

Agenda for the Second Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (WG-MDGs)
26 June 2012; 13.30-15.00 hours at Adelaide, Australia

Strategy Theme: Systems

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 2011

Completion of the Mandate: 2017

Mandate: (i) Promote the production of rigorous [or credible] evidence of the impact of agricultural water management investments on the MDG1 goal of reducing, poverty and malnutrition, and other MDG-related social development outcomes (e.g. health and education). (ii) Promote the identification of cost effective means of ensuring the maximum and equitable realization of the benefits from agricultural water management investments.

Item 1 : Membership

All those National Committees and International Organizations whose nominees were present at the 1st meeting of the WG-MDG held at Tehran have been requested to confirm their nominations. So far, the following nominations have been confirmed for the membership and as Permanent Observer.

- Dr. Nadeem Asghar - IACID, Australia
- Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina – NENCID, Nepal
- President Hon. Peter S. Lee – UK as Permanent Observer
- Dr. Suhas P. Wani -ICRISAT as Permanent Observer

At Tehran, Dr. Nadeem Asghar was proposed to be the Chairman of the WG and was subsequently accepted by him. The WG will decide on acceptance of above nominations for the membership.

Item 2 : Review of the mandate and tenure of the WG

At its 1st meeting in Tehran, some concern was raised that the objectives of the WG were broader than irrigation and drainage. But it was made clear that the socio-economic and environmental aspects were also needed to be taken into consideration, including improved education, etc. in order to assess impacts of investments in agricultural water management. The WG will discuss the proposed mandate and tenure and firm up.

Item 3 : Work Plan 2011-2015

At Tehran, due to time constraint, the draft work plan for 2011-2015 could not be discussed. It was proposed that the WG will focus on the recent and/or current projects, interventions and initiatives that come under the category of:

- Agricultural and rural development (like agricultural subsidies, small grants, support for smallholders, extension services, crop production, etc)
- Economic and financial development investments (like market access, financial access, value chain finance, financial inclusion, agro-industries, agricultural loans, private investments, farm income support, rural livelihood, etc).

To covers this broad spectrum of projects, interventions and initiatives, the following topics are tentatively proposed for the WRITESHOPS:

- 2011:** Impact Evaluation of Community Development Projects for Rehabilitation of Salt Affected and Waterlogged Lands on Rural Livelihood, Healthcare and Gender Empowerment
- 2012** Impact Evaluation of Crop Maximization Support Projects on Food Security and Rural Development in the Developing World
- 2013:** Impact Evaluation of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Innovation Projects on Food Security and Poverty Reduction in Irrigated Agricultural Communities
- 2014:** Impact Evaluation of Mass Awareness for Water Conservation and Development Projects on Food and Water Security under Climate Change Impacts
- 2015:** Impact Evaluation of Irrigation Development and Modernization Projects on Rural Livelihood and Environmental Sustainability in the Low- and Middle-Income Countries

The workbody will discuss on the proposed work plan for 2011-2015 and firm it up. A scoping document (see **Annex**) may be kept in view while finalizing the work plan.

Item 4 : Activities proposed to implement the work plan

The proposed activities towards implementation of the work plan are as follows:

- Online Liaison Facility: Develop a web-based user-friendly platform for information sharing and update among the participating participants of the Working Group,
- Global Knowledge Partnership: Provide detailed guidance and technical training / support for undertaking the rigorous impact evaluations, and
- Grooming Young Scientists: Organize annually a Write shop to present, review and help produce high quality manuscripts ready-to-submit in the ISI Indexed Journals with Impact Factor.

For a WRITESHOP, the idea is to:

- Open call to submit the brief case-studies, using a well-defined format, on the selected themes;
- Review to shortlist the submissions, and provide guidelines to develop the detailed case studies;
- Liaison and give timely feedback to help develop the full-length manuscripts on the detailed case studies;
- Convene for the oral presentations, and provide constructive comments to improve the manuscripts; and
- Organise a session to help the participants to address the raised comments, and submit the completed manuscripts for journal publications.

The selected manuscripts will find their final destination in either of the following international journals:

- Agricultural Water Management, Elsevier (preferably, to avoid self-advocacy and to ensure wider outreach)
- Journal of Development Effectiveness, Taylor & Francis (3ie journal)
- Irrigation and Drainage, Wiley-Blackwell (ICID journal)
- Hydrogeology Journal, Springer (IAH journal)

The WG will discuss and firm up the proposed activities.

Item 5 : Any other business

SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

A Working Group (WG) or a Task Force (TF) can be established in one of the following four ways:

- (i) Recommendation of the Strategy Theme Leader,
- (ii) Proposed by the National Committee(s),
- (iii) Proposed by an existing Working Group, or
- (iv) Proposed by one of the collaborative partners/ International Organizations

If the Strategy Theme leader identifies a gap in one of the thematic areas and considers that the topic needs to be given attention and ICID has the niche to provide leadership therein, the Theme leader, after discussions with some experts in that area call upon a small (2-4) 'Core Group' to develop the Concept/scoping document.

In case one of the NCs feels the necessity of a WG/ TF, in consultation with other two more NCs, they should prepare the Concept. These NCs should assume the responsibility of steering through the outputs from the WG/TF.

If one of the existing WGs wants to extend its tenure for the second term or wants to reorient its activities and take a new shape, it should in the last year of its present period, after establishing a Core Group to develop the Concept/scoping document. In such a case the existing WG should also provide a review of its activities and how would these outputs contribute to the work of the new WG/TF. A WG may like to sponsor a TF on specific issue.

In case one of the collaborative partners (e.g., FAO, IFAD, WMO, IWMI, ICOLD, UNDP) propose a WG for collaborating with ICID on one of their programmes, the leader of the Thematic Area should establish a small group of experts, who in collaboration with the sponsoring partner should develop the scoping document.

This scoping document is essential to be prepared and submitted to the PCTA before the proposal is considered by the Committee. It should be submitted at least two or three months in advance of the PCTA meeting where the decision to establish the new WG/TF is to be taken.

Framework for the scoping document

The scoping document shall cover at least the following sections answering some of the questions mentioned therein, but not limited to them.

A Objectives

- Relevance of the Working Group/ Task Force
- How is the WG relevant to the scope of the Thematic Area
- What existing gap will the WG/TF fill

B State of knowledge on the topic

- Which other International Organisations are working on the subject
- What niche will ICID fill in this area
- How will the WG collaborate with them

C Work Plan

- Outputs
- Scope
- Target Audience
- Timelines
- Collaborators and dissemination strategy