A ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030

A WATER SECURE WORLD
FREE OF POVERTY AND HUNGER

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Abridged Version
Background

RIO+20 provided the desired push in the political process by articulating ‘The Future We Want’ that lead to the globally acceptable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. For providing support to National Committees (NCs) and irrigation professionals in fulfilling these expectations, ICID started a systematic review of its objectives, goals and activities and established a Consultative Group (CG) in 2014. After extensive deliberations with NCs and the international partners during the 66th meeting of the International Executive Council held in Montpelier in October 2015, ICID Vision 2030 was adopted which included the vision, mission and the organizational goals.

The Consultative Group undertook intensive discussions and sought inputs through questionnaires from NC’s and Working Group experts formulated the strategy and deliberated in the meetings of various work bodies during 67th IEC in Chiang Mai and collected the activities that the workbodies would undertake during the next five years 2017-21 to develop an Action Plan. CG has assembled the outcomes of these efforts into a Road Map to Vision 2030.

Recognizing that realization of the vision of a network lies in clearly communicating it among all the stakeholders, this abridged version of the Road Map to Vision 2030 has been prepared. The complete document can be accessed through http://www.icid.org/icid_vision2030.pdf

Water, as the main input for food production, has played the most significant role in population growth and societal evolution over much of the recorded human history. Numerous civilizations flourished and became extinct because of the way they managed the water for agriculture. Ironically, agriculture water seems to be a victim of its own success as it supports the human life multiply, and enables better living conditions, only to be eventually challenged by increasing demand on its share of the pie, i.e., available freshwater. Due to increasing industrial prosperity over the last several decades and demographic changes taking place around the world, urban oriented socio-economic considerations have attracted greater attention of policy makers and investors to the detriment of rural water issues, including water for use in agriculture.

Role of ICID in sustainable development and management of agriculture water

Better understanding of the complex issues of development is a pre-requisite for sustainable agriculture water management. Recognizing this, ICID network for more than sixty-five years has symbolized the sharing of knowledge and exchange of technology for agriculture water management. Under the limiting natural resources, climate change and rising conflicts, the task of ICID network has become even more critical and daunting. The newly emerging and competing demands for water, coupled with the uncertainty of impact of climate change on food productivity, have challenged the ICID stakeholders and partners to redouble their efforts.

By being direct or indirect part of 7 out of 17 SDGs, water assumes inclusive dimension both as a natural resource for rural development and an essential input commodity for industrial and human (life-style) consumption. Organizations dealing with water issues, within the countries need to connect themselves with international experts to keep abreast of the new developments in agriculture water management (AWM).
A symbiotic network such as ICID will remain only as strong as its member NCs, which include national experts from water resources, irrigation, agriculture, rural development, hydro-power, environment, and flood management sectors. In majority of countries NCs are hosted within one of the related government departments dealing with the above subjects and include representatives from research institutions, universities, private sector companies, and in some cases farmers’ groups. Through NCs, ICID serves as an important link between nationally produced knowledge and global AWM stakeholders and communities. ICID partner organizations also play a significant role in contributing to this continuous build-up of subject-matter knowledge body.

ICID Vision 2030

ICID Vision 2030 is for a water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development. ICID’s mission to facilitate prudent agriculture water management by encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to irrigation and drainage management is an expression of the intent of the network to help various stakeholders in moving towards ‘The Future We Want’.

In order to realize the vision, ICID has set clear organizational goals for the network that will enable NCs to re-confirm or re-orient their national goals or will help to establish specific goals at the national level, addressing the specific national needs. ICID Vision 2030 sets out six Organizational Goals:

Road Map to ICID Vision 2030

The ‘Road Map to ICID Vision 2030’ is a collective commitment of all ICID network members and partners who have deliberated various implications of emerging socio-economic scenarios and their effect on AWM issues. ICID network, which serves NCs, irrigation and drainage professionals, farmers, policy makers, irrigation and drainage industry, researchers and the academia, and the society at large, aims to advocate an enabling integrated policy environment for facilitating multi-disciplinary innovations to increase land, water and crop productivities in a sustainable manner in a changing climate.

With support from the experts participating in different technical Working Groups (WGs), NCs and international partners, ICID Central Office will continue to play a pivotal role in coordination and management of the network and will facilitate the network in realisation of organizational as well as national level goals. The Road Map also includes an Action Plan for 2017-21. Activities planned to be implemented during the next five years form part of this Road Map. Various actions would be required to be undertaken during the next five years for moving on the road to realizing the vision, briefly described herein.

Strengthening of the ICID Network and National Committees

This Road Map intends to further support the NCs, the building blocks of the network, and enable them to play a, much needed, wider role within the development community in their respective countries and regions and a more prominent role at international level. NCs need to be strengthened to serve as the common platform for various AWM stakeholders. The new vision and action plan is expected to boost the role of NCs in implementing sustainable development agenda within their countries. Particularly with respect to meeting the goals of poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable water management and other related SDGs in the context of Climate Change. As AWM issues become more multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in nature, NCs need to consider active involvement of other relevant national stakeholders and mutually beneficial collaboration with the private sector.

ICID, as an international organization of voluntary professionals, operates under significant resource constraints (both human and financial) to carry out its stated mission. For improving the profile of NCs within the countries and ensuring their long-term financial sustainability the private public partnership in NC needs to be further explored. NCs need to consider organizing at least one annual event, undertake professional activities to raise resources, and strategically partner with other water sector professional groupings.

In some respects, ICID may have limited role in national and local activities, however, it assists NCs with technical support, capacity development and realization of greater regional cooperation through the newly established Technical Support Program. ICID network, through its collective knowledge, can also facilitate NC members in communicating with their policy makers, who are primarily responsible for basic citizen provisions such as water for livelihood in agriculture sector and human consumption.
Collective Network Knowledge Management

The irrigation and drainage knowledge is the product of work done in national institutes, research centres, and field level project activities. In order to enhance research activities in science, technology, and management aspects of irrigation and drainage and to strengthen the capabilities in the member countries, International Research Program for Irrigation and Drainage (IRPID) has been established. The Program is implemented through establishment of Regional Nodes hosted by National Committee of ICID, in collaboration with NCs in the region. NCs need to come forward either to set up a regional node or join the nearest regional node. The network of IRPID regional nodes will be made more vibrant and expanded in specialised areas of AWM not already covered by the existing regional nodes.

AWM knowledge is the core strength of ICID network and therefore it needs to be assimilated more efficiently by WGs, exchanged or shared more widely and made available ubiquitously using the best tools that ICTs have to offer. The Road Map lays out the plan for ICID network to emerge as a global knowledge hub - a one stop information service for irrigation and drainage stakeholders throughout the world.

Organizational Changes in the Network

Professionally organized, well-attended and efficient ICID network events through the congregations of various stakeholders provide opportunities and live platforms for policy advocacy, inter-sectoral communication, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and enhanced geographical cooperation among the stakeholders. Active participation of young professionals in such events helps spread more awareness about AWM as a challenging but intellectually satisfying career option.

Partnership is recognized as an essential mechanism for ensuring inter-disciplinary approaches in AWM and has been an important plank used by ICID in the past. The Road Map lays down essential elements for development of thematic partnerships both at global and national levels. Senior level policy makers with their reach to various national agencies also need to be involved through NCs in AWM partnership development.

Monitoring of the Action Plan

Most of the identified activities under the Action Plan for the next five years have definite resource implications in terms of financial costs as well as voluntary human resources contributions. Innovative ways need to be explored for broadening the revenue base for the network to be able to sustain the identified activities. The strategies and activities to realize ICID’s vision and organizational goals have to be flexible enough and need to be fine-tuned from time-to-time according to the new developments. Being a rolling plan, the activities identified for implementation of under various strategies would be monitored regularly at the annual meeting of IEC while the strategies themselves would be reviewed and fine-tuned every three years.

Full version of ‘A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030: A water secure world free of poverty and hunger’ is downloadable from http://www.icid.org/icid_vision2030.pdf

This document is also accessible to mobile users via QR code.

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