ICID President Saeed Naiziri said the “2030 Vision” Roadmap is one of the most important documents worldwide in terms of irrigation and drainage in the 25 years he has been part of this body.

The “2030 Vision” Roadmap was presented at the occasion of the 23rd International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the 68th Plenary Session of the International Executive Council (IEC) taking place in Mexico City regarding the effective use of sustainable agricultural water. This Roadmap depicts ICID’s Mission, Vision and Goals to contribute to improve the use of water in agricultural activities at rural areas around the globe, especially to improve professional systems aimed at developing irrigation and drainage. All the National Committees in attendance will review and discuss this paper in the remaining days of this congress. The document was written by Dr. Sylvain Perret, Dr. Wilhem Vlotman, Dr. Gerhard Backeberg, Dr. Ian Makin, Prof. Charlotte de Fraiture, Er. Waseem Nazir and ICID Secretary-General Avinash C. Tyagi.

“It is one of the best documents available around the globe on how
we can deal with water management in agriculture to eradicate poverty and hunger”, said International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) President Dr. Saeed Nairizi during his presentation at the World Trade Center Convention Center in Mexico City.

In the 25 years he has been part of ICID, he mentioned that “it is time ICID left libraries and research centers to connect with the decision-makers, high advisory groups. We want to help developing countries with feasibility studies and hold technical discussions”. He then requested all International Committees in need of free support to submit their applications to their Head Office.

Another of the relevant items in ICID’s agenda is the possibility to engage with other international bodies since last year memorandums of understanding were signed with the agricultural sector.

“We started out with Iran, with the National Water Commission and the International Committee on Irrigation and Drainage. We have also partnered with FAO in the Global Framework on Water Scarcity. And we had the opportunity to have some exchanges with the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) by creating a water-based food security strategy, recognizing how important water is in food,” the official said.

Accompanied by Secretary-General Avinash C. Tyagi, Vice-President Ding Kunlun and PCSO Vice-President Dr. Bong Hoon Lee, Dr. Nairizi expects this document to be extended as to include the Americas in the Mediterranean region, and Africa in the research network supported by the current member countries’ financial capabilities with the intention to garner more donors while this agricultural network keeps on growing with a technical support program.

IMPORTANT ICID MEMBERS RECEIVE FOUR WATSAVE AWARDS

Awarded Categories were WatSave Technology, WatSave Innovative Water Management, WatSave Young Professionals, and WatSave Farmer.

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) awarded four distinguished members for their outstanding contributions to water saving/conservation. Awards were given in four categories: WatSave Technology, WatSave Innovative Water Management, WatSave Young Professionals, and WatSave Farmer.

Out of 18 nominees this year, the winners in the WatSave Technology category were Chris Norman and Carl Walters from Australia. The winners received an award and a check for 2,000 dollars. “Thank you very much. I am very happy to receive this award. I would like to thank the President (Saeed Nairizi), the Secretary-General (Avinash Tyagi), and the Australian Government”, Norman said.

WatSave Innovative Water Management Award was given to Professor Wang Aiguo from China thanks to his works in water saving in irrigation processes. The winner was thankful for receiving his award as well as his check from ICID President Dr. Saeed Nairizi.

WatSave Young Professionals Award was given to Mr. Mahdi Sarai Tabrizi from Iran. He also received an award and a check for 2,000 dollars. Finally, WatSave Farmer Award went to Dr. Vijay S. Deshmuck from India, who is also the Water Association President in his country, who could not make it to this event.

Another award that was given was 2017 Wiley Blackwell Award, going to the best paper published in the 65.2 Newsletter on subjects such as “New Irrigation Models, avoiding water losses by using an irrigation timing system with a mechanical model to grow crops”. This award went to Sabine J. Seidel, Stefan Weerisch, Klemens Barfus, Michael Wagner, Niels Schutze, and Hermann Laber.
The Mexican National Water Commission (CONAGUA) Deputy Director General for Hydro Agricultural Infrastructure Marco Antonio Parra Cota emphasized the interest and intention shown by all member countries to reach out to Mexico in order to share experiences during his presentation at the 23rd Congress and 68th International Executive Council Meeting on Irrigation and Drainage.

“The 23rd Congress and 68th International Executive Council Meeting on Irrigation and Drainage left us a collection of positive experiences and knowledge. It has been pleasant to share technological innovations in water agricultural infrastructure”, the public official said.

He said for Mexico, enhancing the country’s irrigation infrastructure—which currently accounts for 3.3 million hectares of irrigation districts, 2.8 million hectares of rainfed irrigation districts, and 3.9 hectares of irrigation units—is very important and a crucial task.

Therefore, the purpose of the country’s policies is that storage sources ensure water is supplied for agriculture efficiently and responsibly. Conversely, CONAGUA Deputy Director General for Planning Luis Felipe Alcocer said for the country, “it is very important to exchange experiences. We can look what other countries have to offer or what Mexico has to offer since it ranks seventh worldwide in water infrastructure”.

During yesterday’s last session, it was informed that the next meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia. This country will be the venue for the 24th Congress and 71st International Meeting on Irrigation and Drainage. The event will be held on September 22nd - 24th, 2020.

“Of course, Mexico will be participating with MXCID, the body representing Mexico at these congresses”, Alcocer said.

CONAGUA Officials were accompanied by ICID President Dr. Saeed Nairizi, ICID Secretary-General Dr. Avinash C. Tyagi, among others. The entire audience were thankful for this presentation and the friendship relationships to make this event happen.
IMTA Sub-Coordinator Arturo Gonzalez explained that a larger investment is required to face the ICID challenges.

The Agricultural Drainage saw the light in Mexico in 1960. It was built in the Northern states of the country, such as Sonora, and it was possible by the first works made by the Mexican National Water Commission (CONAGUA) under supervision and support from the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA).

“Today Mexico ranks seventh in installed infrastructure capacity, something that is very important”, Mexican Institute of Water Technology Sub-Coordinator Arturo Gonzalez Casillas said. He was one of the guests at the 23rd International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 68th Plenary Meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) jointly with IrriDren Company, a national leader in Agricultural Drainage.

In that regard, he stated that on a worldwide basis, our country accounts for “large amounts of underground water for food production. But in Mexico, our capacity has experienced growth, which means that new investment on infrastructure must be made in order to face challenges with a higher level of productivity”.

He also said that current water productivity in Mexico has increased from 40 to 80 kilograms per cubic meter. However, there must be an increase on the technical side by the means of more investments, thus addressing the needs considered under the new ICID “Vision 2030” roadmap.
ICID IS LOOKING FOR MAJOR INVESTMENTS AMONG THEIR MEMBER COUNTRIES

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) said agreed with the need to allocate larger investments to provide maintenance and build irrigation and drainage infrastructure across all 35 member countries. At the occasion of the 23rd Congress and 68th International Executive Council Meeting of Irrigation and Drainage, held in Mexico City’s WTC Conventions Center, it was concluded that High Level political agendas do not respond to this need. Therefore, ICID has put measures in place to engage all its member countries in policy-making for a sustainable water management in agriculture in a changing environment. Considering the High Level Advisory Group (HLAG)’s Mandate and the need to address the deficiencies mentioned above, the HLAG will provide guidance on the process to develop the “Partnership for Agriculture Water Management”.

An ICID Working Group was created to provide support to the HLAG as decided in the 2016 2nd World Irrigation Forum.

FOR THE WORKS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MEETING AT ICID’S 23RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE, WE CORDIAJLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE “THE MEXICAN EXPERIENCE IN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE – CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES” PRESENTED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HYDRO AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE MARCO ANTONIO PARRA COTA. THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE TOLTECA 1 ROOM ON OCTOBER 11TH AT 5:30 P.M.