

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND POLICY ISSUES (WG-SOCIO)
Sacramento, USA
02 October 2007: 14.00-17.00 hours
Theme: Systems

Year of Establishment: 1998

Completion of the Mandate: 2007

Members Present: (1) Dr. S.A. Assadollahi (Iran, 2000) represented by Ez-Farhadi; (2) Mr. S.V. Sodal (India, 2003) represented by Mr. Eknath Patil; (3) Prof. Yohei Sato (Japan, 2004); (4) Mr. Sezar Ercan (Turkey, 2006); and (5) Secretary General, ICID.

Member Honoraire: Mr. Peter S. Lee, President, ICID (UK)

Observers: (i) Dr. W.F. Vlotman (Australia); (ii) Mr. Ahmad Pourzand (Iran); (iii) Mr. Ieko Kakuta (Japan); (iv) Ms. MJ Gabriel (South Africa); (v) Mr. Hiroshi Ikevra (Japan); (vi) Mr. Takanovi Nagano (Japan); (vii) Mr. Yongsig Lee (Korea).

Procedure adopted for the conduct of the meeting

Since Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the group were not present, Secretary General proposed that Dr. W.F. Votman (Theme Leader Systems, which covers WG-SOCIO) to chair the meeting and conduct it. This was unanimously accepted. Mr. Sezar Ercan (Turkey) volunteered to take notes of the meeting.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group held at Kuala Lumpur

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the working group held at Kuala Lumpur in September 2006 were approved.

Item 2 : Tenure and membership of the Working Group

2.1 Tenure of the working group

It was announced that this would be the last meeting of the WG and it will be closed at the end of the meeting.

It was proposed to transfer certain activities of the group to the newly formed Task Force on 'Impact of Irrigation and Drainage on Livelihood and Poverty Alleviation' (TF-POVERTY). It was hoped that the new TF will consider poverty alleviation from a practical perspective. This will be communicated to Dr. Alan Vidal and Dr. Anisa Divine, conveners of the TF. A workshop on the topic is scheduled after the PCTA meeting on October 4, during which further action on the establishment of the new TF will be discussed.

2.2 Membership

As the WG will be closed at the end of this meeting, it was suggested that those present and interested in joining the new TF should contact their respective National Committees and may propose membership for the new TF.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Guidelines on cost-benefit analysis of irrigation and drainage projects – a worksheet to calculate full cost of irrigation services

It was suggested that the new WG-MIS might be interested in this information and Mrs. Divine/Dr. Rieu will be asked to forward relevant information to the Chairman, WG-MIS and WG-DRG with a copy to Dr. Vlotman, Theme Leader Systems.

Item 4 : Economic evaluation of the social and environmental impacts of large irrigation and drainage projects

As regards the checklist on environmental impacts, Dr. Vlotman recalled the communication received from IRNCID. In this context, Mr. E Farhadi will contact Dr. S.A. Assadollahi to obtain a copy of the checklist and inform about the status of this activity. The Theme leader Systems will then decide on how to proceed in consultation with Dr, Assadollahi and ICID Central Office.

Item 5 : Progress in preparation/ finalization of questionnaires

5.1 Questionnaire on ‘Water Valuation in Agriculture’

Ms. Mary Jean Gabriel of South Africa told that she was aware of the Questionnaire. She had compiled the information and has sent to Dr. Perret. However, the further status of the document was not known. Ms Gabriel will inquire with Dr. Perret and inform Dr. Vlotman. It was suggested that this work will be of interest to new Task Force on Financing Water for Agriculture (TF-FIN) and information may be forwarded to its chair.

5.2 Questionnaire on ‘Analysis of the Role of Women in Irrigation’

No information was available on this topic and hence it was not discussed.

Item 6 : Workshop on ‘Socio-economic Impacts of Institutional Options for Sustainable Water Management’, at Sacramento

Case studies were submitted by three national committees, but these were not sufficient to hold a special workshop. Dr. (Ms.) Anisa Divine and Ms. Felicity Chancellor will be requested to complete the work under this activity.

Item 7 : Publications of the working group

No information was available concerning publications. ICID may be asked to check with various members and post the possible available information on the webpage of the WG. As the WG will discontinue after this meeting, ICID may look into storing the information appropriately in its own database(s), e.g. the TDS database.

B. NEW ITEM

Item 8 : To study the implication of pricing of farm water subsidies, WTO and other institutional issues that have potential impact on irrigation farmers

President Peter Lee alerted the Group to the work done by IPTRID and a publication on the effects of WTO on irrigation and drainage, or similar, and the continued work by Sarah Fernandez for her Ph.D study.

Item 9 : Any other business

Attendees were thanked for their presence and encouraged attending the Workshop on Poverty Alleviation to be held on 4 October. Dr. Vlotman was thanked for chairing and conducting the meeting.
