

MINUTES FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (WG-R&D)
Beijing, China
12 September 2005 : 13.30-17.00 hours

Members Present : (1) Prof. L. Vincent, Chairperson (The Netherlands); (2) Prof. L. Ubertini, Secretary (Italy) represented by Dr. Marco Petitta; (3) Mr. B.N. Navalawala (India) represented by Dr. K. Palanisami (India); (4) Dr. J.M.M. Mendiluce (Spain) represented by Vice President Hon. Dr. J.A. Ortiz; (5) Dr. H. Fahmy (Egypt); (6) Prof. Y. Ogino (Japan) represented by Dr. Yohei Sato (Japan); (7) Dr. John A. Replogle (USA); (8) Dr. Abbas Ghaheri (Iran) represented by Dr. Ezzatollah Farhadi; (9) Dr. Sietan Chieng (Canada); (10) Prof. Jiesheng Huang (China); (11) Prof. J.G. Annandale (South Africa).

Permanent Observers : (i) IPTRID representative : Vice President Hon. Mr. Peter S. Lee (UK), Chairman, CG-IPTRID.

Observers : (i) Dr. Mohammad Che Hosain (Malaysia); (ii) Mr. Pat Feehan (Australia); (iii) Dr Fei-John Chang (Chinese Taipei); (iv) Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia).

Working Group website: <http://www.wg-rd.icidonline.org>.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of 10th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the 10th meeting of the Working Group at Moscow (2004), Russia were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

The following nominations were accepted for WG membership :

- Mr. Ezzatollah Farhadi replaced Dr. Abbas Ghaheri (Iran)
- Dr. K. Palanasami replaced Mr. B.N. Navalawalla (India)
- Dr. Yohei Sato replaced Dr. Ogino (Japan)
- Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia)
- Dr. Mahammud Che Hosain (Malaysia)

All the above members were present and gave a brief presentation of their current position and work.

Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia) was nominated and accepted as Vice-Chairman of the WG.

The nomination of a new Secretary was proposed, as Mr. Ubertini (Italy) was absent for the second year, and a name may be proposed in future. It was noted that retired professionals can sit on WG while recommended by their national committees.

Dr. J.M. Mendiluce (Spain), Dr. Hussam Fahmy (Egypt), and Mr. A. Delacourt (France) were WG members for more than 6 years.

National Committees of Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Ethiopia, Korea Rep., Lithuania, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Slovak Rep., Thailand and UK have been requested (31 January 2005 and 7 December 2004) to send new nomination for consideration during the Beijing meeting. No responses have been received.

It was 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 the member.

A. PUBLICATIONS/ACTIVITIES PLANNING

Item 3 : Information on the Working Group

3.1 The mandate of the WG

This statement will be circulated to all members for renewed discussion and confirmation in 2006.

3.2 R&D Website

The challenges in developing and maintaining a website were reviewed. Two proposals were tabled : (1) if IPTRID could help with this work; (2) the central office for advice and help. The Chair will follow up these points.

3.3 Collating information on Working Group expertise for future work planning

Dr. John Replogle (USA) will again contact WG members on their expertise, to collate information for the WG, including:

- their work and involvement in R&D
- five 'key words' that show their core subject focus in R&D
- summary of publications or outputs in R&D for the last 3 years

Previously, Prof. Vincent (Netherlands), Ir. Ghazali bin Omar (Malaysia); Dr. John A. Replogle (USA); Dr. Sietan Chieng (Canada) and Dr. Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa) sent relevant information to the Chair in 2003 and 2004.

Item 4 : Activities of the WG

4.1 Special Session 2005

The WG-R&D held a Special Session on 13 September 2005 at 0900-1230 hours on 'Driving Research to Change Irrigation and Drainage Practices', as planned. Nine papers were received and 7 were presented. The list of papers submitted and presented is given in **Annex**. Two authors could not attend and they were encouraged to re-submit their papers to the next Asian Regional Meeting in Malaysia which has R&D as a specific sub-theme. The session was attended by 37 people. A brief summary of key questions from the plenary will be circulated to WG members and attendees of the session.

4.2 Follow-up Special Session 2005

1. Current papers will be compiled in a pdf file and made available to those unable to obtain a copy of papers in the meeting.
2. The WG felt these papers should be published and the Chair will take up discussion with the editor of Irrigation and Drainage Journal.

The specific questions from the plenary were noted :

- (a) the gap in R&D discussion for large system operation and management
- (b) more work that shows the value of R&D in irrigation and drainage
- (c) the issue of timeframe from research to innovation, how to improve understanding of this and opportunities for reduced time

The WG agreed that these were important issues, but felt that no additional session would be proposed at this time. Some of these issues could also be followed up, if more national case studies were compiled. Modernization and

large-system management were topics discussed in the Keynote Addresses and the Gulhati Lecture in the Beijing (2005) Congress. Thus :

- reactions to these presentations could be followed up via the speakers and ICID.
- the plenary questions could be notified to the central office and to IPTRID, as these could be future questions in Congresses, and specific papers may be invited.

The Chair will follow up on these activities.

4.3 Activities in 2005/6

Dr. Palanasami (India) requested more insight on policy links with R&D, how it shapes policies, but also how it is influenced by them. Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia) requested more information on how countries organize and fund R&D for irrigation and drainage.

The following WG representatives agreed to submit a summary of their national structures for R&D activities and funding: Australia, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Netherlands. Future case studies will be requested from other member countries also

These are proposed for discussion in the WG-R&D meeting in Malaysia 2006.

4.4 The 3rd Asian Regional Conference and 7th International Micro Irrigation Congress at Kuala Lumpur (2006), Malaysia

The WG noted that R&D is a specific sub-issue in both conference and members were encouraged to submit papers to them.

4.5 R&D Websites

The WG discussed other websites where information on contemporary R&D fields was available.

John Replogle (USA) mentioned the American Water Association, the American Society of Civil engineers and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia) briefly presented the approach and publications of the National Heritage Trust on 'Innovation in Irrigation' which every year will present brief summaries of changes in irrigation practices consequent to R&D. This can be found at www.nht.gov.au

The Chair will follow up on institutions and websites linkages for R&D also in use by IPTRID.

These were recommended as links for the WG website.

4.6 Future of the WG and activities

The WG members unanimously agreed that the WG-R&D should continue, as it is a regular contemporary issue for ICID rather than a fixed subject around which specific end outputs could be planned. Thus the guidelines on duration are less relevant to this group and it should continue while it is making specific contributions and outputs. WG members recognize the lack of consistent liaison with IPTRID and though this could be made a stronger focus of the WG-R&D.

B. ICID/IPTRID COLLABORATION

Item 5 : Collaboration with the national committees

5.1 Prioritized research recommendations from National Committees

In 2003, the WG-R&D requested information from national committees on their research priorities. The WG reviewed the list of prioritized research topics submitted by the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) in 2005. Many of these were found to be under the remit of existing WG. The Chair will reply to this list, notifying who may be contacted.

All such documentation from national committees will be placed on the website.

Item 6 : Mechanisms for providing ICID input to IPTRID

6.1 Interaction between WG R&D and AC-IPTRID

There has been discussion since 2003 meeting in Montpellier about the flow of information among the National Committees, WG-R&D, IPTRID and AC-IPTRID. The WG noted that first initiatives, to have a common committee member and a place for IPTRID on the WG-R&D, have proved unsatisfactory as members often could not attend meetings, either due to lack of finance to travel or clash in timetables. Since 2004, there has been a discussion in PCTA, whether there is overlap in WG-R&D and AC-IPTRID and what might be done about it. Communication has increased with IPTRID with the confirmation of Dr. Carlos Garces as Programme Manager in 2005. However, a timetable clash prevented his presence in WG (2005) meeting.

Mr. Peter Lee (Chair, CG- PTRID) joined the WG meeting, and there was a discussion concerning the WG-R&D and AC-IPTRID.

The WG-R&D supported the idea that this WG-R&D take the responsibility to be the media for providing ICID input into IPTRID. Members of the Advisory Committee could also join the WG. Regular input from IPTRID representative in WG-R&D would be important for this mechanism and be good for the WG-R&D and for IPTRID input into ICID. Modalities for this could be developed by the next Congress.

This advice is notified to PCTA with these minutes. Actions taken by the relevant ICID and IPTRID Committees in these respects will be accepted.

C. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER WORKING GROUPS

Item 7 : Collaboration with other working groups

7.1 Role of the Working Group in the area of Capacity Building

There have been efforts to improve contact between WG-R&D and WG-CBTE since 2003, through joint members (Alain Delacourt, Linden Vincent). This continues to be made impossible by timetable scheduling (for the last 2 years WG sessions have occurred at the same time).

The Chair will attend the Special Session on Capacity Building on 14 September 2005 at Beijing.

In Moscow, the Chairperson put up an idea that a Task Force from ICID might look into overlapping area and forming a new working group covering overlapping interests among WG-R&D, WG-CBTE and AC-IPTRID. The specific actions proposed under Item 6 render such a Task Force unnecessary at this time.

D. INFORMATION ON NEW NETWORKS/REGIONAL COOPERATION

Item 8 : Publications in Progress

8.1 Specific publications on R&D

WG members are requested to present specific R&D publications to the Chair, who would then circulate them among WG members.

Item 9 : R&D Newsletter

It is not possible to manage a newsletter at this time. The focus will remain on the website and hence this item will close.

Item 10 : Involvement of young professionals

WG members proposed to emphasise on involvement of young professionals through their National Committees. The registration fee was critical factor for their participation. However, ICID does provide lower registration fee for young professionals. In view of above, WG members could encourage known young professionals from their countries to present papers during the WG-R&D Session.

Item 11 : Interim meeting

No interim meeting has been scheduled before the Malaysia meeting. Follow-up on WG activities will continue via e-mail.

Item 12 : Any other business

The new address of the International Center for Underutilized Crops (ICUC) was noted.

Further discussion with AC-IPTRID was taken up at this point (see 6.1).

No other items were proposed for discussion.

**SPECIAL SESSION OF R&D
ON
'DRIVING RESEARCH FOR CHANGE IN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PRACTICES'
BEIJING, CHINA
12 September 2005 : 09.00-12.30 hours**

- **List of Papers Presented**

Linden Vincent Re-linking Research and Development to rethink irrigation and drainage management

GR Backeberg and AJ Sanewe The strategic plan for research on water utilisation in agriculture – responding to diverse needs of farmers in South Africa

Clarke Ballard and Mark Siebentritt Environmental use of water – getting the science right

Ezzatollah Farhadi Improvement of data compiling and analyzing methods as a financial and irrigation planning necessity, for the Moghan Irrigation and Drainage Network, Iran

RJ Stirzaker, JB Stevens, JG Annandale, JM Steyn, G R Backeberg Starting a dialogue between scientist and irrigator- lessons learnt from a simple wetting front detector

Harm Boesveld The development and introduction of the decision support system for water supply (irry) in Dutch fruit production

JG Annandale, JM Steyn, N Benadé, NZ Jovanovic, JB Stevens, RJ Stirzaker & G R Backeberg Irrigation scheduling with the SWB model – from theory to practice

- **Papers received but not presented**

Muhammad Nawaz Bhutta Disposal and management of saline drainage effluent

Vincenzo Bixio Project and creation of artificial wetlands in the drainage basin of the Venice lagoon: theoretical criteria and field application.