MINUTES OF THE 34TH MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)
05 November 2023, 14:00-15:30 hours (Session I) and 16:00-17:30 hours (Session II)
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination, and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues, and information systems for African needs.

Members present: (1) Vice President Hon. Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair (Egypt); (2) Vice President Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair (South Africa); (3) Prof. El-Houssine Bartali (Morocco) represented by Mr. Mohamed Bouaam; (4) Engr. Inimfon Archibong – Young Professional (Nigeria); (5) Eng. Bezzel Chitsungo (Zimbabwe).

Permanent Observers: Dr. Elijah Adepoju Aderibigbe (Nigeria)

Observers: (1) Dr. Fuqiang Tian (China); (2) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Chourasia (India); (3) Mr. Yogesh Kumar Kushwaha (India); (4) Mr. Winston Sataya (Malawi); (5) Engr. Fatima Baba Ahmed (Nigeria); (6) Engr. Ipinlaye Olaiya (Nigeria); (7) Engr. Ogili C Ijeoma (Nigeria); (8) Engr. Ibe Uzoechi (Nigeria); (9) Engr. Bashir Bashir Baba (Nigeria); (10) Prof. Engr. Henry E. Igbadun (Nigeria); (11) Engr. Iyakhairome Florence Iwalanwo (Nigeria); (12) Mr. Emmanuez A. Andishu (Nigeria); (13) Engr. Ilallah Hallai Garba (Nigeria); (14) Eng. Magaji Mohammed Galadima (Nigeria); (15) Engr. Abdulrahman Abdullahi (Nigeria); (16) Engr. Mustapha U Khalil (Nigeria); (17) Engr. Sirika A. Abubakar (Nigeria).

Website: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/93

AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. The Chair Dr. Wahba welcomed the participants and informed them in brief about the mandate of the AFRWG. Then the chair presented a report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group at its last meeting as follows:

- Reactivation of NCs: The chair thanked the ANAFIDE for supporting a one-year membership subscription for Niger National Committee for reactivating their membership and encouraged other partners to support the African Countries to be active members of the ICID family.
- The total number of the African Young Water Professional Forum (AfYWP-Forum) on LinkedIn has reached more than 10700 and more than 1100 members in ICID-Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF).
- So far, 44 African-countries WhatsApp groups have been established and about 10 non-African countries WhatsApp groups have been established.
- More efforts have been carried out to encourage non-member countries to join the ICID family.
- Organizing the 6th Af-YWP Forum under the platform of CWW2023 has been done
- The Af-YWP forum was honored with joining new partners such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Daily communications with YPs for technical support and advice, recommendation letters, sharing news updates, bulletin, reports, announcements, available reports, online activities, opportunities, and others.
- A special issue for best papers in the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in Morocco in World Water Policy Journal was issued.
- A webinar on “Empowerment and capacity development of women in water resources management” was organized on 3 May 2023 which aimed to discuss improving women's participation in water management. The objectives of this webinar were as follows:
  - Promote the role of women in water resources management;
- ...
- Promote women’s empowerment and education for reaching gender equality in water resources management;
- Increase women’s participation in decision-making in water resources management;
- Improve gender equity in water management;
- Enhance women’s participation in water resource decisions and policies;
- Participation of women in the water user associations;
- Involving women in water projects: What have we learned from the experiences?
- Empowering women to improve their water-related skills, knowledge, and livelihoods;
- Water rights, gender, and poverty alleviation, Inclusion and exclusion of female and male smallholders in public irrigation infrastructure development;
- Determining what practical steps need to be taken to empower women in water management.

➢ A webinar was organized on “Towards the utilization of Agricultural drainage benefits for facing future challenges and achieving sustainability” on 29 September 2023. This webinar was a good opportunity for the participants to have a background about the multi-benefits of agricultural drainage and how these systems could be utilized. The webinar covered the following important questions:

- After more than 40 years of agricultural applications - where are we now?
- Are you satisfied with the current applications of agricultural drainage in different regions of the world? If not what we could do? And how?
- What are the multi-benefits of agricultural drainage? Are these benefits well-known to all? How could we disseminate it? What do we need from ICID?
- Can we have sustainability in agriculture without drainage? What is the state of the arts in agricultural technologies?
- Under the great challenges of climate change, what are the roles agriculture drainage could contribute? What could agricultural drainage do for malaria control?
- Does the infrastructure of agriculture drainage help in flood control?

2. A three-day Training Workshop on Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA) was held from 16-18 March 2023 at the University of Pretoria Future Africa Centre, Pretoria, South Africa wherein 14 African Young Professionals from 11 African countries participated. The training workshop was supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia, in cooperation with the International Commission on Irrigation (ICID) AFRWG, WG-CDTE, and Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA).

3. The Chair asked the African NCs to nominate new members for the group and to support the non-member countries to become ICID member and appreciated the Morocco National Committee (ANAFIDE) for supporting some African countries in this direction. The group recommended establishing a group on WhatsApp for the chair and co-chair of all African NCs. Membership status is given in Annex 3, page 31

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in the African region

4. The group agreed that all the activities of the group are going well in line with the ICID Vision 2030 and Chair Dr. Wahba informed that AFRWG will continue its activities according to the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (refer to Annex), as follows:

➢ Goal B: to be catalyst for change policies and practices (the final draft position paper on green evolution in Africa was presented and will be circulated to the AFRWG members for review)

➢ Goal C: Facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and technology (share and circulate all available documents, reports, news updates, and other documents to all using the ICID website, LinkedIn, and WhatsApp groups)

➢ Goal F: Facilitate Capacity Development (webinar, 6th Af-YWP Forum, online courses, webinars, training workshops, and study tours upon request of NCs)

AFRWG Minutes Item 3: Progress on Position paper on Green Revolution in Africa

5. The Chair informed the group that the paper is already published in the WWP Journal a copy of the paper is available on the AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/Researcharticle2023.pdf and members can access the link and download.
AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Progress on implementation of the action program for Africa - Strategy for capacity building in Africa (Training Needs Assessment Report)

6. The chair informed the group that the 2nd version of the TNA was already finished 2 years ago and is available to all and the activities of the Capacity Building (CB) are going according to the outputs of the report.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: Updates on Regional Irrigation Associations- SARIA, NARAID, ARID-RAID by the Chair or Representative

7. Mr. Winston Sataya, the chair of SARIA from Malawi, gave a summary report. On 9th October 2023, SARIA organized a virtual workshop wherein 7 member countries participated (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius and DRC). The main objective of the workshop was to get updates on irrigation activities by the National Committees on Irrigation and Drainage. It also aimed at getting updates on irrigation projects taking place in members’ countries. During the workshop, it was suggested that SARIA should organize a Symposium in 2024. Detailed information will be outlined at the beginning of 2024. The summary report of SARIA is available on AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/SARIA-activities2023.pdf

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Progress for the proposed third node for IRPID for the African region

8. The chair confirmed that this kind of program needs funding as recommended during the meeting with the President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab. VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli informed the group that a node by South African NC has been established. The South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) and the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa are coordinating the IRPID activities. A workshop was organized on 26 April 2023 to launch the IRPID activities in Southern Africa. All Southern African countries were invited to attend the launch of the IRPID node. A 10-year capacity-building programme has been developed by Vice President Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli and Prof. Tafadzwa Mabhaudhi. The 10-year program was shared with ICID colleagues at the WRC – IWMI side event during the 25th ICID Congress in Vizag. Currently, there are four research projects under the IRPID node. The titles of the projects are as follows:
(a) The development of WEF Nexus Index, and its application to the SADC region, (b) Water WEF Nexus narratives and resources securities, (c) From theory to practice: developing as case studies and guidelines for the WEF Nexus implementation in Southern Africa, (d) From theory to practice: developing as case studies and guidelines for the WEF Nexus implementation in Africa.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: Af-YWPFeF - Program and future activities

9. The chair gave a brief about the different activities about training, webinars, forum as follows:

➢ At least two webinars will be organized during next year
➢ To organize the 7th African Young Professional Forum
➢ More MoUs will be signed with different international institutions and partners to support the activities of Capacity Development and Building of young professionals and the exchange and dissemination of advanced technologies in the fields of water, irrigation, drainage, and all related fields.
➢ Daily communications with YPs for technical support and advice, recommendation letters, sharing news updates, bulletin, reports, announcements, available reports, online activities, opportunities, and others.

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: Brief report of 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference, 25-27 January 2023, Morocco

10. Dr. Mohamed Bouaam from ANAFIDE gave a summary of the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference. The 10th International Conference on Micro Irrigation Conference, placed under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI May God Assist Him was held in Dakhla at the convention center from 25-27 January 2023. It was organized by ANAFIDE, Moroccan National Committee of ICID in collaboration with the CCME Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad in partnership with the ICID and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Redouane ARRACH, Secretary General who delivered an opening speech of the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and of Water and Forests, Dr. SADIKI Mohamed who is also President of the International Center for Advanced Agronomic and Mediterranean Studies CIHEAM also addressed the gathering. A copy of the report is available on the AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/Report-10thIMIC.pdf
AFRWG Minutes Item 9: 6th African Young Professional Forum and Cairo Water Week 2023, 29 October- 2 November 2023, Egypt

11. The chair Dr. Wahba gave a summary report about the 6th African YWP Forum. Valuing the importance of partnerships fostered by ICID, AFRWG, and its partners, the 6th Af-YWPF was organized under the platform of CWW 2023 virtually from 30 October – 1 November 2023, under the theme “Actions on the climate change impacts and sustainability of irrigated agricultural”. The participants trained on the following topics:

- Sustainable agricultural water management in Africa: “Role of ICID”
- Gender today for the leader of tomorrow in sustainable water and agriculture management
- Climate Change projection in Africa and Mashreq regions.
- Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources in Dry Areas for Climate-threatened Food Security
- The G20 Global Land Initiative
- Using the Aqua Crop model for irrigation management
- Innovative approaches to modernize irrigation: cases from Jordan and Egypt

12. The chair informed that 123 African Young Professionals from 35 countries (31 African, 3 Arab, and 1 Europe) attended the forum.

AFRWG Minutes Item 10: 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, April 2025, Nigeria

13. A representative from the Nigerian National Committee (NNCID) made a presentation on the preparation of the 6th African Regional Conference to be held from 14-18 April 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. A copy of the presentation is available on the AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/hosting-6thafrc2025.pdf. The main theme of the conference is “Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa” and the sub-themes as follows:

- Creating Awareness - Advocacy and managing farmers’ behavior, youth engagement, etc.;
- Promoting appropriate technology and innovation - micro-irrigation, innovative agricultural production techniques and practices, etc.;
- Transboundary water resources management and security challenges;
- Water recycling and reuse;
- Adapting to Climate Change and Biodiversity;
- Providing Regulatory Framework - Mobilizing all stakeholders to self-regulate and facilitate equitable availability and affordability of water for agriculture;
- Providing incentives -through partnerships and making capital-intensive water infrastructure attractive to investors.

14. In addition to the three-day Africa Regional Conference, the following side events will be organized:

- A one-day National Irrigation and Drainage Symposium with the theme: “Participatory Irrigation Management for Sustainable Rural Development, Economic Growth and Food Security” with a possible partnership with World Bank (TRIMMING PROJECT);
- A half-day High-level Policy Dialogue to bring together key political actors, business leaders, NGOs, donors, and top water managers to dialogue on “Achieving SDGs in the context of prevailing Transboundary water resources governance in Africa.”

15. A presentation about “Experiences from Development of Scheme Management through Operational Water User Associations (WUAs)” was also made and the same is available on the AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/TRIMINGProject2023.pdf

AFRWG Minutes Item 11: Any other business

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### ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

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<th>Activities</th>
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<th>Milestone for Year 2019</th>
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<td><strong>B1. Strategy: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies</strong></td>
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<td>Position paper</td>
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<td><strong>C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation</strong></td>
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<td>Regional WGs</td>
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<td>Establishmen t of more WG-YP’s WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges</td>
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<td><strong>Goal F: Facilitate capacity development</strong></td>
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<td><strong>F2. Strategy: Support Capacity Development Activities of Member Countries</strong></td>
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<td>Strategy/ Policy</td>
<td>Identify new themes and revise the strategy</td>
<td>Update the strategy</td>
<td>2nd AF-YWP-Forum (CWW2019-YP training programme prior to 5th AFRC on I&amp;D 16-23 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco</td>
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<td>Preparing questioner for TNA Circulation of TNA Data analysis</td>
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(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger; A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)

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