

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the
Working Group on Water Saving for Agriculture (WG-WATS)
 Tehran, Iran
 18 October 2011: 13:30 – 17:00 hours
Strategy Theme: Systems

Date of Establishment: 1994

Completion of the mandate: 2013

Mandate: "To recognize proven water saving success and to identify and promote successful water conservation".

Members present: (1) VPH Dr. Mohamed Hassan Amer, Chairman, 2010 (Egypt, 2000); (2) Dr. Juan Antonio Rodriguez- Diaz, Secretary (Spain, 2010) represented by VPH Dr. José A. Ortiz; (3) Dr. Neil Louis Lacler (South Africa, 2003) represented by Dr. G.R. Backeberg; (4) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran, 2006); (5) Mr. R.K. Gupta (India, 2009) represented by Mr. R.C. Jha; (6) Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Pakistan, 2009); and (7) Secretary General, ICID represented by Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID Central Office.

Permanent Observer: No permanent observers were present.

Members Hon.: (i) Mr. A.K. Bajaj (India), Vice President, ICID; (ii) Mr. Chaiwat Prechawit (Thailand), Vice President, ICID; and (iii) Mr. Peter S. Lee (UK), President Hon. ICID.

Observers: (i) Ir. Ibrahim M. Mahmoud (Egypt); (ii) Ir. Esam Mahmmod Muhammen (Iraq); (iii) Ir. Bassam Achusein (Syria); (iv) Ir. Mohamed Rafeet (Oman); (v) Ir. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand); (vi) Ir. Mohammad Sadegh Jafari (Iran); (vii) Ir. Ahmed M. Aziz (Iraq); (viii) Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina (Nepal); (ix) Ir. Sanaz Barnous (Iran); (x) Ir. Khishigsuren (Mongolia); (xi) Ir. Mukhlis Zainol Abidin (Malaysia); (xii) Dr. Amandus D. Lwena (Tanzania); (xiii) Ms. Fabienne Latapie (France); (xiv) Ir. Mohd. Yazid Bin Abdullah; and (xv) Ir. Basil Irhyain Marzolzr (Iraq).

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

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 17th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the 17th meeting of the WG-WATS held at Yogyakarta (2010), Indonesia were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership

The Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) has nominated (06 July 2011) Mr. V.K. Chawla (India) for the membership of the Working Group. Mr. Chawla was represented by Mr. R.C. Jha (Chairman, INCID) and hence Mr. Chawla's nomination was confirmed.

Mr. Moussa Amadou (West and Central Africa, Niger) and Mr. Aliou Bamba (Mali) were neither present in the meeting nor represented by their National Committees and hence their nominations were deferred.

Ms. Fabienne Latapie (France) proposed to be a member and send the formal nomination from French National Committee.

Attendance of members at meetings in 2009 and 2010 were presented during the meeting. The Chairman informed that representation of a member in the Working Group meeting by any other representative of the concerned National Committee was not deemed to be a contribution by a member. The ICID by-law 3.1.7 stipulated that members not contributing to the activities by attendance or correspondence for two consecutive years shall be replaced in consultation with their National Committees.

Item 3 : WatSave Awards

3.1 WatSave Awards – 2011

The nominations for the 'Watsave Awards 2011' were discussed. Two nominations received were for farmer category and two other nominations were for technology and management categories. There was no nomination for the young professional's category.

Members suggested that for the 'WatSave Awards - Farmer', the word innovation should be replaced by achievement. The criteria for all the awards remain the same as before i.e. US\$ 2000 per award etc.

3.2 Sponsorship

ICID instituted 'WatSave Awards' in 1997 to recognize outstanding contributions to water saving / conservation in agriculture annually. Across the world, entries for the nominations for the 2011 WatSave Awards were invited in four categories viz. (1) Technology; (2) Innovative Water Management; (3) Young Professionals; and (4) Farmer. All the member supported the award categories.

The Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) had the honour of sponsoring the WatSave Awards 2011. Members appreciate the IRNCID for this support.

South Africa agreed to support funding of the WatSave Awards in 2012 at Australia.

3.3 Review of Criteria and Evaluation Process for WatSave Awards

The review Criteria and Evaluation Processes for WatSave Awards were once again reviewed. No changes were proposed.

3.4 Guidelines for financing and distribution of award money

The guidelines for financing and distribution of award money were reviewed. No changes were proposed.

Item 4 : Framework for cooperation and interaction among ICID member countries and work bodies

At Tehran (2011), the WG members agreed to cooperate with the working group on technology and research uptake and exchange (WG-True) and the Working Group on Modernization of Irrigation Services (WG-MIS) for carrying out joint activities such as publication, workshop etc.

Item 5 : Internal workshop on 'Water Saving Achievements'

The members from Egypt, Iran, South Africa and India agreed to organize an internal workshop on 'Water Saving Achievements' in 2012 at Australia.

Item 6 : Work plan

VPH M. H. Amer (Egypt) Chairman of WG informed that the book has already been translated in Arabic. The French member (Ms. Fabienne Latapie) promised to translate it into French and present it in next meeting in Australia 2012. Chairman will write letter to Chinese committee to translate the book into Chinese language.

Item 7 : Any other business

- **FAO's Regional Conference 'Sustainable Water Resources Use in Asia'**

The information provided was appreciated by the members.

- **International Workshop on Water Saving Irrigation at Wuhan University, China**

The information provided was appreciated by the members.

- **Intensification Programme on Technology Research on Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID) and Workshop on Water Saving Irrigation and Food Security'. Beijing china**

The information provided was appreciated by the members.
