian National committee has welcomed the event.

Item 15 : Any other business

Dr. Srinivasa Rao from ICRISAT, India made a presentation on biofuel and food crops which was of great interest and the WG agreed to invite ICRISAT to be an observer in the WG. The ICID Central Office needs to issue an official invitation to ICRISAT / Dr. Rao.

The Chairman informed the WG members on different relevant events taking place around the world e.g. workshop in Denver, Colorado, USA.
