STRATEGY THEME BASIN
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General

The technical activities of ICID are organized under four strategy themes: On Farm, Systems, Basin, and Knowledge. The WGs under the On-Farm theme deals with the application of water at the farm level and how it is best used to increase the productivity and impacts of application of irrigation water including its quality at the farm level. The WGs falling within the theme Scheme address various aspects of delivery of water from the source to the farm level including the planning, development and management.

The Scheme Basin deals with all the basin level environment aspects that impact the agriculture water management such as climate, floods, droughts, sea-water etc. The WGs under the Knowledge Theme is cross cutting and deals with the issue of compilation of knowledge generated by the various WGs and otherwise required for efficient agriculture water management, and how it could be disseminated and applied at the ground.

This review examines the strategy theme Basin and will consist of an appraisal, a vision and future direction for the theme. Post 2015, sustainable development agenda lays emphasis on the need to address the challenges posed by the increasing frequency of extreme events such as drought and floods on one hand and the rising sea levels adversely impacting tidal areas on the other due to climate change.

Review of Strategy Theme BASIN

The strategy theme Basin includes the work of following six workbodies:

1) Working Group on Water Management in Water Stressed Regions (WG-DROUGHT);
2) Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA);
3) Working Group on Environment (WG-ENV);
4) Working Group on Comprehensive Approaches to Flood Management (WG-CAFM);
5) Working Group on Global Climate Change and AWM (WG-Climate);

My general observation is that the WG’s under the strategy theme Basin functioning quite well and are productive. In some cases membership and attendance is limited and in others is very good. In some cases new membership is being attracted and the observers attending is high indicating a strong interest in the topic. Poor attendance at the meetings and lack of contribution by the members is a concern. This leads to a reduced productivity and output. If a WG is to be successful, participation and contribution are critical. Encouragement of younger professionals is key and E membership should be considered. Country participation and contribution are key to the successful work in a WG and ICID.

One of the basic characteristic of WGs under theme basin is that they encompass areas of knowledge where the pool of expertise within the countries often lies outside the ambit of the National Committees. There are other institutions within the countries such as meteorological departments, or disaster response authorities or environment protection authorities where the core expertise lies in these fields. Most often these areas involve more than one administrative entities. Disaster Management Authorities for Droughts and Floods from response, rescue and relief perspective; National Meteorological Agencies from perspective of monitoring and prediction of Floods, Droughts and other climate extremes; Agriculture or Water Resources departments from irrigation and drainage perspectives and so on.

At the Global level also, multiple agencies are involved in these activities. World Meteorological Organization for Climate, Drought and Floods from a monitoring perspective; UNEP, UNDP from environmental perspective; FAO from a food security perspective and so on. Given the above special characteristics our approach to these WGs should be more collaborative and the issues addressed through a multi-disciplinary perspective. At the national level the participating expert would have to be from departments other than the core irrigation and drainage departments where the nucleus of the membership of the NC generally located. Implementation of the strategy theme will only be as good as the participation in the WG and TF by the National Committees and the individual involved. WG-BIO-ENERGY is a good example. Nomination of experts from the respective departments by NCs only can increase participation in these WGs to be successful.

Therefore the objectives, mechanism and outcomes of the Working Groups under this theme have to be differentiated vis-à-vis the WGs under strategic themes Schemes and On-Farm.
Objective

- To inform the irrigation and drainage professionals the latest development in the related field;
- To facilitate inter-disciplinary dialogue,
- To assimilate relevant technical material,
- To bring out the available relevant material developed by experts in the field in a language that the AWM professionals can relate to.

Mechanism

- NCs should invite the experts from relevant departments within the countries to participate in the NC meetings,
- Facilitate participation of relevant experts from other departments in WG meetings,
- ICID/WG should draw maximum benefit from the works/studies/projects undertaken by the relevant international organizations
- ICID/WG should participate in the activities of relevant international organization to provide AWM perspective,
- WG should recognize the prevalent trends in the relevant sector and adapt them to AWM

Outcomes

- Joint publications with the relevant expert international partners,
- Joint specialised trainings/workshops,

Future Vision

As the WGs under strategic theme Basin are not directly related to the core activities but do promote sustainable management of water for agriculture worldwide and play a very important supporting role in achieving ICID overall objective. They address cross cutting multidisciplinary concerns of sustainable development through efficient agriculture water management.

It is observed that in many cases NCs are not multidisciplinary and lack participation of experts in collaborative efforts with other relevant departments so it is necessary to develop a mechanism by NCs for collaborative efforts with all other relevant departments to address supplementary issues of agriculture water management. Based on the analysis of the activities of the WGs and need to meet future challenges in terms of impact of climate change on water resources and agriculture; water, food and energy securities and environmental and ecological aspects of sustainable development following general as well specific recommendations for future activities of WGs are made:

General recommendations

- National committees should be broad based and multidisciplinary structure with members from various core and cross cutting disciplines/departments/institutions for addressing present and future challenges related to agriculture water management.
- National committees need to develop collaborative relationship with other relevant departments.
- Since most of the subjects covered under theme Basin are not core activities of ICID, there is need for collaboration with relevant specialised international organisations working in these fields.
- Continued and enhanced co-operation and MOU’s with agencies like WMO, FAO, UNESCO, ADB, etc., where it is mutually beneficial to co-operate.
- Perhaps there is need to introduce another kind of membership (E-membership) for experts from other specialised agencies for encouraging their participation in the activities of the WGs.
- WGs should disseminate the exchange of knowledge that takes place within the WG Workshops with other AWM professionals by publishing the summary and outcomes in ICID NEWS
- WGs should clearly identity their output in work plan which may include technical reports, position paper, special issue of Journal of Irrigation and Drainage, seminar (internal/international) etc.
- WG productivity and need should be evaluated carefully and when mandate and objectives are completed a final report should be written and then move on. A final workshop is also recommended even if through video conference.
- More information products produced and placed on websites.
- Continued and increased efforts to attract young professionals.
- All WG chairs and theme leaders should be trained on procedures initially. Ensure that the duties, expectations, close out procedures, etc., are fully understood.

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The technical activities of ICID are organized under four strategy themes:
- On Farm
- Systems
- Basin
- Knowledge

Appraisal, a vision and future direction for the theme under strategy themes presented during IEC meeting
- 65th IEC meeting- presentation on strategy theme- Knowledge
- 66th IEC- Presentation on Strategy theme - Basin
Water

- Water is at the centre of life on planet earth
- Water is a cross cutting issue influencing development in all the sectors

At the global level, there are a number of UN, International, Non-governmental, professional, and non-professional organizations working to manage water in a better way

- They have their focus on various aspects of developments that influence or are influenced by water: Climate, Food production, Energy, Drinking water, Sanitation, Health, Riverine and Coastal ecology etc

- Same is the case at national level

IWRM

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) concept attempts to ensure that the actions of different stakeholders are in unison
- Agriculture is the main user of water, 70-80% in some countries
- Therefore, Agriculture water management (AWM) plays a crucial role in meeting the IWRM objectives of:
  - Development,
  - Equity,
  - Economy and
  - Ecology
UN-Water

✓ At the Global level UN-Water provides a platform where 31 UN agencies addressing various aspects of water management come together
✓ In addition, 37 Professional organizations like ICID, ICOLD, IWA etc have a status as Partners.
✓ UN-Water: A platform to address the cross-cutting nature of water and maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence.

Water as Resource: UNESCO, WMO, FAO,....
Water Quality: UNEP, WMO, UNESCO
Food: FAO, IFAD, WFP,....
Climate: WMO, UNCC, UNDP
Disasters: WMO, UN-ISDR, WHO,....
Health: WHO, UNICEF, WMO.....
Drinking Water: WHO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT
Sanitation: WHO, UNEP, UN-HABITAT
Floods: UNESCO, WMO, IRC
Drought: WMO, UNCCD, UN-ISDR

UN Water

Basin- Mandate

Strategy theme- Basin deals with cross cutting issues

☐ All the basin level aspects that impact the agriculture water management such as
  ➢ climate
  ➢ floods
  ➢ droughts
  ➢ sea-water etc.

☐ And the MUTUAL impacts it has on
  ➢ Environment
  ➢ Bio-energy
Basin- Mandate

Role of Theme-Basin is very significant in view of post 2015, sustainable development agenda

- Plays a very important supporting role in achieving ICID overall objective
- WGs promote sustainable management of water for agriculture worldwide
- Address cross cutting multidisciplinary concerns of sustainable development through efficient agriculture water management
- However, the expertise in these areas generally lies outside the institutions directly linked with NCs

Working Groups under theme Basin

- Working Group on Water Management in Water Stressed Regions (WG-DROUGHT)
- Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA)
- Working Group on Environment (WG-ENV)
- Working Group on Comprehensive Approaches to Flood Management (WG-CAFM)
- Working Group on Global Climate Change and AWM (WG-Climate);
- Working Group on Water for Bio-Energy and Food (WG-BIO-ENERGY)
General Observations

- WGs *generally functioning quite well* and are productive
- Country participation and contribution are key to the successful work in a WG and ICID
- In some cases *poor attendance* at the meetings and *lack of contribution* by the members is a concern
- Encouragement of *younger professionals is key*

General Recommendations

**Mechanism and outcomes of the Working Groups under theme- Basin need to be differentiated from other WGs**

**Objective**
- To inform the irrigation and drainage professionals the latest development in the related field
- To facilitate inter-disciplinary dialogue
- To assimilate relevant technical material developed by experts
- To adopt and bring out the available relevant material in a language that the AWM professionals can relate to

**Outcomes**
- Joint publications with the relevant expert international partners
- Joint specialised trainings/workshops
General Recommendations (contd..)

Mechanism

- NCs should invite the experts from relevant departments within the countries to participate in the NC meetings.
- NCs should facilitate participation of relevant experts from other departments in WG meetings need to be broad based to address issues and challenges through a multi-disciplinary perspective.
- ICID/WG should draw maximum benefit from the works/studies projects undertaken by the relevant international organizations.
- ICID/WG should participate in the activities of relevant international organization to provide AWM perspective.
- WGs should be more collaborative with other organisations working in related fields.
- WG should recognize the prevalent trends in the relevant sector and adapt them to AWM.

Future Vision

- National committees should be broad based and have a multidisciplinary structure.
- National committees need to develop collaborative relationship with other relevant departments in the context of IWRM.
- There is need for collaboration with relevant specialised international organisations working in these fields.
- Continued and enhanced co-operation through MOU’s with agencies like WMO, FAO, UNESCO, ADB, etc., where it is mutually beneficial to co-operate, need to be exploited.
- Another kind of membership (E-membership) need to be introduced for experts from other specialised agencies.
Future Vision

- WGs should disseminate and exchange knowledge with other AWM professionals by publishing the **summary of their outputs in ICID NEWS**
- More information products to be produced and placed on websites
- Continued and increased efforts to attract young professionals
- All WG chairs and theme leaders should be trained on procedures initially
  - To ensure full understanding of the duties, expectations, close out procedures, etc.

Thank you