

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
WORKING GROUP ON WATER SAVING IN IRRIGATED AREAS (WG-WATS)**

12 October 2017, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I)
12 October 2017, 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)
Mexico City, Mexico

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) VPH Adama Sangare, Vice Chairman (Mali); (3) Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhashti – Young Professional, Secretary (Iran); (4) Ms. Jianxin Mu (China); (5) Ms. Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt) represented VPH M.H. Amer; (6) Prof. (Ms.) Kyung-Sook Choi (Republic of Korea); (7) VPH Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa) represented Dr. Joe Stevens; (8) Mr. Yalçın Dalgin (Turkey); (9) Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar represented Secretary General Avinash Tyagi.

Observers: (i) Mr. Chris Norman (Australia); (ii) Mr. Gao Lihui (China); (iii) Mr. Ephraim Sekyi-Annan (Ghana/Germany); (iv) Mr. Omid Moridnejad (Iran); (v) Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy) represented Prof. Michele Perniola; (vi) Mr. Mirza Junaid Ahmad (Pakistan); (vii) Mr. Haken Aksu (Turkey).

Website: <http://wg-wats.icidonline.org/>

WG-WATS Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. Chair welcomed the members and presented a report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group held at its last meeting at Chiang Mai in November 2016.
2. The group reviewed the nominations of Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Sheikh (Pakistan) and Prof. Michele Perniola (Italy) for the membership of the group. Since Dr. Ashfaq neither attended nor represented, he was provisionally accepted while Prof. Michele was represented by Dr. Marco Arcieri and was accepted as member. Membership status is given in **Annex 7 (page 55)**.
3. WG reviewed the membership of existing members not participating/ contributing to the working group for one or more years – Mr. Kamal Kumar Jangid (India); Mr. Dhuha Mahmood Hussein (Iraq); Eng. S. Mohanarajah (Sri Lanka); Mr. Abijit Joshi – Direct Member, JISL (India). WG suggested ICID Central Office to contact these members to ascertain their continued interest otherwise request replacement from their National Committees.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030: Activities on water saving in irrigated areas

4. During the meeting, Chair reviewed the activities of the WG listed in the action plan of the WG towards Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 and discussed briefly with the members. Some initial ideas for actions and deliverables, as agreed during the meeting, are as follows:
 - (a) **GOAL A: Activity 3.2 – Best Practices and Successful story on water saving:** Chair Mehrzad Ehsani, Panel of Expert for Question 60.1, briefly informed the outcome and presented the General Report and outcome of Question 60.1. WG decided not to organize a separate seminar since the theme of 23rd Congress Question 60.1 'Emerging issues and challenges of water saving' already covers the objective of the seminar on best practices and successful story on water saving.
 - (b) **GOAL B: Activity 1.4 – Policy and legal approaches to water saving:** As agreed at Chiang Mai, Ms. Jianxin Mu (China) developed the draft questionnaire to collect information from NCs and presented it during the meeting. After deliberations, it was decided that Mr. Ehsani (Iran), Dr. Adama (Mali), Dr. Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa), and Mr. Dalgin (Turkey) will provide their comments and recommendations to Ms. Mu Jianxin (China) by end of November 2017 in order to finalise the questionnaire.

- (c) **GOAL B: Activity 1.5 – Water charging Policies:** Chair informed that the group had already decided to work on preparing a technical book on water charging policies and mechanism to analyze the effect of water charges on water saving in agriculture. Chair Mehrzad Ehsani volunteered to make the first draft of framework and presented a template to collect data and information from NC. During the meeting, the group discussed the template and decided to send the draft to ICID Central Office after a minor modification so that it can be circulated to all NCs. Chair encouraged members to follow up with their NCs to complete it and send back to ICID Central Office.
- (d) **GOAL B: Activity 1.11 – State of the Art on Water saving:** In order to highlight the most recent researches and newest ideas on the scope of the working group, it was decided to prepare an overview paper on the subject. It was proposed that the paper would be submitted for publishing in ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage. Dr. Stevens and Dr. Gerhard Backeberg finalized the draft framework and sent to the WG members for sending their National experience to develop the paper. The Chair requested all members to contribute in this activity without any further delay.
- (e) **GOAL C: Activity 4.8 – Condensed overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving:** The Chair informed the members that Mr. Yazdekhasti (Iran) was supposed to gather articles and books which are new in this area of knowledge however, it was decided that he will provide updates on the topic of water saving in the next meeting.

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

5. Mr. Chris Norman (Australia), the winner of WatSave Technology Award 2017 presented his contribution on "Saving Water in Northern Victoria, Australia". WG thanked him for the presentation and sharing the idea of water saving. The Chair reported that many works received for WatSave Awards were in good range and in some cases it was very difficult to choose the best one from them. After discussion, the WG suggested to appreciate the ones who have submitted their works for WatSave Award but not selected as the best one by issuing a certificate of appreciation by ICID Central Office. It will encourage them for further contributions and connect them to the ICID activities.

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

6. WG chair requested members for their active participation in the activities of the WG and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experience, as well as networking on the topic in order to be up to date with new developments, methods and approaches. Members were also requested to provide interesting articles/ papers/ presentations/ documents related to the mandate of the WG from the respective countries and National Committees for uploading it on the ICID website.

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

7. During the meeting, the group discussed about the updating of MTD and after discussion, it was proposed to forward the comments/ suggestions to the new task force of MTD.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 6: Any other business

