

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST VIRTUAL MEETING OF
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
28 February 2022, 13:30-15:30 hours (IST)**
Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1996

Mandate: The general objective of the Asian Regional Working Group is to focus on common topics and issues and to enhance the transfer of appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage to and from the Asian Region. The mission of ASRWG is to encourage membership and to coordinate activities in the region.

Members present: (1) Vice President Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chairman (Japan); (2) Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair (India); (3) Dr. Aynur Fayrap, Secretary (Turkey); (4) Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia); (5) Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia); (6) Mr. Dang Ping (China); (7) Ms. Li Ruoxi – Young Professional (China); (8) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (9) Vice President Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (10) Vice President Hon. Naoki Hayashida (Japan); (11) Mr. Bashu Dev Lohane (Nepal); (12) Mr. Ather Hameed represented Mr. Ahmed Kamal (Pakistan); (13) Dr. Dao Trong Tu (Vietnam); (14) Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office (India).

New nominees present: (1) Dr. Robin Kumar Biswas (Bangladesh); (2) Dr. (Ms.) Nazmun Nahar Karim (Bangladesh); (3) Mr. Rajni Kant Agrawal, Direct-Member from WAPCOS Ltd. (India); (4) Eng. (Ms.) T. Janaki Meegastenna (Sri Lanka).

Office Bearer present: President Dr. Ragab Ragab (United Kingdom)

Observers: (i) Mr. C.P. Arora (India); (ii) Ir. Syaiful Mahdi (Indonesia); (iii) GSTS Nguyen Tung Phong

ASRWG Minutes Item 1. Review of the membership

1. The Chair reviewed the membership and reiterated that the PCTA has since approved the memberships of Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia), Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia), Mr. Dang Ping (China), Ms. Li Ruoxi (Young Professional - China), Ms. Shaimaa Shihab Ahmed (Iraq) and provisional membership of Mr. Rajni Kant Agrawal (Direct member – India) and welcomed them. The Chair further informed that Dr. Robin Kumar Biswas and Dr. (Ms.) Nazmun Nahar Karim have been nominated by the Bangladesh National Committee (BANCID) for the membership of the WG. Similarly, the Sri Lanka National Committee (SLNICID), nominated Eng. (Ms.) T. Janaki Meegastenna for the membership of the group. The Chair welcomed these new nominees and informed them that they are now provisional members and their formal membership will be approved during the 73rd IEC meeting at Adelaide in October 2022. Mr. Ather Hameed (Pakistan) attended the virtual meeting and a formal letter replacing Mr. Ahmed Kamal with Mr. Ather Hameed is awaited from PANCID. The Central Office is also in contact with several other countries for enhancing the WG membership.

ASRWG Minutes Item 2. Brief report of 28th meeting of ASRWG

2. The Chair summarized the major highlights from the 28th meeting of ASRWG held on 27 November 2021 in Morocco including the Internal Workshop on 'Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Water Management in Asia'. The members may refer to the minutes of the meeting already circulated.

ASRWG Minutes Item 3. Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Action by the Lead Persons

3. The Chair referred to the general information about the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (Annex 2 of the Agenda) and emphasized the importance of bringing out the Technical Report. The Chair informed that the discussions on Technical Report and Workshops have been initiated by the Task Team (TT) Chair Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar in early February 2022.

4. The TT Chair informed that the two major tasks assigned to TT for ARC9 were: 1-Initiate actions for preparing the Technical Report, and 2-Initiate discussion on topics/subtopics for the internal and international workshops. The TT-Chair prepared, presented, and described the Draft Proposal/format for the Technical Report (Annex-A) and requested the opinions and suggestions of the members on the contents and structure of the report. The Technical Report of ASRWG may have the following structure:

- Part I. Introduction (Scope, purpose, etc.)
- Part II. International perspective on Asian food security (invited papers from international organizations)
- Part III. Country strategies for food security from ASRWG/ICID member countries
- Part IV. Way Forward: Asian strategy for food security

5. The Part III above would consist of the Country Case Studies (CCS) from ICID member countries and may have the following structure: (1) Introduction (Geography, etc.); (2) Population (Status, density in agricultural, etc.); (3) Climate and rainfall (Temperature, snow, etc.); (4) Area under agriculture, irrigation and drained lands (Status, GCA/CCA, crop production land use, etc.); (5) Role of water resources management (Water resource development, top 3 dams and capacity, reduce gap between irrigation potential and utilized, water policy and governance, investments, reclaiming waterlogged /saline lands, etc.); (6) Intercessions for food security (Food bank, infrastructure, etc.); (7) Role of research and development (Appropriate technology, effective capacity development, database, Innovative crop management technologies, etc.); (8) Progress in reducing food insecurity (Food stocks, goals, impact of COVID-19, etc.); (9) Way Forward: Country strategy for food security; and (10) References.

6. During the discussion, the members desired that issues such as water security and productivity, climate change (drought and floods) may also be included in the CCS. TT-Chair informed that such issues can be easily incorporated in the CCS at the appropriate chapter and section. The Chair suggested creating a template for the country case studies.

7. TT-Chair also gave a presentation about the International and Internal Workshop (Annex-B). He proposed the International Workshop on 'Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: Beyond Modernization' to be held as part of the 9th ARC during 01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia along with possible sub-themes. The two other international workshops could be (1) Australian experiences on modernization (2022) and (2) Towards a resilient Asia: Ensuring a sustainable and equitable future (2023), while the titles of the events would be determined later.

8. On the other hand the Internal Workshops in 2022 and 2023 could be effectively used by member countries to present their CC-Studies.

Timeline for CCS presentation:

- Consent to contribute Country Case Study (CCS): 28 April 2022
- Consent to present the 1st draft of CCS at Adelaide Meeting: 2nd virtual meeting (May 2022)
- Submit the 1st draft of CCS: 3rd virtual meeting (August 2022)
- Present the CCS in Internal Workshop: at Adelaide meeting (October 2022)

9. It was decided that the suggestions and opinions, especially from the TT members, regarding Proposals as above can be forwarded to the Chair and Vice-Chair via e-mail for consideration.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4. Collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference in 2024, Australia

10. The areas of collaboration with IACID have already been defined and discussed. Accordingly, Annex-B on organizing a series of workshops until 2024 has been shared with IACID. IACID is expected to discuss the same with their sub-committee and come back to TT for the finalization of theme/sub-themes for the ARC9 and the international workshops.

ASRWG Minutes Item 5. Strengthening linkages among NCs

11. The Chair suggested that all the member National Committees communicate with each other for strengthening linkages among NCs.

ASRWG Minutes Item 6. Collaboration with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

12. The Chair informed that the INWEPF Conference in 2022 is likely to be held in Cairo, Egypt and the PAWESS Conference in 2022 is likely to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, and the Chair will discuss the options available with them for collaboration.

ASRWG Minutes Item 7. Develop the topics/subtopics for the Working Group Events

13. Topics/subtopics for the Working Group Events will be firmed up with feedback from the ASRWG members and IACID, which are to be referred to the theme/sub-themes for the ARC9 discussed for Item 4.

ASRWG Minutes Item 8. Working Group webpage update

14. The members were reminded of the new ICID website and its features - members' profiles. The members were requested to review and update their profile and information using their credentials and help to maintain accurate information. In case of log-in difficulties, please contact Central Office at <icid@icid.org>

ASRWG Minutes Item 9. Interim online meeting of the working group

15. The Chair reiterated that an interim online meeting will be held every three months. Accordingly, the second virtual meeting is planned to be held in the month of May 2022. Please peruse these minutes and do positively come back with your valuable feedback on various issues, especially the technical report and the workshops.

ASRWG Minutes Item 10. Any other business

16. The Chair was happy to announce the WG sponsored webinar on 'Transmuting irrigated agriculture into an efficient engine of growth for food security' to be delivered by our Vice-Chair Dr. Labhsetwar and will be organized on 15 June 2022 (tentative). The WG would like to sponsor more such webinars and the members were invited to volunteer themselves to 45 minutes webinar presentation on the topic of their choice.

17. President Dr. Ragab Ragab informed of the successful establishment of the African Young Professional Forum (AfYPPF) under the umbrella of the African Regional Working Group (AFRWG). He expected the ASRWG also to establish a similar Forum for Asian Young Professionals under ASRWG.



ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
DRAFT PROPOSED TECHNICAL REPORT OF ASRWG

Title of the Report

Irrigation And Drainage for Asian Food Security – Name of Country

Why this report

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO – World Food Summit (1996) and Millennium Summit (2000) suggested to cut number of under-nourished to half (by 2015) by bring people out of poverty and enjoy a reasonable happy life with at least two square meals a day. But, unfortunately, the population of undernourished people is still about 768 million in the world (FAO, 2020).

The current world population of 7.8 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, according to Population Reference Bureau (2021). Most of the addition will be in developing countries and we would need to double our food production to feed these people. Regionally, the population of Asia is 4.7 billion and expected to reach 5.2 billion by 2050. The two populous countries in the world: China (1.41 billion) and India (1.39 billion) are here in Asia. To feed the future population, the agricultural growth must increase many times. Many factors influence this agricultural growth vis-a-vis food grain production. Modernization of agricultural water management, among others, plays a crucial role in increasing food production thereby possibly reducing undernourishment and achieving the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030.

In order to alleviate Asia from hunger and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030, country strategies for food security have to be evolved, developed and promoted. It is, therefore, proposed to invite country case studies from member countries on food security in the following format:

Structure of the country case studies (About 12 pages):

Chapters	Title	No. of pages
1	Introduction (Geography etc)	1
2	Population (Status, Density/ in agricultural etc)	1
3	Climate and rainfall (Temp, snow etc)	1
4	Area under agriculture, irrigation and drained lands (Status, GCA/CCA, crop production land use etc)	2
5	Role of Water resources management (Water resource development, top 3 dams and capacity, reduce gap between irrigation potential and utilized, water policy and governance, investments, reclaiming waterlogged /saline lands etc)	3
6	Intercessions for food security (Food bank, infrastructure etc)	1
7	Role of research and development (Appropriate technology, Effective capacity development, database, Innovative crop management technologies etc)	1
8	Progress in Reducing Food Insecurity (Food stocks, goals, impact of COVID-19 etc)	1
9	Way Forward: Country strategy for food security	1
10	References	

These country case studies will be assembled into a Technical Report of the ASRWG to be released at ARC9 in September 2024. To enrich the technical report, a few special papers from organizations such as FAO, IWMI, WB etc may be invited. The outcome of ARC9 / Declaration / Statement and/or recommendations may also be included.

The **Technical Report of ASRWG**, therefore, may have the following structure:

Part I. Introduction (Scope, purpose etc) (4 pages)

Part II. International perspective on Asian food security (up to 3 invited papers, 10 pages each, from international organizations such as FAO, IWMI, WB etc) (30 pages)

Part III. Country strategy for food security (up to 12 country case studies, 12 pages each, from ASRWG/ICID members countries) (180 pages)

Part IV. Way Forward: Asian strategy for food security (4 pages)

(A total of about 182 pages)

Timeline:

Consent to contribute Country Case Study (CCS): 28 April 2022

Consent to present the 1st draft of CCS at Adelaide Meeting: 2nd virtual meeting (May 2022)

Submit the 1st draft of CCS: 3rd virtual meeting (August 2022)

Present the CCS in Internal Workshop: at Adelaide meeting (October 2022)



TASK TEAM OF ASRWG

The 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) will be held on 01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia. To facilitate collaboration, a Task Team (TT) has been established.

The members of the Task Team are:

1. Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, India (The Chairman of the TT),
2. Dr. Aynur Fayrap (Turkey),
3. Dr. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei Committee),
4. VP Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia),
5. Prof. (Ms.) Kyung Sook Choi (Korea, Republic of),
6. Mr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand),
7. Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia),
8. Mr. Dang Ping (China), and
9. Er. B A Chivate (ICID CO)



9TH ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE (ARC9)

01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia

DRAFT

International workshop on

‘Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: Beyond Modernization’

Scope: WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO - World Food Summit (1996) and Millennium Summit (2000) suggested to cut number of under-nourished to half (by 2015) by bring people out of poverty and enjoy a reasonable happy life with at least two square meals a day. But, unfortunately, the population of undernourished people is still about 768 million in the world (FAO, 2020), in spite of modernization of agricultural water management in recent decades.

The current world population of 7.8 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, according to Population Reference Bureau (2021). Most of the addition will be in developing countries and we would need to double our food production to feed these people. Regionally, the population of Asia is 4.7 billion and expected to reach 5.2 billion by 2050. The two overcrowded countries in the world: China (1.41 billion) and India (1.39 billion) are here in Asia. To feed the future population, the agricultural growth must increase many times. Many factors influence this agricultural growth viv-a-vis food grain production. Modernization of agricultural water management, among others, plays a crucial role in increasing food production thereby possibly reducing undernourishment and achieving the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030.

In spite of all efforts, including modernization (partial so far), the world failed to cut number of under-nourished to half by 2015, and given the current trends, it is likely that the world will again miss the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030. If the target of Zero Hunger by 2030 is to be achieved, the world has to go beyond modernization. In other words, Out-of-Box solutions have to be thought about, developed and promoted.

Challenges are: low water use efficiency, equitable water distribution, high cost of modernization, expensive fertilizers and pesticides, agricultural produce markets and middle-man, missing skills and attitude of government officials and farmers and weak overall governance – policies and exploitation.

Theme:

Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: Beyond Modernization

[We need only 3 – 4 sub-themes]

Sub-theme 1: Modernization to advance water use efficiency and equitable water distribution

Sub-theme 2: Low cost achievable Modernization at farm level

Sub-theme 3: Modernization for improving water productivity

Sub-theme 4: Water-Food-Energy Nexus for Asian food security

Sub-themes for beyond modernization:

Sub-theme 3: Enhancing skills and attitudes of government officials and farmers

Sub-theme 4: Improving water governance – policies and exploitation.

Sub-theme 5: Soil testing based judicious fertilizer use in irrigated agriculture

Sub-theme 6: Modernization of agricultural produce markets

Other sub-themes for Beyond Modernization aspects for consideration:

- Food prices and community food banks
- Diversification of agriculture
- Reducing post-harvest losses
-

Themes for **Internal** workshops by ASRWG (part of annual meeting, 90 minutes)

- 'Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Water Management in Asia'. (2021) – current short papers need to be expanded to 10 pages each
- Asian strategy for food security – country case study presentations (2022)
- Asian strategy for food security – country case study presentations (2023)

Themes for **International** workshops by ASRWG (1/2 day – 180 minutes)

- Australian experiences on modernization (202?) – need to rephrase
- Towards a resilient Asia: Ensuring a sustainable and equitable future (202?)
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[The 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) will be held on 01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia.]

Scope: For each of these workshops, a 1-page scope of the workshop needs to be developed.

Invited speakers: To be discussed

Timeline: (to be decided)

- i. Submission of abstracts (max. 300 words) : ???
- ii. Notification of acceptance : ???
- iii. Submission of full papers (max. 10 pages) : ???
- iv. Notification of acceptance: ???

Prepared by: Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair, ICID ASRWG (e-mail: vijaylabh@gmail.com)

