

Minutes of the First Meeting of the
**WORKING GROUP ON ROLE OF IRRIGATION IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND
 LIVELIHOODS (WG-POVERTY)**
 New Delhi, India
 6 December 2009: 09.30-13.15 hours
Strategy Theme: Systems

Year of Establishment: 2008

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate:

- Synthesize specific knowledge and experience from the irrigation sector, to design pro-poor actions in a wider understanding of irrigation along the whole rainfed-irrigated continuum (aka agriculture water management).
- Look for technical solutions that work within a clearly defined socio-economic context, so that they can be mobilized in a case specific approach.
- Emphasize multiple-use (mus) of irrigation systems as a specific approach to alleviate poverty in this context
- Increasing opportunities for greater and more open participation by the poor, in the development of systems and in the value chain,
- Building accountability mechanisms that give longer term support and commitment to poverty alleviation initiatives, and
- Guidelines supported by case studies on how to enhance the poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement impacts of new and existing projects.

Preamble: The idea of establishing the ICID Task Force on the “Role of Irrigation in Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods” (TF-POVERTY) was emanated during the International Workshop on the “Role of Irrigation in Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods” held on the sidelines of the 58th IEC meeting at Sacramento, USA in October 2007. The purpose of the TF was to prepare an ICID position towards participating in the consortium preparing WWF5’s topic on “Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger”. The duration of the TF was for two years and was to be concluded its activities at the 60th IEC by drawing lessons from the process of knowledge sharing and from WWF5 itself.

At the 1st meeting of the TF held at Lahore in October 2008, the TF mooted a proposal for conversion of the Task Force into a regular Workbody (in view of the ICID’s key role to contribute to the poverty alleviation and improvement of livelihoods in developing countries) which was supported by PCTA and approved by the 59th IEC. Accordingly, a notification informing conversion of the Task Force (TF-POVERTY) into Working Group (WG-POVERTY) was circulated by the Central Office among members and all National Committees. National Committees were also informed that the maiden meeting of the Working Group will be held at the time of 60th IEC meeting at New Delhi.

Members present: (1) President Hon. Peter Lee (UK); (2) Prof. Linden Vincent (The Netherlands); and (3) Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Members Honoraire present: (i) President Dr. Chandra Madramootoo (Canada); and (ii) Vice President Hon. Felix Reinders (South Africa).

Observers: (i) Mr. Laurie Tollefson (Canada); (ii) Mr. Zeinab Behairy (Egypt); (iii) Mr. Enayatollah Farahani (Iran); (iv) Dr. Yohei Sato (Japan); (v) Dr. Adama Sangare (Mali); (vi) Mr. Hassan Javaid Afridi (Pakistan); (vii) Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sial (Pakistan); (viii) Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa); (ix) Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa); (x) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID; (xi) Mr. R.C. Jha (India); (xii) Mr. Rajendra Pawar (India); (xiii) Mr. Ashok Surushe (India); (xiv) Mr. Vijay S. Ghogare (India); (xv) Mr. Suresh Ch. Dale (India); (xvi) Dr. Deepak Kumar (India); (xvii) Mr. P. Dakshna Moorthy (India); (xviii) Mr. Suresh Charchy (India); (xix) Mr. J.B. Mohapatra (India); (xx) Dr. A.B. Khot (India); (xxi) Mr. Sharad S. Dabhadkar (India); and (xxii) Mr. Hemanta Kumar Patra (India).

Despite the absence of several members and all the Permanent Observers of the former Task Force, the meeting was well attended. PH Peter Lee and Prof. Linden Vincent agreed to act respectively as Chairman and Secretary of the meeting.

Website: <http://afeid.montpellier.cemagref.fr/Poverty/TF-POVERTY.htm>

Item 1 : Membership of the Working Group

PH Peter Lee explained the achievements of the former task force as a focus for poverty alleviation and livelihood generation through agricultural water management, and the collaboration with other organizations such as IFAD, Winrock, the Multiple-use Group (mus) and IWMI culminating in ICID's leadership of the topic "Water and Food for Ending Poverty and Hunger" and relevant inputs to other sessions at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, March 2009.

In Lahore, October 2008, it had been agreed that the Task Force should be converted to a Working Group with an updated mandate and work plan. Following the decision of the 59th IEC, the Central Office (in March 2009) circulated a notification informing conversion of the Task Force (TF-POVERTY) into Working Group (WG-POVERTY) among all National Committees and invited nominations for the membership. In response, the following National Committees nominated their candidates:

NETHCID (The Netherlands): Prof. Linden Vincent
USCID (USA): Dr. Dennis Wichelns
IRNCID (Iran): Mr. Enayatollah Farahani
JNC-ICID (Japan): Dr. Yohei Sato
PANCID (Pakistan): Mr. Hussan Javaid Afridi
INCID (India): Mr. R.C. Jha

The following nominees from the above were present at the meeting and were accepted for the membership:

- Mr. Enayatollah Farahani (Iran)
- Dr. Yohei Sato (Japan)
- Mr. Hassan Javaid Afridi (Pakistan)
- Mr. R C Jha (India)

Besides the above, the following persons indicated their interest in joining the Group and were accepted for the membership:

- Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa)
- Mr. Laurie Tollefson (Canada)
- Dr Adama Sangare (Mali)

All these new members were present at the meeting and participated actively.

Item 2 : Objectives and tenure of the Working Group

It was noted that the new working group was successor not only to the former task force, but also WG-SOCIO that had been in existence for some years prior to the formation of TF-POVERTY. The new working group should be concerned with:

- (a) Improvements in livelihoods as well as productivity,
 - (b) Services to the poor, not just farmers,
 - (c) Different manifestations of poverty and their definition,
 - (d) Affordability of food, not just its cost,
 - (e) Wider access to services and opportunities for participation in the value chain,
 - (f) Participatory approaches that listen to the poor and are open to ideas (aka accountability),
 - (g) Extension of agricultural water management to nominally rainfed areas and general "landcare",
 - (h) Multiple use of farm storage, not just of public systems (eg for aquaculture),
 - (i) Greater awareness of health impacts and the actions needed, and
 - (j) Need for guidelines, case studies and country actions.
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Item 3 : Selection/ nomination of Chair/ Vice Chairpersons and Secretary of the WG

Despite his new commitments, the Chairman of the Working Group, VPH Dr. Alain Vidal, has expressed continuing interest in WG-POVERTY and therefore, the meeting requested that he continue as Chairman, but with the support of at least one Vice Chairperson. Mr. Jha (India) said that he should be able to attend the next two annual meetings in Indonesia and Iran, and he was recommended as the first Vice Chairperson.

Other nominations were requested, but none received.

Item 4 : Work Plan of the Group

After consideration of the objectives of the New Working Group, the three-year rolling plan (2010-2012) is shown as **Annex**.

It was also agreed that some National Committees (e.g. India and Iran) may set-up their own workbodies to focus on poverty alleviation, in parallel with the international effort.

Item 5 : Webpage of the Group

It was noted that the webpage of TF-POVERTY is hosted by AFEID. Central Office was requested to set-up links from the ICID domain or transfer content as appropriate.

Item 6 : Any other business

None.

The Chair for the meeting thanked the participants for their active support.

**WORKING GROUP ON ROLE OF IRRIGATION IN POVERTY
ALLEVIATION AND LIVELIHOODS (WG-POVERTY)**

Three-Year Rolling Plan (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
<p>A workshop to be held most probably within the time slot allocated to the WG-POVERTY at the 61st IEC in Indonesia with presentations possibly on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of poverty – Prof. Linden Vincent • Case studies from countries of poverty alleviation initiatives – Mr. R.C. Jha • Opportunities for the poor in the value chain (supply and processing) – Prof. Linden Vincent • Multiple use of farm storages (South Africa) – Mr. Andre Roux • Employment opportunities for the landless poor – PH Peter Lee • Measuring benefits (Winrock?) etc. 	<p>Case studies of irrigation/water management poverty alleviation by region, beginning with the platform provided by the African Regional Conference in Mali</p>	<p>Paper/s on poverty alleviation addressing the issues to be raised at the 21st ICID Congress in Tehran, particularly question 56.1 (Water and Land Productivities: Concepts, Indices, Schemes and Targets) and the Special Session on Modernization of Water Management.</p> <p>Towards the end of this period, the concept note from the Istanbul WWF5 will be updated, as an ICID position paper to complete the WG-POVERTY mandate in 2013.</p>