Dear Colleagues,

Water continued to be at the top of global political agenda during 2016. In order to support the national efforts in reaching towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to water, the UN Secretary General Dr. Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim have jointly convened a High Level Panel on Water consisting of 11 sitting Heads of State and Government and one Special Adviser earlier in April 2016. The Panel recognized the need for all to take responsibility for managing water better and has called for the increased attention and investment in water-related infrastructure.

While presenting the Action Plan, the Panel, on 21 September 2016, called for a fundamental shift in the way the world looks at water. The Action Plan, among others, outlines new initiatives and investments that can put the world on the path to meet the “SDG6: Clean water and sanitation” and related targets. The Panel Members committed to lead the way and encouraged other Heads of State and Government to do the same. National Committees should take advantage of this favorable global sentiment and push for higher investment in Agriculture Water Management (AWM).

You may recall that following a similar approach, and for delivering SDGs through AWM, Ministers, participating in the Second World Irrigation Forum, based on their deliberations on 6 November 2016, decided to establish a High Level Advisory Group on “Partnerships for Agriculture Water Management”. I urge all NCs to bring the declaration to the notice of their respective Ministers. The Council has decided to establish a Task Force to give final shape to the Partnership. We look forward for your feedback.

The Paris Agreement in December 2015, has increased opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in agriculture. At the UNFCCC COP22 conference in Marrakech, Morocco held from 7–18 November 2016, FAO launched the Global Framework for Action to Cope with Water Scarcity in Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change. ICID is one of the key partners in this global initiative.

The Global Framework for Action seeks to catalyse international cooperation on water scarcity in agriculture in the context of climate change and growing competition for water resources. It is a call for partners from different fields and backgrounds to join in a concerted effort to support countries in achieving the food security and water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Second World Irrigation Forum in Chiang Mai had another special feature in the form of the first Farmers’ roundtable. The action plan, among others, seeks to establish a Task Force to give final shape to the Partnership. We look forward for your feedback.

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The Second World Irrigation Forum in Chiang Mai had another special feature in the form of the first Farmers’ roundtable. The recommendation from farmers’ roundtable was to set up a platform “Farmers for Water” and address their capacity building needs.

During the Chiang Mai meeting ICID Action Plan 2030, which also has the objective of supporting NCs in reaching the SDGs, the Council agreed to provide more time to NCs to send their inputs to the Consultative Group by responding to the questionnaires and to the Working Groups (WG) for submitting the activities they plan to contribute. I urge the NCs and WGs, who are yet to provide their inputs, to please send their contributions latest by 15 January 2017.

Adoption of Webinars as a tool to disseminate knowledge and information received overwhelming support from the participants during the Chiang Mai meeting. ICID Central Office, duly supported by the Young Professionals is taking preparatory steps and plans to initiate a series of Webinars starting February 2017.

The Draft Minutes of the 67th IEC meeting are under finalization and would be sent to NCs for their comments and approval by the end of this month.

With Season’s Greetings, and wishing all our patrons a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General
in the irrigation and drainage to meet the challenges of water and food security. This meeting provides an opportunity to President Dr. Nairizi to underline the ICID Vision 2030 and the Action Plan being prepared.

President Dr. Nairizi recalled that Italy with its strategic position within the Mediterranean region which has a long history and experience in leading cooperation and research programmes. He urged ITAL-ICID, to raise their concern on the available policy instruments which do not fully recognize the role of farmer’s in sustainable agriculture production.

They identified the need for changes in new policy instruments to materialize more effective participation of farmers in decision making related to irrigation and drainage. It was pointed out that the role of women farmers in Water User Associations (WUA’s) very much depended on the cultural setting of the country. It was suggested that participation of farmers in management of irrigation systems requires capacity development at a large scale. Farmers stressed the need for bridging the gap between the research labs findings in irrigation and drainage and the availability of their results at farm level.

It was pointed out that knowledge and technology were available, however, the tools for knowledge management and knowledge transfer were insufficient. These translated into the requirement of policy support, farmers’ education training. These is need for ICID to develop a farmers initiative networking with relevant public and private agencies.

**Farmers’ Contribution in Sustainable Agriculture Production**

**7th November 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

In order to discuss various common issues related to sustainable agriculture production from the perspective of farmers’ a special roundtable meeting was organized at one of the plenary sessions of the Second World Irrigation Forum (WIF2).

Five participating countries included India (2 persons), Iran (1 persons), South Korea (3 persons), Sudan (3 persons), and Thailand (8 persons), totalling 17 farmers attended the roundtable meeting. Various common issues related to sustainable agriculture production from the perspective of farmers’ were discussed and experiences shared in the meeting.

**Visit to Learning Center**

Dimocarpus longan, commonly known as the longan is a tropical tree that produces edible fruit. The longan is believed to originate from the mountain range between Myanmar and southern China.

At the Farm Visit 2, smart farmers’ learned how to reduce the Longan production costs of labour during the harvest season. Longan (Lam-Yai) was brought into Thailand by the Chinese immigrants hundreds of years ago, and it was first planted in Bangkok and then in the North part of Thailand. It is in the North that the fruit cultivation has flourished and become one of Thailand’s largest export hub for fruits. The most famous species is the pink Longan produced in Chiang Mai region. Its flesh is pinkish and thick and delightfully sweet with harvesting season starts from May to July. The production cost of Longan is high due to the labour cost to harvest, the need for Longan trees pruning and the maintenance of Longan farm. This enhanced agricultural production farm can effectively lower production costs by 75 percent and increasing the quantity and quality of output by 85 percent from Longan grade AA or A grade to “Jumbo Sized” Longan which meets the needs of the market.

**Outcome**

Fully recognizing that the social and economic conditions in the countries differ and require different solutions the farmers raised their concern on the available policy instruments which do not fully recognize the role of farmer’s in sustainable agriculture production.

The main theme of the workshop is "Drainage and Environmental Sustainability" and four sub-themes are: (i) Measures to improve drainage water quality; (ii) Measures to lower volume of drainage water; (iii) Adaptation of new design criteria in favour of the environment; and (iv) Application of alternative drainage methods.

The aim of the workshop is to introduce the challenges, needs and solutions facing the drainage community worldwide and to share experience on the national, regional and international scales in the field of agricultural drainage in relation to the environment.

Contact: The Secretariat, 13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW13), Khuzestan Water and Power Authority (KWPA), Golestan Ave, Ahwaz, Iran, Email: 13idw2017@gmail.com, Website: [http://www.idw13.org/English](http://www.idw13.org/English).

Notification of paper acceptance will start from 1 January 2017
The 23rd International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 68th International Executive Council (IEC) Meetings will be organized by host Mexican National Committee of ICID (MXCID) in cooperation with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) during 8-14 October 2017, Mexico City, Mexico. The main theme of the Congress is “Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution”. During the Congress, papers are presented and discussed for two Questions, a Special Session, and a Symposium. The topics for the two Questions, Special Session and Symposium are:

**Question 60: Water Productivity: Revisiting the concepts in light of water, energy and food nexus**

Q.60.1: Emerging issues and challenges of water saving, including impact of transferring water out of agriculture

Q.60.2 Understanding water productivity, water and energy use efficiency and water footprint of crops

Q.60.3 Water security for growth and development

**Question 61: State of knowledge of irrigation techniques and practicalities within given socio-economic settings**

Q.61.1 Adopting precision irrigation and improving surface irrigation to combat water scarcity

Q.61.2 Using ICT, remote sensing, control systems and modelling for improved performance of irrigation systems

Q.61.3 Adaptability and affordability of new technologies under different socio-economic scenarios

**Spl Session: Irrigation techniques for reuse of wastewater in agriculture and its impact on health and environment**

**Symposium: Global Review of institutional reforms in irrigation sector for sustainable agriculture water management, including water users associations.** (For the Symposium only country papers will be invited.)

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**Seminar: Water Use in food value chains**

**Schedule for submission of papers for the two questions:**

- Submission (Online) of comprehensive ‘Extended Abstracts’ (500-600 words): — 15 Dec. 2016 - 01 March 2017
- Acceptance (Online) of Extended Abstracts: — 01-31 March 2017
- Full Paper Submission (Online): — 01 April 2017 - 15 May 2017
- Notification to Authors (oral/poster): — 15 May 2017 - 15 July 2017

Guidelines for authors will be made available at <http://www.icid2017.org/> shortly.

**Online Paper Submission for 23rd ICID Congress**

‘Extended Abstracts’ / papers must be submitted online after registering using URL https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icid2017

All authors are requested to create a new account on the above EasyChair URL for submission of their Abstracts by using “sign up for an account” link as shown in the ‘Screen Catch’ in case they are not already registered on EasyChair portal earlier. Existing EasyChair users can use their account identities to submit their papers.

**Submission Instructions**

**Step 1:** Prepare ‘Extended Abstracts’

**Step 2:** Log in to the EasyChair account https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icid2017

**Step 3:** Select ‘Sign up for an Account’ in case you are not having an account.

To use EasyChair, one should first create an account. The procedure for obtaining an account is as below:

1. You should type the words as shown on the screen and click on “Continue”.
2. Fill the form details with name and e-mail address and click on “Continue”.
3. On submission you will receive an e-mail with a link to EasyChair account.

**Step 4:** Fill the details as required by EasyChair and click ‘create’ account.

**Step 5:** Account created, screen appears with a link to ‘https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icid2017’.

**Contact Coordinates:** 23rd ICID Congress Secretariat: Lic. Roberto Ramirez de la Parra, President, MXCID, E-mail:info@icid201.org; info@mxcid.org and Website: http://www.icid2017.org/

**Congress Coordinator:** Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID Central Office, New Delhi (E-mail: icid@icid.org) and Website: http://www.icid.org
**60th BoG of World Water Council**

The World Water Council (WWC) held its 60th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting from 25-26 November 2016 at Marseille, France. Secretary General Avinash C. Tyagi, and Mr. Ali Reza Salamat (Iran), who is a member of ICID’s Task Force to Guide ICID Inputs to 8th World Water Forum (TF-WWF8), participated in the meeting. On the occasion of 20 years of WWC, during the BoG meeting, the World Water System Heritage (WSH) Program, was launched and the BoG was informed of the progress. It was suggested that the events during WIF and WWF should be used to give away recognition to WSH systems.

The 8th World Water Forum of World Water Council will be held in March 2018 at Brazil. The theme of the Forum is “Sharing Water”. In this regard, the kick-off meeting of WWF8 was held from 27-28 June 2016 at the Convention Center Brasilia, Brazil. Dr. Torkil Jønch Clausen, Chair of Thematic Commission made a presentation on ‘Thematic Process of 8th World Water Forum (http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/add-your-voice-8th-world-water-forum) and ‘Regional Process Commission - General approach / principles’ (link http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/news/news-single/article/8th-world-water-forum-international-steering-committee-isc-meets-in-brasilia) was also made. A Summary Report of 8th World Water Forum (kick-off meeting held in June 2016 at Brazil) which can be accessed at (link http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/news/news-single/article/wwc-president-assembles-with-brazilian-senators-in-brasilia/)

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**SANCID (South Africa)**

**Sustainable Irrigation Water and Drainage Management for Food Production: Vision 2030**

The South African Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) held its Symposium 2016 on the theme “Sustainable Irrigation Water and Drainage Management for Food Production: Vision 2030” from 11-13 October 2016 at Worcester, South Africa. The Symposium was sponsored by Water Research Commission (WRC), Western Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture and Netafim.

The aim of the Symposium was to attract a multi-disciplinary group of professionals involved with irrigation drainage in Southern Africa. More than 45 participants in the fields of irrigation, drainage, agriculture and environment representing different organization within the country attended the symposium.

Symposium addressed the challenges which need to be addressed to feed a growing population based on the 24 scientific papers submitted by various participants. SANCID provided a wonderful platform for the irrigation community and interested development professionals to debate issues plaguing irrigated agriculture, in a time of depleting freshwater resources. The participants visited the Greater Brandvlei Water Scheme as part of the technical tour which illustrated the construction underway to ensure that an additional 4000 ha along the Breederivier, which can be developed and also the BEE Equity table grape farm situated in the De Wet area.

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**ICID News Update – December 2016**

**Take advantage of Irrigation and Drainage Online**

The ICID Journal Irrigation and Drainage is available online FREE via Wiley Online library for all ICID Office-Bearers, Workbody Chairs, Members and National Committees.


ICID members can now avail a special 35% discount of all the Wiley printed publications under the Society Discount Programme introduced recently. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this special discount.

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**News from ICID National Committees**

**CNCID (China)**

New email ID of Dr. Fuqiang Tian (Chairman, WG-BIO-ENERGY, Secretary, WG-CLIMATE and Member, WG-ENV) is <tian_icid@163.com>

**RuCID (Russia)**

New email ID of Vice President Irene Bondarik is <vp.bondarik@inbox.ru>

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**Hurry!!! Last Chance for your inputs to ICID Vision 2030**

The new ICID Vision 2030 “Water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development”, and the six organizational goals was adopted at Montpellier, France, 2015 and has been forwarded to all National Committees and Workbody members. 67th IEC has extended the time for National Committees to provide response to the Questionnaire (both in English and French) which has once again been circulated to all the NCs and can also be filled in online (https://esurv.org/?u=NCQuest_ActionPlan2030). WGs who could not finalize their inputs to Action Plan during the Chiang Mai meeting can also send their inputs.

The last date to receive your inputs is till 15 January 2017.
A two-day International Conference on “Climate Change, Water, Agriculture and Food Security (ICCCWAFS 2016)” was organized by ClimaAdapt Project Consortium [Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research (NIBIO), Water and Land Management Training and Research Institute (WALAMTARI) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI)] from 2-3 November 2016 at ICRISAT Campus, Hyderabad, India. The aim of the conference was to generate better understand and synthesize the biophysical, technological, institutional, social, economic and political drivers and innovations for future agricultural development and food security in the face of climate change.

The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador of Norway; in the presence of Mr. Nils Vagstad, Director of NIBIO; Dr. David Bergvinson, Director General of ICRISAT; Er. G.S Jha, Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC); Dr. Jeremy Bird, Director-General of IWMI; Er. L. Narayan Reddy, Director-General of WALAMTARI. A video film produced by ClimaAdapt project on “Use of Sensors for Improved On-Farm Water Management” and “New inventions on water saving and adaptation practices to the changing climate” was launched and introduced to the participants.

More than 250 delegates from 16 international organizations across the world and 22 national institutes of India participated, including policy-makers, farmers and civil society organizations, private sectors and the media and shared their experiences and knowledge. About 70 papers were presented at the conference on (1) Technological, Social and policy innovations for improving small holder adaptation and (2) Climate proofing agriculture: The role of public-private partnerships and investments. Some of the outcomes of the conference were:

- The establishment of ICT-enabled Village Knowledge Centres which contributed to the creation of climate-smart farming societies and that could be scaled-up in India and elsewhere.
- Farmers need to be more aware of stress tolerant crop varieties and that those varieties need to be available to farmers.
- Initiatives have to be taken to improve engineering parameters such as lining of canals, improving structures and providing additional field channels.
- Water use efficiency could be enhanced by using real time information in water management decisions.
- Introducing new practices of irrigation from a supply-driven to a demand-based water supply system. Such changes need policy and technical support.
- Solar irrigation pumps were a more feasible option in the long-term to meet the groundwater and energy demands with socio-ecological benefits,
- Protected cultivation can help vegetable growers manage climate extremes, but technical, social and management improvements are needed to make this more feasible.
- Need-based fertilizer management, green manuring, biofertilizers, biochar, SWC measures (eg stone bunds) and conservation agriculture are ‘climate smart soil management technologies’.
- The utilization of solar cold storage units in villages and markets leads to a reduction in post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables, contributing to nutritional food security and also reducing the GHG emissions to the atmosphere.

An application of the information and experiences and knowledge.

### Agricultural Water for the Development of Rural Society in Asia

A two-days International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEE) Conference on the theme ‘Sustainable Paddy Water Management in Water-Energy-Food Nexus’ was held from 20-21 October 2016 at Daegjeo City in Korea. The conference was jointly organized by PAWEE, KCID and ICID WG-Climate.

As part of collaboration between PAWEE and ICID’s Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG), a Conference on ‘Agricultural Water for the Development of Rural Society in Asia’ was organized on 20th October 2016. The conference was chaired by Prof. Kyung Sook Choi, who is a member of ASRWG as well as Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of the PAWEE.

During the conference, four presentations were made by Prof. Kwang-Sik Yoon (Korea); Ir. Toshiaki Lida (Japan); Prof. Budi Indra Setiawan (Indonesia); and Mr. Seung Won Lee (Korea) on ‘Paddy water environmental and rural development in Korea’; ‘An application of the information and communication technology to modernize the agricultural water management in Japan’; ‘Empowering farmers to be more water resilience in the face of climate changes’; and ‘A case study on rural development with agricultural infrastructure development’, respectively. The participants exchanged information on the on-going research challenges, which covered improvement of water use efficiency and rural development with improved irrigation system.

The outcomes emerged from the Conference such as: (a) to involve younger researcher and engineers into the discussion on current world practical issues; (b) to provide the members with information about the world issues on paddy irrigation and drainage, which might identify or establish a new research topic or target. The collaborative work including various types of the meetings would be the “co-design” for the further challenges toward the better paddy irrigation and drainage as well as sustainable paddy-based rural society.

In addition, PAWEE suggested that ICID should locate this collaboratively activity in the activities of the relevant working group including ASRWG, which have to be proscribed in their Action Plan 2030, especially in its Goal 5 “Encourage research and support development of tools to extend innovation into field practices. Emphasis was laid on encouraging younger members to join PAWEE to exchange the information, not only of the national committee of the paddy-dominant countries but also from the other countries.
Reclamation: Technologies and Investments

The 3rd EuroAsian Forum on the theme “Reclamation: Technologies and Investments” was held on 7th October 2016 at Moscow, Russia in the framework of the Annual Agro-Industrial Exhibition “Golden Autumn”.

More than 120 representatives from various organizations in the field of operating irrigation systems; agro-industrial complex; agricultural producers; domestic manufacturers of equipment; research and educational institutions; industry associations from EAEU and CIS countries; and media participated in the Forum.

Two roundtable meetings during the Forum i.e. Round Table 1 “Dynamics of reclamation development in the Russian Federation and the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union” and Round Table 2 “Investment in land improvement: Efficiency of investments, the forms of state support; state, problems and prospects of production land reclamation techniques”, were organized.

Engr. VA Zhukov, Director of the Department of Land Reclamation, welcomed the participants and delivered an Opening Speech on topic “Reclamation: technology and investment” and also made a presentation on main theme “The results of the Russian Federation reclamation industry in 2015 and 2016”.

Considering the technological changes in operation of irrigation and drainage systems, achieved through the reconstruction, modernization and technical re-reclamation complex on the basis of scientifically based and economically sound eco-technologies and equipment. The topics related to improve the efficiency and safety of operation of irrigation and drainage systems and structures; design and construction of new facilities and water reclamation; cooperation in the organization of production of new reclamation techniques and equipment were highlighted. The Forum emphasized on the commitment of the Reclamation Development Program which has to support agricultural producers interested in conducting reclamation measures.

Sustainable Agriculture Development

A five-day Seminar on ‘Sustainable Agriculture Development’ was organized by the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in collaboration with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) from 28th November to 2nd December 2016 at New Delhi, India. The seminar provided a forum for direct interaction between the past participants and concerned faculty of the Korean institutions. 21 participants of the “SAD” training programme (2013-2015) from Ghana, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Sudan and Zambia participated in the seminar. Please access http://www.aard.org/aardohomepage/English/index1.html for more information of the seminar.

Forthcoming Events

ICID Events

13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW), 4-7 March 2017, Ahwaz City, Iran on the theme ‘Drainage and Environmental Sustainability’. Contact: Dr. S.A. Assadollahi, Secretary General, Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID), E-mail: 13idw2017@gmail.com, Website: http://www.idw13.org/English/

23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC, 8-14 October 2017, Mexico City, Mexico on the theme ‘Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution’. Contact: Lic. Roberto Ramirez de la Parra, President, MXCID, E-mail:info@icid2017.org; info@mxcid.org; Website: www.icid2017.org

8th Asian Regional Conference, March 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal. Contact: Mr. Bashu Dev Lohanee, Secretary, Nepal National Committee, ICID (NENCID), Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation, Email: lohanibus@yahoo.com, irrigation@wlink.com.np

69th IEC & 5th American Regional Conference, Saskatoon, Canada, 23 - 28 September 2018, Saskatoon, Canada. Contact: Mr. Laurie C. Tollefson, Secretary - Treasurer, Canadian National Committee, CANCID, Email: laurie.tollefson@agr.gc.ca, Website: http://www.cwra.org/en/affiliates/cancid

70th IEC Meeting and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3), 2019, Indonesia. Contact: Dr. Mohammad Hasan, President, Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID), Director General of Research and Development, Email: inacid_indonesia@yahoo.co.id, moyasan53@yahoo.co.id

71st IEC Meeting and 24th ICID Congress, 12 May to 18 May 2020, Sydney, Australia. Contact: Mr. Bryan Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Irrigation’s Australia Limited (IAL) (Incorporating IACID), Email: Bryan.ward@irrigation.org.au, Website: http://www.irrigation.org.au

Other Events


2017 Water for Food Global Conference, 10-12 April 2017 at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. For details, visit http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/2017-water-for-food-global-conference/