

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST ONLINE MEETING OF
WORKING GROUP ON WATER SAVING IN IRRIGATED AREAS (WG-WATS)**
16 February 2023, 14:30 hours (Indian Standard Time)

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 2015

Completion of the Mandate: 2023

Scope: (a) water accounting and irrigation auditing (and other ancillary uses); (b) irrigation water measuring devices; (c) assessment of water loss in various components of irrigation systems; (d) various methods and techniques used for water saving in irrigation; (e) policies and strategies for irrigation water saving; (f) charging for Irrigation Services; (g) success stories and best management practices in water saving; (h) tools and processes applied in irrigation water saving; (i) outreach of water saving technologies; and (j) WatSave Awards.

Webpage: https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/119

Members present: (1) VP Engr. Rafat Nael Al-Intaki (Iraq); (2) Prof. Qi Xuebin (China); (3) Dr. (Ms.) Jianxin Mu (China); (4) Dr. Ray Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Mohamed El-Hagarey (Egypt); (6) Dr. P. Soman – Direct Member, Jain Irrigation Systems Limited – JISL (India); (7) Dr. Tasuku Kato (Japan); (8) Ir. Wan Noorul Hafilah Binti Wan Ariffin (Malaysia).

New nominee: Dr. Shao-Yiu Hsu (Chinese Taipei Committee)

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 1: Membership of the group

1. The Chair introduced the new nominations from Turkish National Committee and Chinese Taipei Committee to the membership of the working group. Dr. Shao-Yiu Hsu (Chinese Taipei Committee) was present and introduced himself and the activities he carries out in the field of local water management at the field level and water accounting. The group accepted Dr. Shao-Yiu Hsu as a member of the group. Picture of the 1st online meeting of the WG is given in **Annex**.

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 2: Invite nomination for New Secretary of Working Group

2. The Chair invited the present members of WG to occupy the position of the group's secretary. Dr. Mohamed El-Hagarey showed his interest to act as Secretary of the WG and shared a copy of his CV. Tasks of the WG Secretary are given below for information:

"The Secretary shall be responsible for collecting and placing the written interventions in the hands of the Chairman, maintaining a proper record of all interventions, noting down highlights of discussions, and for simultaneous interpretation and recording of the proceedings. At the close of the meeting, he/she will prepare the draft minutes of the meeting and hand over the same to the Chair/ Vice Chair."

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 3: Preparing for Internal workshop in November 2023 at Vizag, India

3. The Chair invited the WG members to the preparation of scientific papers/experiences for an internal workshop, an explanation of the activity of the internal workshop is given below:

- The internal workshop is defined as a technical event where scientific papers/experiences are invited and presented by working group members on a specific topic from the mandate of the working group.
- The target audience is exclusively either working group members or observers present during the WG meeting.

- The duration of the internal workshop is about 90 minutes (one-and-a-half hours) and takes place within the timeslot allotted for the WG meeting.
- The internal workshop announcement is informal and circulated among the working group members only.
- Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary of the working group forms the informal review committee.
- Since the papers/experiences/documents will form a part of a larger publication of the working group, proceedings are not published.

4. The Chair and Dr. Mohamed El-Hagarey showed their interest to prepare two scientific papers for the internal workshop.

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 4: WatSave Award

5. The Chair gave an overview for the WatSave Annual Award and encouraged representatives of the National Committees to apply for it this year. Brief summary of the award is given below:

6. "ICID constituted WatSave Annual Award(s) in 1997 to identify and promote exceptional water conservation/saving practices in agriculture. They are presented every year to individuals or a team of individuals after evaluating actual realized savings by the Panel of Judges; and not promising research results, plans, or good ideas/intentions to save water. The categories of WatSave Awards are - (i) Technology (ii) Innovative Management (iii) Young professional, and (iv) Farmer. The WatSave Awards are presented during the annual International Executive Council (IEC) meeting. An autonomous international panel of judges adjudges the winners every year. For more information about the WatSave awards, please visit the ICID webpage at - <https://icid-ciid.org/award/watsave/43>"

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 5: A position Paper from Iranian National Committee

7. In order to share experiences, the Chair shared a brief about a position paper on Overview of the Concepts of Irrigation Efficiency from the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, and the same is available on the WG website at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/ConceptsofIrrigationEfficiency_2023.pdf

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 6: The survey on Water Charging Policies

8. The Chair gave an introduction about the survey on Water Charging Policies and the efforts of Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani in preparation for this survey. The chairman and the members present suggested that the ICID Central Office may send an email to the National Committees requesting them for completion of the aforementioned survey.

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 7: Dissemination of activities of WG – Website of the group

9. The Chair requested members to share documents, information, papers, and presentation and enhance the activities of the W.G.

WG-WATS Online Minutes Item 8: Any other business

10. Members present during the meeting suggested continuing the work of the WG-WATS team after 2023 due to the importance of the WG topic.



PICTURE OF THE ZOOM MEETING OF WG-WATS, 16 FEBRUARY 2023

