

# News Update

JUNE 2019

A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural Development



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## From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

### ICID Celebrates Platinum Jubilee

The ICID is all set to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee commemorating the 70th foundation day on 24th June 2019 and will kickstart the celebration a foundation day



Seminar on "Leveraging Water Security for Sustainable Agricultural Water Management: Role of ICID." The Seminar is being organized at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi from 9.30 AM to 1.30 PM on 24th June 2019.

The seminar will be attended by senior officers of the Government of India, states and diplomatic representatives of various member and non-member countries and other multilateral organizations like the World Bank, ADB, IWMI, and FAO among others

President Eng Reinders has sent a recorded video message and lecture to be played at the inaugural session of the seminar. The duration of the lecture is about 15 minutes.

I see this as an opportunity to look back on the past activities of ICID and take stock of our enduring achievements. It is also an opportunity to spotlight where the ICID – and various stakeholders of the irrigation and drainage sector as a whole – need to come together to promote sustainable management of water for agriculture worldwide. This is a great occasion for all the members of ICID to work on the action plan and build momentum for fulfilling the objectives of "Vision 2030: A Water Security and Sustainable Rural Development" adopted by ICID.

ICID Central Office has established dedicated social media platforms to project the celebration, including:

- Twitter #ICID70
- LinkedIn #ICID70
- ICID70 YouTube Playlist
- ICID70 Photo Gallery on Yahoo Flickr platform

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the ICID is planning to bring out a Coffee table book with visually appealing records of achievements in irrigation and drainage set in different member countries with highlights of the operations of each of National Committee, historical background of establishment of ICID and its early years.

A video film to highlight the importance of ICID and need for investing for a better tomorrow has also been planned for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations featuring the evolution and growth of irrigation and drainage sectors in member countries.

National Committees have been requested to organize commemorative functions in their respective countries for improving the awareness about ICID.

The Young Professionals (YPs) are tasked with celebrations and ICID Working Groups are requested to write their own histories and achievements. Special publications on the appropriate subjects in their operative sphere can also be planned for target release during the 24th ICID Congress. The YPs have also been asked to prepare audio-visual material about ICID for presentation at the concluding phase of the yearlong celebrations at the 24th ICID Congress and the 71st IEC Meeting, 22-28 September, 2020, Sydney, Australia.

With Best Wishes.

**Ashwin B. Pandya**  
Secretary General

## SG Pandya Meets Minister of Water (Jal Shakti)

ICID Secretary General, Er Ashwin B Pandya, called on the Indian Minister for Jal Shakti, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in New Delhi on 12 June 2019 to pay his respects to the newly appointed Minister. SG Pandya greeted the minister with the offering of a sapling as a goodwill gesture.

The erstwhile ministries of Water Resources as well as Drinking Water and Sanitation have been merged to form the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The reason for merging all water related ministries into the Ministry of Jal Shakti is



to adopt an integrated approach towards all water related issues of the country. The Ministry of Jal Shakti intends to deliver tap water to every family in the country by 2024.

During the goodwill visit, the minister expressed his willingness to look into possible recommendations of ICID for ensuring water security in India. He was clearly concerned about the state of drinking water as well as water for irrigation purposes in India.

## World Heritage Irrigation Structures and Their Relevance Today

On behalf of ICID Secretary General, Dr Sahdev Singh, Director (Knowledge Management) delivered the ICID keynote speech in the opening ceremony and participated in the International



Conference on 'Water as Heritage' organized by ICOMOS Netherlands and the Centre for Global Heritage and Research of the Universities of Leiden; Delft and Rotterdam (LDE-CGHD), Netherlands; and TIWE in Chinese Taipei May 27-31, 2019.

The objective of the conference was to bring together key organizations, heritage groups and other stakeholders engaged in agricultural water management under one platform with the idea of identifying water-related heritage across the world. It also sought to develop networks and build working relationships across the diversity of sectors and disciplinary fields in order to bring about understanding of each other's viewpoints, positions and arguments based on a common recognition of the physical, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual views/constructs of water.

Considering the historical importance and primarily archival value, the ancient infrastructures used for the purpose of irrigation are being recognized as world

heritage irrigation structures (WHIS) by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) based on their functionality and current relevance, similar to the World Heritage Sites recognized by the UNESCO. Recognition as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure would be used to draw the attention of the concerned governments to provide sufficient resources to maintain the WHISs.

These structures may include dams (which are operational largely for irrigation purposes), water storage structures such as tanks for irrigation, barrages and other water diversion structures, canal systems, old waterwheels, old shadouf, agricultural drainage structures, or any site/structure functionally related to the present or past agricultural water management activity.

So far, ICID has recognized a total of 74 structures from 12 countries: Australia (2), China (17), Egypt (2), India (2), Italy (1), Japan (35), Republic of Korea (4), Mexico (2), Pakistan (1), Russia (1), Sri Lanka (5), and Thailand (2).



The aim of this conference was to highlight the importance of water heritage and the knowledge embedded in it, on how these structures have stood the test of time, indicating how this age-old indigenous knowledge is still relevant today. This may subsequently, help us in dealing with the phenomenon of climate change in a better way and help attain sustainability in the way we use our natural resources. Moving forward, we shall strive to strike a balance between water heritage and futuristic technologies.



### President Reinders Invited for Keynote Lecture at Symposium in Italy

ICID President Eng Felix Britz Reinders has been invited to participate in the "IX International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops" in Matera, Italy from 17-20 June 2019 and deliver the keynote lecture in the first session. Matera happens to be a world heritage site declared by UNESCO.

President Reinders' keynote lecture will focus on: "Water Resources: Challenges of the water-energy-food nexus." He will be the first speaker for the opening session of the Symposium.

Among other things, the Symposium will discuss issues related to water in the participants' countries and their possible solutions.

### Workshop on Latest Trends in Inspection and Investigations of Dams

The Aqua Foundation organized a Training Workshop on Latest Trends in Inspection and Investigations of Dams in New Delhi 30-31 May 2019 in association with the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP), and The World Bank. SG Er Ashwin B Pandya represented ICID at the training programme.

Because of the huge contribution of dams in the fields of irrigation, power and flood control, regular monitoring of big and old dams for maintenance purposes becomes necessary. Dam Safety Inspections

and maintenance enhance the safety of dams and appurtenant structures for downstream life and property and operation of the dam structure.

The workshop purported to equip dam owners, dam engineers, and other professionals with information that would help them plan and execute dam inspection and investigation programs. Dam safety inspection case studies were also presented to illustrate the advantages of conducting field inspections in a timely manner for sustaining the health of the dam.

The workshop dwelt on procedures for pre-monsoon and post-monsoon safety

inspections; inspections after floods, earthquake and other natural calamities; detecting and identifying deficiencies; and, taking corrective measures in time.

In addition to the above, the workshop also emphasized the importance of specialized inspections for distress conditions; comprehensive inspection after every five years; protocol for safety inspections; inspection of embankment dams; inspecting concrete masonry dams; inspecting spillways, outlets and mechanical equipment; inspecting general areas; visual inspection using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs); documenting and reporting inspectors; comprehensive dam safety review; instrument monitoring; and, Case Study—Inspection manual for dam field engineers after seismic events (Maithon Dam & Ichary Dam).

The workshop also discussed the latest investigation techniques for dams



including geotechnical investigations and geophysical techniques. Geophysical investigations use leak path detection, internal erosion, identification of zone of water accumulation, cavity/sinkhole, concrete/masonry degradation; residual density determination; and, stilling basin inspection. The geophysical investigations

apply seismic/sonic tomography, electrical resistivity/tomography, multi-channel analysis of surface waves; seismic refraction tomography; streaming potential; and, ground penetrating radars in their probe.



## The World Environment Day 2019

The United Nations celebrates June 5 as the World Environment Day each year with a distinct theme under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Since its first celebration in 1974, it has become a global phenomenon and is celebrated in over a hundred countries across the world.

Concerned at the alarming rate of increase in air pollution and the harmful effects on people and planet earth, the UN decided to focus on 'Air Pollution' as the theme for celebration of the World Environment Day in 2019. The theme is related to the pressing environmental challenge faced by the host country.

China hosted this year's celebration of the World Environment Day by United Nations in keeping with the tradition of celebrating this important event in a different country each year. Air Pollution is the number one environmental concern of China today. And, that is the reason for the emphasis on Air Pollution in this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The motto of this year's World Environment Day is: We can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of air that we breathe.

Approximately 7 million people worldwide die prematurely each year from air pollution, with about 4 million of these deaths occurring in Asia-Pacific. World Environment Day 2019 will urge governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy and green

technologies, and improve air quality in cities and regions across the world. (<https://www.greeningtheblue.org/event/world-environment-day>)

### Air Pollution facts

- 92 per cent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air
- Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs
- Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 per cent by 2030

The purpose of celebrating the World Environment Day is to create and promote awareness and action for protection of environment on a global scale. It sends out a message to governments, industries, communities, and individuals to explore the possibility of replacing obsolete, high pollution processes with green technology and seek out renewable energy options that could improve the air quality and lead to pollution-free environment.

World Environment Day is the "people's day" for local, national or global action for protection of environment.

### Causes of Air Pollution

The UN says that understanding the different types of pollution, and how it affects our health and environment, will help people take steps towards improving the air around them.

"Often you can't even see it, but air pollution is everywhere. We can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of our air," the UN says.

Nine out of ten people worldwide are exposed to levels of air pollutants that exceed safe levels set by the World Health Organization. (More at: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/world-environment-day-2019-why-it-is-celebrated-significance-and-this-years-theme-2171929.html>)

### Types of Air Pollution

Household air pollution caused due to indoor burning of fossil fuels, wood and other biomass-based fuels leads to around 3.8 million premature deaths, mostly in developing countries.

Industrial and transport pollution have been linked to thousands of premature deaths worldwide annually. Around 24 percent of greenhouse gas emission worldwide come from agriculture, forestry and other land-use.

Waste burning and dumping release harmful dioxins, methane and black carbon into the atmosphere while volcanic eruptions, dust storms and other natural processes also contribute to global air pollution. (More at: <https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/world-environment-day-2019-why-it-is-celebrated-significance-and-this-years-theme-2171929.html>)



## Online Training on the Basics of Water Accounting

The Global Accounting Partnership has launched a training program on the Basics of Water Accounting for the World Water Forum. The first phase of this program will end in August 2019.

Water Accounting has emerged as an important component of the 2030 agenda for water efficiency/productivity and sustainability in the NENA region implemented in eight countries. However, the basic concepts of water accounting do not seem to be clear to most countries.

This training is aimed at educating member countries and others on the importance of Water Accounting. The program will make the recording of the webinars available on the community of practices created in 2017 and will enable

exchange after each webinar. These webinars are being organized in French and English to begin with and may also be organized in Arabic if possible.

In addition to the country-based training programs, an online training program on the basics of water accounting is being imparted through a series of webinars. The understanding of the participants will be assessed at the end of each section with the help of quiz.

These events can be organized as a new joint initiative as in 2017 where all the organization will be clearly acknowledged. This training may jumpstart the process of preparing a MOOC on Water accounting as a partnership activity.

Najet Guefradj, Najet (FAORNE) will share the details of online training program and will start contacting possible participants for checking the feasibility of an hour webinar on a specific water accounting topic over the coming 3 months.

This Group aims to develop a common understanding on the relevance of water accounting and to inform policy making and investment planning to ensure water scarcity management in agriculture. It offers an opportunity to gain knowledge about a range of tools, approaches and issues related to applying water accounting and its interpretation.



## 2019 ICID Awards and Nominations Are Now Open!

ICID invites "Nominations for 2019 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS)" for the Third World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) and the 70th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting in Bali, Indonesia from 1-7 September 2019.

### WatSave Awards 2019

ICID instituted the 'WatSave Awards' in 1997, presented every year, to recognize outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving in agriculture across the world. Accordingly, the award given to individuals or a team of individuals are made in respect of actual realized savings and not for promising research results, plans and/or good ideas/intentions to save water. The awards are given in four categories: (i) Technology (ii) Innovative Water Management (iii) Young Professionals; and (iv) Farmer. Nominations are invited from individuals/team through National Committees/Committee.

The entries are open to all professionals/teams from ICID member countries as well as non-member countries. In case of an entry from a 'non-member' country, the nomination has to be routed through and validated by an active National Committee of ICID, who should be in touch with the nominee and must be aware of his/her work.

### World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) 2019

A Task Team is set up every year to select historical irrigation/drainage structures as received from various National Committees (NCs) to give them recognition on the lines of World Heritage Sites (as recognized by UNESCO). Nominations are invited from ICID National Committees for selection of "World Heritage Irrigation Structures" (WHIS) that includes both old operational irrigation structures as well as those having an archival value.

A National Committee can nominate more than one structure, using separate nomination form for each. Associated Members and non-member countries can nominate their structures through neighbouring active NCs or by submitting directly to ICID Central Office. The fifth batch of WHIS will be included in the ICID Register of WHIS available at [http://www.icid.org/icid\\_his1.php](http://www.icid.org/icid_his1.php).

The deadline for receipt of the entries for the WatSave awards and WHIS from the National Committees along with the completed 'Nomination Form' and related details to the ICID Central Office, New Delhi is **30 JUNE 2019**. More information including the detailed procedure for nomination and criterion for the awards can be accessed @ [http://www.icid.org/awards\\_icid.html](http://www.icid.org/awards_icid.html) For any queries, please contact Dr. Sahdev Singh, Director (Knowledge Management) at [icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org)



## Training Programmes of National Productivity Council, India

The National Productivity Council, Jaipur (under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of India) is organising Residential Training Programmes on:

1. Developing the Millennial Work Culture: Insights on Gender Sensitivity & CSR July 08-12 July 2019 at Jaipur

2. People Analytics & Ethical Decision-Making 05-09 August 2019 at Jodhpur

3. High Performing Team & Systematic Problem-Solving 09-13 September 2019 at Udaipur

These programmes are meant for junior/middle/senior level officials. These programmes are designed for a group of

20 participants on first come first served basis. The detailed brochure having all the relevant details pertaining to the programmes are appended for your kind perusal.

The detailed brochure is also available on web: <http://www.npcindia.gov.in/>





# Third World Irrigation Forum (WIF3)

1-7 September 2019, Bali, Indonesia

Website: <http://www.worldirrigationforum.net> OR <https://icid2019.com/>



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The triennial **World Irrigation Forum (WIF)** aims to bring together all the stakeholders involved in irrigation of multi-disciplines and all scales, including the policy makers, experts, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and farmers. It provides a unique platform for multi-stakeholders for sharing and learning by engaging in issues of global interest.

WIF stimulates and promotes multi-disciplinary discussions towards sustainable solution to water management in agriculture through:

- + Exchange of latest irrigation and drainage policies, practices, innovations and technologies;
- + Exploring, formulating and pursuing concrete inter-disciplinary proposals;

- + Develop collaboration among various national / international institutions/ organizations/ private sector working for irrigated agriculture; and
- + Advocate political commitments.

**Theme:** Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment

**Sub-Themes:** 1. Enabling Policy Environment for Water, Food and Energy Security; 2. Role of Civil Society and non-state actors with Focus on farmers and Extension Facilities; and 3. Improving Agricultural Water Productivity with Focus on Rural Transformation

**Innovative Products and Services:** Short papers (4 pages of A4 size) on innovative products and services are also invited following the same sub-themes and topics. Please write 'Innovative Products and Services' next to the title of your submission.

**Workshops:** A total 6 International Workshops are planned in cooperation with respective workbodies of ICID.

Theme of the workshop	Date /Time (TBC)
Integrating research, practice, and policy - an exchange of expertise from basin perspective organized by WG-SDTA	01 Sept. 2019 (09:00-13:15 hrs)
Modernizing Irrigation Services for Water, Food, and Nutrition Security organized by WG-M&R	01 Sept. 2019 (14:00-18:15 hrs)
Participatory Irrigation Management and Management Transfer, Approaches and condition for successful PIDM organized by WG-IOA	01 Sept. 2019 (14:00-18:15 hrs)
Innovation of Developing the Strategy for Impact Assessment of and Adaptation to the Climate Change as the "New Normal" organized by WG-CLIMATE	01 Sept. 2019 (14:00-18:15 hrs)
Historical Management of Water organized by WG-HIST	01 Sept. 2019 (09:00-13:15 hrs)
Improving the Water Use Efficiency and Productivity within the Water Energy Food Nexus organized by WG-W&C	01 Sept. 2019 (09:00-13:15 hrs)

## Supporting Events and Panel Discussions

In cooperation with partner organizations a total 11 supporting events and 2 panel discussions are scheduled:

SE #	Title of the Supporting Event (SE) & Panel Discussions
SE1	Improving Water Productivity in the Age of Big Data organized by Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Nebraska, USA on 02 September 2019
SE2	Enhancing biodiversity with fish-friendly irrigation in Asia organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 03 September 2019
SE3	Tackling water scarcity in Asian agriculture organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Thailand on 02 September 2019
SE4	Family farmers can substantially deploy agricultural water productivity potential when appropriate technical and institutional environment is effectively in place organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 03 September 2019
SE5	Dams and River Basin Management organized by ICOLD, Spain on 03 September 2019
SE6	Developments for Water, Food and Nutrition Security in Asia organized by Japanese National Committee of ICID (JNCID) on 03 September 2019
SE7	Powerful alliance: Multi-stakeholders Platform (MSP) contributions on food and water security processes in Asia organized by Global Water Partnership (GWP)/ Indonesia Water Partnership (IWP) on 03 September 2019
SE8	How Research is Contributing to Water, Food and Nutrition Security organized by IWMI-India on 03 September 2019
SE9	Lessons from Asia, Innovative contracting and financing modalities to improve food and energy security organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 03 September 2019

SE #	Title of the Supporting Event (SE) & Panel Discussions
SE10	Asset management systems for sustainable water, food and nutrition security with a focus on irrigation infrastructure in a competitive environment organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 03 September 2019
SE11	Water Sector Governance: Innovative Policies and Role of Disruptive Technologies organized by Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA), Maharashtra, India on 02 September 2019

## International Exhibition

Around 100 booths are available for the exhibitors, in addition, a stage and giant screen are provided to enable exhibitors promote their products and other attractions / presentations / performances. Interested exhibitors are requested to contact the organizer in advance for booking.

## Registration

Interested participants may register in advance at: <https://icid2019.com/international-delegates-2/> to get **Early Bird Registration Discount** till **30 JUNE 2019**.

## Venue

The 3rd World Irrigation Forum and 70th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting will be held at Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BNDCC), Bali, Indonesia.

## Contact

### Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID)

Ministry of Public Works and Housing  
Directorate General of Water Resources  
SDA Building, 8th Floor, Jalan Pattimura # 20,  
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan 12110  
Indonesia  
E-mail : [inacid.indonesia@gmail.com](mailto:inacid.indonesia@gmail.com)  
Website : <https://icid2019.com/>



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IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION | 22-24 SEP 2020



24<sup>th</sup> ICID INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
71<sup>st</sup> IEC MEETING  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA 2020  
22-28 SEPTEMBER 2020



# 24th ICID Congress and 71st IEC Meeting

22-28 September, 2020, Sydney, Australia

Theme: Innovation and Research in Agriculture Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals



# SYDNEY 2020

[www.icid2020.com.au](http://www.icid2020.com.au)



## Second International Seminar on Drought and Agriculture

17 June 2019. Rome, Italy. FAO, in collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands, is organizing the 2nd International Seminar on Drought and Agriculture “Counting crops and drops: let’s grow the future together”.

The seminar will present and discuss tools, policies and best practices to support countries and farmers to be better prepared and resilient to drought. It will showcase how water resources assessment and monitoring, through the use of novel technologies, can reduce the vulnerability of rural communities.

The event is aimed at representatives from governments, international organizations, NGOs, academic and research institutes, and the private sector.

### Objectives of the seminar

- Showcase and share knowledge on novel technologies and best practices

to increase farmers resilience to drought.

- Promote multi-stakeholder partnership and capacity building for integrated management practices for both drought preparedness and addressing land degradation in agriculture.
- Promote enabling environments to support accessibility of farmers to actionable information for improved resilience and sustainability.
- Demonstrate WaPOR, FAO’s portal to monitor Water Productivity through Open-access of Remotely sensed derived data.

The seminar features presentations by international experts and luminaries of irrigation and drainage on Water resources assessment: counting the drops, making them count; Outcomes of the Near East and North Africa Land



and Water Days 2019; Improved policies and practices for drought resilience; and, “Strengthening farmers’ resilience to drought: from the sky to the ground.”

2d international seminar on drought and agriculture – counting drops and crops -17 June – 9 to 17.00 pm (Rome time) [www.fao.org/webcast](http://www.fao.org/webcast)

Website: <https://agricultura-eu.eu/2019/06/announcement-2nd-international-seminar-on-drought-and-agriculture/>



## World Food Prize 2019

The founder of a family business dedicated to vegetable seeds for tropics from the Netherlands, Simon N Groot, bagged the 2019 World Food Prize for bringing good quality vegetable seeds within the reach of smallholder farmers in tropical countries and making a significant contribution towards economic and dietary improvement.



Simon Groot initiated the Green Vegetable Revolution on his own. He drew inspiration from Dr Norman Borlaug and M.S. Swaminathan who were responsible for the green revolution for cereals that swept the Latin American and Asian countries.

his attention to vegetables. His mission is to pave the way for healthier diets to millions. Vegetables are not only affordable but also provide micro-nutrients that quell hidden hunger. Hidden hunger is responsible for high mortality rates among children and other serious health issues.

While the green revolution focused on wheat and rice, Simon Groot turned

Since vegetables grow faster, they translate to monetary income that much faster. By ensuring easy access of quality seeds to small farmers, Groot has managed to help small farmers in breaking out of the poverty trap. Poverty trap is a vicious circle which begins with low access to quality seeds and results in low yield of crops. This causes dearth of food sources resulting in malnutrition among children.

Groot’s Green Vegetable Revolution has turned around the fortunes of small farmers by pulling them out of poverty trap and putting the on the way to prosperity.



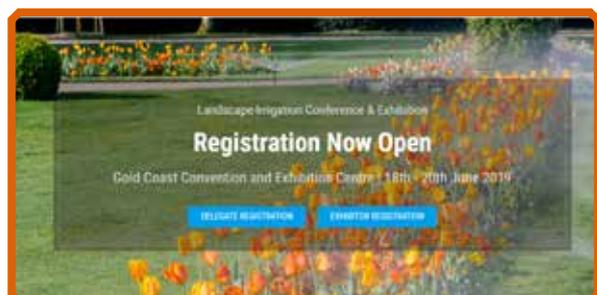
## The Landscape Irrigation Conference and Exhibition 18-20 June 2019, Australia

The Landscape Irrigation Conference & Exhibition will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre in Australia from Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th June 2019.

The conference features 22 case study presentations; more than seven workshops and information sessions; two networking events; and, two field trips or four site visits.

Featured workshops at the conference include Irrigation Efficiency Course and working together to respond to drought in SEQ.

Website: <https://www.landscapeirrigation.com.au/>



## Virtual meeting of Joint Session of Strategy Theme – On Farm

A virtual meeting of the Joint Session of Strategy Theme – On Farm was held on 31 May 2019 at 18.30 hours India Time. The session was led by Strategy Theme Leader – ‘On Farm’ VP Dr. K. Yella Reddy. Other participants included Secretary of WG-Water and Crops; VPH Ragab Ragab, Chair of WG-Water and Crops; VPH Laurie C. Tollefson, Vice-Chair of WG- Water and Crops; Dr. A.K. Randev, Chair of WG-SON-FARM; Mr. Carl Walters, Vice-Chair of WG-Son-Farm; Dr. Wenyoung Wu, Vice-Chair of WG-NCWRI; Secretary General Er. A.B. Pandya; Executive Director Er. Harish Kumar Varma; and Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar.

Providing a background to the meeting, SG Pandya reiterated that the consensus during the Canada meeting (2018) was to proceed with the development of a common agenda for the combined meeting of three WGs i.e. WG-WATER & CROP, WG-SON-FARM and WG-NCWRI (erstwhile PQW) with the aim to make the meetings more-lively, reduce number of parallel events, if possible.

During the Joint Session of Strategy Theme – On Farm held in Canada (2018), the new names proposed for the Strategy Theme were ‘Water Productivity’ or ‘Water Productivity and Environmental Sustainability’. However, considering

reservations from PH Dr. Gao Zhanyi, Chair of SC-E-THEMES, members unanimously agreed to a revised the name to “On-farm Water Management”. This would be placed for confirmation during the Bali meeting.

SG A.B. Pandya brought the attention of the members to four components of the joint meeting with regard to the structure of the joint session i.e. WG Presentations, Workshops / Seminars, Panel Discussions and Webinar/e-Discussions and sought the opinion of the Chairs and members.



## IYPeF Discussion on Cost-effectiveness of Agricultural Field Drainage

The fifth e-Discussion on “Cost effectiveness of Agricultural Field Drainage” was held from 15-31 May 2019 with Mrs. Adey Mersha (Ethiopia) as lead IYPeF Coordinator and Mrs. Kathleen Murray (Australia) as Hon. Coordinator.

Following a brief introduction by the coordinator, expert opinions were adduced by seven young professionals from four countries, namely, Finland, Iran, Nigeria and India based on case studies of their respective countries.

The importance of using technical strategies and hydraulic structures for suitable agricultural field drainage to control the water and salt levels in the soil for sustainable crop production is gaining ground among stakeholders of AGW. This is essential to increase the productivity of food crops in order to enhance food security for the ever-increasing population of human beings. Therefore, it is important to identify factors

leading to optimum drainage solutions and implement them.

From the days of digging ditches in the fields to advanced techniques of field management, agricultural drainage has come a long way. With the use of modern drainage installation methods and materials, computer models and design software’s, and the option of surface drainage in place of ditch drainage system are changing the face of drainage for agricultural purposes.

Drainage is often used to prevent waterlogging in the fields. Proper drainage can increase crop yields. Certain drainage systems allow for reuse of drained water.

An overhaul of drainage system may make it cost effective. For instance, subsurface drainage system may be more cost-effective than open ditch drainage. However, it is important to consider environmental aspects while

deciding on the cost-effectiveness of drainage systems.

Young professionals have a key role to play in bringing out improvements in agricultural drainage systems. The members of this group are made up of multidisciplinary and international groups of experts coming from different backgrounds, fields of specialization, and work experience coming from as diverse fields as natural sciences, ecological or sociological understanding and diverse practical experience.

The best results for the efforts of this group can be reaped only through further interactions, research-based analysis of case studies, comparing cost effectiveness with the impact on environment and knowledge sharing in a synchronized and coordinated way.



## Events Corner

### ICID Events

**3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) & 70th IEC Meeting on the theme ‘Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment’, 1-7 September 2019, Bali, Indonesia.** For more info contact: Ir. Adang Saf Ahmad, CES, President, INACID; Email: inacid.indonesia@gmail.com; adangsafa@yahoo.com; Website: <https://icid2019.com/>

**5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage (ARCID), 16-19 March 2020, Marrakech, Morocco** on the theme: Sustainable Management of Irrigation

for Improved Resilience of Agriculture in Africa. E-mail: bartali.h@gmail.com, anafide.ma@gmail.com; Website: <http://5arcid.ma/>

**24th ICID International Congress & 71st IEC Meeting, 22-28 September 2020, Sydney, Australia.** For more info contact: Mr. Bryan Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Irrigation’s Australia Limited (IAL) (Incorporating IACID); Email: bryan.ward@irrigation.org.au, info@irrigation.org.au; Website: <http://www.icid2020.com.au>

### Other Events

**Water and Society 2019: 5th International Conference on Water and Society, 2-4 October 2019, Valencia, Spain.** For more

details, please visit: <https://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2019/water-and-society-2019/>; Email: wit@wessex.ac.uk

**MinWat 2020: 3rd International Multidisciplinary Conference on Mineral Waters: Genesis, Exploitation, Protection and Valorisation, 31 March-3 April 2020, Caserta, Italy.** For more details, please visit: <https://iah.org/events/minwat-2020/>; Email: segretario@iahitaly.it

**Water Pollution 2020: 15th International Conference on Monitoring, Modelling and Management of Water Pollution, 13-15 May 2020, Valencia, Spain.** For more details, please visit: <https://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2020-conferences/water-pollution-2020/>; Email: wit@wessex.ac.uk

