



## From Secretary-General's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2023 and hope to see a successful year for our commitments



to the water and agriculture sector. After successfully conducting the 24th ICID Congress in Adelaide, 2022, ICID is gearing up for its upcoming 25th Congress in Cizag, 2023. The Fourth World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), by the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID), has been rescheduled due to the ongoing Covid crisis in China as per the directions of the Chinese Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research. Subsequently, other events planned by ICID have also been rescheduled.

In December 2022, a webinar was conducted by ICID in collaboration with its Indonesian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INACID) on '**Low Land Development in Indonesia**' along with other invited international experts. A brainstorming session on integrated modelling of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) was also organized by IWMI & CGIAR during the month. Details of the deliberations are covered in this issue.

Dr. Marco Arcieri (Vice President Hon.) represented ICID at the Rome Water Week during the month. The Rome Water Week also provided a platform to conduct a preparatory to the UN-Water 2023 Conference

of New York as a panellist on the topic 'Panel Discussion on concerted water-agriculture actions for the UN 2023 Water Conference.' During December 2022, preparations were conducted for the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference organized by ANAFIDE in Dakhla, Morocco.

The Call for Papers for the 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage from 1-8 November 2023, Vizag (Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh, India was released. I encourage you all to submit your papers and participate in the event to discuss and deliberate on the Questions highlighted in the Congress theme. The details are available at pages 4-5. Also find details on the 2nd Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) International Forum to be held in Praia, Cabo Verde, West Africa from 7-10 February 2023.

In this issue, you will also find information from our National Committees and the international partners, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of South Korea on their activities.

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year. The 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference will jointly be hosted by the Moroccan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANAFIDE) and ICID with support from the Directorate of Irrigation and Agricultural Land Planning (DIAEA) of the Government of Morocco from 25-27 January 2023 in Dakhla, Morocco on 'Micro-irrigation in the Era of Technology Innovation and Digital Transformation'. The 25th Congress and the 74th IEC Meeting

in Vizag city of Southern India in November 2023, hosted by the Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoWR), Government of India, and Government of Andhra Pradesh. Visit <http://www.wif.icidevents.org> to learn more.

I look forward to meeting you during the above events and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

**Ashwin B. Pandya**  
Secretary-General, ICID

## LATEST ICID EVENTS

1. 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage, and the 74<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting, 01-08 November 2023, Vishakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India
2. 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference (AsRC) and the 75<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting, 1-7 September 2024, Sydney, Australia
3. 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), and the 76<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting, 7-13 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4. 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage, and the 77<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting, 12-18 October 2026, Marseille, France
5. 5<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF5), and the 78<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council Meeting, 2027, Beijing, China

## Postponement of Fourth World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) to be Held in Beijing, China

The irrigation and drainage community was eagerly awaiting convening the World Irrigation Forum (WIF) in Beijing, China in its 4th edition. The vagaries of the pandemic and resulting uncertainties in international travel have put paid to our expectations. ICID and CNCID had to decide with a heavy heart to shift the convening of the forum to 2027 as our event calendars are still undergoing the aftereffects of the global pandemic.

With this change, the World Irrigation Forum scheduled in 2025 in Malaysia has now been renumbered as the Fourth World Irrigation Forum has its own themes

and sub-themes which will be finalized in due course of time. Consequent to the non-holding of the International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in Beijing the renumbering has also impacted the IECs as well and now the International Executive Council at the 25th Congress will be numbered as 74th IEC meetings and the subsequent IEC will continue with the serial numbers. All the schedules of the key events of ICID in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 remain unaffected.

Due to the long shifting of the WIF in Beijing to 2027, the theme and sub-themes for the forum may also undergo

rethinking over time. Hence, there will be a new theme for the 5th World Irrigation Forum and the 78th meeting of the IEC in Beijing, China in 2027.

It will be very painful to the authors and researchers who had already provided their contributions if their works are not provided with an appropriate global platform. We have decided to hold a special session(s) at the 25th ICID Congress at Vishakhapatnam where the papers can be presented and all the papers will then be published as proceedings of the special event with an ISBN-registered publication.

## ICID Organized a webinar on “Low Land Development in Indonesia” on 22 December 2022

On 22 December 2022, ICID with its Indonesian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, INACID organized the last webinar of 2022 on ‘Low Land Development of Indonesia’. The session was attended and moderated by the Budi Santoso Wignyosukarto (Indonesia), and President Hon. Prof. Em. Dr. Bart Schultz (Netherlands) and panellists VP Ir. Hisham Ghazali (Malaysia), and Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy (India). ICID was represented by President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab and Secretary General Eng. A.B Pandya. The welcome note was delivered by Er A. B Pandya. He introduced all the panellists to the webinar participants and gave an introductory note about the low land activity developments in Indonesia.

Budi Santoso Wignyosukarto, Universitas Gadjah Mada Indonesia, in his presentation covered a wide range of parameters which enclosed the low land development in Indonesia including the landscape of non-tidal lowlands, non-tidal floodplain at different hydrologic conditions, wet & dry season, agro-ecological zone of lowlands, distribution of lowland areas, distribution of swamp irrigation schemes, history of swamp development and management in Indonesia, fire vulnerability in the lowland areas of Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua, swamp irrigation scheme activities from 2015-2019, stages of development of swamp area in Indonesia, the role of toxic substances on soil, development of peatland, smart water management and Dadahup Scheme and its typical control gate.



Prof. Em. Bart Schultz, UNESCO-IHE Former Top Advisor, President Hon. ICID gave a presentation on ‘Water Management and Flood Protection for Development and Management of Lowlands’. He covered the hotspots of development in lowlands, population growth and urbanisation, growth of Jakarta in three decades, land subsidence, subsidence and sea level rise, development approaches related to flood protection, the role of the government, climate change and impacts of human activities.

President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab mentioned the role of ICID in their member countries which are dominant in the lowland areas including its floodplains,

swamp land, high rate of land subsidence, flood control techniques including natural and artificial flood control levees in coastal areas, coral reef protections, high sensitivity of lowland areas and the importance of sustainable development in the lowland areas. Towards the end of his presentation, he thanked all the panellists, participants and INACID for making the webinar a benchmark for those countries which lie in the subsurface of coastal, oceanic and loose soil bedrocks. Er. Pandya also thanked everybody for making the event deeply informative and successful.

Live recording available at: <[https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/231](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/231)>



## ICID participates in the brainstorming session on integrated modelling of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE), organized by IWMI & CGIAR

IWMI in collaboration with CGIAR organized a brainstorming meeting on 'Integrated Modelling of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus in the Ganges Basin' on Friday, 2 December 2022 at Hotel Jaypee Siddharth, New Delhi. During the event, ICID was represented by Secretary-General Er. A. B. Pandya and Er. H. K. Verma (Executive Director, ICID). The keynote speakers included Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative, Pakistan and Regional Representative, Central Asia; DG, National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG); Mr. Sharad Jain, Former Director, National Institute of Hydrology; Mr. Md. Faiz Alam, Researcher – Water Resources/Agricultural Water Management, IWMI India; Dr. Alok Sikka, Country Representative IWMI India; Country Lead-Nexus Gains and other experts from IWMI.

### The objective of the workshop:

- Understand ongoing and

past modelling studies in the Ganges basin and how they have contributed to the holistic assessment of the WEFE nexus solutions

- Take stock of ongoing policies and programs having relation to the WEFE sector and deliberate on the synergies and trade-offs associated with them
- Co-develop socioeconomic, biophysical and policy scenarios for foresight and trade-off analysis of the WEFE nexus in the Ganges basin
- Seek input in the formulation of approaches so they have the highest likelihood of adoption and accepted by policymakers

NEXUS Gains is a new initiative of the one-CGIAR that aims to address the challenge of optimizing trade-offs and

building synergies to support SDGs achievement through transformations in the food, land and water systems nexus. NEXUS Gains will examine WEFE (water, energy, food and ecosystems) systems in basins of significant international relevance. In India, the project will focus on Ganges Basin with a more detailed analysis of upstream basins (e.g., Ramganga sub-basin). Dependencies of NEXUS interventions from farm to watershed to river basin scales will be analyzed to support social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability across scales, sectors and other divide with a focus on gender, age, income and ethnicity.



## Dr. Marco Arcieri, Vice President Hon., ICID attends the Rome Water Week, on 29 December 2022

Dr. Marco Arcieri, Vice President Hon, ICID represented the ICID at the Rome Water Week, a preparatory to the UN-Water 2023 Conference of New York as a panellist on the topic "Panel Discussion on concerted water-agriculture actions for the UN 2023 Water Conference". It was a one-day event attended by water experts and representatives from national governments, internal organizations, NGOs, financing institutions, research institutes, the civil and private sectors, the media, etc.

The Dialogue aimed to raise awareness of water's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), forging deeper links between the water sector and the largest water user – the agriculture sector; developing innovative solutions and actions for the future; and discussing the National Water Roadmap, or country-owned strategic approach to achieving global commitments and SDGs at the national level.

Both governments and other stakeholders acknowledged that water, sanitation, health, ecosystems, ocean, energy, food systems and nutrition are interlinked and



that increasing losses and vulnerabilities caused by droughts, floods, cyclones, coastal surge, sea level rise, salinity intrusion, mudslides and avalanches, must be urgently addressed.

### The Rome Water Dialogue provided the opportunity for:

- Raising the awareness of water's role in achieving the SDGs;
- Deeply connecting the water sector

with the largest water user – the agriculture sector;

- Developing innovative solutions and actions for the future;
- Discussing the National Water Roadmap approach to achieving global commitments and SDGs at the national level.



## 10<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference organized by ANAFIDE 25-27 January 2023 in Dakhla, Morocco

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) proudly announces the convening of the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in Dakhla Morocco and invites irrigation and drainage professionals from the world over to contribute and showcase their work through the presentation of papers.

The International Micro Irrigation Conference (IMIC) aims to bring together all the stakeholders relevant to the field of irrigation, drainage, and other related aspects of water management. IMIC is a multi-sectoral platform creating avenues for discussions and engagement for everyone, the governments of relevant countries, policymakers, the multi-lateral and bi-lateral organizations, civil society institutions, the grass-root farmers as well as corporate leaders. Every IMIC attracts veterans, experts, and acclaimed researchers and academicians from various sectors to bring all possible issues and forthcoming solutions to the International Micro Irrigation Conference concerning the sector. In fact, in its 9th edition, IMIC held in Aurangabad, India, in January 2020 witnessed the participation of several hundreds of attendees.

The 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference, jointly hosted by the Moroccan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANAFIDE) and ICID with support from the Directorate of Irrigation and Agricultural Land Planning (DIAEA), will be held during 25-27 January 2023 in the Conference centre of the city of Dakhla in Southern Morocco. Besides being a true haven, between a lagoon and an ocean, Dakhla is a growing economical centre with increasing areas of irrigated land where high-value-added crops are grown in greenhouses. An important irrigation project will soon be implemented in the region of Dakhla. It consists of irrigating an area of 5,000 ha using desalinated sea water powered by wind energy.

**Theme and Sub-themes include:**

**Theme: Micro-irrigation in the Era of Technology Innovation and Digital Transformation**

**Sub-Theme 1:** Public Policies and the Promotion of Micro Irrigation: Lessons Learned

**Sub-Theme 2:** Innovation in Micro-Irrigation Design and Technology to Improve Resilience to Climate Change

**Sub-Theme 3:** Micro-Irrigation for Small-Scale Farming, Challenges, Opportunities and Initiatives

**Sub-Theme 4:** Micro Irrigation to Promote the Nexus “Water - Energy - Food”

**Sub-Theme 5:** Digital Transformation for the Management of Micro-Irrigation

**Sub-Theme 6:** International Cooperation for the Development of Micro Irrigation

For more information please visit the website: <https://icid-ciid.org/event/detail/28>



## Call for Papers, 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage 1–8 November 2023, Vizag (Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh, India



Website: <https://icid25congress.in/index.html>

The 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meetings are being organised by the Indian National Committee of ICID

(INCID) on the theme ‘Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture’ from 01-08 November 2023 in Vishakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India. ICID triennial Congresses focus on the

upcoming issues that need to be addressed in irrigation, drainage, and flood management. The Congresses also provide a platform for reviewing a number of contentious issues

concerning the future of irrigation water vis-à-vis increased demands for competitive uses. The Congress aims to provide a platform for irrigation and drainage professionals and a broad range of other stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience in sustainable agriculture water management focusing on irrigation management and its related/integrated aspects.

During the Congress, the papers will be presented and discussed, answering Questions 64 & 65. In addition, Special Sessions, Symposiums, Training, Workshops, and a large number of side events will also be held as part of this mega event. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) strives for a water-secure world free of poverty and hunger through its mission to facilitate prudent agriculture water management. 'Enabling Higher Crop Productivity with Less Water Energy' is the most cherished goal of ICID Vision 2030. Through its tri-annual Congresses, ICID provides a forum to exchange knowledge, information and technology solutions for alternative water resources and increasing water productivity through on-farm interventions to tackle agricultural water scarcity.

**Question 64: What Alternative Water Resources could be Tapped for Irrigated Agriculture?**

The spatial and temporal variabilities in precipitation and water availability call for harnessing the blue water component for different uses. Water use and management in agriculture cross many scales: crops, fields, farms, delivery systems, basins, and nations.

**Sub-Questions:**

**Q.64.1 *Developing and Reinforcing Conventional Sources of Irrigation Water***

**Q.64.2 *Tapping Non-Conventional Sources of Water***

**Q.64.3 *Empowerment of Farmers***

Question 65: What On-Farm Techniques can Increase Water Productivity?

There are several different approaches by which farmers can improve water



productivity. Options include those related to plant physiology, which focuses on making transpiration more efficient or productive, agronomic practices, which aim at reducing evaporation, and on-farm agricultural-engineering approaches, which aim at making water application more precise and more effective.

**Sub-Questions:**

**Q.65.1 *Improving Management of Existing Facilities***

**Q.65.2 *Improved Agronomic Practices and Research / Innovation***

**Q.65.3 *Efficient Application of Irrigation Water***

**Schedule of Submission of Abstracts / Full Papers**

The abstracts/ papers are invited from the policymakers, professionals, academicians, researchers, experts, and scientists from private and government sectors as per the following deadlines.

- Submission of 'Extended Abstracts' (500-600 words): **28 February 2023**
- Notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstracts: **31 March 2023**
- Submission of Full papers: **30 April 2023**
- Notification to Authors (oral/poster/presentation): **31 May 2023**

**Online Paper Submission**

- Online 'Extended Abstract' submission is now open. New Users are expected to create their

own accounts. The procedure for creating a new account is available at [https://congress.icidevents.org/Register\\_Modify.aspx](https://congress.icidevents.org/Register_Modify.aspx)

- Please note that only the 'Extended Abstracts' of the papers are required in the first stage of submission to enable peer review by an International Review Committee. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT THE FULL PAPERS AT THIS STAGE as they would not be reviewed now.
- Upon receiving an acceptance letter from ICID Central Office, authors are required to provide/upload an electronic version of the full-length papers in Microsoft Word format (file size limited to 10 MB) by strictly following the guidelines available at <https://congress.icidevents.org/PaperSubmissionProcess.aspx>

**Contact Organizer:**

Mr. R. Girdhar, Director, Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), C/o Remote Sensing Directorate, Central Water Commission, Department of Water Resources (RD and GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, 425(N), Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi 110066 — **AND** — Andhra Pradesh Government, VPH Dr. Yella Reddy, E-mail: [icid.25congress@gmail.com](mailto:icid.25congress@gmail.com), [yellark@gmail.com](mailto:yellark@gmail.com), Website: [www.icid25congress.in](http://www.icid25congress.in)

**ICID Central Office:**

Er. Balasaheb Anantrao Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID, E-mail: [icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org), Website: <https://icid-ciid.org/event/detail/25>

## 2nd WASAG International Forum, Praia, Cabo Verde, West Africa, 7-10 February 2023

Following its launch during the UNFCCC's COP 21 in Marrakech Morocco in November 2016, the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) has steadily received recognition and mandate to support countries in finding solutions to cope with climate change in agriculture in the face of climate change.

In April 2017, a meeting of Partners agreed to establish a WASAG partnership to be hosted by FAO to advance the mandate of the Framework.

Emerging from its foundational years, WASAG held its first international forum with the theme Leaving no one behind from 19 to 22 March 2019 in Praia, Cabo Verde, where the partners – under the leadership of the six WASAG working groups – developed and adopted the Praia Commitments.

With the contribution of its 70 partners, WASAG has since developed its strategy for 2021-2024. WASAG is set to further play a greater role in developing collaborative actions as solutions to the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the resulting water scarcity, in order to make agriculture more resilient.

### Objectives of the forum:

- To mobilize political commitment to accelerate strategic actions, including policies and investments

for addressing water scarcity in agriculture

- To formulate messages that will raise the profile of water scarcity in agriculture in the climate change dialogues at the forthcoming UN Water Conference in March 2023 and UNFCCC COP 28 in November 2023
- To discuss ways of making the partnership more effective and impactful for the implementation of the new WASAG Strategy 2021-2024 and involving all Partners
- To share relevant knowledge and information on key issues and to network and to foster collaboration among partners
- To showcase the latest technologies, practices and products in agriculture (through the fair)
- The forum will aim to promote and position agriculture at the core of climate change discussions in view of the forthcoming events and beyond:
- UN-Water conference (New York, 22-24 March 2023) – Comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028.



- UNFCCC COP 28 (United Arab Emirates, 6-17 November 2023) – Climate Change

The forum will also aim to define the actions and review the modus operandi of WASAG in order to accelerate the delivery of the Framework and its Partnership on its mandate. <<https://www.fao.org/3/cc2664en/cc2664en.pdf>>



### News from National Committees

#### INCID

In view of the forthcoming events of the 25th International Congress and 74th IEC in Vizag, India, the information including the logo webpage has been updated. For access please click the link <https://icid25congress.in>

#### IACID

NC Contact: Ms. Naomi Carragher, Business Administration Manager, Irrigation Australia Ltd, Secretariat, Irrigation Australia's Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID), PO Box 13, Cannon Hill, QLD 4170, Email: [naomi.carragher@irrigation.org.au](mailto:naomi.carragher@irrigation.org.au) or [dave.cameron@irrigation.org.au](mailto:dave.cameron@irrigation.org.au), Website: <http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au>

### IRPID-IRN Appoints New Executive Secretary

Dr. Behzad Navidi-Nassaj, a young professional of the Khuzestan Regional Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (KRCID), the IRNCID, and the ICID has been appointed as the IRPID-IRN Executive Secretary. He is also a member of Iran's National Elites Foundation (INEF). He has a PhD in Water Resources Engineering and has been cooperating with IRPID-IRN and KRCID since 2017. He effectively and actively participated in numerous IRNCID, KRCID, and IRPID-IRN programs, such as the 13th drainage workshop (IDW13), the international water accounting workshop, concepts and tools, the water accounting book translation, etc. Contact: Email - [Behzad.Navidi@gmail.com](mailto:Behzad.Navidi@gmail.com), Web IRPID-IRAN - <http://www.irpid-iran.org>

### International Partner Organizations

#### A. FAO: International Year of Millets 2023

The International Year of Millets is being launched at FAO headquarters on 6 December 2022

The United Nations General Assembly at its 75th session in March 2021 declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM). The IYM 2023 is an opportunity to raise awareness of, and direct policy attention to the nutritional and health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions. It is an occasion to promote the sustainable production of millets while also highlighting their potential to create sustainable market opportunities for producers and consumers.

## ICID Initiative for a Global Inventory of Irrigation and Drainage Schemes

### Need a Global View

Irrigated agriculture forms the kingpin of the food and water security of the country and the region. Systematic irrigation is practised through irrigation projects of various sizes, which provide the assured source for a sustainable and timely water supply. Thus, an irrigation project forms the atomic unit of irrigation and water resources development. Across the world, irrigation is practised under varying agro-climatic conditions and topography and area appropriate solutions for the same determine the features of individual irrigation projects.

A global view of the irrigation and drainage projects provide great insights into various development approaches followed across the world, their success and their performance. It is observed that the topographic, hydrologic, agronomic and social conditions form a unique combination in which an irrigation project gets planned and implemented. Hence, there is a need to have a global view of the developments which show us the measures adopted and their contexts under a multi-dimensional environment. Attempts are made by various researchers and practitioners to examine specific issues but examination of a project as a whole in a global context requires a repository of information through which the individual projects of interest can be visualized and approached for lessons.



ICID is the only major international scientific and technical organization that, through its membership network, spans across more than 90% of the irrigated areas of the world. The necessity for having a global view of projects devoted to irrigation and drainage is greatly felt by the member countries and also across the world by various agencies. ICID has, therefore, taken initiative to collect and provide a community knowledge base of irrigation and drainage projects which can work as a common pool resource for understanding the status of development and approaches used for the development and management project under varying conditions.

### Setting up a Register of World Irrigation Schemes

Various registers exist in the field of engineering structures and other entities, the most notable from the water resources angle being the World Register of Dams being maintained by the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). ICID

is also maintaining a World Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures and awards recognition to the structures meeting the eligibility criteria.

Most registers examined are about structures and individual components of a system and none recording the features of irrigation and/or drainage project on a worldwide scale. It is, therefore, felt that such a register should be established for irrigation projects and ICID being a key player in the fields of irrigation and drainage is the most suitable agency for the establishment of a Register on "World Irrigation Projects". The authenticity of the projects in the register will be obtained through ICID National Committees

The facility is presently located at [www.icidevents.org/WorldIrrPrjs/Default.aspx](http://www.icidevents.org/WorldIrrPrjs/Default.aspx) and is in the development phase. At the appropriate time, once a critical mass of data is available, the same will be migrated to a dedicated domain duly registered. <https://wip.icidevents.org/>

IYM 2023 aims to contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 15 (Life on land). It will also contribute to FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31.

The global food system faces many complex challenges, including hunger, malnutrition and diet-related diseases, an ever-growing global population that needs sufficient and healthy food, the climate emergency and the depletion of natural resources. We need to unlock the great potential millets hold as an affordable nutritious food, a worthy component for global healthy diets, and a crop that can withstand climate change. IYM 2023 is an opportunity to highlight the benefits of millet for Better production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life. They can become a key crop within global food systems, with the potential to improve the livelihoods

of smallholder farmers, nutrition and the environment.

### The Importance of Millets

- Millets are a part of the solution to crop productivity in the drylands;
- Global trade in millets is a pathway to prosperity;
- Millets are highly nutritious and can help combat lifestyle diseases, and can be prepared in ways that are attractive, both familiar and exotic; and
- They are indeed Smart Food for the future!

IYM 2023 aims to raise awareness of the multiple benefits of millets including their nutritional and health benefits and suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions. The Year aims to strengthen science-policy interaction, empower stakeholders to take action, and build new partnerships while strengthening existing ones. IYM 2023 can also contribute to achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6085/icode/>

### B. South Korea to foster local grain production to bolster food self-sufficiency

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), the Korean Government will foster the output of locally grown grain to help increase the country's food self-sufficiency rate to 55.5 percent by 2027, up from 44.4 percent last year. The number of overseas grain terminals operated by local firms will be increased to five from two, to secure stable grain distribution channels, respectively in Ukraine and U.S. The global cooperation with key current grain-producing countries will be strengthened, as fortified by stronger overseas development assistance ties and plans to diversify trade partner counties in Central and South America.

The Government's investment to improve the quality and cost competitiveness is

vital, a goal that should be prioritized by private firms to create a market for promoting stable consumption of locally grown wheat and beans, the ministry added. Also important is active participation in discussions among key global agriculture players in global food supply chains.

## Other Events and Publication

**A. International Conference on Water Management & Climate Change, organized by Water Resources Department, Government of Karnataka, Dharwad, Karnataka, India**

The International Conference on Water Management and Climate Change attempts to construct a relationship between the implications of climate change and water management and their effect on farm productivity and rural livelihood. The conference attempts to analyse these interconnections and the effect of each of them at different places and stages. The conference is expected to have brainstorming deliberations among global experts in water management and climate change. It aims to generate novel ideas and suggestions for sustainable, nature and farmer-friendly solutions. Global scientists, academicians, administrators, water resource managers, farmers, civil society actors, irrigation experts, and environmentalists share their expertise and experiences to arrive at short-term and long-term policy suggestions.

- **Sub-Theme 1: Challenges of Water Management**
- **Sub-Theme 2: Implication of climate change**
- **Sub-Theme 3: Way forward**

**Contact:** Dr. Rajendra Poddar, Director, WALMI, Dharwad & Organizing Secretary, Email: walmievents2023@gmail.com, Website: <https://walmievents2023.in/>

**B. XVIII World Water Congress on Theme "Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature",** hosted by International Water Resources Associations (IWRA) and Ministry of the Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, at Beijing, China, 11 - 15 September 2023.

The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results and new developments in the field of water sciences around the world. For almost five decades the World Water Congresses have been excellent events for the identification of major global themes concerning the water agenda, and the bringing together of a large cross-section of stakeholders for the development

and implementation of decisions in the field of water. <https://www.worldwatercongress.com/>

**C. COSTEA2 RESTITUTION SEMINAR - COSTEA (Scientific and Technical Committee for Agricultural Water)**, was created in 2013 by AFD (Agence Française pour le Développement), the project funder, and AFEID (Association Française pour l'Eau, l'Irrigation et le Drainage), the project owner, to support the growing demand from States of the Global South in their reinvestment in irrigation. <https://www.comite-costea.fr/>

**D- Rainwater Harvesting Webinar Series on Water efficiency, productivity and sustainability in the NENA regions (WEPSNENA).** For more information, please click the link: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/water-efficiency-nena/webinars/rainwaterharvesting/en/>

**E- 3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 13 - 15 March 2023** - After a long delay due to the pandemic, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative is inviting the world's soil biodiversity researchers, educators, and policy supporters to join us in Dublin, Ireland on 13-15th March 2023 for the 3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference. Please explore the website for comprehensive information on attendance. The call for submissions is now open. Submissions are invited on any scientific topic relevant to the conference theme "Science as a basis for the sustainable use and conservation of soil biodiversity." <https://gsb2023.org/>

**F- 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), 3-9 February 2023, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada** -The 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) will bring together ocean conservation professionals to chart a course towards protecting 30% of the global ocean by 2030. IMPAC5 aims to provide an opportunity for the global community of marine conservation managers, practitioners and decision-makers to exchange knowledge, experience and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity and to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean. <https://www.impac5.ca/>

**G- International Conference on Innovations to Transform Drylands, 21-23 February 2023, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India**

The conference plans to bring together global experts from research, academia, industry, MSMEs, food processing start-ups, policymakers and NGOs to coalesce new and innovative approaches and scientific innovations to capitalise on opportunities while addressing the challenges inherent in the drylands.

### Conference Themes

- Dryland Production Systems: Improving the Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers
- Seed Systems: Elevating Public-Private Partnerships in Asia and Africa

- Regenerative/Natural Farming Systems for Drylands
- Managing Dryland Soil Health and Water Resources
- Strengthening Nutri - Sensitive Food Systems for the Drylands
- Improving Productivity, Climate Resilience and Nutrition in Drylands - Technologies and Approaches
- Inclusive Demand-Driven Value Chains for the Drylands
- Integrating Gender Youth and Social Inclusion in Dryland Agri-Food Systems

### H- Publication: UN – The Land Gap Report 2022

As growing climate change impacts are experienced across the globe, The United Nations Environment Program b/w the ongoing COP -26 Meeting released a report named "The Land Gap Report 2022" on 27 October 2022. The report is the 13th edition in an annual series that provides an overview of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avert the worst impacts of climate change. This report explains how land-based carbon removal requires land-use change. These changes pose a significant risk to people's ability to access, control and steward land. Ensuring that people have access to land and protecting tenure rights provides them with the resources and security they need to adapt to climate change. Strong, secure land rights also allow people to employ changes that require significant work and resources and give them the stability they need to benefit from the gains that accrue in the medium and long term. What is at stake is nothing less than people's fate. This report further clarifies why and how agroecology provides a way to mitigate and adapt to climate change and fulfil people's human rights. Agroecology is a science and a practice, the primary goal of which is to mimic ecological processes and biological interactions as much as possible to design production methods so that food producers' systems can generate their own soil fertility and protection from pests, and increase productivity. As an agricultural practice, agroecology is labour-intensive and encompasses a range of production techniques derived from local experience and expertise that draw on immediately available resources. Thus, it also relies heavily on experiential knowledge, more commonly described as traditional knowledge. As a social movement, producer-based agroecology acts as an important driver for strengthening social cohesion through the gradual reduction of social inequalities, the promotion of local governance and sovereignty and the empowerment of local communities. For full access to the report please click the link [https://catalogue.unccd.int/1969\\_Land-Gap-Report-2022.pdf](https://catalogue.unccd.int/1969_Land-Gap-Report-2022.pdf)

