

NEWS UPDATE

A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural

December 2023

From Secretary-General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

I wish you all Happy New Year 2024! As we step into the New Year, let's continue to work together towards our common goals with determination, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to the water and agriculture sector.



After successful organisation of 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meeting, ICID is gearing up for its upcoming 75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference. The Call for Papers for the 75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference on the theme "Irrigation's role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban green spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate" from 01 - 07, September 2024, Sydney, Australia was released. I encourage you all to submit your papers and participate in the event to discuss and deliberate on the conference theme. The details are available at Newsletter.

Fifth December was the World Soil Day 2023. Our planet's survival depends on the precious link between soil and water. Over 95 percent of our food originates from these two fundamental resources. However, in the face of climate change and human activity, our soils are being degraded, putting excessive pressure on our water resources. The deteriorating soil quality along with the newly emerging and competing demands for water pose a challenge to the ICID Vision 2030 for a water secure world free of poverty and hunger. Sustainable soil management practices, such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, organic matter addition, and cover cropping, improve soil health, reduce erosion and pollution, and enhance water infiltration and storage. These practices also preserve soil biodiversity, improve fertility, and contribute to carbon sequestration, playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change. World Soil Day 2023 (WSD) and

its campaign aim to raise awareness of the importance and relationship between soil and water in achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. WSD is a unique global platform that not only celebrates soils but also empowers and engages citizens around the world to improve soil health. Let's use the occasion and the platform to bring the soil management community into the National Committees (NCs).

During the month Communique of the national workshop and annual general meeting of the Nigeria National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NINCID) held at Tahir Guest Palace, Gra, Nasarawa, Kano City, Kano state from 3rd – 8th December, 2023. A webinar on the Role of Women in Water Governance and Management was held on 28 December 2023, organized in collaboration with ICID and the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) to discuss and focus on the crucial topic of women's role in water governance and management. The Women's role in water resource management is recognized, executing methods and strategies to get beyond gender-based obstacles to women's equal participation in water resource management-related schemes remains vague. More details are provided in the Newsletter.

The Task Team for the organization of the 6th African Regional Conference visited to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation on 20 December, 2023. The visit was very fruitful with the Honourable Minister throwing his weight and full support to the hosting of the Conference in Nigeria by year 2025.

ICID was represented by ED, Er. Mr. Harish Kumar Varma and he delivered a Keynote Address during the workshop on "Meghna Water Futures Programme: Engaging Youth for River Conservation" held on 28 – 30 November 2023 at Kathmandu Nepal, organised by IUCN. The Meghna basin, shared by Bangladesh and India, covers 64,947 square km with 33% in Bangladesh and 66% in India. The river plays a vital role in sustaining the lives and livelihoods of over 50 million people, including indigenous communities. The basin is facing significant challenges due to increasing population pressures, the degradation of forests and

wetlands, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, including increasing drought and floods (MKF 2021). To ensure greater participation of youth in actions related to the conservation of the Meghna River ecosystems and biodiversity, IUCN and partners are facilitating the development of a 3-year-long Meghna Water Futures Programme (MWFP).

The Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India with facilitation support from IWP has organised a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on 1 December, 2023 at Central Water Commission Auditorium to discuss, validate and finalize the country score assigned by the SDG 6.5.1-IWRM Country Focal Point based on the inputs and information received on the country-wide survey conducted in 2023 through a predefined structured questionnaire with guidelines. The detailed concept note is given in the Newsletter.

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year. The First Middle East Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage on the theme "Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development" will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 26-28 February, 2024 in Riyadh and organised by Saudi Irrigation Organisation (SIO) and Saudi Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (SACID) in partnership with ICID. For more details visit at <https://sacid2024.sio.gov.sa/En>. The 14th International Drainage Workshop on the topic "Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development" will be organised in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan from May 30 to June 1, 2024. For more details visit at <https://tajncid.tj/>

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

With warm regards

A.B. Pandya
Secretary General

Webinar on the Role of Women in Water Governance and Management, 28 December 2023



In collaboration with ICID and Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) organised a webinar on 'Role of Women in Water Governance and Management' on 28 December, 2023. The webinar was delivered by Speaker Dr. Narges Zohrabi, Associate Professor, Department of Water Sciences and Engineering, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz, Iran and Head of ICID's International Research Program for Irrigation and Drainage - Iran Regional Node (IRPID-IRN) and Moderated by Dr. Fatemeh Karandish (IRNCID). The webinar highlighted major and minor advantages of women's participation in delineating national and international objectives in water sector.

About

It has been three decades since the world realized the vital role of

women in water management. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 emphasized the crucial role of women in the provision, management, and protection of water resources. However, the lack of engaging discourse and a systematic, integrated approach has led to insufficient attention to the capacity and potential of women in water management. Although Women's role in water resource management is recognized, executing methods and strategies to get beyond gender-based obstacles to women's equal participation in water resource management-related schemes remains vague. As a result, women have a low level of involvement in water management, and the optimization of their partnerships has not been sufficiently supported.

If the goal is to achieve sustainable development, all users and stakeholders should be involved in developing water management programs, including (and

perhaps primarily) women. However, despite the high potential role of women, they have a minor role in water decisions. The lack of understanding of such differences by planners may contribute to the failure of general objectives. There is a global inclination towards increasing the presence of women in the water sector as there are numerous accomplished young women capable of participating in the water sector with appropriate training and support. Thus, the improvement in the future socio-political atmosphere of various countries and the developing awareness of legislative bodies concerning guaranteeing women's participation in the water sector are practical solutions for increasing the presence of women.

National Workshop Organized by the Nigeria National committee on Irrigation and Drainage, 3 - 8 December 2023

Nigeria National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NINCID) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWR&S) through the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) organized a 5-Day Workshop and Meeting of NINCID

held at Tahir Guest Palace, GRA, Nasarawa, Kano City, Kano State from 3 – 8 December, 2023. The focus of the Workshop was for the Stakeholders to discuss progress, emerging issues and proffer the way forward in the Irrigation and Drainage Subsector as well as to

deliberate on the hosting of the 6th ICID African Regional Conference coming up in Nigeria from 14 to 18 April, 2025.

The Workshop was attended by two hundred and sixty-five (265) participants comprising: Resource Persons, serving and retired Management Staff of the



Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), Staff of Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation and its Agencies (the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC), National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), Management of Transforming Irrigation Management in Nigeria (TRIMING) Project), Representatives of some States Ministries of Water Resources (Jigawa, Kano, Zamfara and Katsina), Consultants, Contractors, Private Sectors, Water Users Associations (WUAs), Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers (NIAE) Chairman and other Stakeholders.

The Workshop was declared open by the Governor of Kano State, His Excellency Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, ably represented by his Special Adviser on Water Resources, Dr. Bello Shanono. Other dignitaries at the occasion included, His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, represented by Turakin Kano and District Head of Fagge, Alh. Mamud Ado Bayero.

The Honourable Minister's Keynote Address was delivered by the Director of Irrigation and Drainage, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr. (Mrs.) E. O. Oluniji, FNSE, FNIWE, FNIAE. In his Address, he stressed that this Administration is giving the Water Resources Sector a priority status in the socio-economic development of the Country in meeting the cardinal programme of the government in areas of poverty reduction, integrated development

and increased food production through irrigation, employment generation and sustainable water resources management.

Workshop Activities

1. Fourteen (14) papers were presented on a wide range of related issues and were exhaustively discussed. The lead paper titled "Tackling National Emergency on Food and Water in Nigeria: The role of Irrigation and Drainage Sub-sector" was presented by Engr. Prof. S.M. Musa, FNSE, FNIAE, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The other papers were:
 - The Impact of TRIMING Project on the Completed KRIP and HVIP towards Increased Food Production and Improved Livelihood of the Farming Communities, by the National Programme Coordinator, TRIMING Project, Engr Peter Manjuk;
 - Trends in Irrigation and Drainage Practices and their implications on Food and Water Securities, by Engr Prof. Henry E. Igbadun, Department of Agricultural and Bio-resources Engineering, IAR/ABU Zaria, presented by Dr Ezekiel Oiganji, University of Jos;
 - Climate-Smart Agricultural Water Management Practices for Increased Resilience and Environmental Sustainability by Prof. K. Oluwasemire, Department of Soil Resources Management, University of Ibadan;
 - Greenhouse, Hydroponic and Vertical Irrigated Peri-urban Agriculture:

Prospects and constraints by Ms. Gladys Igomu, Etema Farms and Consults, Gwagwalada, Abuja, FCT;

- Research, Partnership and Funding Opportunities towards Food and Water Security in Nigeria by Engr. Prof. Mohammed Gana Yisa, University of Abuja;
- Policy Implementation Challenges in Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management in Nigeria: Threats in Food and Water Securities by Engr. I. K. Musa, FNSE, mni, Retired Federal Director (I & D);
- Socio-Economic, Political and Ecosystem Dynamics in Water and Food Security: The way forward, by Dr. Mrs Ibukun Ogwu, University of Abuja/ Agriware Consult;
- Managing Irrigation Infrastructure for Efficient and Effective Water and Land Productivities: A Case of Kano River Irrigation Scheme (KRIS) by Engr. Yahaya Kazaure (Retired Director, National Integrated Water Resources Management Commission);
- Specific Demand-Driven Training and Retraining of Public Irrigation Agencies by Engr. Dr. E. A. Aderibigbe (Retired Federal Director, DID and Facilitator, National Open University);
- Specific Training and Retraining of major Stakeholders in Irrigation by Alhaji Rabi Abubakar, Managing Director, Inter-tropical Consultants, Kano;
- Public Private Partnership in Irrigation Subsector by Prof. Gbolagade B.



Ayoola, Farms and Infrastructure Foundation, Jabi, Abuja;

- Diversion of River Benue Flood Water for Massive Irrigation and Food Security in Nigeria by Abdulkarim Ibrahim, NINCID Youth Member; and
- Water for Household Irrigation Scheme Empowerment (WHISE) Project for Sustainable Food Security in Nigeria by Engr Ibraheem Olomoda, Managing Director/CEO, Interhydro Consultancy Services, Ilorin.
- About 150 Participants undertook a Field Trip to Tiga Dam and Kano River Irrigation Scheme which benefited from TRIMING Project intervention.

Observations:

In the course of the deliberations, the following observations were made:

- Nigeria is endowed with abundant surface and ground water resources. However, its effective and efficient management pose some challenges;
- Food Security cannot be achieved without irrigation which is competing with other subsectors for financial resources;
- Irrigated agriculture has great potential to revitalize the rural landscape and drive the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda;
- There is a gap between food supply and demand brought about by the fast-growing population, insecurity, limited financial resources and declining production, leading to a high incidence of food insecurity in the country;
- Adaptation of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Water Management in line with global best practices will enhance the profitability of farmers with increased productivity;
- Effective Research and Development (R&D) is key to achieving food and water security;

- There are limiting factors towards the implementation of Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management (IDAWM) policy in Nigeria which include but not limited to: inconsistent policy framework and poor enabling environment, inadequate executive capacity of implementing agencies, ineffective organizational environment and management, insufficient resources as well as corruption;

- The paucity of political actors and other relevant stakeholders to participate in this workshop;
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) has the potential to improve the performance of irrigation and drainage systems but is not effectively working in Nigeria due to weak implementation and commitment by stakeholders to existing legal and regulatory framework among other reasons;
- Lack of sufficient technical expertise and inefficient training and knowledge among farmers and other major stakeholders is one of the crucial challenges hindering the irrigation and drainage development;
- Irrigation is both a technology and farmer support policy which has implications for successful delivery of public irrigation services for private agribusiness in Nigeria.

Recommendations:

For Irrigation and Drainage Sub-sector to play effective role in tackling national emergencies on food and water securities in Nigeria, the Workshop recommended the following:

- all tiers of government and private sector should promote the processing of relevant “irrigated-value-chain-commodities” into finished products to narrow the food supply-demand gaps, improve incomes, reduce unemployment and create rural businesses;
- publicize the success story of irrigation water rates collection as in the case of KRIS so that it will serve as a template to set the pace for water pricing and fees paid by farmers to enhance sustainability of Nigeria’s public irrigation schemes;
- promote adaptive and basic research in sustainable irrigation technology and innovation in climate-smart agriculture as well as machinery and equipment design;

- adapt practices that would reduce vulnerability to climate change - impacts of floods, drought and desertification, waste water reuse, greenhouse technology, hydroponics and aeroponics for water security;
- intensify building the capacity of policy implementers, farmers and other stakeholders on data collection and management;
- more extension workers should be recruited and trained to assist farmers in all the public irrigation schemes in Nigeria;
- develop a collaborative IDAWM policy implementation support programme by establishment of a “IDAWM policy implementation support center” to harmonize existing national IDAWM policies to explicitly identify the strategic priorities;
- there is need to update and put to use the existing Inventory of Irrigation schemes in Nigeria with a view to mobilizing States and other stakeholders to exploit the potentials of irrigation schemes which will enhance food production and mitigate food insecurity;
- a Committee of experts in irrigation should be constituted to come up with a report on the challenges and ways/ methods of solving them and to be disseminated to relevant stakeholders;
- manuals/pamphlets on irrigation practices and procedures should be produced and disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders as guides in carrying out agricultural activities in public irrigation schemes;
- the setting up of a committee to come up with sustainability exit strategies for TRIMING Project for the consideration and approval of the National Council on Water Resources;
- conduct regular training and retraining of major stakeholders in Irrigation and Drainage Sub-Sector to enhance agricultural productivity, improve water management, foster sustainable farming practices as well as promote overall food self-sufficiency and security;
- the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation should collaborate with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to address the issues of food and water securities in the country;

- there is urgent need to promote inter-basin water transfer, mitigate flooding and flood disasters in the Country (e.g. diversion of river Benue floodwater northward) to check drought and desert encroachment and ensure adequate protection of lives and properties as well as enhance massive Irrigation for food crop production in Nigeria;
- relevant MDAs at Federal, State government levels and other Stakeholders should be encouraged to generate timely and up-to-date data to guide in the development and management of irrigation and drainage projects across the Country. Also, generated data should be transferred and housed at National Water Resources Information System (NAWIS) in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation which is to be accessible to the general public online appropriately;
- Government at all levels should address security challenges to ensure effective participation of farmers and other stakeholders in irrigation schemes in the Country.

ICID attended the meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) SDG 6.5.1 Stage 1 Survey in India, on 1 December 2023

A meeting organized by the Central Water Commission, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and India Water Partnership (GWP-India) on 1 December 2023. The core theme of the meeting is based on “Concept Note under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) SDG 6.5.1 Stage 1 Survey in India”. In the meeting ICID was represented by the Er. H.K. Verma, Executive Director, ICID. He provided the inputs and suggestions to refine and enrich the Country Report which were accepted and implemented in the report. The session includes the welcome remarks of Sh. Ashok Kumar Kharya, Chief Engineer, CWC; Opening address by Ms. Archana Varma, I.A.S., Addl. Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission, DoWR, RD &GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India; and presentation on overview on SDG 6.5.1 Country Survey by Sh. Abhishek Sinha, Director, Central Water Commission and Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership (GWP-India).

To track the progress made with respect to the baseline established in India through SDG 6.5.1 in 2020, the UNEP is undertaking Stage 1 survey in India in 2023. The process of data collection and information on the progress IWRM had been initiated by the Country Focal Point in April, 2023 through a structured questionnaire provided by UNEP focusing on the following 4 key components:

- Enabling Environment - Policies, laws and plans to support Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implementation.
- Institution and Participation – The range and roles of political, social, economic and administrative institutions and other stakeholder

groups that helps to support implementations.

- Management Instruments - The tools and activities that enable decision-makers and users to make rational and informed choices between alternative actions.
- Financing - Budgeting and financing for water resources development and management.

Background

As part of 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 with a vision to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. All the 17 SDGs came into force with effect from 1 January 2016. Out of 17 Goals, Goal 6 is: Ensuring Water and Sanitation to All. The UN has defined 8 targets and 11 indicators for SDG 6. SDG Indicator 6.5 aims to implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels and SDG Indicator 6.5.1 is to monitor the progress and degree of IWRM.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the UN designated agency for reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.1- IWRM. The UNEP as custodian agency is collecting data and information on degree

of implementation of IWRM from the UN Member States through SDG indicator 6.5.1- IWRM under Target 6.5.1 Survey. The UNEP carries out the survey on SDG 6.5.1-IWRM every three years to track the progress on implementation of IWRM in the respective Member States. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India has been assigned the task of country reporting under SDG 6 Indicators including SDG Indicator 6.5.1 with the support of Central Water Commission as Nodal Agency.

Baseline Country Survey on Status of IWRM in the Country in 2020

India as one of 186 UN Member States had completed and submitted the country survey report on the SDG indicator 6.5.1 - IWRM in the year 2020 building on the 2017 baseline (Base Stage). The Country's report was submitted by a Government of India designated Country Focal Point. Central Water Commission (CWC), Chief Engineer, Basin Planning Management Organization (BPMO), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India is the India's Focal point who is coordinating for submission of country report on SDG 6.5.1 indicator with the facilitation support of India Water Partnership (GWP-India).



ICID Participated in the Workshop on Meghna Water Futures Programme (WFP): Engaging Youth for River Conservation; 28-30 November 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal



A workshop on theme “Meghna Water Futures Programme (WFP): Engaging Youth for River Conservation” organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) and Valuing Water Initiative (VWI), Netherlands from 28-30 November 2023, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The objective of the workshop to provide a regional learning exchange and networking platform for selected youth leaders and Engage youth leaders and partners in the design of the Meghna Water Futures Programme (2024-2026). The workshop covered the important Sessions which includes (i) Welcome and introduction to the Meghna initiative and keynote address (ii) Introduction of the Meghna WFP youth network and mapping common interests; (iii) Orienting the youth participants to multiple facets of river, e.g., ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge and cultures, nature-based/ ecosystem-based solutions (iv) Meghna Water Futures Programme – objectives and strategies (v) Implementation of the Meghna WFP – proposed work plan and network and (vi) Study tour.

During the session the ICID was represented by the Er. H.K Verma, Executive Director, ICID and he delivered the presentation on Value of youth engagement in promoting sustainable water and natural resource management in the Barak-Meghna region. Some of the points he highlighted in his presentations were (i) Growing population, industrialization putting pressure on

limited biodiversity, environment, natural resources - land, water, etc. (ii) Climate change and its impact is emerging as one of the biggest challenge (iii) Increasing food production through sustainable use of water require large investments in infrastructures, research and development that are compatible with the preservation of ecosystems and can adapt to climate change impacts (iv) Existing large irrigation infrastructure are not performing optimally and deteriorating requiring extension, rehabilitation/ renovation and modernization (v) Water crisis is intensifying despite conservation efforts both at the level of government and civil society organisations. He also talked about the activities of the ICID for securing water availability. Some of the activities he highlighted were (i) ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONALS e-FORUM (IYPeF) (ii) African Young Water Professionals Forum (Af-YWPF) and (iii) Capacity Development Activities (iv) Training Programmes.

About the workshop

The Meghna basin, shared by Bangladesh and India, covers 64,947 square km with 33% in Bangladesh and 66% in India. The river plays a vital role in sustaining the lives and livelihoods of over 50 million people, including indigenous communities. The basin is facing significant challenges due to increasing population pressures, the degradation of forests and wetlands, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, including increasing drought and floods.

To ensure greater participation of youth in actions related to the conservation of the Meghna River ecosystems and biodiversity, IUCN and partners are facilitating the development of a 3-year-long Meghna Water Futures Programme (MWFP).

Youth engagement strategy for the Meghna WFP (indicative):

1. Promote Education and Awareness: Develop educational materials and campaigns to inform youth about the Meghna river's importance, its ecological significance, and the threats it faces. Use multimedia platforms, water dialogue platforms, and community events to engage the Meghna Water Futures Programme.
2. Support Youth Leadership Programs: Create leadership programs that equip young individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to drive change. These programs should focus on leadership development, communication, and problem-solving.
3. Research and Innovation Fellowship: Offer grants and support for youth-led action projects and innovative solutions to address river conservation challenges
4. Community Engagement: Facilitate Meghna WFP youth network involvement in community-level dialogues (riverside consultation) and citizen science initiatives

Visit of the task team on 6th ICID - African Regional Conference, Nigeria, 20 December 2023

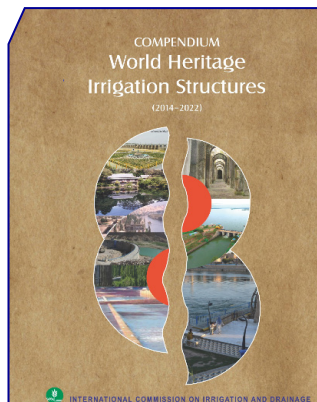


The Task Team of the 6th ARC has paid visit to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Nigeria. The visit was very fruitful with the Honourable Minister throwing his weight and full support to the hosting of the Conference in Nigeria by year 2025. Prominent among the visiting Team are; the Chair, NINCID and Director of Irrigation and Drainage, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Engr (Mrs) E. O. Oluniyi and VPH, Engr. I.K Musa, amongst others.

ICID Publication

Compendium World Heritage Irrigation Structures (2014-2022)

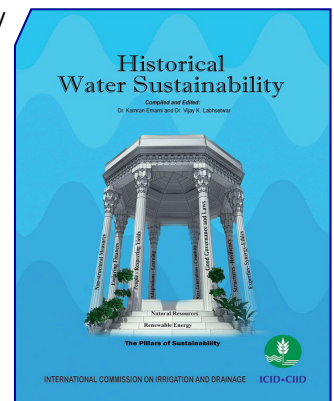
Since the dawn of human civilization water has been an enabler of societal development so much so that we started believing “Water is Life,” a common phrase in most languages. And, life is multi-dimensional involving not only a physical aspect but also economic, social, cultural, political, religious, and spiritual concepts. Early human settlements emerged around natural water availability and continued to do so for thousands of years. During civilization process the water bodies/scapes became integral parts of human communities and societies and their economic, social, cultural, political, religious, and spiritual activities. Historically, we have always assumed that water is not a limiting factor for human development, however, as our numbers grew from millions to billions, we started to see the finite dimension of water that we now term as “water scarcity” and once a life-critical natural resource becomes limiting our attention is diverted to its value, its use or misuse, its criticality to our survival and its conservation. We have started feeling constrained and questioning our early assumptions of infiniteness of water, and more importantly exploring ways to overcome this scarcity as climate change coupled with over-stretched carrying capacity of our ecosystem have exacerbated the human development situation. Fortunately, water is now being discussed in many domains which have a diverse worldview of water. Water is not owned by just one discipline of human existence, its multi-dimensionality needs



to be put in a holistic perspective facilitated by a dialogue among the stakeholders having asymmetric knowledge contexts, capacities, beliefs, socio-economic backgrounds, cultural and spiritual visions. The publication can viewed or accessed at: https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/WHISCompendium-ePublication.pdf.

Historical Water Sustainability

The 20th century was the century of explosive population growth, resulting in unprecedented impacts. At the start of the 21st century, humankind finds himself on a non-sustainable course – a course that, unless changed, will lead to catastrophes of terrible consequences. We are at an extraordinary crossroad of human history. Our actions or failures to act during the next decades will determine the fate of the human civilization for centuries to come. This is a MAKE-orBREAK century! According to a 2020 World Economic Forum (WEF) article, COVID-19 offers an opportunity to “reset and reshape” the world in a way that is more aligned with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which necessitated urgent action in respect of climate change, inequality, and poverty. Another post-COVID concern raised by the WEF is food security. The publication can viewed or accessed at: https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/HWS-ePublication.pdf.



FERO together with AARDO successfully organized online webinar on “Agricultural and fisheries Heritage System in Korea”, 13 December 2023

The Far East Regional Office (FERO) of AARDO in collaboration with AARDO and Korea FAO Association, organized an online webinar on “Agriculture and Fisheries Heritage Systems in Korea”, on 13 December 2023. The webinar aimed at knowledge enhancement and advances in understanding of Nationally/Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems of Korea by providing examples of how Korea’s GIAHS conservation can contribute to global goals and sustainable developments. The inauguration of the session was graced

by Mr. Rami Mahmoud Abdul Halim Al Qtaishat, Assistant Secretary General of AARDO and Dr. Junwon Lee, Honorary Representative of FERO.

The opening remarks were followed by a presentation titled “Rebirth of Agricultural Heritage: Guardians of Traditional Gudeuljang Irrigated Rice Terraces in Cheongsando”, given by Dr. Gil-sik Hwang, Head of Myeongso IMC. Starting with an introduction to multiple resources utilization projects in rural communities of Korea as well as Globally

Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS), the experts avidly share the core values of the Gudeuljang irrigated rice terraces systems in Cheongsando, artificially created paddies developed in regions with unfavourable conditions for rice cultivation with a shortage of arable lands and water resources, and the local efforts to make the region sustainable in line with SDGs, such as Gudeuljang conservation council and ownership system.



UNCCD launches ‘Global Drought Snapshot’ report at COP28 in collaboration with International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)

Several findings in this report highlight land restoration, sustainable land management and nature positive agricultural practices as critical aspects of building global drought resilience. By adopting nature-positive farming techniques, such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation methods, no-till and other soil conservation practices, farmers can reduce the impact of drought on their crops and incomes.

Efficient water management is another key component of global drought resilience. This includes investing in sustainable water supply systems, conservation measures and the promotion of water-efficient technologies.

Disaster preparedness and early warning systems are also essential for global drought resilience. Investing in meteorological monitoring, data collection

and risk assessment tools can help respond quickly to drought emergencies and minimize impacts. Building global drought resilience requires international cooperation, knowledge sharing as well as environmental and social justice. For details, please visit: https://www.droughtglobal.org/_files/ugd/648a9d_af549f9432e84673804730e2c0529049.pdf?index=true

ICID Forthcoming Events

1st Middle East Regional Conference, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 26-28 February 2024 on the Theme: Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development. Contact: Mr. Amjed Almajed, President, Saudi Arabian National Committee Saudi Arabian National Committee of ICID, Email: a.almajed@sio.gov.sa; Website - <https://sacid2024.sio.gov.sa/>

14th International Drainage Workshop, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 30 May - 1 June 2024 on the Theme: Modernization of Irrigation and Drainage Systems for Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Contact: Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda, Secretary, Tajikistan National Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (TajNCID). For more information please visit <https://tajncid.tj/>

75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference (AsRC), Sydney, Australia; 01 - 07, September 2024 on the Theme: Irrigation’s role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban green spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate. Contact: David Cameron; Website: <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>

Call for Abstracts

9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) on Irrigation & Drainage and Australian National Conference, 1-7 September 2024, Sydney. For more please visit: <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/call-for-abstracts/>.

6th African Regional Conference, Abuja, Nigeria, 14-15 April 2025 on the Theme: “Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa.”

76th IEC Meeting & 4th World Irrigation Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-13 September 2025 on the Theme: Challenges and Future Needs in Modernization of Irrigation for Food Security and Sustainability; Contact: mancidmalaysia@gmail.com, mancid.org@gmail.com

11th International Micro Irrigation Conference, Baghdad, Iraq, 2025

77th IEC & 26th ICID Congress, Marseille, France, 12-18 October 2026 on the Theme: “Agriculture and climate change: stakes and levers for irrigation and drainage.”

78th IEC & 5th World Irrigation Forum (WIF5), at Guoce International Conference & Exhibition Center, Beijing, China, 2027

Other Events

Responsible Water Management and Circular Economy, Mar 03, 2024 - Mar 06, 2024, Email : info@rwc.iitr.ac.in, Web: <https://www.iitr.ac.in/rwc/>

Global Water Summit, 15th - 17th April 2024, London, UK, <https://www.watermeetsmoney.com/>

4th International Baghdad Water Conference, Theme - Towards a Better Water Future: Together We Can, Apr 27, 2024 - Apr 29, 2024; Baghdad, Iraq. <https://baghdad-iwc.com/>

10th World Water Forum, 18th - 24th May 2024 - The World Water Forum is the largest international gathering in the water sector involving various stakeholders, which has been co-hosted by the World Water Council and a host city. The Forum is held every three years and has been taking place since 1997. The World Water Forum includes a three-year preparation phase (preparatory phase), a one-week event (event phase), and a presentation of the results (synthesis phase) with ongoing support for collective action. <https://worldwaterforum.org/>

