

NEWS UPDATE

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

August - September 2023

From Secretary-General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from ICID, New Delhi.



We hope by this time you have all set for your participation in 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meeting is being organised on the theme 'Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture' from 01st-08th November, 2023 at Radisson Blue Resort, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India.

147 full-length papers have been received for six sub-questions under Congress Questions No. 64 & 65, which will be deliberated during the three-day congress. Apart from the proceedings of the Congress, ICID's five technical working groups i.e. WG-WEF_N, WG-CLIMATE, WG-LDRG, WG-SDTA and WG-NCRWRI will organise International Workshops concurrently to the 25th ICID Congress. Leading organisations in the world like FAO, IWMI, ICARDA, GIZ, MSSRF Norway, International Geosynthetics Society, JIICA, WASAG, CNCID are organising the special events as a part of the Congress. It will be a truly enriching experience for water and irrigation professionals.

The website (<https://icid25congress.in/>) for the 25th ICID Congress & 74th IEC Meeting is being updated at regular interval to update the professionals and participants on the various developments. A tentative 'Program at a Glance' has been updated for the 25th ICID Congress & 74th IEC. The recent additions include: Key Speakers; International partners and their logos; Young professionals training by the Central Water Commission (CWC), India- European Union (EU) Water Partnership (IEWP); Tentative Programme; Visa information and required files of the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) - Security Clearance, and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) - No Objection; Information on hotels; etc. The online registration form has been fine-tuned to meet the international requirements. As of 14 October 2023, a total of 359 registrations were recorded. The new Dashboard shared with INCID was given options to generate invoices and receipts. To speed up the process of registration and sending of invitation letters, registered participants are provided login access to their account through which they can download their invitation letter, receipt, QR code, etc.

INCID has requested a separate online form to record stay, arrival details, and departure details to streamline the transportation and other arrangements, and the same is now made available through the login section. Registered participants were informed about the new facility introduced and requested to provide their WhatsApp numbers for easy communication. Presently, working on the integration of WhatsApp messaging through the registered portal. This feature will be made available in a few days' time.

I encourage all the members of National Committees, water and agriculture professionals, policy makers to actively participate in large nos. in the event to discuss and deliberate on the themes of the Questions highlighted and the International Workshops being organized during the Congress. We expect larger nos. of participation across the global water and agriculture policy makers, providing a great learning platform vis-a-vis the latest technologies, innovative practices and solutions, emerging issues and explore avenues for a collaborative global effort to solve the problems. The event also provides an opportunity to water resources and agriculture departments to project the India's Flagship programs being executed in the different states and to project its prowess to the global audience, by showcasing its advances and achievements in the sector.

It is hoped to have fruitful interaction with industry experts from the water and agriculture sectors. I am sure that all our national and international delegates are going to have a wonderful learning and networking opportunity during this event.

The Agenda Notes for the meetings associated with 74th IEC and various workbody meetings to be held from 1-8 November 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, have already been sent to members and are also available on the ICID website for download from https://icid-ciid.org/sub_inner_page/149 in accordance with ICID By-law 4.1.1, which requires that the Agenda for IEC shall be circulated to the NCs, Direct Members and Office Bearers at least one month before the date of the meeting.

In order to reduce the carbon footprints of our meetings, only two copies of the printed Agenda are being sent by airmail to the National Committees for their records along with one copy each to all the current Office-Bearers. Patrons are, therefore, requested to download the annotated Agenda Notes for various meetings from ICID website to their laptops/ tabs before they leave for India and use the electronic copy of the agenda during the meeting.

During the month of August, ICID CO had a meeting with Dr. Mohamed Abd salam EL Vilaly, Programme Officer, G20 Global Initiative Coordination Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on August 4, 2023. The UNCCD is the global voice to promote practices, land degradation and driving force to address the issues of Sustainable Development Goal 15, which is related to SDG 6. Under G20, the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation and reduce degraded land by 50 percent by 2040, was launched. UNCCD would like to collaborate with ICID in number of technical and other related activities such as capacity development - training

programme, organising workshops/webinars, study tours, networking and exchange of knowledge & information related to sustainable agricultural water management, sharing and dissemination of latest state-of-the-art technologies among members etc.

ICID CO also met with Mr Vishwaranjan Sinha, Water and Wetlands Programme's senior officer, leading on the Meghna River Basin Initiative, IUCN Asia Regional Office and IUCN representatives on 22 August, 2023. They made a brief presentation and discuss about the broader IUCN activities in the Meghna River Basin, particularly in Meghalaya and Barak-valley of Assam, through the BRIDGE (Building River Dialogues and Governance) Meghna initiative.

As part of CDTE-WG, AFRWG and WG-LDRG activities, a series of webinars was organized for the capacity building and development of YP's and one of the webinars, which was organized on 29 September, 2023 on "Towards the utilization of Agricultural drainage benefits for facing future challenges and achieving sustainability", highlighted the multi roles agricultural drainage as an instrument for agricultural and rural development and

mitigating climate change extreme events and achieving sustainability.

President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab Participated in the Regional Technical Dialogue being convened on Water, titled "Water Use Efficiency and Water Productivity within Sustainability Boundaries for Resilient Transformation of Agrifood Systems in the NENA Region", organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 25 September 2023 in virtual modality through the Zoom Platform. The Regional Technical Dialogue on Water provided a forum through which member countries, stakeholders, and development partners exchanged the information and proposed joint action at regional and sub-regional levels.

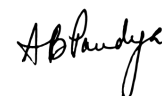
During the month of September, the Secretary General has participated in 18th World Water Congress on the theme "Sustainable Agricultural Water Management" held from 11-15, September 2023 and in the side event on the theme "Practices and inspirations of eco-friendly water conservancy", organised by CNCID. World Water Congress had secured a free exhibition space in the Congress for ICID to display and

promotion. The Congress witnessed 4 plenary meetings, 36 special sessions, and 72 special sessions that featured 211 reports and 278 paper posters. Secretary General also participated in the 6th China-Arab States Expo on the theme "Intensive, Economical, and Safe Use of Water Resources" in Yinchuan City. More details are provided in the Newsletter.

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year. Details of all the upcoming events are also given in the newsletter.

ICID would be happy to welcome you all – ICID Family and global water and agricultural professionals, industry experts, policy makers from Academia, Government Departments, Research Institutions, Associations etc. in November 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

With warm regards



A.B. Pandya
Secretary General

ICID meeting with IUCN on BRIDGE Meghna Initiative 2023-2026, 22nd August 2023

A meeting with ICID and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) –Asia Region has been organized on 22nd August 2023. IUCN made a brief presentation and discuss about the broader IUCN activities in the Meghna River basin, particularly in Meghalaya and Barak-valley of Assam, through the BRIDGE (Building River Dialogues and Governance) Meghna initiative. The meeting was represented by Secretary – General Er. A.B Pandya alongwith other delegates including Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, South Asia, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia Regional Office; Yash Veer Bhatnagar, Country Representative, IUCN; Ms. Archana Chatterjee, Project Manager at IUCN-India Country Office; and Mr. Nishant Jain, Senior Program Officer at IUCN, New Delhi. The meeting highlighted the need for data on the Meghna River basin ecosystem status, water quality, and the impacts of climate change. The discussion emphasised the need to shift from solving issues to a more effective cooperation for enhancing joint benefits.

The Meghna basin, shared by Bangladesh and India, covers 64,947 square km with 33% in Bangladesh and 66% in India (CEGIS & NEHU 2019). The basin includes the Meghalaya Plateau in the north; parts of Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland in the northeast; and Mizoram and Tripura in the southeast. In Bangladesh, the Meghna Basin includes the Haor region, in the Sylhet Division, known for extensive systems of wetlands and fisheries resources. The basin includes several rivers that originate from India and flow into Bangladesh, such as Simsang (Someshwari), Umngot (Piyain), and Myntdu (Shari-goyain) rivers originating from the Meghalaya plateau; and Barak (Surma) river originating from Manipur.

The river basin provides ecosystem services through the provision of forestry, fisheries, agriculture, navigation, and ecotourism, supporting an estimated 50 million people. The basin is also home to many different indigenous forest and fisheries-dependent communities, such as the Chakpa, Garo, Jaintia, and Khasi. However, the productivity of the

economic sectors is heavily impacted by the increasing population pressure, forest, and wetland degradation, as well as impacts of climate change such as irregular rainfall and flash floods. Joint solutions and integrated basin management approaches are required to tackle and minimize water governance challenges in the Meghna River basin.

IUCN Meghna basin initiative

Since 2018, IUCN is facilitating joint research and multi-stakeholder dialogues to support the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and climate-resilient development of the Meghna River basin.

The stakeholder dialogues have identified the importance of the Meghna River basin in providing ecosystem benefits, and also highlighted opportunities for both countries to work together. This includes joint management of forests to support flood and erosion control, and the development of transboundary navigation and ecotourism circuits. To ensure the activities are designed and implemented jointly with the local

stakeholders, IUCN works closely with the Meghna Advisory Group (MAG). The MAG is an informal multi-disciplinary team of experts comprising representatives from governments, academia, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Bangladesh and India.

In 2020, IUCN collaborated with the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong and Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka to conduct land-use change analysis of the entire Meghna basin. The research identified hotspots of land-use changes, and supported the development of land-use maps of the Meghna basin and its sub-basins. The maps are providing critical inputs for the Meghna dialogue, and supporting the development of integrated land-use planning tools.

In June 2021, IUCN convened the first-ever knowledge-sharing forum on

the Meghna River basin, with over 100 participants each day. The forum consisted of 17 co-conveners and 40 speakers from high-level governments, CSOs, academia, the private sector, and youth leaders.

To know more about BRIDGE Meghna basin outputs till 2022, read the story, Meghna: River of Life for India and Bangladesh.

Outcomes 2023-2026

By the end of 2026, The BRIDGE Meghna initiatives aim to achieve the following outcomes. The activities contributing to these outcomes will be supported by multiple donors, primarily SDC and SIDA.

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened community livelihoods resilience through improved data and analysis of climate change impacts on the primary sectors

(agriculture, forestry, fisheries) and communities;

- **Outcome 2:** Promoted inclusive management of ecosystems and protection of biodiversity through capacity building and piloting of locally-led Nature-based Solutions;
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthened Youth capacity and participation in dialogues and actions related to the management of the Meghna River basin.
- **Outcome 4:** Improved understanding of governance mechanisms for the implementation of IWRM across the Meghna River basin.



Dr. Mohamed Abd salam EL Vilaly - Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have paid visit to ICID Central Office, New Delhi on 4 August 2023

Dr. Mohamed Abd salam EL Vilaly, Programme Officer, G20 Global Initiative Coordination Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has paid visit to ICID Central Office on August 4, 2023. Secretary General Er. A.B Pandya welcomed Dr. Mohamed Abd salam EL Vilaly. The UNCCD is the global voice to promote practices, land degradation and driving force to address the issues of Sustainable Development Goal 15, which is related to SDG 6.

The UNCCD works to engage governments, international organizations, scientists, farmers, private enterprise and local communities to promote sustainable practices and shared knowledge that help improve land productivity and create a more resilient future.

The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, UK, USA) and the European Union (EU). Collectively, the G20 accounts for 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world population, making it the



premier forum for international economic cooperation.

In November 2020, at the Riyadh (Virtual) Summit of the G20 leaders, the G20 launched under the UNCCD flagship initiative, the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats with the following objectives and activities. The ambition of this Global Initiative is to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation and reduce degraded land by 50 per cent by 2040.

Objectives

1. Conserving land and halting

habitat loss, fragmentation and land degradation, notably through sharing knowledge and best practices on conservation incentives and implementation of other policies and best practices to enhance land conservation and reduce land degradation.

2. Promoting integrated, sustainable, and resilient land and landscape management through: nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches, as well as supporting sustainable land and water management policies and sustainable agricultural practices,

including traditional practices, in order to maintain and enhance ecosystem functionality.

3. Restoring degraded land through sustainable and locally or regionally appropriate reforestation, afforestation, natural regeneration/revegetation, restoration of ecosystem services, sustainable agricultural practices, and deployment of nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches for biodiversity conservation, among others, in order to restore ecosystem functionality in a landscape context.

Activities

1. Land conservation, sustainable management, and restoration website: the initiative will establish a website that will serve as an information sharing hub to provide easier access to information on land degradation, conservation, sustainable management, and restoration and foster collaboration

and broader engagement of various stakeholders in land conservation and restoration efforts.

2. Engagement of private sector and civil society: the Initiative will engage the private sector to encourage it to support land restoration efforts and adopt sustainable land management practices. Similarly, with strong calls from society for urgent environmental action, the Initiative will encourage direct engagement of civil society, including by mobilizing the general public.
3. Sharing knowledge and building capacity: the initiative will support the exchange of know-how and capacity building between G20 members, non-member countries, and other partners and additional stakeholders, as well as support efforts to accelerate exchange of best practices to enhance land conservation and restoration efforts.

Implementation Framework

The Initiative Coordination Office (ICO): The initiative will be implemented through the Initiative Coordination Office under oversight of the UNCCD. The ICO will have dedicated full-time staff and an annual budget from which it will fund its core activities. The ICO will receive administrative and financial oversight from the UNCCD Secretariat.

Initiative Steering committee consisting of all interested G20 members, the Secretariats of the UNCCD, FAO, UNEP, as well as non-member countries and other institutions that contribute to the work of the ICO will provide strategic direction to the ICO.

UNCCD would like to collaborate with ICID in number of technical and other related activities such as capacity development - training programme, organising workshops/webinars, study tours, networking and exchange of knowledge & information related to sustainable agricultural water management, sharing and dissemination of latest state-of-the-art technologies among members etc.

Webinar on Towards the Utilization of Agricultural Drainage Benefits for Facing the Future Challenges and Achieving Sustainability held on 29 September 2023

On 29 September, 2023 as part of CDTE-WG, AFRWG and WG-LDRG activities, and support capacity building and development of YP's a webinar is organized on "Towards the utilization of Agricultural drainage benefits for facing future challenges and achieving sustainability". The session was attended and moderated by PH Prof. Em. dr. ir. Bart Schultz (The Netherlands), PH Prof. Chandra A. Madramootoo P.Eng. (Canada), VPH Dr. Willem F. Vlotman (Australia), VPH Dr. Mohamed Abd El Moneim Wahba (Egypt). 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 of the webinar and gave an introductory note about the importance of the agricultural drainage benefits. He also talks about the impact of the climate change, water scarcity issues.

In the opening remarks Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab delivered a comprehensive note on the importance of utilization of agricultural drainage to support the double food production by 2050 to feed the 9.8 billion of people as it requires more water for



irrigation in a scenario where the fresh water resources are limited and the gap b/w the water supply and water demand are bigger and proportionally increasing and drainage water could be used as an alternative to narrow these gaps. He mentions that the several countries around the globe are using drainage water with composition with other water like fresh water, salinity water, treated industrial water etc. for the irrigation. He

mentions that the drainage is important part for the saline land irrigation to maintain the ground water table and to prevent it from contamination with hard water substances.

VPH Dr. Mohamed Abd El Moneim Wahba (Egypt) is talked about climate change. It becomes one of the most pressing challenges for the today 21st century and presently impacting on many

natural resources includes fresh water, glacier, river basins, ground water etc. He mentions that the climate change standing new challenges for the rainfed and irrigated agriculture. As he highlighted that the extreme climate catastrophic events are double in last couple of decades which directly impact the food production, livelihoods, lowering the rural income, increasing migration etc. PH Prof. Em. dr. ir. Bart Schultz delivered a presentation on "Drainage and Flood Protection of the Polders in Africa". VPH Dr. Willem F. Vlotman presents a presentation on "Drainage in Australia: Advanced Drainage Technologies". In Presentation focus on Advance Drainage Technologies which includes (i) Modern Land Drainage Design 2020; controlled drainage, reuse, drain envelope design (ii) Drainage on the Web (old, new and advanced); Wikipedia; U-tube (iii) Magflo flat drainpipe at Adelaide Oval a.o. (iv) Capiphon drain; a form of wick drainage; for sport fields and construction/foundation drainage (v) Hydroluis drainpipe-envelope combination; double wall pipe to prevent root growth in drainpipe. Türkiye experiment too expensive?

He also talked about the drainage benchmarking report of Australia, Advantages of Horizontal Dewatering compared to Vertical Well-drainage, Sports field drainage – Adelaide case study.

PH Prof. Chandra A. Madramootoo, McGill University, Canada given a presentation on "Drainage Water Management in North America". In his presentation he covered the (i) Increasing productivity of the low-lying lakebed soils of the mid-west US through artificial drainage (ii) Drainage in North Carolina coastal plain soils (iii) case study – flood damage (iv) Importance of drainage and its type (v) Technology interventions (vi) Holland Marsh – Ontario Special Drainage Case

The webinar highlighted the multi roles agricultural drainage as an instrument for agricultural and rural development and mitigating climate change extreme events and achieving sustainability. In the end the webinar is followed by the question/answer sessions. The webinar creates opportunity for the participants about multi benefits of agricultural drainage and how these systems could be utilized. Mr. A. B Pandya also thanked everybody for making the event deeply informative and successful. For the full access of the webinar please visit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG8CJfJKj2E&t=5941s>

Description

Climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century and is already affecting many natural resources and human environments worldwide. Climate change represents a challenge for rain-fed and irrigated agricultural, causing water shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. It impacts both the demand and availability of water for agriculture, affecting food security in addition to water security. In addition, the increasing water stress and the increasing gap between available water resources and growing water demand will make it more challenging to allocate water among competing uses in the future, including climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Nowadays, Climate change has been seen clearly in all the globe and its impacts could reach to anywhere and in no time. Extreme events could be the biggest risks which could have a great effects on our lives. Adaptation to climate change is important to help countries manage climate risks, but the adaptation carried out so far is not enough to manage risks at current levels of climate change. The costs of climate change adaptation are likely to cost billions of dollars a year for the coming decades. In many cases the cost will be less than the damage that it avoids.

The need for land drainage has developed in arid and semi-arid countries, as well as in the humid tropics. The basic objective of agricultural drainage is to provide for a root zone environment that facilitates plant growth and optimizes crop production. In arid and semi-arid regions, drainage is linked with irrigation to make it possible to dispose of excess irrigation water and allow for the leaching of soils; in temperate regions and the humid tropics drainage facilitates the control of high groundwater and the discharge of heavy rainfall.

The role of drainage in global food production was achieved in many countries in the world. Interaction with urban drainage and flood protection has also become an essential part in design considerations. Agricultural drainage protects the resource base for food production, it sustains and increases yields and rural incomes, protects irrigation investment, it serves rural and urban residents and protects human lives and assets against flooding and high groundwater levels, and, finally, improves health conditions.



Like irrigation system management, drainage management is a core element for the sustainability of irrigated (and partly also for rain-fed) agriculture, though it has only recently been the subject of a conceptual development that has as yet not attracted much attention. The slogan of engineering science "No irrigation without drainage" can be extended: no sustainable agriculture without drainage. Irrigation must be reinvented - with drainage taking due consideration of its effects on nature and the environment. Irrigated agriculture inevitably produces emissions, i.e. agricultural effluents, and if drainage infrastructure is lacking or poorly maintained, these causes waterlogging and soil salinity.

However, drainage provides benefits, and there are, many reasons that support the idea of putting greater emphasis on land drainage in the context of integrated water resources management. Drainage protects the resource base for food production, the provision of drainage infrastructure and services help to sustain favorable soil conditions, drainage sustains and increases yields and rural incomes, drainage protects irrigation investment, drainage infrastructure serves rural and urban residents as well as industry. In many countries, drainage protects human lives and assets against flooding and high groundwater levels. Well-drained areas and drainage infrastructure provide a buffer (retention area) for torrential rainfall, drainage services improve health conditions as stagnant water on inadequately drained land and in poorly maintained, silted-up drains contributes to the transmission of diseases and escalates their incidence, and with properly designed and maintained drains, vectors could be controlled. Sanitary conditions improve when stagnant water in and near villages is reduced, and pit latrines may work properly if the surrounding area has low water tables.

President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab Participated in a Regional Technical Dialogue on Water held on 25 September 2023

In a significant milestone towards the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 37), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently concluded its Regional Technical Dialogue on Water, showcasing remarkable successes and advancements in sustainable water management. The event, which was held virtually on the 25 September, 2023, brought together experts, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from across the region to discuss pressing water-related challenges and devise innovative solutions within the context of enhancing water use efficiency and productivity as a means of accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems in the Near East and North Africa region. The ICID was represented by President, Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab.

The FAO Regional Technical Dialogue on Water served as a platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration among countries facing similar water management issues. With a strong emphasis on achieving water sustainability, the event highlighted the critical role of efficient water use in ensuring food security, protecting ecosystems, and promoting economic growth. It aimed to break down the available courses of action required to accelerate agrifood systems



transformation, using four related response areas:

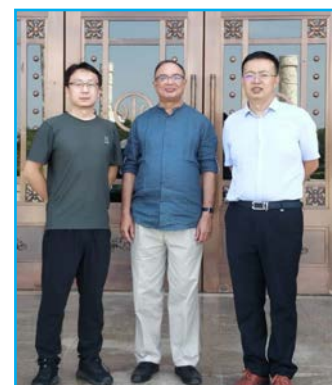
- Facilitating the transformation of legal and institutional frameworks by promoting multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral governance and by strengthening policy coherence.
- Advancing water and agriculture sustainability by investing in improved water efficiency and productivity tools to meet sustainable boundaries of water use towards a more resilient economy.
- Fostering a solid & standardized knowledge base for adaptive decision-making.
- Managing sustainability within uncertainty by maintaining a climate-smart transformation.

The events included panelists from the League of Arab States, FAO, AOAD, Ministry of Agriculture Water Resources and Fisheries in Tunisia, ICARDA, GCF and RECREE. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfvaNs1fTMo>

Secretary – General, Mr. A.B Pandya Participated in 18th World Water Congress, Beijing, China

SG, Mr. A.B Pandya has participated in 18th World Water Congress on the theme “Sustainable Agricultural Water Management” held from 11th - 15th September 2023 and in the side event on the theme on “Practices and inspirations of eco-friendly water conservancy”, organised by CNCID. Over the course of this event, 4 plenary meetings, 36 special sessions, and 72 special sessions were convened, featuring 211 reports and 278 paper posters. In addition to these informative sessions, numerous multilateral activities fostered connections and understanding among attendees. Delegates, spanning different cultures, languages, and backgrounds, crossed oceans and travelled from various corners of the world to participate. The congress showcased sincere dialogues,

passionate discussions, profound reflections, and solemn declarations, and progress brought about by scientific advancements. The congress, with its diverse representation and multifaceted discussions, has paved the way for a new era of global water governance. Participants, regardless of their origins, came together to promote a shared vision of responsible water management and a harmonious future for humanity and the environment. This congress marks the beginning of a new journey towards a sustainable and water-secure world, where collaboration knows no borders, and the commitment to safeguarding our most precious resource remains unwavering. He also paid visits to two Historical Irrigation Structure and South to North water transfer projects.



Mr. A.B Pandya also participated in the 6th China-Arab States Expo on the theme “Intensive, Economical, and Safe Use of Water Resources” in Yinchuan City, Ningxia. The China-Arab States Expo is a state-led international exposition with the



aim of maintaining friendship, deepening cooperation, achieving mutual benefits, and promoting development. Since 2013, five China-Arab States Expos have been held successfully in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China. They were attended by 24 state leaders and 318 ministerial-level officials from 112 countries and regions. The Expos attracted more than 6,000 companies from various sectors, including modern agriculture, high-tech, energy and chemical industry, bio-pharmaceuticals, equipment manufacturing, infrastructure, "Internet plus health care",

and tourism. World Water Congress have secured a free exhibition space in the Congress for ICID to display and promotion.

About The World Water Congress

The World Water Congress is one of the world's largest congresses linking water policy makers, researchers and policy practitioners. Since 1973, International Water Resources Association (IWRA) has held a World Water Congress every three years in various locations around the world. This influential event has been successfully held 17 times. During the Congress, heads of international organisations, high level government officials, experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and economists from all over the world would share their knowledge, experience and practice regarding a wide range of topics related to water.

With the theme of "Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature", the XVIII World Water Congress aims to promote coordination and balance between the water needs of humans and nature. The Congress will facilitate knowledge and experience sharing, focusing on investigating the relationship between water, humans and nature, identifying and reconciling all water-related factors in a coordinated manner, and making and implementing water management strategies and policies using systematic approaches.

The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and to 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 for the bringing together of a large cross-section of stakeholders for the development and implementation of decisions in the field of water.

About the 6th China-Arab States Expo

The China-Arab States Expo is an international exposition approved by the State Council of China and co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and the government of the Ningxia

Hui autonomous region. Its predecessor was the China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum.

Since 2010, three sessions of the China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum and three sessions of the China-Arab States Expo have been successfully held in Ningxia. These have had a wide and profound impact in the world. The events won wide recognition from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative including Arab countries, and made positive contributions to the promotion of pragmatic cooperation between China and Arab states.

Between them, the five sessions have attracted representatives of more than 80 countries, regions and international institutions, more than 140 large business associations, 7,732 large and medium-sized enterprises and financial institutions, and more than 57,000 exhibitors and buyers.

The China-Arab States Expo has become an open international platform facilitating economic cooperation between China and Arab states, as well as other economies taking part in the Belt and Road Initiative. <http://ningxia.chinadaily.com.cn/chinaarabstatesexpo/index0816.html>

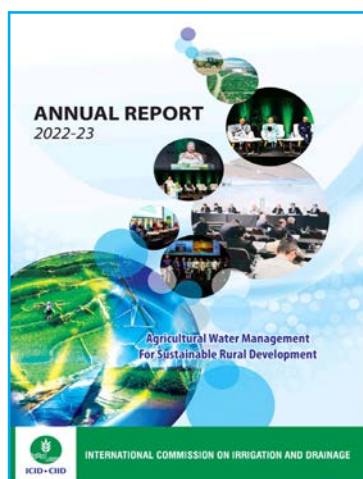


Working group meeting in August and September, 2023

Sl. No.	Working Group	Date
1	Working Group on Capacity Development, Training and Education (WG-CDTE) Chairman: Dr. Mohamed Abd El Moneim Wahba	2 August 2023
2	Working Group on Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Irrigation (WG-NCWRI) Chairman: Dr. Wenyong Wu	9 August 2023
3	Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE) Chairman: Prof. Dr. Ray Shyan Wu	10 August 2023
4	European Regional Working Group (ERWG) Chairman: Dr. Marco Arcieri	18 August 2023
5	Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) Chairman: Dr. Willem F. Vlotman	24 August 2023
6	Working Group on Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Irrigation (WG-NCWRI) Chairman: Dr. Wenyong Wu	12 September 2023
7	Working Group on Environment (WG-ENV) Chair: Prof. Dr. Charlotte de Fraiture	13 September 2023

ICID Annual Report 2022-23 Released

The ICID Annual Report 2022-23 (for the period April 2022 to March 2023) has been released and posted on the website, it is available at http://www.icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/ar_2022-23.pdf. The Annual Report covers the key activities of the National Committees, Workbodies, Annual Council Meeting, Regional Conference, ICID's participation in key International Events and the Central Office during the reporting



year. The printed version of the report is sent to all the National Committees, and Office Bearers, and international organizations. Thank you everyone for your valuable contributions, which helped us to bring out this report. Your feedback and suggestions on the report for further improvement are always welcome.

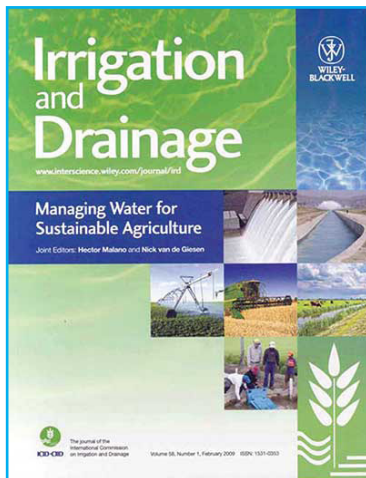
Revised WatSave Award Scheme

Following changes were approved by the MB in the existing WatSave Award Scheme and the same has been adapted and implemented to get the nominations for the WatSave Awards 2023 :

1. In any particular category, a minimum of three nominations may be considered for evaluation purpose. In case of lesser entries, the nominations may be considered for the following year and updated information would be requested from the nominees in next year.
2. It may be under the PoJs purview not to award any nominations despite receiving multiple nominations in a specific category, if the nominations do not confirm to the innovation complying with the ICID Evaluation Criterion or are not up to the mark.
3. It is now stipulated that "The work carried out by young professional should have been carried out individually or as a group".

From 2023 onwards the nominations were considered and evaluated basis on the revised and approved WatSave Awards scheme. The revised WatSave Awards scheme can be accessed through <https://www.icid-ciid.org/award/watsave/43>.

Irrigation and Drainage Journal



Irrigation and Drainage is the official journal of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). The objectives of the ICID are to advance the science and art of irrigation, drainage and flood management. Published five times a year, the Journal is a prestigious peer-reviewed publication and enables ICID to accomplish its objectives of publishing original papers on scientific, engineering, environmental and socio-economic issues associated with irrigation, drainage and flood management in a clear, concise and uniform style that is easily understood by an international audience. ICID has for sixty years, been the main forum for the global dissemination of experience and new ideas in the quest for the sustainable use and protection of water and land to meet the World's increasing demand for food and fibre.

The Journal covers a wide range of subjects, advancement in which, through high quality papers in the Journal, will make a significant contribution to the enormous task of satisfying the needs of the world's ever-increasing population. The Journal also publishes book reviews. <https://icid-ciid.org/publication/info/12>

ICID forthcoming Events

Webinar: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability

As part of the Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE) ICID organizing a webinar on "Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability" Scheduled on 22 November 2023. Greenhouse gas emissions and global

warming have emerged as critical climate issues in the 21st century. The relentless increase in these emissions has contributed to a rapid rise in global temperatures, resulting in widespread environmental and societal consequences. In response to this pressing challenge, the target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 has gained immense importance in the fight against climate change. This webinar serves as a compelling entry point into the urgent global discourse on climate change and its profound implications for agriculture. It offers a platform to explore the intricate relationship between farming practices and the environment. The presentation sets the stage by underscoring the pivotal role of agriculture, which is both a contributor to and a mitigator of climate-related challenges. By delving into innovative strategies, sustainable approaches, and the latest research findings, this webinar empowers its audience to actively engage with the complexities of climate change adaptation. For registration, please click the link https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rGFBnrASvCjzTYMF9POJg#/registration

14th International Drainage Workshop, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 30 May - 1 June, 2024. Contact: Gbahrom_75@mal.ru

1st Middle East Regional Conference, 26-28 February 2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Contact: Saudi Arabian National Committee of ICID, Email: a.almajed@sio.gov.sa, ma.alomair@sio.gov.sa

75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference, 1 - 7 September 2024, Sydney, Australia - <http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/> , <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>

76th International Executive Council Meeting and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), 7-13 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Contact: mancidmalaysia@gmail.com

Other Events

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.

The Forum brings together participants from all levels and areas, including politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector, among others. Over the years, the number of people participating in the Forum has grown from a few hundred to tens of thousands, from both the international community and host countries.

On 18th to 24th of May 2024, the heads of state, the heads of international organizations, high level government officials, experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and economists from all over the world will share their knowledges, experiences, and practices regarding a wide range of topics related to water. ICID is actively participating in the forthcoming 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia. Three sub-theme topics namely, Water security and prosperity, Disaster risk reduction and management and Governance cooperation and hydro diplomacy have been proposed for the event and the active participation in the thematic groups has been taken up. <https://worldwaterforum.org/>

Cairo Water Week 2023 - The sixth edition of the CWW series of conferences, Cairo Water Week 2023, will take place from 29 October to 2 November 2023 in Cairo Egypt, addressing the main theme "Action on Water Adaptation for Sustainability." This year's event will discuss and emphasize the adaptation actions in the water sector and ensure its vitality to achieving sustainability. Furthermore, as part of the event, several related sub-themes and subtopics will be discussed in plenary and technical sessions organized by reputed international and regional organizations. President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab has been invited as a Member of the Scientific Committee, Cairo Water Week 2023 (CWW2023) where he will be representing ICID in the event. For more detail, please click here: <https://www.cairowaterweek.eg/>

Galilee International Management Institute, Israel - Achieving Food Security Using Smart Farming Solutions - Study Visit

Worldwide agriculture is currently undergoing rapid technological and economic changes- Israel, the High-Tech Nation, is at the forefront of those efforts. In addition to the latest Agricultural sustainable solutions, Israel is also bringing innovative and unique irrigation solutions, especially in Arid zones. This study tour will provide you with first-hand exposure and connection to the latest developments in Smart Farming Techniques and Sustainable Agriculture solution.

https://www.galilcol.ac.il/Courses/8674/Achieving_Food_Security_Using_Smart_Farming_Solutions_-_Study_Visit



**WATER
ACTION DECADE**
2018-2028



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**14th International
Drainage Workshop**

MAY 30 - JUNE 1 2024 DUSHANBE

***FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT
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CALL FOR PAPERS***

**MODERNIZATION OF IRRIGATION AND
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS TO ADAPT TO
CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2024
DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN**

For more details, please visit: <https://tajncid.tj/>



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International Commission on
Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

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