ICID has been organizing its flagship triennial event International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage since 1951. The 24th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 72nd International Executive Council meeting is being organised by the Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID) on the theme ‘Innovation and Research and In Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals’ from 6-12 July 2021 at Sydney, Australia.

Congress Theme: Innovation and Research in Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

The Congress will deliberate on various aspects related to the following topics:

(i) Current status of national irrigation sectors
(ii) Future investment in irrigation infrastructure modernization and management
(iii) National factors affecting irrigation management, including water policy, institutions, and capacities
(iv) Prospective areas for future management: resource management, supply and demand management, infrastructure management, on-farm water management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, institutional and policy reforms, data management, technological interventions, capacity development, gender issues, among others specific to local-contexts

Attention shall be directed to the different levels of technology and modernization practices to present a general perspective and global comparative review amongst the related organizations and institutions. Theme of 24th ICID Congress is expected to address these issues in the form of two questions:

**Congress Questions (Topics / Sub-Topics)**

**QUESTION 62:** What role can information and communication technology play in travelling the last mile (i.e. the greater adoption of research outputs)?

Information and communication technology offer tools and systems which may be used to speed up the adoption of research and development outcomes to produce more crop per drop and to minimise the impacts of irrigation in and to the environment. There are a range of other components to the adoption process including the policy environment, financial assistance and various types of incentives (both financial and non-financial), along with social and cultural influences. Information and communication technology have a role to play in all these and the diverse communities and individuals may adopt different processes and seek potentially different step outcomes.

How can this tool be used effectively within different socio-economic environments? We need to ensure that the appropriate tools are used for the different environments in which irrigation is carried out and for the desired outcomes. Will different tools be used for different desired outcomes within the same local environment/location?

**Sub-question 62.1: Technical – Technology Aspects**

Technology improvements are critical to sustained improvements in production of food and fibre but without information and communication technology its uptake is slow. These technologies also need to be researched and outputs implemented, at various level, to ensure that water for irrigation is used most effectively.
State (government) versus Non-State (private sector):

- **State -** Government level Hydromet services, high level technology including satellites, telemetry of data and availability of (free/) data to end-users, etc.
- **Non-State -** utilizing the above data, through user-friendly software, apps, assisting farmers and other involved making decisions on (irrigation, drainage) water management.

State versus Individual:

- **Making data available and accessible in remote areas – availability of technological tools (information and communication).**

Open access platforms for freely interchanged data streams in standardized formats.

**Sub question 62.2: Social side - socio-economic Infrastructure Context: appropriate technology for appropriate resources (for diverse groupings of people) including using social media**

Advances in irrigation technology will be adopted quicker when the human side of adoption is better understood and facilitated. The role of information and communication technology in this aspect of the adoption process needs further enhancement and experiences transferred to a broader audience.

- Developed versus countries-in-development and/or country regional diversity and in-country industry sector diversity
- Best practices, existing and possible, including technological training and support.
- Engaging women and families
- Common communities / industries e.g., cotton, dairying, rice etc.

**Sub-question 62.3: Water Trading**

In more mature irrigation regions where water flows to higher value uses through water trading information and communication technology play a critical part in creating effective markets. Open markets require information for all potential buyers and sellers. How effective are these processes, how can they be improved and what technologies are facilitating these markets?

- Net-based availability of water, water exchange and comparison platforms e.g., “Waterfind”, waterexchange.com.au, etc.

**Question 63: What role is played by multi-disciplinary dialogue to achieve sustainable development goals?**

In the past, the insular/silo approach had its downside with agronomic research not always being relevant to the needs of the end-users, implications of policy changes not fully understood or even anticipated, adoption of new and more effective ways of crop production was often slow and farmer lead research and adoption not being recognised as pathways to improved production.

It is now recognised and better understood that previous approach to industry extension and achieving sustainable development goals was not always effective.

Multi-disciplinary dialogue engages, by its definition, more than one discipline in design and implementation of policy, research, extension and adoption/use of processes that lead to sustainable development.

How can this multi-disciplinary approach be enhanced with improved interactions and new layers to more effectively engage in the attainment of sustainable development goals?

This Question seeks to draw out approaches that are being used and to stimulate thoughts on further enhancements to make the dialogue between all engaged in sustainable development more effective.
Sub-question 63.1: Social, Consumer, Supply Chain QA, Reputation & Regulatory Dialogue

Achieving sustainable development goals occurs within a complex framework of interactions with various interactions occurring at potentially different stages along the production/consumption continuum. An awareness of these interactions, particularly by producers, will result in them being more effectively incorporated into production systems. Some of these sets of interactions could be:

- Influence of supply-chain assurance (private, proprietary, national, international) on the production system—irrigation, drainage, water access and allocation, environmental impact including food security, at a national scale
- Social license, market access, enhance/protect reputation, managing crises
- Demonstrating environmental credentials and effective sustainable development, avoiding “green wash” etc.

Sub-question 3.2: Technical level dialogue vs other “levels”

Technical dialogue is critical to the achieving SDGs, but how do we ensure that other components are effectively integrated. Each will have its own integration issues and a ‘one size fits all’ approach will not achieve the goal. What are some of the issues that need to be addressed as we try to include interactions along the horizontal axis (i.e. within each level or aspect) and vertically with respect to interactions between/across each level. Many “enablers” or “blockers” are based on, or derived from the diverse cultures, expectations, issues, resourcing and experiences of the relevant interacting parties:

- Economic level
- Policy/Government level
- Legal level
- Technological (tools, devices, systems) level
- Safeguards (Environment, cybersecurity and social) level

Sub-question 63.3: What parties should be addressing SDG: 12 ‘Responsible Consumption and production’

The completeness of the SDG 12 ‘Responsible Consumption and Production’ implies that all are involved in meeting this goal. As well as producers and consumers, how are others in this multi-disciplinary dialogue being involved, with particular reference to:

- Supply Chain
- Social Licence
- Environmental Credentials

Special Session Theme: Developing the future tools for managing uncertainty in irrigation water supply

Current projections around the impacts of climate change and climate variability, reinforced by ongoing experience are clear indicators that variability in rainfall, runoff, water availability and changes in the frequency of extreme weather events shall be key factors in the management of established catchments and the development of any future expansion.

This “Special Session” presents an opportunity to broadly evolve a future approach to the very fundamental challenges at the base of all water and irrigation-dependent systems. No matter what the geography, all presenters and participants in this session should gain enormous benefit from the presentation of the diverse experiences, research and development activity, policy and regulatory approaches underpinning future adaptation and mitigation of variability in irrigation water supply.

Given above, experts/professionals are invited to submit their abstracts/papers on the following subtopics:

1. Institutional arrangements; both standard, precautionary and emergency arrangements for allocation and pricing for water: These may include policy and regulatory arrangements for a range of water availability/security situations and emerging scenarios involving predicted or projected weather patterns, anticipated runoff, reservoir status and groundwater reserves etc.
2. **System modelling**, scenario planning, prediction, contingency planning for interrupted and variable supply and delivery: Presentations of such modelling should demonstrate the realistic scoping of a range of prospective scenarios (ranging from extreme wet to extreme dry), stress-test alternative management strategies to mitigate risk and manage adverse impacts to sustainability of systems and their dependent communities or businesses, and rank priority responses which can be costed in fiscal, social and environmental terms.

3. **Crop agronomic and Social adaptation**: crop choice as per irrigation, “Supplementary” vs “full” irrigation, Economic analysis of perennial orchards and plantations as per informed decisions, and marketing, financing, staffing implications: Adaptation shall inevitably entail engagement with stakeholders across multiple fronts as catchment communities contemplate the prospects of refurbishing, replacing, relocating or even the retiring/exiting from systems and businesses. Papers are invited which demonstrate models, tools and case studies of regional and broader community consultations and engagement on irrigation water access, allocation and sustainable returns.

Call-for-papers: The full version of Call-for-papers is available at [http://congress.icidevents.org/24cong_callforpapers.pdf](http://congress.icidevents.org/24cong_callforpapers.pdf)

Student Awards for paper/poster presentation

The Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID) has established ‘Student Awards’ for paper/poster presentation. The competing students must tick mark their online submission at the time of registration for abstract/paper submission. The purpose, the criteria and the process of ‘Student Awards’ is available at [https://www.icid2020.com.au/student-awards/](https://www.icid2020.com.au/student-awards/)

Schedule of submission of abstracts/full papers

In view of the postponement of the Congress from its original schedule, the submissions made earlier as abstracts and papers remain valid and authors who have already submitted abstracts do not have to do so again. Invitation for the submission of the full papers also remain valid.

The abstracts/papers are invited from the policy makers, professionals, academicians, researchers, experts, and scientists from private and government sectors as per following deadlines.

- Submission of ‘Extended Abstracts’ (500-600 words) : (30 November 2020)
- Notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstracts : (31 December 2020)
- Submission of Full papers: (15 February 2021)
- Notification to Authors (oral/poster/presentation) : (15 April 2021)

Applicable to existing invitations also.

Online paper submission


Upon receiving acceptance letter from ICID Central Office, authors are required to provide/upload an electronic version of the full length papers in Microsoft Word format by strictly following the guidelines available at [http://congress.icidevents.org/24cong_guidelines.pdf](http://congress.icidevents.org/24cong_guidelines.pdf)

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