

**AGENDA FOR THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON THEMES, TOPICS AND WORK PLANS OF  
FUTURE ICID EVENTS (SC-E-THEMES)**

03 November 2023: 11.30 – 13.00 Hours  
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

**Terms of Reference (ToR):** (i) To deliberate and recommend the Themes, sub-themes of World Irrigation Forums and Theme and Questions of future Congresses, (ii) To set out format and technical contents of the Congress and WIFs, (iii) To review the technical outputs and outcomes and suggest follow ups, (iv) To work out the structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID's Annual Events, to make them more effective and (v) To draw Guidelines to make the WG meetings/sessions technically richer and beneficial to the stakeholders and industries by exploring the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars, etc.

**Members:** (1) PH Dr. Gao Zhanyi, Chair (China, 2017); (2) VP Prof. Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair, PCTA (Japan, 2021); (3) Er. Mohamed Bouaam, Member, PCTA (Morocco, 2021); (4) VPH Mr. Franklin E. Dimick, Chair, WG-MWSCD (USA, 2017); (5) VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2017); (6) VPH Mr. Ian W. Makin, Chair, WG-M&R (UK, 2017); (7) VPH Dr. K. Yella Reddy, Member, ITAC-WIF3 (India, 2019); (8) Mr. Momir Vranes, Member, ITAC-24<sup>th</sup> Congress (Australia, 2021); (9) Mr. Cheng Mingzhong, Member, ITAC-WIF4 (China, 2021), (10) VPH Waseem Nazir (Pakistan, 2017); (11) Dr. Alok Sikka (IWMI Representative, 2021) and (12) Er. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 1: ATR on the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Sub-Committee**

1. Last year SC-E-THEMES did not conduct the meeting virtually or physically. Hence no minutes and ATR thereon to consider.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 2: To review the membership of the Sub-Committee**

2. As per the notification No.15 of 2017 dated 24 November 2017, the Sub-Committee shall consist of the members as per the following composition:

- (a) Technical Experts – one each drawn from ITAC for immediate past and future WIF and Congresses, within the span of six years.
- (b) Two Experts nominated by PCTA.
- (c) Three Experts drawn from Technical Workbodies of ICID
- (d) Chairperson of SC will be nominated from amongst the members, by the President in consultation with Secretary General.
- (e) The membership will be for a maximum of six years and the nominee of ITAC of past Event will be a member for two years after the conclusion of that particular event.
- (f) The membership shall not exceed more than 10 members.

3. As per clause (e) of the membership composition, the membership of the nominee of ITAC for WIF3, Dr. K. Yella Reddy is for two years after the conclusion of WIF3 in Bali in 2019. The Committee desired to have the nominee of MANCID also as a member of the Committee, as and when ITAC for WIF5 is constituted. The Committee suggested that two representatives of international technical partners of ICID as its members and accordingly IWMI should be invited to be a member of the Committee. IWMI has nominated Dr. Alok Sikka as their representative. By the end of 74<sup>th</sup> IEC being held in India in November 2023, PH Dr. Gao Zhanyi, Chair (China, 2017), VPH Mr. Franklin E. Dimick, Chair, WG-MWSCD (USA, 2017), VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2017), VPH Mr. Ian W. Makin, Chair, WG-M&R (UK, 2017), and VPH Waseem Nazir (Pakistan, 2017) will complete their six years term and new Chair and additional members will have to be nominated. Further, it is to inform that WIF4 to be held at Beijing, China in April 2023 has been rescheduled to 2027 as WIF5 due to COVID-19 impact. France NC (AFEID) will be hosting 26<sup>th</sup> Congress so a new member from AFEID will also have to be included in the Committee in addition to member from MANCID who will now be holding WIF4 (earlier WIF5) in 2025. Indian NC (INCID) will be organizing 24<sup>th</sup> Congress and 74<sup>th</sup> IEC at Vishakhapatnam in November 2023 and one member from ITAC for 25<sup>th</sup> Congress will also have to be included as member of the Committee for a term of two years.

4. It may be noted that the present composition of the membership of the Sub-Committee stipulates 10 members only and for allowing extra members as proposed, the composition of the Committee as notified vide Notification No.15 of 2017 dated 24 November 2017 needs to be revisited and revised. The Committee may accordingly revise the composition of its membership to accommodate more members in the Committee as indicated above.

5. The Sub-committee will review the membership based on the above guidelines

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 3: To work out the structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID's Annual Events, to make them more effective**

6. The Sub-Committee will review the following recommendations and progress made at previous meetings:

- (a) Organize online WebEx meetings prior to the main physical meeting to take care of all routine matters such as attendance, membership issues, publications etc.
- (b) Organize shortened separate physical (face to face) meetings of the WGs for 90 minutes each in place of earlier 180 minutes.
- (c) Organising a series of internal workshops (90 minutes) on the specific items related to the mandate of the working group and combining the outcome of these workshops to produce WG output/Report/Document as appropriate.
- (d) Assign the time bound specific tasks emerging from the mandate of the WG to the members for effective results.
- (e) Restructure the Plenary Session of IEC to allow the chairs/WGs to disseminate the work of their WGs to all stakeholders.

7. ICID Central Office has been requesting Chairs/ Vice Chairs/ Secretaries of workbodies to make full use of web-ex platform for virtual meeting, so as to ensure regular contribution from the WG members as well as to discuss and to initiate follow-up actions emerging from the minutes of the previous WG meeting and to review the progress of the action points. In order to organize the WebEx Meetings, Webinars and e-Discussions, Chairs of the workbodies have been requested to send the 'Expression of Interest' to initiate the process.

8. While reviewing the existing structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID's annual events, to make them more effective, the Sub-Committee observed that the structure of the meetings related to IEC has been well organized effectively and efficiently and the WebEx meetings are organized in the past two years. The Council also at its 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting approved the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to organize three virtual meetings in a year along with one physical (face-to-face) meeting during the annual meetings of ICID, limiting at least one meeting in a quarter of every year. Accordingly, the Chairs of the WBs have been requested to organize the virtual meetings, which resulted in the organization of 27 virtual meetings of ICID WBs (4 meetings of WG-NCWRI; 3 meetings each of the WGs on LDRG, ERWG, CLIMATE; 2 meetings each of the WGs on WATS, ASRWG, M&R; one meeting each of the WGs ENV, CDTE, WWF10, WG-VE, WFE-N, SDTA, SON-FARM, MWSCD).

9. As recommended by the Sub-Committee, the term of Chairpersons and members of WGs is regularly reviewed in order to refresh the members and make WGs more active and effective, as per the provisions in ICID By-laws and Constitution in this regard.

10. While discussing report of PCTA during 73<sup>rd</sup> IEC meeting held on 10 October 2023 held at Adelaide, Australia, on the recommendation of the PCTA the Council approved for setting up of the Task Force to review mandates and outcomes of the WGs and to recommend the new structure and mandates of the WGs in line with the demands of the sector and in consultation with the WG members and Chairs. Accordingly, President, ICID and PCTA Chair in consultation with the WG Chairs has undertaken exercise of reviewing mandate of the WGs, continuation of WGs after completion of the tenure of the WGs etc. and to suggest new structure of the WG. At the 73<sup>rd</sup> International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in Adelaide, it was decided by the IEC to look into the possibility of integrating WGs of similar/ close mandate. The ICID President in consultation with PCTA Chair, PCSO Chair, Working Group Chairs, the Secretary General of ICID and the ICID Central office, a tentative new structure was developed. Among the existing 18 groups, nine of them will complete their mandate in November 2023. The remaining working groups are proposed to be restructured into 11 new working groups under four themes: (1) Irrigation and Drainage (Long-term activities)- WG-IWM&D, WG-NWREP & LDRG; 2. Natural Resources (Medium-term activities) RWH, WG-SCER, WFE-N & IDSST; 3. Climate Change & water scarcity (Medium to long-term activities) - CLIMATE; 4. Sustainable Development (Long-term activities) WG-I&O MVE, HIST & CDTE. The new structure was approved by the 18 WG chairs and the 11 remaining WG chairs after November 2023 adapted their mandates, WG names and created tasks to accommodate the amalgamated outgoing WGs. A report on the restructuring of the working groups is given in **IEC Annex 5, page 23**.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 4: To draw Guidelines to make the WG meetings/sessions technically richer and beneficial to the stakeholders and industries by exploring the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars, etc. – To finalize the recommendations**

11. The Sub-Committee will review the following recommendations and effects made previously:

- (a) Organize combined meetings of the WGs for the duration of time saved from shortening the separate WG meetings, say of 180 minutes. This combined meeting could be in the shape of workshop/seminar/panel discussion on the common issues emerging from the mandate of the concerned WGs.
- (b) While ICID has four strategy themes i.e. Basin, Knowledge, On-farm and Schemes; 'On-farm' has only two WGs; namely, WG-SON-FARM and WG-NCWRI; which can perhaps come together on trial basis to understand the actual working of the concept and the benefits thereof.
- (c) Webinars (on-line) on the topics/areas of common interest of the concerned WGs could be held during the year.
- (d) A lot of on-line coordination prior to the annual meetings among the Chairs/members would be prerequisite for successful combined meetings (workshop/seminar/panel discussion) at the time of IEC.

12. Based on the observation and outcome of the joint sessions held at Saskatoon, Canada and Bali, Indonesia, during its last meeting in 2021, the Committee opined that it would be useful to organize the joint session of WGs under each strategy theme with the highlight of holistic consideration of WGs' mandate and activities for achieving the objectives of the strategy theme, and to improve the performance of activities of WGs and identify the necessity to setup new WGs under the strategy theme.

13. Last year, the Sub-Committee reviewed and deliberated upon the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars and prepare to draw Guidelines, based on the implementation and result of the recent activities on organizing the combined meetings of the WGs. The Committee felt that the idea of holding of the joint sessions of the WGs on strategy theme-wise was not a good idea as the mandates of the WGs under ST-ON-FARM, viz. WG-SON-FARM and WG-NCWRI were different. Hence, the Committee recommended that the joint sessions of the WGs shall be based on the topics/ issues of common interest rather than strategy-theme wise as of now the WGs under ST-ON-FARM. Therefore, the Committee suggested that in future the joint sessions may be organized by workbodies on topics of common interest like WG-SON-FARM, WG-M&R and WG-IDM.

14. The Committee's recommendation of establishing new WGs on On-Farm Technology and Practices such as 'On-Farm Irrigation Technology and Equipments', 'On-Farm Automation', and 'New Technologies in Construction Design' under Strategy Theme 'On-Farm' is under active consideration in view of there are only two WGs under strategy theme 'On-Farm'. The mandates of existing workbodies is also reviewed to include these aspects in their mandates, in case if it is not possible to establish new WGs on the suggested topics.

15. The Sub-Committee will review and discuss the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars, and prepare to draw Guidelines in view of the exercise of restructuring of the WGs as indicated in agenda item 3 above.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 5: To consider the report of ITAC for 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress**

16. The Sub-Committee will consider and discuss the report of ITAC for 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress.

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 6: To review the Theme and Sub-Themes for 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF4, 2025)**

17. The venue for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum was fixed during the 71<sup>st</sup> IEC (virtual) meeting as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia hosted by the Malaysian National Committee of ICID (MANCID) in September 2025. But due to the COVID-19 impact the 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum to be held at Beijing, China, has been rescheduled as WIF5 to be held in 2027 to be held in China, and accordingly WIF5 to be held by MANCID at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7-13 September, 2025 has been renamed as WIF4. Topics for WIF4 now to be held in Malaysia are yet to be finalized. MANCID has been requested to suggest theme and sub-themes for the event. The list of topics for Themes and Sub-Themes covered/decided, together with the Themes for World Water Forums (WWFs) up to 10<sup>th</sup> WWF are given at **Annex**.

Supp. 17(A): MANCID has shared the following topics for Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF4 vide email dt. 23 October, 2023:

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Is Irrigation a sunset industry?</b>
Sub-theme 1:	Challenges of irrigation for food security in the changing world
Sub-theme 2:	Technology and modernization in agricultural sector towards food security
Sub-theme 3:	Innovative policy and financing mechanism to meet the challenges of the future
Sub-theme 4:	Enhancing technology in agriculture to foster ecological resilience

The Sub-Committee my review and approve the above Theme and Sub-Themes.

18. The 5<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum will be organized by Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) at Beijing, China in January 2027. The Sub-Committee have approved the following topics for Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF5 to be held in China in 2027 as per rescheduled timeline.

**Theme - Modernization of Irrigation Systems**

- Sub-Theme 1: Policy and strategy for modernization of irrigation systems
- Sub-Theme 2: Technology for modernization of irrigation systems
- Sub-Theme 3: Financing for modernization of irrigation systems
- Sub-Theme 4: Performance assessment of Irrigation systems

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 7: To review the Theme and Topics for 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress, 2023**

19. The 77<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting has approved the venue for the 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress as Marseille, France from 12 to 17 October 2026 hosted by AFEID.

20. The following theme and topics have been proposed by AFEID for the 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress, the Sub-Committee may review the main theme and topics for questions & sub-questions 66 and 67.

**Theme: Agriculture and Climate Change: Stakes and Levers for Irrigation and Drainage**

**Question 66:** Facing climate challenge, how can irrigation and drainage contribute to the agro-ecological transition?

**Question 67:** Reducing agricultural water use: Technology must facilitate practice changes. Remote sensing, irrigation management, irrigation equipment and services, reuse ...where do we stand?

**Sub-Committee Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business**



**LIST OF TOPICS FOR THEMES & SUB-THEMES FOR WIFS UPTO WIF4  
AND THEMES OF WWFS UPTO WWF10**

**A. WORLD WATER FORUMS**

1. **First World Water Forum, 1997, Marrakech, Morocco**  
**Theme:** Vision for Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st Century.
2. **Second World Water Forum, 2000, The Hague, The Netherlands**  
**Theme:** From visions to action
3. **Third World Water Forum, 2003, Kyoto, Shiga & Osaka, Japan**  
**Theme:** A Forum with a Difference
4. **Fourth World Water Forum, 2006, Mexico City, Mexico**  
**Theme:** Local Actions for a Global Challenge
5. **Fifth World Water Forum, 2009, Istanbul, Turkey**  
**Theme:** Bridging divides for water
6. **Sixth World Water Forum, 2012, Marseille, France**  
**Theme:** Solutions for Water
7. **Seventh World Water Forum, 2015, Daegu and Gyeongju, Korea**  
**Theme:** Water for our Future
8. **Eighth World Water Forum, 2018, Brasilia, Brazil**  
**Theme:** Sharing Water
9. **Ninth World Water Forum, 2022, Dakar, Senegal**  
**Theme:** Water Security for Peace and Development
10. **Tenth World Water Forum, 2025, Bali, Indonesia**  
**Theme:** Water for Shared Prosperity

**B. WORLD IRRIGATION FORUMS**

1. **First World Irrigation Forum, 2013, Mardin, Turkey**  
**Theme:** **Irrigation and Drainage in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Food Security**  
Sub-Theme 1: Policy, Science and Society Interactions  
Sub-Theme 2: Challenges and Developments in Financing Irrigation and Drainage Sector  
Sub-Theme 3: Integrated Water Management Approaches for Sustainable Food Production
2. **Second World Irrigation Forum, 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
**Theme:** **Water management in a changing world: Role of Irrigation for sustainable food production**  
Sub-theme 1: Key actors in balancing water, food, energy and ecology  
Sub-theme 2: Managing impacts of climatic extremes with focus on floods and droughts  
Sub-theme 3: Key and smart actions to alleviate hunger and poverty through irrigation and drainage

**3. Third World Irrigation Forum, 2019, Bali, Indonesia**

**Theme: Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment**

Sub-theme 1: Enabling policy environment for water, food and energy

Sub-theme 2: Role of civil society and NGOs with focus on farmers and extension facilities

Sub-theme 3: Improving agricultural water productivity with focus on rural transformation

**4. Fourth World Irrigation Forum, 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

Email sent to MANCID to share the theme and sub-themes

**5. Fifth World Irrigation Forum, 2027, Beijing, China**

**Theme: Modernization of irrigation schemes**

Sub-theme 1: Policy and strategy for modernization of irrigation systems

Sub-theme 2: Technology for modernization of irrigation systems

Sub-theme 3: Financing for modernization of irrigation systems

Sub-theme 4: Performance Assessment of Irrigation systems

