

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the
**WORKING GROUP ON ROLE OF IRRIGATION IN POVERTY
 ALLEVIATION AND LIVELIHOODS (WG-POVERTY)**
 Tehran, Iran
 17 October 2011: 09.00-12.30 hours

Year of Establishment: 2008

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate:

- Synthesize specific knowledge and experience from the irrigation sector, to design pro-poor actions in a wider understanding of irrigation along the whole rainfed-irrigated continuum (aka agriculture water management),
- Look for technical solutions that work within a clearly defined socio-economic context, so that they can be mobilized in a case specific approach,
- Emphasize multiple-use (mus) of irrigation systems as a specific approach to alleviate poverty in this context,
- Increasing opportunities for greater and more open participation by the poor, in the development of systems and in the value chain,
- Building accountability mechanisms that give longer term support and commitment to poverty alleviation initiatives, and
- Guidelines supported by case studies on how to enhance the poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement impacts of new and existing projects

Members Present: (1) PH Peter S. Lee, Chairman (UK, 2008); (2) Mr. R.C. Jha, Vice Chairman (India, 2009); (3) Ms. Mary Jean Gabriel, Secretary (South Africa, 2010); (4) Dr. Yohei Sato (Japan, 2009); (5) Dr. Adama Sangare (Mali, 2009); (6) Mr. Moussa Amadou (Niger, 2010).

Prof Linden Vincent (The Netherlands) and Mr. Laurie Tollefson (Canada) conveyed their apologies to the Chairman for not able to attend the meeting

Members Honoraire Present: (1) Dr. Willem Vlotman, Vice President, ICID (Australia); and (2) Mr. A.K. Bajaj, Vice President, ICID (India).

Observers: (1) Dr Suhas Wani (India, CGIAR); (2) Khishigsuren Allangerel; (3) Baranchulum Shirchin; (4) Balgabaee Nunlan (Kazakstan); (5) Karimov Akmal (CGIAR); (6) Mr. Uttamraj Timilsina (Nepal); (7) Shahram Khorasanizadeh; (8) Bassam Alhusein; (9) Shuichi Matsushima; (10) Mukhamedjanov Shukhzat (Uzbekistan); (11) Ms Maryam Movahechnia; (12) Mohd Yazid B Abdullah (Malaysia); (13) Mr. Mukhlis Zainol Abidin (Malaysia); (14) Dr Michael van der Laan (South Africa); (15) Enayatollah Farahani (Iran); (16) Mohammad Sadegh Jafari; (17) Sadjjad S. Hossein (Iran); (18) Mehran Mahdavi (Iran); (19) Howard White; (20) Michael Talhami.

Website: <<http://www.wg-poverty.icidonline.org>>

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group held at Yogyakarta in October 2010

At the outset, Chairman Peter Lee apologized for starting the meeting late due to clash with other WG meeting where his presence was required. He thanked all for attending the meeting.

Subsequently, the minutes of the meeting held at Yogyakarta were accepted and confirmed.

Chairman informed that a new working group has been initiated which would focus on the MDGs. It was felt that the WG-MDGs and WG-POVERTY would be complementary to each other; consequently the kick-off meeting of the WG-MDGs would be held back to back to the WG-POVERTY.

It was thought that WG-MDGs would be able to pick up the poverty alleviation objectives of the ICID after the completion of the WG-POVERTY mandate in 2013. However, VP Dr. Vlotman voiced concern regarding the timing as contributions on the MDGs are already required to the 6th World Water Forum meeting to be held in March 2012 as well as to the Rio+20 meeting in June 2012.

Item 2 : To review membership of the Working Group

The nomination of Dr Laura Schroeder (USA) was deferred once again as she was not present at the meeting.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Objectives of the Working Group

During the Yogyakarta meeting, the concerns/issues were expanded to include - The effect of urbanization on smallholders in peri-urban areas and shifting of population from rural to urban areas.

The Working Group plans to develop a position paper on poverty alleviation. The Central Office was requested to circulate the note prepared by the group under the Chairmanship of VPH Alain Vidal as a basis for the position paper. Chairman Peter Lee indicated that in order to produce a position paper, a draft needs to be prepared by the next meeting so that it can be sent to all national committees for their inputs and comments. These comments will then be incorporated into the paper so that the paper can be finalized at the 2013 meeting.

Item 4 : Work plan of the Group

The work plan of the WG is as prepared at the Yogyakarta stands updated and is shown as **Annex**.

Item 5 : Internal workshop of the Working Group

An internal workshop of the WG was held within the time schedule of its meeting. Two case studies were presented:

1. "Ebenaezer Irrigation Scheme: Case Study from South Africa" by M J Gabriel and A S Roux
2. "The Role of Irrigation in Agriculture Development and Poverty Alleviation at Rural Community of Iran" by Dr E Farhani

Despite the shortage of time, both case studies were appreciated by the group. Mr. Roux was requested to provide a note based on his very instructive responses to the questions raised by his case study.

Item 6 : Website of the Group

There was no discussion on this item due to lack of time.

B. NEW ITEM

Item 7 : Participation in the proposed Working Group 'Role of impact evaluation in maintaining momentum towards the MDGs of investments in irrigated agriculture sector'

Mr. Howard White made a brief presentation on the proposed new group, WG-MDGs. After the presentation, Chairman Lee suggested that some of the WG-POVERTY's work could feed into the WG-MDGs' However, it was highlighted that the WG-POVERTY was primarily concerned with developing and advocating policies that would enhance the poverty alleviation dimension of irrigation and drainage, whereas WG-MDGs would be concerned with measurement of impact of I&D on the MDGs in general. The two groups were therefore, complementary rather than overlapping. It was still the intention of the WG-POVERTY to complete its work in 2013.

Item 8 : Any other business

None

**WORKING GROUP ON ROLE OF IRRIGATION IN
POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND LIVELIHOODS (WG-POVERTY)****Three-Year Rolling Plan (2011-2013)**

2011	2012	2013
Members to submit case studies of irrigation/water management poverty alleviation.	Update the concept note from the Istanbul WWF5, as draft ICID position paper on poverty alleviation addressing all the concerns/issues raised in earlier meetings.	Circulate the draft position paper for comment and finalize the paper to complete the WG-POVERTY mandate.