

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the  
**WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH UPTAKE AND EXCHANGE (WG-TRUE)**  
 Tehran, Iran  
 16 October 2011: 13.30-17.00 hours  
*Strategy Theme: Knowledge*

**Year of Establishment: 2007**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2011**

**Mandate:** To support research and development of technology and innovation processes for improved irrigation and drainage

**Members Present:** (1) Dr. (Mrs.) Shaden Abdel-Gawad, Vice Chairperson, 2007 (Egypt, 2001); (2) VP Prof. L. Ubertini (Italy, 1989); (3) Dr. (Mrs.) Irene Bondarik (Russia, 2001); (4) Prof. J.G. Annandale (South Africa, 2003) represented by Dr. A Sanewe; (5) Mr. Ezzatollah Farhadi (Iran, 2005); (6) Dr. Mohammad Che Husain (Malaysia, 2005) represented by Dr Chan Chee Sheng; (7) Mr. Ian William Makin (UK, 2006); (8) Dr. Enrique Playan (Spain, 2006) represented by VPH Dr. J A Ortiz; (9) Dr. Kazumi Yamaoka (Japan, 2009); (10) Dr. Moch Basuki Hadimuljono (Indonesia, 2010).

**Apology:** Chairperson Dr. Linden Vincent (The Netherlands), and Secretary Dr. John Replogle (USA)

**Member Honoraire Present:** Mr. Felix Reinders, Vice President Hon., ICID (South Africa).

**Observers:** (1) Dr. Tabio Russo (Italy); (2) Engr. Ahasan Ullah (Bangladesh); (3) Jin-Yong Choi (Korea); (4) John Pantiour (Indonesia); (5) Bamia Saytagraha (Indonesia); (6) Dwi Cakyo (Indonesia); (7) Tonih Usmanam (Indonesia); (8) Mujadi (Indonesia); (9) Eddy Purnono (Indonesia); (10) Budi Wigmysukanto (Indonesia); (11) Darush Bahrehdar (Iran); (12) Khishigseeteu (Mongolia); (13) Baranchuleuen (Mongolia); (14) A. Fallah Rasteyir (Iran); (15) A Azari (Iran).

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

In absence of Prof. Linden Vincent, Dr. (Mrs) Shaden Abdel-Gawad, Vice Chairperson conducted the meeting.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group**

Dr. (Mrs) Shaden Abdel-Gawad, Chairperson requested participants to comment on the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group held on 11 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In absence of any comments, the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WG were approved.

**Item 2 : Review of membership, including new nominations**

Two nominations were received for the membership of WG-TRUE for consideration -

- The Indian National Committee (INCID) nominated Dr. N.S. Raghuvanshi in place of Dr. K. Palanisami (2005)/ Mr. Indra Raj (2009). As Dr. Raghuvanshi was not present, his nomination was not approved.
- The Malaysian National Committee (MANCID) nominated Dr. Chan Chee Sheng in place of Dr. Mohammad Che Husain (2005). Dr. Sheng gave a brief overview of his CV and current work on research on water management in Malaysia. His membership for the WG was approved.

Dr. John Replogle vide his e-mail of 12 August 2011 had requested the Chairperson to appoint a new Secretary in his place at Tehran meeting.

The Chair welcomed the new member and thanked the members and observers for their interest in the WG meeting. The Chair reminded the members about the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that the tenure of the WG-TRUE

expires at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and therefore appointment of a new secretary may not be necessary (see Items 3, 4 and 5).

### **Item 3 : Mandate of the Working Group**

Confirming the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to maintain the mandate unchanged for the remaining tenure of the WG, Dr. Abdel-Gawad requested the participants to report on the agreed question: "To what extent has research driven the uptake and adoption process?"

Dr. G.R. Backeberg (South Africa) reported on a case study evaluating the impact of research on "in-field rainwater harvesting" in semi-arid areas of Africa. The research was implemented in controlled research conditions before being replicated in household garden trials for vegetable production. The recommended technique of "runoff-strips" as described by Dr. Thieb Oweis (ICARDA), captured rainfall during intense storms enabling adequate percolation for successful growth of vegetables for household consumption and marketing of surplus. The impact assessment after 15 years showed a direct impact of the research of farmers practice and policy support.

Dr. Abdel-Gawad reported briefly on research on reuse of drainage waters in Egypt, indicating the impact of research in establishing new policies and guidelines for use of low quality waters in agricultural production.

### **Item 4 : Tenure of the Working Group**

Dr. Abdel-Gawad reminded the participants of the decision in the previous meeting to bring the tenure of WG-TRUE to a close at the end of the current meeting. She noted that a number of new developments have taken place to revitalize the former IPTRID program with the governance program being regained by ICID and the proposals for a central role of national research and development institutes to serve the needs of the irrigation and drainage community. She summarized the history of the WG-TRUE, explaining its formation from the previous working groups of research (WG-R&D) and the advisory committee of IPTRID (AC-IPTRID). She proposed that the time was appropriate for the formation of a new working group with a new mandate and members to support the intensified program of research and development.

The Chair noted that the Central Office request to consider a tenure extension of WG-TRUE to provide necessary support and guidance in shaping the '*technology research, uptake and exchange*' so as to ensure that it meets the demands and aspirations of ICID National Committee. Dr. Ezzatollah Farhadi (Iran) reported on MoU between ICID and IRNCID/ Ministry of Energy in IR of Iran, under which the IRPID-ICID in Iran opened to function as a Research Centre on Irrigation and Drainage in Tehran; and Dr. Abdel-Gawad noted the earlier initiation of the Research and Training Centre in Beijing as part of the intensification programme for technology research on irrigation and drainage, initiated by President Chandra Madramootoo in Yogyakarta.

A lively discussion resulted in a firm statement confirming research and development in irrigation and drainage as an important part of the work of ICID.

The WG members proposed that a small sub-committee of interested participants be established to develop a new mandate for a new working group to be formed at the next IEC meetings to be held in Adelaide in June 2012.

WG recommended the tenure be extended to June 2012 to provide an organizational home for the sub-committee (see Item 5.2 below) to develop a mandate and tenure for a new working group or advisory committee to guide research and development. Attention was invited to similar recommendation made during the meeting on Intensification, chaired by Ian Atkinson (ANCID) held on 17 October.

### **Item 5 : Activities of the WG-TRUE**

The Chair confirmed that no new activities were initiated since the Yogyakarta meeting.

#### **5.1 Questionnaire for the Working Group**

Dr. Abdel-Gawad reported that she had not received any information on the outcomes of the questionnaire or reports of case studies. In absence of further advice from the members no further discussion took place.

---

## **5.2 Intensification Programme on Technology Research on Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID)**

The Chair gave a brief overview of the recent efforts to revitalize the former IPTRID program with ICID invigorating the lead in the governance and implementation of the program through the active involvement of the ICID national committees and national research institutes.

Following the discussions on the WG-TRUE mandate (Item 3) and tenure (Item 4), the discussion focused on the proposal to extend the tenure of the WG for a further year till the meeting in Adelaide in June 2012. In the intervening period a small committee is proposed to develop an updated mandate for a proposed new working group or advisory committee to provide a bridge between ICID members and the IRPID centers, such as in Beijing and Tehran.

Dr. Sanewe (South Africa) proposed that the new mandate must reflect the realities of what the WG could, practically achieve. As a starting point for the deliberations, he proposed the new mandate may be along the lines of: "To facilitate the exchange of knowledge generated through research and technology development and innovations for improved irrigation and drainage".

The WG welcomed the initiatives by China, Iran and France to promote increases in irrigation and drainage research and development under the umbrella of ICID and the International Research Program on Irrigation and Drainage (IRPID). The establishment of international centers in Beijing and in Tehran is a positive development.

In light of the above discussion, the WG recommended to establish a small working committee to refine the mandate and a draft work program for a new ICID workbody to work with the new IRPID centers. The mandate, tenure and work program should be developed well in advance so as to discuss it and arrive at some decision at Adelaide meeting in June 2012 for confirmation by the ICID management.

### **Item 6 : Website of the workbody**

Dr. Abdel-Gawad again reminded participants about the WG-TRUE webpage and encouraged everyone to contribute relevant papers and references for inclusion on the site. She noted that the copyright for any material added to the website remains with the original copyright holder. She also asked whether it would be feasible for automatic notifications of additions to the website to be sent by email to the members and other interested people.

### **Item 7 : Any other business (with the permission of the Chair)**

Dr. Kazumi Yamaoka (Japan) gave a short presentation on the impacts of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Dr Yamaoka illustrated the massive damage caused to infrastructure, agricultural lands and livelihoods. The Government of Japan estimated the total damage to be in the order of US\$ 220 billion, including US\$ 5 billion in damage to agricultural land and US\$4 billion in damaged agricultural facilities. He reported on the plans for recovery and rehabilitation, including a 3 phase restoration of agriculture. He noted the need for research to assess the failure mode of a large number of infrastructure elements, including sea walls.

Dr Abdel-Gawad thanked Dr. Yamaoka on behalf of WG and expressed the wish for Japan to achieve a speedy recovery from the disaster.

Mr. Ian Makin, acting Secretary noted that the IPTRID website hosted by FAO is now out of date, including showing Dr Carlos Garces as the point of contact. Central Office is requested to contact FAO to request the site be revised, including providing a link to the ICID website for further information.

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG was concluded at 16:15 hours to enable the members to participate in the formal opening of the IRAN-IRPID at the Ministry of Energy, Water Research Institute, hosted by the representative of Dr. J Porhemmat, Deputy Minister and Head of Agricultural Research, Education; and Mr. M R Attarzadeh, Deputy Minister of Energy.

---