International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established in 1950 as a scientific, technical and voluntary not-for-profit non-governmental international organization. ICID e-Bulletin is a compilation of news items of importance during the preceding week in respect of Agriculture, Climate Change, Drainage, Droughts, Floods, Food Security, Irrigation and Water Resources Management that might be of interest to the ICID fraternity. Feedbacks on the usefulness of the bulletin are solicited vikram@icid.org

Directory on Irrigation and Drainage - Products and Services (Yellow Pages)

This new online service introduced by ICID is developed to help various stakeholders in locating required business information through a few clicks. The online directory enlists all the services and products being provided by consultants, manufacturing companies, dealers, and other professional institutions dealing in irrigation, drainage and flood management. This online service is totally FREE and can be availed of by any service provider by submitting the required information on ICID website <http://www.icid.org/ypaddform2.php>. To view this new service, please visit http://www.icid.org/ypsearch.php

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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68th IEC and 23rd ICID Congress on Irrigation and Drainage, 8-14 October 2017, on the theme: Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution, Mexico City, Mexico, 8-14 October 2017
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AGRICULTURE

USDA Joins Collaborative Food and Agriculture Research Initiative with Ireland and Northern Ireland
24 November 2015
WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new partnership with Ireland and Northern Ireland that will allow the three countries to maximize investments in research intended to help solve global agriculture-related issues. "This international partnership offers exciting opportunities to take on issues that must be addressed if we are to meet food security and safety challenges both now and in the future," said USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics Dr. Ann Bartuska, who led a contingent of U.S. government officials to Dublin to formalize the partnership.

USA: Genomics and Precision Agriculture: The Future of Farming
19 November 2015
For nearly 400 years, Thanksgiving has been a time in North America when families come together to celebrate food and agriculture. As we reflect on yet another year, agricultural scientists at USDA continue to keep a wary eye on the future. At the end of what may be the hottest year on record, a period of drought has threatened the heart of one of the most important agricultural production zones in the United States. Water demands are increasing, and disease and pest pressures are continually evolving. This challenges our farmers’ ability to raise livestock and crops. How are science and technology going to address the problems facing our food supply?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change threatens food security in sub-Saharan Africa
22 November 2015
The increase is set to trigger a 40% to 80% reduction in the production of maize, millet and sorghum, as the temperatures would make the land unusable for those crops. Speaking to Standard business at a recent Africa Media Leaders Forum 2015 in South Africa, World Bank head of communications global practice, Sarwat Hussain said food demand in sub-Saharan Africa was expected to increase by 60% over the next 15 years as temperatures continued to rise as a result of global warming. "In sub-Saharan Africa, food demand is expected to increase by 60% over the next 15 years. Africa starts with the major deficit because the green revolution that transformed agriculture production in Asia and Latin America bypassed Africa.

How can climate change trigger conflict in South Asia?
20 November 2015
Food insecurity, migration, water stress and economic recession are some of the impacts associated with climate change. Termed as a “threat multiplier,” climate change is increasingly being recognized as a trigger of violent conflict around the world. It has been identified as a factor in raising the threshold for open conflict in Syria. The perils of climate change can’t be more emphasized than in the conflict-straddled region of South Asia, home to two nuclear powers, and neighboring China, a key player in the power dynamics of the region. Boasting a trans-national drainage system, the Tibetan Plateau is the main source of water for the region.
**DRAINAGE**

**Nepal: Drainage in Tinkune to end waterlogging**
22 November 2015
The Tinkune road section, which suffered from heavy waterlogging every monsoon for the past four years, is finally set to get some respite. The Department of Roads (DoR) has started to install large hume pipes in the area starting from this week. Locals are elated over the prospect of the new drainage system.

“It was hard for us to walk on the road sides of Tinkune as the footpaths because of the waterlogging,” said Suman Karki, a resident of the area. The six-lane road section, built by Japanese company Hazama at the cost of Rs2 billion in 2011, would be logged by heavy downpour, troubling pedestrians and riders.

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**DROUGHTS**

**World Bank sets $16 billion plan for climate fight in Africa**
25 November 2015
The World Bank announced Tuesday a plan to help Africa weather climate shocks that requires $16.1 billion in financing through 2020. The goal is to raise the money from several development organizations, countries and private partners, with the International Development Association, the World Bank arm that supports the poorest countries, providing some $5.7 billion, the Washington-based development lender said. "Sub-Saharan Africa is highly vulnerable to climate shocks, and our research shows that could have far-ranging impact -- on everything from child stunting and malaria to food price increases and droughts," said World Bank President Jim Yong Kim in a statement.

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**Ethiopia seeks help to survive drought**
22 November 2015
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA — Drought has ruined this year’s harvest for many Ethiopian farmers. In a country where 85 percent of the people are farmers, millions are in need of aid.

The government has purchased nearly 1 million metric tons of wheat at a cost of about $280 million to get through the next three to four months. Government spokesman Getachew Redda said the government is in control of the crisis, but is also focused on measures that will reduce the impact of future droughts. “From a strategic point of view,” Redda said, “the government will continue to further enhance its efforts to develop underground water resources and develop irrigation mechanisms which do not have to depend on the varieties of weather.”

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**FLOODS**

**Climate change boosted Australia’s 2010 floods**
21 November 2015
LONDON— For the first time, researchers have linked the catastrophic floods in Australia in the summer of 2010 with global warming. And they warn that the double hazard of long-term ocean warming and rising atmospheric temperatures makes the risk of extreme rainfall greater in years to come. In 2010, during a natural cyclic Pacific phenomenon called La Niña, sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific were high, and the air became saturated with moisture. When the clouds billowed over Queensland, they deposited so much water that 35 people died, 28,000 homes were flooded and 100,000 people were left without electricity. Lake Eyre, a normally dry lakebed in the country’s interior, filled with water.

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10,000 displaced by floods as Tana River overflows in Kenya
20 November 2015
More than 2,500 families have been displaced by floods in Tana River county after the River Tana overflowed. This brings to 10,000 the number of people affected by floods in the county. Residents were displaced in Garsen, Tana Delta, Boji, Hola Galole and Bura, Kenya Red Cross Society's Gerald Bombe said yesterday. He is the officer in charge of Tana River and Kitui counties. Thousands of other residents have also been affected by the raging floods indirectly, Bombe told the Star on the phone. Floodwaters have also destroyed crops. "We have already dispatched a team of Kenya Red Cross officials to the ground to assess the situation," Bombe said.

FOOD SECURITY

El Nino set to worsen Africa’s food woes
23 November 2015
Harare - As many as 29 million people in southern African countries are food insecure, a new report – the Food and Nutrition Security Update – showed on Friday, warning that lower rainfall in the region will lead to reduced cereal yields and higher prices. Compiled by the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the report says the food insecurity in the region is being occasioned by the effects of the El Niño weather pattern that is hitting the region. El Niño is associated with dry weather conditions, flooding and high temperatures. Such conditions have already seen water levels in the key Kariba Dam – which services Zambia and Zimbabwe with electricity – decline. Experts say the dam could be shut down for electricity generation if rains fall late.

IRRIGATION

Japan ready to assist with irrigation technology
24 November 2015
Jakarta (ANTARA News) - Japan has expressed readiness to help and cooperate with Indonesia in land quality improvement and irrigation technology. “We have a big potential. If there is Japan technology cooperation especially in land quality improvement and irrigation I am convinced the quality of productivity of agricultural commodities in Indonesia will be improving significantly,” chairman of Japan-Indonesia Parliament League, Toshihiro Nakai, said at an Indonesia-Japan Partnership Reception at Hotel Mulia here on Monday evening. The event was also attended by President Joko Widodo who on the occasion also expressed hope that Indonesian people could enjoy agricultural produce from Japan.

New law: Romania should spend EUR 1 bln on irrigation infrastructure
24 November 2015
The law which grants Romania’s irrigation sector EUR 1 billion has become a certainty, said the former Agriculture Minister Daniel Constantin. The irrigation law that has been published in the Official Gazette on November 12 guarantees the farmers that money for irrigations will exist in the budget between 2016 and 2020, regardless of the political party, Constantin added. “Busy with handing over the documents to the new minister, I haven’t noticed that the Irrigation Law has been signed and published in the Official Gazette on November 12,” the former minister said, cited by local Agerpres.
The law has also allocated almost 1,000 jobs for the National Agency for Land Reclamation (ANIF), “which need to be filled as soon as possible.”
U.S. Senate committee backs Yakima irrigation plan
20 November 2015
The Senate Energy and Natural Resources indicates support for 10-year, $900 million plan to increase water storage in Yakima River Basin. Legislation authorizing federal support for a 10-year, $900 million plan to increase water supplies in the Yakima Valley, Washington’s most-valuable farmland, passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. The Yakima River Basin plan would bring drought relief to farmers and benefit fish, providing a template for sharing water in the West, said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington. “I do believe it serves as a national model for water,” she said.


WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Indo-European Water Forum to discuss key issues in water resources management in India
21 November 2015
The first meeting of the Indo-European Water Forum will be held here from November 23-24 to discuss key issues in water resources management in the country as well as the experiences of implementation of European Water Policy. The Indo-European Water Forum will provide the platform for policy makers and stakeholders to discuss key issues surrounding water resources management in India, as well as transferring the lessons from the experience and implementation of European Water Policy.


LATEST PUBLICATION

How can water resource agencies make smart investments to ensure long-term water reliability when the future is fraught with deep climate and economic uncertainty? This study helped SEDAPAL, the water utility serving Lima, Peru, answer this question by drawing on state of the art methods for decision making under deep uncertainty. These methods provide techniques for evaluating the performance of a water system over a wide range of plausible futures and then developing strategies that are robust across these futures.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/10/15/090224b08314a2b3/3_0/Rendered/PDF/Robust0decisio0esources0master0plan.pdf