

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
WORKING GROUP ON WATER SAVING IN IRRIGATED AREAS (WG-WATS)**

9 November 2016, 13.30-15.00 hours (Session I)

9 November 2016, 15.30-17.00 hours (Session II)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Strategy Theme: Schemes

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 2015

Completion of the Mandate: 2021

Scope: (a) water accounting and irrigation auditing (and other ancillary uses); (b) irrigation water measuring devices; (c) assessment of water loss in various components of irrigation systems; (d) various methods and techniques used for water saving in irrigation; (e) policies and strategies for irrigation water saving; (f) charging for Irrigation Services; (g) success stories and best management practices in water saving; (h) tools and processes applied in irrigation water saving; (i) outreach of water saving technologies; and (j) WatSave Awards.

Members Present: (1) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani, Chairman (Iran); (2) Vice President Hon. Adama Sangare, Vice Chairman (Mali); (3) Ms. Jianxin Mu (China); (4) Dr. P. Soman – Direct Member, JISL (India); (5) Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhesti – as Young Professional (Iran); (6) Prof. (Ms.) Kyung-Sook Choi (Korea, Rep. of); (7) Vice President Hon. Gerhard Backeberg represented Dr. Joe Stevens (South Africa); (8) Dr. Hassan Aboalbasher Ali (Sudan); and (9) Secretary General Avinash Tyagi.

Observers: (i) President Hon. Gao Zhanyi (China); (ii) Vice President (Ms.) Charlotte de Fraiture (Netherlands); (iii) Ms. Kathleen Heuvel (Australia); (iv) Mr. Stephen Mills (Australia); (v) Dr. Jiusheng Li (China); (vi) Dr. Ismail Widadi (Indonesia); (vii) Mr. Omid Moridnejad (Iran); (viii) Dr. Mu Zhan (Myanmar); (ix) Va-San Boonikird (Thailand); (x) Dr. Watchara Suiadee (Thailand); (xi) Mr. Kanehadin Srpratoon (Thailand); (xii) Mr. Roekrat Panomkwan (Thailand); (xiii) Mr. Nitivat Voraditee (Thailand); (xiv) Mr. Pongsakorn Tangsiamwanif (Thailand); and (xv) Mr. Derek Heeren (USA).

WG-WATS Minutes Item 1: Introduction of the new working group

1. The Chair welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the WG and briefed them about the scoping document, objectives, work plan and the mandate of the group which was approved by PCTA. During the meeting, the summary of the scope and work plan was presented by chair.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 2: ICID Action Plan 2030 – Activities on water saving in irrigated areas

2. Members reviewed the activities of the WG listed in the Action Plan 2030. The six Goals of ICID Vision 2030 and WGs activities related to these goals and milestone activities were briefly discussed and some initial ideas for actions and deliverables, as agreed during the meeting, are as follows:

- (a) **Activity 2.1 - Technical Book on Policy and Legal Approaches to Water Saving:** In fact all the countries have their own law and regulation to prevent water losses and encourage water savings in agriculture. WG agreed to identify, collect, review and analyze the appropriate law and regulation of countries in order to provide a handbook on the topic above. Ms. Jianxin Mu (China) agreed to develop questionnaire to collect the information from the NCs for preparing the first draft of a unique framework and template including topics and subtopics. Questionnaire after discussion and approval by the WG members will then be sent to NCs to prepare the reports. The first draft of the questionnaire will be ready within one-month i.e. by end of December 2016.
- (b) **Activity 2.2 - Technical Book on Water Charging Policies:** Having to pay for irrigation water encourages water-saving behavior, thus promoting water conservation. Appropriate charging for irrigation water can be efficient tool for self-controlling of water saving. WG agreed to start preparing a technical book on water charging polices and mechanism to collect water charges. WG Chair volunteered to make the first draft of framework and template for collecting the required information and sending it to NC within next 2 months. The framework would be sent to WG members to get their viewpoint and approval before sending to NCs.
- (c) **Activity 3.1 - Seminar on Best Practices and Successful Story on Water Saving:** It was noted that there are many successful practices and research findings, strong works and non-conventional pathways of achieving water saving in irrigation. The WG agreed to provide an opportunity by organizing a Seminar / Symposium on 'Water Saving' to explore all those innovations and success story and share with professional experts and policy makers. Dr. P. Soman (India) volunteered to set-up/ prepare a call for papers and propose the sub-themes of the seminar to be organized in the

upcoming ICID event within next 2 months. After finalizing the call for papers by WG, the Chair will consult with ICID central office for coordination of organizing the seminar during the next ICID meeting in Mexico in 2017.

- (d) **Activity 3.2 - Overview paper on the state of the art on water saving:** Approaches to water saving may choose from several technologies, methods, and polices to achieve them with best practices in the field. To highlight the most recent researches and newest ideas on the scope of this working group, members agreed to overview paper on the state of the art on the aspects of management, technology, technique and policies for water saving in irrigated areas. The paper will be submitted for publishing in ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage. Dr. Gerhard R. Backeberg (South Africa) representing Dr. Joe Stevens accepted the responsibility and informed that he will request Dr. Joe Stevens to undertake this task.
- (e) **Activity 3.3 - Overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving:** The topic on overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines etc. on water saving was discussed in the meeting and Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhasti (Iran) agreed to take up the task with the cooperation of other working group members by emailing any articles and books which are new in this area of knowledge. He will present the overview in next meeting and deliver the whole summarized overview on a pen drive.

3. The group discussed and finalized the draft action plan and submitted its input to PCTA for inclusion in the ICID Action Plan for Vision 2030 (**Annex**).

WG-WATS Minutes Item 3: Presentation by the WatSave Award winner(s)

4. The group noted that 13 nominations were received for four categories of 2016 WatSave Awards viz. technology, management, young professional and farmer. According to decision made in Montpellier meeting 2015, ICID Central Office had invited the WatSave award winners to attend the working group meeting and share their experience and present their respective works in the internal workshop of the WG. Out of four WatSave award winners, two winners viz. from China and Thailand took part in the meeting and presented their respective works viz. (a) "Innovation and extension of sprinkler and micro irrigation technologies in China" by Dr. Jiusheng Li from China; and (b) "Innovation implementation and extension of the water saving integrated smart farming AWDI technique in Thailand" by INWEPF-Thai Committee.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 4: Dissemination of activities of WG – Website of the group

5. The group discussed about the updation of the website of the working group during the meeting. As the website of the working group was not updated during last year, the chair will contact the ICID Central Office and request to update it based on the new mandate, members and agenda. WG Chair also requested all members to provide information, papers, presentation made on topics related to scope of work of the WG to the ICID Central Office for uploading on the web site of the WG.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 5: Updating Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD)

6. The reviewing and updating the existing MTD was discussed in the WG. It was agreed that the WG members would review the terms in the existing dictionary to consider whether additional terms are require to be included to cover water saving in irrigated area issues. In addition, the members also agreed to review whether the current translations are adequate or require revisions. Ms. Kyung Sook Choi (Korea) agreed to review the MTD, as well as gather other working group member's to review and complete the task in one year.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 6: Review of membership of the working group

7. The group discussed the new nominations received from the National Committees/ Direct Members for the membership of the group. Membership status is given in **Annex 5 (page 33)**. The following nominations were accepted by the group:

S. No.	Members	Country	Accepted/ Provisionally admitted
1	Dr. Joe Stevens	South Africa	Accepted
2	Dr. P. Soman, Direct Member, JISL	India	Accepted
3	Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhasti (Young Professional)	Iran	Accepted
4	Ms. Jianxin Mu ¹	China	Accepted

¹ (Ms. Jianxin Mu official letter of Introduction received by ICID Central Office)

8. The group reviewed the membership of Eng. S. Mohanarajah (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Abijit Joshi, Director Member, JISL (India) and recommended to follow-up with the NC/ JISL before discontinuation of their membership. Among the nominated persons, six did not attend and even not represented at the meeting and therefore recommended as follows:

Sl. No.	Members	Country	Recommendation
1.	Mr. Kamal Kumar Jangid	India	Provisional member
2.	Mr. Yalçın Dalgin	Turkey	Provisional Member
3.	Mr. Dhuha Mahmood Hussein and	Iraq	Provisional Member
4.	Mr. Mohammed Alaa Dheyaa (Young Professional)	Iraq	Provisional Member
5.	Mr. S.P. Jadhav – Direct Member, JISL	India	Observer

WG-WATS Minutes Item 7: Election of Secretary

9. The group discussed and elected Mr. Mortaza Yazdkhasti (Iran) as new Secretary of the group.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 8: Any other business

10. The 66th IEC meeting held at Montpellier in October 2015 approved the concept of Technical Support Unit (TSU) with an overall objective to “Undertake capacity development activities in the field of agriculture water management (AWM) in support of rural development”. To benefit this opportunity to support activities and programs in the scope of water saving in irrigated areas as well as organizing training for managers to support adoption of available technologies to save more water, the chair requested the working group members who are interested and capable to support this part in different countries to come forward to take up this assignment, else the working group members may introduce the ones who are capable and willing for the assignment through their national committees.

Webinar/ web-based seminar

11. 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, based on the mandate of the WG, on which webinar can be considered along with name of the relevant experts who could be contacted to develop webinars.



Annex [Appendix XXVIII, Item 2]

ICID ACTION PLAN VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES BY WORKBODIES

Name of the Chairman and members filling this questionnaire: Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Chair) and VPH Adama Sangare (Vice Chair)

Date: November 2016

		Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021
Goal 1: Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices	1.1 Policy and legal approaches to Water Saving	Policies/ Document	Breakdown the works in the WG	-Workshop -Designing and preparing questionnaire to collect data	Collecting and reviewing relevant laws and regulations from NC	Providing first draft	Finalize the book on policies and strategies drives on water saving
	1.2 Water Charging policies	Report	Define responsibility in WG	Designing Standard questionnaire	Reviewing Water Charging procedure on NC	Providing first report	Final Report
Goal 2: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology	2.1 Organize Workshop, Seminar and Symposium	Compilation of proceedings	Seminar/ Symposium on Water Saving	Workshop			Workshop
	2.2 Overview paper on the state of the art on water saving for publication in Irrigation and Drainage (IRD)	Paper		Preparation of the draft of first paper	Submission of first paper for IRD	Preparation of the draft of second paper	Submission of second paper for IRD
	2.3 Condensed overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving	Synopsis		Release the first overview		Release the second overview	Release of third overview
	2.4 Best Practices and Successful Story on Water Saving	Documents	Workshop on Watsave awards	Announcing annually for watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Announcing annually for watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Announcing annually for watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Setting up 10 years respective work as the documents and release by CO (2010 - 2020)
Goal 5: Encourage research and support development of tools to extend innovation into field practices	5.1 Support Watsave award winner selection	Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards
Goal 6: Facilitate capacity development	6.1 Training of managers to support adoption of available technologies	Training	Introducing Capable Experts	YPF Training	Organize training	YPF Training	Organize training



