



ICID Young Professionals e-Forum (IYPeF)

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>

Education in Irrigation and Drainage Sector

Background Note for Discussion

15 July 2016 to 7 August 2016

Introduction

Till recently there was relatively less interest and investment in irrigation drainage. However, the great challenge of increasing food production with limited land and water resources to ensure food security taking into account impacts of climate change and extreme events such as floods & droughts has resulted into a renewed interest in investments in irrigation and drainage. At the same time greater attention is required to address the issues of under-utilisation of created irrigation infrastructure due to technical and socio-economic problems and the environmental problems often associated with large scale irrigation development through new and innovative approaches to tackle. Moreover, the close linkages between water-food-energy, impacts of climate change, rapid changes in the irrigation and drainage sector are increasing complexities of development requiring multi-disciplinary nature of solution for sustainable development. This would require a new breed of irrigation professionals who combine engineering skills with environmental, social and economic knowledge.

However, there is consensus among policy-makers mainly in the developing world that lack of capacity and availability of young professionals with proper skills is a major issue and constraint in the development of irrigated agriculture. One of the reasons is the reduced focus on irrigation and drainage in education at university level as the number of under- and post graduate programs dedicated to irrigation have reduced and in other cases insufficient resources were invested to upgrade and renew existing programs.

Keeping the above in view we are starting a discussion on ICID Young Professionals' e-Forum (IYPeF) on the topic Education in Irrigation and Drainage Sector.

Objectives

This discussion on education in irrigation and drainage sector has the following objectives:

1. Bring Young Professionals in contact with the experts in the field
2. Discuss how young professionals can be integrated into this sector in a more formalized manner
3. Discuss the challenges faced by the sector
4. Bring together Young Professionals to discuss common issue related to education in irrigation and drainage field
5. To provide platform to discuss and analyse the potential mismatch between supply and demand (in quality and location) and seek suggestions to address these gaps.
6. Discussion on new approaches in irrigation education (In-service programs, Joint programs, Certification programs by Irrigation Associations, online courses, skill development and others)



Outcome

It is intended that discussion in IYPeF will explore answers to the following questions:

1. What needs to be done to attract YPs towards irrigation and drainage sector?
2. What type of formal education needs to be provided to address present issues and challenges in the sector?
3. Whether educational institutions are providing the required formal education in irrigation and drainage sector.
4. What needs to be included in education curriculum to provide required skill sets to tackle issues faced by irrigation and drainage sector?
5. What do the YPs expect from the irrigation and drainage organizations they join, in terms of imparting additional skills?
6. What type of new approaches in irrigation education would be preferred and needs to be adopted?

Mentor

A couple of mentors will follow the discussions on the forum and provide their inputs and advice from time to time or whenever they feel necessary thereby steering the group to possible answer to the identified questions.

