

MINUTES OF THE TWENTYFIRST MEETING OF THE
**WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF
 NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CROP PRODUCTION (WG-CROP)**
 Sacramento, USA
 02 October 2007 : 14.00-17.00 hours
Strategy Theme: On-Farm

Year of Establishment: 1986

Completion of the Mandate: 1992

Revised Mandate

To promote the efficient use of water in crop production, to provide input to test crop water models, to investigate the use of energy crops for biofuel production, to develop techniques for rainfall harvesting, to promote the multi-functionality of water use in paddy rice cultivation, to investigate the adaptation of agriculture to climate change and to promote low input agriculture.

Revised name: Working Group on Water and Crops (WG-W & C)

Members present : (1) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (Great Britain); (2) Prof. F. Steinman represented Dr. B.I. Maticic (Slovenia); (3) Prof. R.G. Allen (USA); (4) Mr. L.C. Tollefson (Canada); (5) Dr. Y. Nakano (Japan); (6) Mr. Tai Cheol Kim (Korea); (7) Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa); (8) Mr.B. Molle represented Dr. Florent Maraux (France) and (9) Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Member Hon.: Mr. Peter S. Lee, President, ICID.

Permanent Observers : Dr. Pasquali Studito, FAO.

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

Observers : (i) Dr. Ing. Michele Angelo Cuccaro (Italy); (ii) Prof. Ding Kunlun (China); (iii) Mr. Ekanath Patil (India); (iv) Mr. Sanjay Belsare (India); (v) Dr. Saeed Nairizi (Iran).

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 20th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the 20th meeting of the Working Group at Kuala Lumpur in 2006 were approved.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

New members that were proposed from India (Dr. Ashwani Kumar), Pakistan (Dr. M. Rafiq) and Iran (Dr Seyyed Ahmad Heydarian) were (once again) not present and hence their membership consideration was deferred to next meeting.

Item 3 : Cultivation Practices and Better Irrigation and Fertilizer Management for Different Crops

Dr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy) submitted (2006) a report entitled 'Guidelines for Food Production under Water Limiting Conditions' within the framework of collaboration between WG-CROP and WG-IADWS, which has been uploaded on the WG website.

Item 4 : Interaction with ISO on Crops, Soils and Water Use related Terminology

The WG is actively collaborating with ISO. Dr Nakano (Japan) and Dr Kim (Korea) reported orally their interactions with ISO. They handed over their written reports to Chairman.

Item 5 : Review of progress on implementation of ICID Strategy on Vision

Dr. Nakano presented a briefing and a written report on the 'GM crops' in Japan. Dr. Andrew Sanewe provided an update on GM crops in African countries.

These two reports generated much interest and discussion within the WG.

Item 6 : CROP Newsletter

This is an on-going activity. Contributions may be sent directly to Dr. Andre Mermoud, Secretary of the WG.

Item 7 : CROP website of WG

The CROP website (<<http://www.wg-crop.icidonline.org>> has been recently updated with new documents.

Item 8 : Co-operation with International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPP)

Dr. Nakano (Japan) attended INWEPP meeting and briefed WG on the issue. He handed over a written report to Chairman. Dr. Kim (Korea) provided an update on how to save agricultural water, conserving eco-system with particular reference to paddy, which emerged from the Workshop on 'Sustainable Paddy Farming in Asian Monsoon Region' held during 1-3 July 2007 in Korea.

Item 9 : Future activities of the WG (activity plan)

The WG the revisited mandate and decided to complete the 'on going' activities. Subsequent tenure and mandate are covered in item 10.

9.1 Publications in Progress

• **Crop Water Requirements and Irrigation Scheduling**

Prof. Allen reported that FAO-56 paper has been translated into Spanish, Russian, French and Chinese. Translation in Arabic is in progress.

FAO-33 paper is being revised in the form of a computer model which will be presented in the International Soil Science meeting at New-Orleans in USA. The model will be called Aqua Crop. Final version will be available by 2008.

• **Guidelines for Food Production under Limited Water Supplies**

The document by Dr. G. Ghinassi (Italy) on "Guidelines for Food Production under Water Limiting Conditions" has been uploaded on WG webpage.

9.2 Workshop on "Water savings in conservation agriculture" in 2008

Since Dr. Florent Maraux (France), the incharge of this workshop, is not keeping well, this workshop will not take place in 2008.

Item 10 : Tenure of the Working Group

WG agreed that it is a must to revisit its mandate and new focus areas to be considered. The WG considered changing its name to WG on 'Water and Crops' and extending its completion date by 6 years. The new mandate is placed on the first page of these minutes.

Item 11 : Organic versus Conventional Farming

The Chair gave presentation on some early works on the water balance of organic versus conventional farming system in the UK.

Item 12 : Precision Agriculture

WG is keen on doing more work to investigate the benefits of 'Precision Agriculture' in terms of water use efficiency.

Item 13 : Any other business

None.
