

### From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

"Climate change is real" is gaining currency not only in the scientific community but also in citizens around the world after this year's devastating floods and droughts in different parts of the world, the two water-centric phenomena – one having excess water and the other lack of it. The positive aspect of this diverse recognition is that it provides an opportunity to involve holistically more diverse problem solvers having technology, management and community mobilization points of view. One of ICID's strengths has always been its openness to bring together people with asymmetric knowledge capacities. Till last year, ICID events attracted such professionals in face-to-face dialogues and now through online meeting and seminar tools due to obvious reasons. However, we do hope that eventually



the situation returns to the pre-pandemic normal even if it is called a "new normal."

The major event to report this month is the 72nd Foundation Day of ICID on 24th June 2021. Traditionally, climate-change has been considered as a major challenge to the sustainability of agricultural water management and related food security issues of rapidly expanding and urbanising human population. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its unpredictable impacts have added yet another dimension to the future uncertainties. On the Foundation Day this year, ICID organized a technical webinar "Sustainability of Agricultural Water Management under Difficult Circumstances" by inviting the subject-matter experts, its members, partners and stakeholders for stock-taking and knowledge-sharing. ICID President and several honorary ex-office bearers joined the dialogue in which more than 250 participants from around the continents took part. Further details of the technical deliberations are covered in this issue of the News Update.

Separately, ICID also hosted a webinar in collaboration with the UK Center

for Hydrology and Ecology on the theme "Suitable Water, Crops and Land Management for Water-Stressed Regions." ICID President Dr. Ragab Ragab, a well-known international expert on the topic, delivered the main technical presentation which was highly appreciated by the audience. Similarly, another technology-oriented webinar was conducted in collaboration with the UK-based Irrigation and Water Forum.

In response to the request received from several National Committees of ICID (NCs), it was agreed to extend the deadline for the nominations for 2021 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures by one month. So, I urge the NCs to take advantage of this extension.

Have a safe month ahead, till then!

Sincerely,



**Ashwin Pandya**  
Secretary General

### ICID Hosted Webinars on:

# 1

## ICID 72nd Foundation Day Celebrated on 24th June 2021

ICID celebrated its 72nd Foundation Day on 24th June 2021. As part of the celebration, an International Webinar on "Sustainability of Agricultural Water Management under Difficult Circumstances" was organized with more than 250 international participants from member countries and partner organizations.

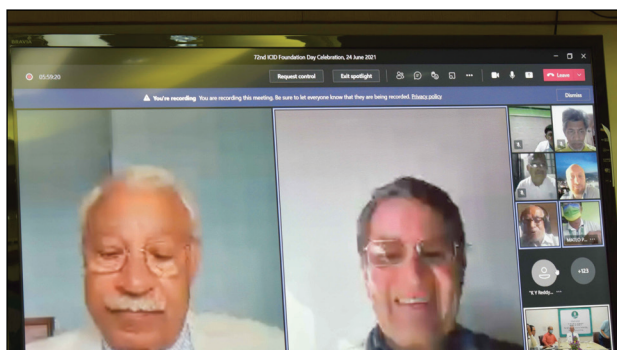
ICID Secretary General Er. Ashwin Pandya welcomed the President Dr. Ragab Ragab, the invited experts for presentations, and the participants to the webinar to celebrate the 72nd Foundation Day of ICID on the theme "Sustainability of Agricultural Water Management under Difficult Circumstances." He informed all that despite the on-going pandemic situation ICID was conducting its

regular activities. He then introduced the President through his professional profile and long-standing association with ICID, and invited him to deliver the President's Welcome Address. More than 200 participants from all over the world took part in the webinar celebrations hosted by ICID Central Office in New Delhi, India. Several ex-Office Bearers, including past presidents and vice-presidents of ICID were also present online for the celebrations.

ICID President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab welcomed all and gave a broad overview of ICID's history, vision, mission, evolution over the last seven decades, various



work areas, and current and planned activities. He appreciated the key role played by National Committees in driving ICID Mission forward through the Roadmap 2030 in close cooperation with international organizations and experts associated with ICID. He also highlighted the knowledge-sharing and capacity



building initiatives of ICID for the Young Professionals and the stakeholders at large.

**Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Ashok Dalwai**, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. Mr. Ashok Dalwai congratulated ICID and its members for completing 72 years of successfully developing the irrigation and drainage sector across the globe and wished ICID well in its future endeavours. His keynote address had 3 main themes – efficiency, equity and sustainability. In relative global terms, India has 18% of world’s human population, 15% of cattle population, 4% of water and just 2% of the land. He explained the water issues in the Indian context as the country makes a low utilization of the available water, particularly due to low water use efficiency in various agricultural production processes. Therefore, the focus should be on improving water use efficiency on the demand-side through a variety of factors such as water-saving technology or micro-irrigation, biodiversity, improved crop varieties, new crops, and use of hydroponics and aquaponics for food production. Another important aspect he discussed was the “water storage capacity” development and management that can greatly alleviate the fluctuations in water supply due to short rainy season. He concluded that the practice of mono-cropping is resulting in many water sector problems including rapid groundwater depletion. He further pointed out that participatory approaches to agricultural water management such as PIM or WUA, and agro-ecology based production practices can significantly improve the situation and water use efficiency.

**Mr. S.K. Haldar**, Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and Chairman, Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), New Delhi, India was represented by Er. R. K. Gupta who made a detailed presentation of various Government of India programs for the irrigation and drainage sector. He outlined the Government of India’s

broader policy guidelines on a range of issues that influence agricultural water management in the vastly diverse agro-ecological scenarios of India. Aging irrigation and drainage infrastructure, conveyance losses, inefficient water use on-farm, capacity building for technology adoption, rethinking management practices and community

participation are some of the major challenges in the sector, and the Government is consciously designing policies and programs to tackle the challenges. In the second part of the CWC-INCID presentation, Er. Kushvinder Vohra, Member, CWC emphasized the need for developments in the irrigation water delivery services and listed the current progress of the various Irrigation Modernization projects of the Government.

**From International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Mr. Alok Sikka** the country representative made a presentation on the topic “Agricultural Water Management: Building Resilience to Respond to Shocks and Risks.” He covered various case studies from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Afghanistan on how the water availability and management was affected by COVID-19 pandemic in these countries. He concluded that as of now COVID19 had negligible influence on water use in agriculture and there is a very strong case for higher investments in agricultural water management to mitigate adverse future impacts.

**Mr. Dan Alluf**, Counsellor MASHAV, Embassy of Israel in India, New Delhi made a comprehensive presentation on Israel’s holistic approach to the water management in agriculture and other sectors as well. As is well known that the freshwater availability is acute for farming in desert conditions and hence the primary focus is water use efficiency. Israel has followed a “supply chain integration” methodology making best use of drip-based micro-irrigation, community-based water management and due consideration of research-farmer-market linkages. The advanced data technologies are deployed to make decision-making faster and need-based. Mr. Dan Alluf illustrated the above through a presentation and also apprised the audience with the on-going Indo-Israel cooperation initiatives where the above approach is being scaled to various semi-arid and arid parts of India. A network of “Centers of Excellence” are

being established under this cooperation arrangement and capacities are being developed through hands-on training programs for farmers, extension workers and water managers.

This was followed by **presentations by selected ICID National Committees**. Mr. Momir Vranes shared the experiences of Australia through a presentation entitled “Sustainability of Agricultural Water Management Under Difficult Circumstances – Keeping Ahead ...” which explained the approach “go the last mile.” It focuses on the crop water requirements of individual users/clients and utilizes a feedback mechanism in the water delivery services.

**Representing Egyptian National Committee of ICID (ENCID), Dr Gamal Elkassaar** the Director of WMRI-NWRC and the Deputy Chairman of ENCID, demonstrated “The Need for Branch Canal Rehabilitation and Modern Irrigation Systems.” Recognizing that the general deterioration of the irrigation canals around the world is negatively affecting the overall irrigation system efficiency, the rehabilitation and modernization are urgently needed for maintaining water and food security.

**VPH Dr. Yella Reddy**, INCID-India informed the online gathering about the 75th ICID Congress and International Executive Committee (IEC) meeting to be hosted by the State of Andhra Pradesh of India in November 2023. He further added that the preparations are in full swing and enjoy the full support of the Chief Minister of the state who has promised to make the event a grand success. VPH Reddy also highlighted various tourist destinations of the state that the delegates and their accompanying spouses and children can take benefit of during the Congress and IEC meeting.

The floor was opened for discussions and a participant representing NENCID-Nepal remarked that the technical webinar was very well organized and he found all the technical presentations very useful for his work in the agricultural water sector of Nepal.

In concluding remarks, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID thanked the President of ICID, keynote speaker Mr. Ashok Dalwai, ex-Office Bearers of ICID, esteemed presenters, participants and the ICID Central Office staff for their keen participation in the day’s activities and for making the event highly successful. The webinar ended with a round of applause from all participants.

The webinar can be accessed / viewed at: [https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/158](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/158).

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ICID Webinar on “Suitable Water, Crops and Land Management for Water Stressed Regions”

ICID in collaboration with the UK-based Center for Hydrology & Ecology organized a technical webinar on "Suitable Water, Crops and Land Management for Water Stressed Regions" on 17 June 2021. The speaker and moderator were Dr. Ragab Ragab, President ICID and Fellow of UK Center for Ecology & Hydrology, Mr. Franklin E. Dimick, Chairman of the Working Group on Managing Water Scarcity Under Conflicting Demands (WG-MWSCD), respectively. From the Central Office, Executive Director (ED) Eng. Mr. H.K Verma represented the ICID.

The continuous increase in world population requires a parallel increase in food production. This represents a formidable challenge as the land and water resources are limited. Efficient management of water, land and crops is the key to meet such a challenge. The webinar attempted to address a number of approaches and covered the following aspects:

- Increasing water supplies (rainfall harvesting and use of non-conventional water resources)
- Suitable and more water use efficient irrigation systems and strategies.
- Suitable crops including less water consuming and non-conventional crops.
- Suitable land management to save water (conservation tillage, mulching, precision farming and other methods)
- Water saving through more accurate estimation of crop irrigation requirement
- Use of models as management tools to save water and assess

the impact of climate change on irrigation requirement, growth season length and yield.

The webinar explored the deep root of water scarcity, fresh water availability per capita for one century, 1950 – 2050, the challenges facing water resources under possible future climate change, projected impacts of climate change, applications of hydrological models, water situations in arid and semi-arid regions and rain water harvesting using different techniques.

ICID President Dr. Ragab Ragab (born in 1949), the main webinar presenter, obtained his BSc. in Soil and Water Sciences (1970), MSc. in Irrigation (1974), and Ph.D, in Rural Engineering from the University of Leuven, Belgium (1982). Presently, he is serving as the Principal Hydrologist and Water Resources Management Specialist at the UK Centre for Hydrology, Wallingford. As an editor at the Journal of Agricultural Science, he contributes to Cambridge University Press (2013-present). He is also serving as an Adjunct Professor at Soil and Water Sciences Dept., University of Alexandria, Egypt since 2006.

He has more than 40 years of experience in irrigation, drainage, catchments hydrology, remote sensing application in hydrology, integrated water management, climate change impact on water resources, soil-water-plant atmosphere relations, rainfall harvesting, use of poor-quality water (saline/brackish, treated



wastewater) for crop production, organic farming and urban hydrology.

Dr. Ragab is also associated with many professional organizations including: British Society of Soil Science, Irrigants Europe - IE, and European Soil and Land Use Management. He has contributed to 122 selected publications, excluding reports, and developed models like IHMS, SALTMED 2019, and HYDROMED and has also received global awards and recognitions for his commendable work in the irrigation and drainage sector, including Egypt State Recognition and Merit Award for Scientific Achievements, The Baron’s 500: Leaders for the New Century, ICID Award of Excellence (2002, 2012, 2013, and 2014) and the Best Paper Award 2018 for the Irrigation and Drainage journal of ICID.

Dr. Ragab has actively contributed to the ICID activities as the Vice President of ICID from 2010-2013 and has also served as the Chairman of the British National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID-UK) from 2007- 2011 and headed many ICID working groups.

The webinar can be accessed / viewed at: <[https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/151](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/151)>.

3

Webinar on “COSMOS, Scintillometer & Eddy Cov New Technologies to save Irrigation Water”

ICID collaborated with the UK-based Irrigation Water Forum to organize a webinar on new technology to save irrigation water on 23 June 2021. The participants included both the members and non-members of IWF. The Irrigation and Water Forum (IWF) is a professional network of practitioners, researchers, academics and students across many disciplines and themes to promote British expertise in the fields of water

resources, irrigation, drainage, and flood management. It also provides a knowledge sharing platform dedicated to issues that cover the entire spectrum of the sustainable water management practices required to achieve a water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development.

IWF is also focused on water for agricultural development in the context

of sustainable river basin management. Throughout the UK, there is considerable interest in irrigated agriculture, drainage and flood control. Internationally there is a traditional interest in irrigation and drainage from many UK professionals and consultancy companies working primarily in the developing world and increasingly in eastern Europe and central Asia. In many developing countries, irrigated agriculture uses about 80% of

the freshwater resources, and thus has a pivotal role in water resource governance.

The Webinar discussed that the accurate estimation of irrigation water requirements could save water and minimize losses, allowing more land to be irrigated and subsequently more food to be produced.

Irrigation practitioners have always faced the challenge of “when to irrigate and how much water to apply”. To answer these questions several methods have been developed, ranging from instrumentation-based measurements to empirical and energy balance equation-based approaches. The accuracy of these

methods and the scale they represent are of great importance.

Modern technologies to measure actual evapotranspiration and subsequently the crop water requirement, such as large-aperture Scintillometer and Eddy Covariance instruments, were tested and

## Bangladesh Delegates Visit ICID Central Office

Secretary (Political) Mr. Zakaria Bin Amjad visited ICID Central Office on 21 June 2021 and was received with a warm welcome. He held interaction with Secretary General Ashwin Pandya and Executive Director Harish Varma. SG Pandya briefed him about the ICID, its vision and role of ICID in irrigation, agriculture, food security, and water management. He also explained the strategies to achieve ICID goals.

Bangladesh National Committee is a subscribed member of ICID and hence benefited in its approach to overall development of water resources in the country. SG Pandya also briefed Mr. Zakaria Bin Amjad about ICID online

courses for the water sector engineers and professionals.

SG Pandya talked about forthcoming ICID events and invited Mr. Zakaria Bin Amjad to be a part of the upcoming 72nd IEC Meeting and 5th African Regional Conference (AFRC) which would provide an excellent opportunity to engage with other stakeholders and to showcase how ICID could contribute towards the development of sustainable agriculture.



Mr. Zakaria Bin Amjad appreciated the work of ICID and its knowledge-sharing platforms of ICID.

## News From National Committee

### Russia National Committee (RUCID)

**Dr. (Mrs.) Irena G. Bondarik**

Secretary General, National Committee of the Russian Federation on Irrigation and Drainage (RUCID), VNIIGiM, Room 410, B. Akademicheskaya ul. 44 bl. 2, 127550, Moscow, Russia

### Georgian National Committee (GENCID)

**Mr. Nata Khutsurauli**

Secretary of “Georgian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage” (GENCID), Leading Specialist of “Donor Organizations Projects Coordination Office” under “Projects Management Department” at “Georgian Amelioration” Ltd of the “Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia”, N6 G.Gulua street, Tbilisi-0114, Georgia, Tel: (+995 32) 2 00 10 00; Email: n.khutsurauli@ag.ge

Mr. Levan Tabatadze has been appointed as a new Head of “Projects Management Department” of “Georgian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage” (GENCID), E-mail: L.tabatadze@ag.ge

### Thailand National Committee of Irrigation & Drainage (THAICID)

**Mr. Praphit Chanma, President of THAICID**

Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID), Director General of Royal Irrigation Department,

Royal Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, 811 Samsen Road, Thanon-NakornchaiSri, Dusit Bangkok 10300, Tel : +66 2241 0065, +66 2241 0250, Mob : +66 83 789 9356, Fax : +662 241 3026, Email thaicid@hotmail.com, prapit.chan@gmail.com

**Mr. Chalearmkiat Kongvichienwat, Secretary General of THAICID**

Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID), Deputy Director General for Engineering, Royal Irrigation Department, 811 Samsen Road, Thanon-NakornchaiSri Dusit Bangkok 10300, Tel +66 2241 0257, Mob : +66 97 996 3559, Fax : +66 2669 2445, Email : thaicid@hotmail.com, chalearmkiat\_bee36@hotmail.com

**Mr. Surachat Malasri, Deputy Secretary General of THAICID, and Chairman of THAICID Secretariat Office,** Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID), Director, Bureau of Project Management Royal Irrigation Department, Tel : +66 2241 0068, Mob : +66 92 280 1879, Fax : +66 2243 7870, Email: thaicid@hotmail.com, surachatmalasri39@gmail.com

### Nominations Deadline Extended for

#### WatSave Awards and World Heritage Irrigation Structures

The nominations for 2021 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) for the upcoming ICID Events and 72nd IEC Meeting at Marrakesh, Morocco are now open for all National Committees (NC). The nomination submission deadline has been extended to 31 July 2021.

The procedure for submitting nominations can be accessed at [http://icid-ciid.org/view\\_page/9](http://icid-ciid.org/view_page/9)

## Nepal National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NENCID)

### New Appointments for Working Group

#### Working Group on Water Food Energy Nexus (WG-WFE\_N)

**Dr. Vishnu Prasad Pandey**, Tel: (+977-1) 554-3070, Cell: (+977) 984-131-8939, Fax: (+977-1) 554-3511 vishnu.pandey@gmail.com

#### Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE)

**Mr. Tikaram Baral**, Tel: 9851113146, E-mail: baral.tikaram@gmail.com

#### Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST)

**Mr. Krishna Nepal**

Orchid Colony, Chandragiri -14, Kathmandu, Tel: 0977-9841376693, E-mail: nepalkp35@gmail.com

#### Working Group on Adaptive Flood Management (WG-AFM)

**Dr. Maheswor Shrestha, Ph.D.**

Executive Director, Water Resources Research and Development Centre,

Nepal, Email: maheswor2037@yahoo.com, maheswor.shrestha@nepal.gov.np, Contact no: 977-1-5535407, 977-9841265385

#### Working Group on Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Irrigation (WG-NCWRI)

**Ms. Jigyasha Rai Yangkhurung (Young Professional)**

Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: +977-9842149746, E-mail: jigyasharai9@gmail.com

## ICID Upcoming Events

**72nd IEC Meeting and 5th African Regional Conference (AFRC)** will be held during 24 - 30 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco. More details and procedures will be released as and when finalized. The Young Professional's Training Program (YP-TP) will also be organized during the 5th African Regional Conference.

**73rd IEC Meeting and 24th ICID Congress** will be rescheduled from 3 October to 10 October 2022 at Adelaide, Australia, hosted by Irrigation Australia Ltd., and Irrigation Australia's Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID). More details will be shared shortly

**74th IEC Meeting and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4)** will be held

during 16-22 April 2023 in Beijing, China.

**75th IEC Meeting and 25th ICID Congress** will be held in November 2023, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

**76th IEC and 9th Asian Regional Conference (AsRC)** will be held from 27 April-2 May 2024 in Sydney, Australia

## International Events

### Waterwise Irrigation Expo 2021 25 August 2021



This year's Waterwise Expo will consist of a trade show and rotational educational seminars. The seminars will consist of several groups visiting various locations within the Crown Perth Conference Centre as well as field components in the Burswood Park Precinct on a rotational basis throughout the day. Each group will have a dedicated tour guide to escort participants to each location, and an industry expert presenting on the specific topic.

Exhibitors and delegates will both benefit from an allocated time slot within the trade show for each group to engage with industry suppliers and see the latest technologies on show.

### U.N. Food Systems Champions Discuss Solutions that Support Nutritious Diets for All

During a panel discussion organized by Food Tank, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), experts discuss strategies that enable the production of accessible and nutrient-dense diets.

The event is part of a series of panels with themes inspired by Global Alliance's Seven Calls to Action to transform the food system. Moderated by Ruth Richardson, Executive Director of the Global Alliance and Danielle Nierenberg, President of Food Tank, each conversation features members

of the United Nations Food Systems Champions Network.

The seventh Call to Action focuses on promoting nutrient-dense, whole food diets underpinned by diversified food production adapted to different micro-climates and socio-cultural contexts. Panelists include Dorit Adler, President of the Israeli Forum for Sustainable Nutrition; Mike Nkhombo Khunga; Youth Leader for Nutrition Programme at Scaling



Up Nutrition Movement Civil Society Network (SUN CSN); and Rick White, President and CEO of the Canadian Canola Growers Association.



The panelists begin by addressing the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for universal access to not just sufficient calories, but nutrient-dense diets. Adler points out that many of the most severe cases

of COVID-19 were linked with diet-related illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension.

### China's Sustainable Concept Wastewater Treatment Plant Progress

An expert committee has led development of an advanced sustainable wastewater treatment plant concept. Han-Qing Yu, Hongchen Wang and Jun Chen report on progress, including the first plants.

After nearly 40 years of remarkable development, China currently has the second-largest economy in the world. The country also now possesses the world's largest municipal wastewater infrastructure asset base, but in which direction is this headed?

With thousands more wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) being planned for the near future, several distinguished professors specialising in wastewater treatment formed the China Concept WWTP Committee (CCWC) in 2014 and began to ponder the goals of wastewater management in 21st century China.

The CCWC concluded that future wastewater treatment plants should achieve four essential goals – sustainable water quality, resource recovery, energy neutrality, and environmental friendliness – brought together in what is known as the Concept WWTP. The China Concept WWTP is oriented to 2030-40, practising low-carbon concepts, and intensively applying and demonstrating global advanced technologies that have been and will be engineered so as to meet fully the requirements of China's sustainable development strategy and with the hope of becoming the benchmark of municipal wastewater treatment plants in the world.

"What we care about is not the concept, but the future," says Professor Jiuwei Qu, the leading member in the CCWC. "The future not only requires creativity, but also calls for actions, applying creativity to create a future without sewage and using actions to achieve a bright future full of wisdom."



Over more than seven years, the CCWC has gathered global insights and cooperated with many domestic institutions. Discussion and exchanges, visits, collaborative research, formulation

of plans, work on engineering practice, and gathering of feedback have been carried out. The committee has completed a preliminary round spanning concept, technology, and construction demonstration, right through to obtaining social feedback to provide the basis for the Concept WWTP.

<https://www.thesourcemagazine.org/chinas-sustainable-concept-wastewater-treatment-plant-progress/>

### Worsening Soil Pollution Threatens Future Food Production and Ecosystems, FAO-UNEP

Worsening soil pollution and waste proliferation threaten the future of global food production, human health and the environment, and require an



urgent global response, according to a joint report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Global Assessment of Soil Pollution was launched by FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, and the Executive-Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, at a virtual event which was part of the celebrations for World Environment Day (5 June) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Soil pollution crosses all borders and compromises the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. The joint assessment found that widespread environmental degradation caused by soil pollution, due to the growing demands of agri-food and industrial systems and an increasing global population, is getting worse and is one of the world's major challenges for ecosystem restoration.

The report noted that greater research is required to determine the extent of soil pollution while stressing the proliferation of organic contaminants and others such as pharmaceuticals, antimicrobials (that lead to more resistant bacteria), industrial chemicals, and plastic residues are of growing concern.

The assessment is not only critical to the success of the UN Decade on Ecosystem

Restoration, but will also contribute to the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Conferences on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification, the UN Food Systems Summit, and the One Health approach.

### Pakistan hosted World Environment Day 2021

Since 1974, World Environment Day has been celebrated every year on 5 June, engaging governments, businesses and citizens in an effort to address pressing environmental issues.

The Theme: For too long, we have been exploiting and destroying our planet's ecosystems. Every three seconds, the world loses enough forest to cover a football pitch and over the last century

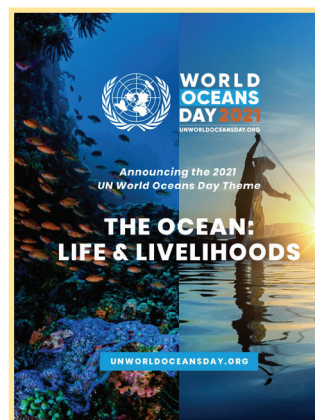


we have destroyed half of our wetlands. As much as 50 per cent of our coral reefs have already been lost and up to 90 per cent of coral reefs could be lost by 2050, even if global warming is limited to an increase of 1.5°C.

Ecosystem restoration means preventing, halting and reversing this damage – to go from exploiting nature to healing it. This World Environment Day will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

### United Nation Celebrated the World Oceans Day on 8 June 2021

The United Nations celebrates World



Ocean Day every year on 8 June. Many countries have celebrated this special day since 1992, following the United Day Conference on Environment & Development, held in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as of 2009, 8 June would be designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day".

On this day, we have opportunity to raise global awareness of the benefits humankind derives from the ocean and our individual and collective duty to use its resources sustainably. Future generations will also depend on the oceans for their livelihoods.

### Global Wind Day on 15 June 2021

Global Wind Day takes place worldwide annually on June 15. This day is dedicated to exploring the power of wind energy and the future possibilities. It shapes our energy systems, decarbonises our



economies, and boosts growth. Wind energy is a source of solar energy which is used to generate electricity. It is the most sustainable renewable energy source that has little impact on the environment.

#### History

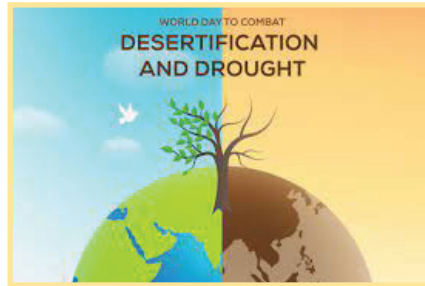
The Global Wind Day is organised by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and the national associations. This day is introduced to create awareness of the benefits of wind energy for the general public. The first Global Wind Day was held in 2007. Since then, the day has been aimed to spread in various countries and to make people understand the potential of this day.

#### Importance

Global warming is one of the biggest concerns in today's world. Wind energy can be a great energy source for the fastest-growing industrial sectors. The wind is an alternative to fossil fuels that generate clean energy. It is an essential source of renewable energy that stands to be environmentally friendly.

### World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17 June

The 2021 Desertification and Drought Day was held on 17 June with focus on turning degraded land into healthy land. Restoring degraded land brings



economic resilience, creates jobs, raises incomes and increases food security. It helps biodiversity to recover. It locks away the atmospheric carbon warming the Earth, slowing climate change. It can also lessen the impacts of climate change and underpin a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nearly three quarters of the Earth's ice-free land has been altered by humans to meet an ever-growing demand for food, raw materials, highways and homes. Avoiding, slowing and reversing the loss of productive land and natural ecosystems now is both urgent and important for a swift recovery from the pandemic and for guaranteeing the long-term survival of people and the planet. Current commitments from over 100 countries specify the restoration of almost 1 billion hectares of land over the next decade – an area almost the size of China. If we restore this land, we can deliver massive benefits for people and the planet.

### Ambassador of Ivory Coast to India visits Central Office

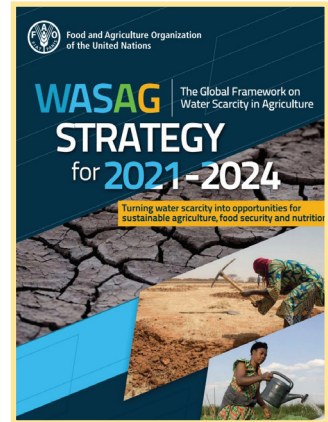
His Excellency the Ambassador of Ivory Coast to India visited the ICID Central Office on 21 June 2021 to interact with the Secretary General and explore future collaboration opportunities on ICID platforms.



### NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### FAO-UN WASAG STRATEGY for 2021-2024: The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

Turning water scarcity into opportunities for sustainable agriculture, food security & nutrition



WASAG has been designed to bring together key players across the globe and from different sectors to tackle the collective challenge of using water better in agriculture to ensure food security for all, particularly in a changing climate. It is an initiative for partners from all fields and backgrounds to collaborate in supporting countries and stakeholders in their commitments and plans related to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement (including implementing nationally determined contributions) and other plans and programmes related to agriculture and water.

Water scarcity is one of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century. Agriculture is both a cause and a victim of water scarcity, accounting for an estimated 70 percent of global freshwater withdrawals. Even more frequent and severe water extremes are expected due to climate change, including droughts and floods impacting agricultural production, while rising temperatures translate into increased water demand in agriculture. Water withdrawals grew at almost twice the rate of population increase in the twentieth century, and a 50 percent surge in food demand is expected by 2050. It is clear that there is an urgent need to address water scarcity, now and in upcoming decades. For more, please visit: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5448en/cb5448en.pdf>





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## Invitation To Join The Membership of ICID

**International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)**, established in 1950 is the leading scientific, technical and professional international organization, which focuses on irrigation, drainage and flood management. Through its membership network, ICID presently represents 90% of the irrigated area of the world. It hardly needs any reemphasis that 80% of world's water resources are consumed by agriculture to ensure food security, and hence the role of irrigation and drainage becomes very important on the agenda of global water management. ICID provides a platform for sharing the knowledge gained and share the innovative practices and methods in irrigation, drainage and flood management and is recognized as a thought leader in the irrigation and water management field. The Vision of ICID is to achieve **"A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural Development"**, and to achieve this vision, ICID has formulated a 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030'. Kindly visit the website <http://icid-ciid.org/> for more information.

ICID primarily works at national level with professionals from each country coming together on a National Committee platform often managed at relevant ministry level or under their tutelage. All international professional and developmental institutions like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, World Water Council, UN Water, Global Water Partnership and International Water Management Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN and many more are very closely associated with ICID activities and outputs.

Any geographical area independently administered by a sovereign government and having interest in the activities of the Commission is eligible to become a Member National Committee (NC) of ICID. The Commission advocates for the National Committees to be broad-based, multi-disciplinary and should provide a platform for collaboration among various institutions having related aims within their countries. Also an Institution/ Company or an Individual can be a DIRECT Member of ICID through their National Committee (NC).

Countries can have advantage of technologies and skills which are being showcased for the benefit of world communities at different levels of development through ICID activities. The developing world is actively looking for the relevant technological and managerial interventions in the critical sector of Irrigation and Drainage and I am sure your country also leverage to your advantage. This new opportunity has great potential to enhance the working of ICID and hopefully will result in greater global exchanges of experiences and multidisciplinary innovations. By joining ICID, the country would be able to receive:

- i. Exposure of research and latest technical activities to the professionals including approach and exposure to Irrigation and Drainage Journal (IRD) and other ICID publications, webinars etc.
- ii. Capacity building – for professionals and young professionals
- iii. Networking with various world institutions and professionals
- iv. Wide knowledge base
- v. Participation in ICID activities like Congress, World Irrigation Forum (WIF), Regional conferences, International Executive council (IEC) etc.
- vi. Many other benefits

For joining ICID Membership and procedure for application and subscription amount, etc., please access the link - [https://www.icid.org/join\\_nc.html](https://www.icid.org/join_nc.html) Alternately, you may contact Er. Balasaheb Anantrao Chivate, Director (Technical), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), <[icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org)> for more information and/or clarifications, if any. The Secretary General, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)



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