

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (TSU)

### CONCEPT NOTE

1. The great challenge for the coming decades will be to increase food production with less water, particularly in countries with limited water and land resources. The effective and sustainable use of water for agriculture has become a global priority of vital importance, requiring urgent and immediate solutions in view of intensifying competition. The importance of Capacity Development for attaining sustainable developments in irrigation, drainage and flood management sectors is fully realized.
2. The consensus among policy-makers in the developing world is that a lack of capacity is constraining the development of irrigated agriculture. Although this concern is not new, it is now receiving much attention in the irrigation and drainage world, where it is becoming an issue in its own right due to the increasing complexities of development, multi-disciplinary nature of solution for sustainable solutions, the close linkages between water-food-energy, rapid changes in the irrigation and drainage sector, the need to bring together various stakeholders who might not necessarily be experts. Moreover many countries are facing shortage of qualified technical persons.
3. Keeping in view the need of capacity building, education and awareness of technical staff working in the field of agriculture water management there is proposal to set up a working group catering to these needs (WG-CDTE).
4. As part of this WG-CDTE, it is proposed to set up a Technical Support Unit (TSU) with the overall objective to
 

***“Undertake capacity development activities in the field of Agriculture Water Management (AWM) in support of rural development”.***
5. The broad scope of TSU would be to
  1. Coordinate capacity development programs of ICID;
  2. To liaise in developing a knowledge base in AWM with the help of ICID working groups, partner institutions and member countries;
  3. To support the member countries in
    - (a) general assessment of gaps in AWM capacities within the countries and suggest possible solutions
    - (b) developing feasibility reports for small and medium irrigation, drainage and flood management proposal,
    - (c) training assessment needs; and
    - (d) undertaking capacity development programmes
6. **Funding:** In order to ensure smooth functioning of TSU it is suggested to establish a **Capacity Development Fund** that would be supported by member countries on a voluntary basis.
7. **Mechanism:** Technical support unit, which is proposed to be sub-set of WG-CDTE, will consist of distributed network of expert volunteers who commit to dedicate a maximum of ten man days to the TSU activities with a coordination unit within the Central Office that would help locate these experts. In addition, Members or partner institutions would be requested to depute personnel to the coordination unit of TSU located in Central Office from time to time, as required.
8. A **Core Group** will have to set up to finalize the work program of TSU and review and monitor progress of activities of TSU. Core group may consist of President ICID, Chair of PCTA and PCSO, Chair of AFRWG and ASRWG, Chair of WG-CDTE (when established), nominees of the contributing Members and partners and Secretary General, ICID as Convener.




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<sup>i</sup> Annex 6 [66<sup>th</sup> IEC Agenda, Appendix VIII, Supp. Agenda Item 13]