

2004



ICID • CIID

WG- IADWS
WG-SUNRCP

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

on

Water Harvesting and Sustainable Agriculture

7 September 2004

Moscow, Russia

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Background

The vital role of water in the socio-economic success or failure of human communities is becoming ever clearer. This is particularly true for the arid and semi-arid areas that face severe water scarcity. In such areas, annual rainfalls are low and precipitation usually falls in few showers. In many rainfall events, most of the water is “lost” by runoff, which may turn into floods of different intensities causing a variety of damages downstream. In other words, out of the limited rainfall that precipitates in such areas, only a fraction infiltrates into the soil and may be stored for future use by the natural vegetation. This amount is usually far less than the requirements of commercial crops for full seasonal growth. Therefore, extensive agricultural crop production in these regions has been mostly achieved through supplemental irrigation.

However, age-old practices as well as new advances in science and technology have made it possible to grow agricultural crops in such areas without constructing extensive irrigation networks. The key to this achievement is to “harvest” rainwater where it falls and use it efficiently for growing trees, grasslands and suitable crops.

Realization of the global significance of agricultural production under the conditions of water scarcity and potential of water harvesting techniques in this respect formed the basis of the suggestion of IADWS-WG in Montreal Meeting to

organize, jointly with FAO, a workshop on “Water harvesting and sustainable Agriculture”.

Objectives

According to an estimate by the UN, there are about 5.2 billion hectares of dryland that are used for crop production around the world. Millions of people live in such areas and their welfare and prosperity is highly dependent on the extent that rainwater is used properly, particularly for crop production. As such, attempts to improve water productivity in these areas can serve many countries around the globe; particularly the developing and needy ones facing water scarcity. The main objectives of the workshop are:

- To exchange experiences gained in different countries and environments on planning and evaluation of water harvesting techniques
- To provide a forum for improved design, management and evaluation of water harvesting systems for sustainable crop production under varied water scarcity conditions

Topics

The workshop will concentrate on runoff farming systems and cover the three main water harvesting categories (on-farm micro-catchment water harvesting systems, off-farm macro-catchment water harvesting systems and floodwater harvesting systems such as “*wadi* bed cultivation” and “spate irrigation systems”). The topics intended for this workshop are as follows:

- Planning: criteria for selection of suitable areas for water harvesting
- Design: Innovative design of water harvesting methods, comprising both improved traditional water harvesting methods and 'modern' techniques in water harvesting.
- Implementation: People’s participation and social aspects of water harvesting in dry areas
- Evaluation: Economic aspects and environmental impacts of water harvesting in arid zones.

It is hoped that based on the outcome of the workshop, the Working Group will have a suitable foundation to embark on the preparation of comprehensive policy and strategy guidelines on water harvesting.

Venue and date

The Workshop will be held on 7 September 2004, in Moscow, Russia, during the 55th Meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).

The Workshop will be organized jointly by:

- ICID Working Group on Irrigated Agriculture under Drought and Water Scarcity
- FAO Land and Water Development Division and Regional Office for the Near East
- ICID Working Group on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Crop Production

Extended abstracts

Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts of papers. Abstract should be limited to 600 words; they should concisely state the objectives, methodology and the main results of the work reported on. Papers will be selected on the basis of suitability and quality.

Proceedings

After acceptance of a paper, the authors will receive detailed guidelines for the preparation of the full-length manuscript, which will be refereed by an International Scientific Committee and, if necessary, returned for amendments. Proceedings will be made available to participants at registration.

Important deadlines

30 November 2003	Submission of 600 words abstracts
30 December 2003	Notification of acceptance or rejection
30 April 2004	Receipt of full-length manuscript ready for publication
30 May 2004	Feedback from Organizing Committee

30 June 2004

Submission of camera-ready paper for printing by the Organizing Committee

Language

The language of the Workshop will be English. No translation will be provided.

Secretariat

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Organizing Committee

Mr. S. Nairizi, ICID IADWS-WG
Mr. M. Bazza, FAO Regional Office for the Near East
Mr. R. Ragab, ICID SUNRCP-WG
Two members of the Russian ICID National Committee
Mr. H. Siadat, Iranian ICID National Committee

Technical Committee

Mr. Mohamed Bazza, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, Egypt
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International Workshop on

WATER HARVESTING AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Name (Mr/Ms):

Occupation:

Organization:

Full Address:

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City: Postal Code:

Country:

Tel.: Fax:

E-mail:

I would like to present a paper

a poster

titled:

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This form and a 600-word abstract should be sent as soon as possible, but **not later than 30 November 2003**, to the following address:

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