Working Group on Managing Water Scarcity under Conflicting Demands (WG-MWSCD)

SCOPING DOCUMENT

1. Introduction

1.1 Historically, the use of water for agricultural purposes was generally recognized as a priority. However, as the population and demographics of an area has changed over time, so has the priority for the use of water? In many areas, use of water for agricultural purposes has become of secondary importance to other uses. Demand for Municipal and Industrial water for growing population centers and the demand for clean drinking water in rural areas have taken precedence over agricultural uses. The growth of the environmental movement throughout the world to protect fish and wildlife has placed an additional demand on the limited supplies of water. In many areas of the world this environmental demand has been given priority over the use of water for agricultural purposes. This change of use priority is expected to continue in the future.

1.2 The effects of climate change in many areas of the world has also created a permanent shortage of water for agricultural purposes as dwindling water supplies are used first to supply adequate drinking water supplies to the growing population. Climate change is also changing the timing of when water is available. Areas that depended on melting snow in warmer months are now getting rainfall instead of snow. The reverse is also true. Areas that historically depended on rainfall are now getting snow.

1.3 These changes in the prioritization of the limited water resource are causing agricultural water users to make management changes to the way they approach the collection, diversion and use of the limited water supply available to them. These management changes are crucial in efforts to assure sustainable food production.

2. Objectives

2.1 Relevance of the Working Group

2.1.1 The relevance of the WG can be specified as follows:

(a) The topic of Managing Water Scarcity Under Conflicting Demands is relevant to the vision and mission of ICID and of interest for its members in all countries;

(b) The WG is expected to contribute to effective implementation of the Strategy Theme Basin and to other strategy themes for that matter;

(c) It may be expected that in the future the need for adaptive management will continue to increase.

2.2 Relevance of the Working Group to the scope of the Thematic Area

2.2.1 For the relevance of the WG to the scope of the Thematic Area the same argumentation is applicable as shown under the relevance. Most of the activities in irrigation will be related to the manner in which water is managed and how well management schemes adapt to the changes in water priorities. This concerns the technical, institutional and environmental aspects.

2.3 Existing gap that the Working Group is expected to fill

2.3.1 Other ICID WGs or Task Forces (TF) that have a related scope of work are: WG-SDTA, WG-CAFM, WG-CLIMATE, WG-M&R, WG-SON-FARM and the new WG-IOA

2.3.2 While WG-IOA is proposed to study the management of irrigation systems, it will focus on the administrative aspects of water management. The WG-MWSCD will focus on the water supply changes that these management entities need to address. Therefore, the two Working Groups will be able to work closely together and complement each other.
2.3.3 The new WG has taken good note of the activities of these Workbodies when preparing this Scoping Document.

3. State of knowledge on the topic

3.1 Other International Organizations that are working on the subject

3.1.1 There are several other International Organizations that have programs and activities on this topic. This especially concerns the:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
(b) International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
(c) International Center for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA);
(d) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
(e) International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD);
(f) World Bank (WB);
(g) World Water Council (WWC);

3.2 Mandate of the Working Group

3.2.1 Mandate of the Working Group is based on the specific niche that this WG can fill in this area and can be formulated as follows:

(a) Collect information, knowledge and, where available, case histories on actions taken to manage water systems to accommodate a change in priority of due to conflicting demands.
(b) Information will be collected on three levels of water management; 1) National, 2) area or basin, and 3) local;
(c) review and analyze information to determine any commonality;
(d) prepare and present reports and/or case studies on recent development in the countries that are represented in the WG;
(e) organize international workshop on the topic;
(f) prepare an overview paper on the topic for publication.

3.3 How is the Working Group expected to collaborate with the other International Organizations?

3.3.1 International Organizations can contribute to the activities of the WG by nominating Permanent Observers (PO). On the other hand presentations of the work and achievements of the WG can be presented at the occasion of events organized by International Organizations.

4. Work Plan

4.1 Scope

4.1.1 The WG is expected to investigate, analyze, and disseminate information on adaptive management processes and to formulate recommendations with respect to:

(a) planning and preparation for reduced water supplies due to changing priorities for the use of a finite water supply;
(b) commonality in processes used by various entities at three separate levels of governance;
   - National
   - area or basin
   - local
4.1.2 A proposal for the three year rolling plan is shown in Appendix A.

4.2 Target audience

4.2.1 The target audience for this working group will be managers of irrigation schemes, researchers, consultants, manufacturers, government officials, farmer’s representatives and staff of International Organizations working on the topic.

4.3 Outputs

4.3.1 The following outputs can be expected from this WG:

(a) although it is an indirect output sharing of knowledge and experience by representatives of NCs, which will also enable them to disseminate this knowledge within their country;

(b) the WG is expected to organize a workshop at occasion of an international ICID meeting;

(c) publish an overview paper on management of water scarcity in areas of conflicting demands with recommendations for implementation.

4.4 Timelines

4.4.1 It is recommended that the initial term of this WG will be set at 5 years. The timeline would have to be based on the scope of work and the expected output. Details of the timeline would have to be formulated and refined during the inaugural meeting of the WG.

4.5 Collaborators and dissemination strategy

4.5.1 The WG would have to base its activities on an open attitude with a clear scope for invitation of outsiders that are interested in the topic on a Permanent Observer (PO), or ad hoc basis.

4.5.2 The dissemination strategy would have to be based of reaching those who can apply the findings and recommendations of the WG in their research and especially in policy development, decision making and implementation in practice.
### Three Year Rolling Plan

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<th>Item of Mandate</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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