



NEWS UPDATE

A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural ||| <https://www.icid.org/> ||| FEBRUARY 2024

From Secretary-General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

You are aware that the upcoming 75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference being organised by the Asian Regional Working Group of the International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage and Irrigation Australia's Committee on Irrigation and Drainage from 01 - 07, September 2024 in Sydney, Australia, on the theme "Irrigation's role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban green spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate". The invitation for submission of abstracts has already been issued by the National Committee. More details are provided in the Newsletter.



The submission for nominations of the annual ICID awards including WatSave Awards and World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) are also open till 31 May 2024. National Committees are requested to kindly circulate this announcement widely amongst professionals/ teams within their country. NCs may submit their nominations to the Central Office by e-mail on or before latest by 31 May 2024.

The Saudi Irrigation Organization, in cooperation with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) organized the First Middle East Regional Conference on the theme "Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development" from 26 – 29 February 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The conference acted as a regional platform to discuss the challenges being faced by the irrigation, drainage, and water resources management sectors in the Middle East region. It created an opportunity to share the experiences by the professionals in

the irrigation sector due to impact of climate change and water scarcity and follow up on the latest technologies and practices in it, in addition to future challenges in the field of irrigation and water resources management. ICID was represented by President Dr. Marco Arcieri; Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya; Executive Director, Er. Harish Kumar Varma and PH Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab. A special session to focus on Management of Dams for Irrigation and Water Harvesting Structures was also organised as part of the main theme and Er. Ashwin B. Pandya and Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Dr R K Gupta and Mr V P Kapadia delivered the Keynote Addresses during the session.

During the month Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya moderated the workshop organized by Unit Water & Land Resources and Communications of NITI Aayog, on the theme "Rejuvenation of Water Bodies" held on 12th February 2024. Secretary General talked about the importance of water bodies in summer or drought times and how they support local economic activities based on agriculture. The objective of the workshop is to share experiences and learn from the AmritSarovar and NITI Aayog-A.T.E. Chandra Foundation (ATECF) programs on water body rejuvenation. The workshop centralized the discussions on 92 water-stressed aspirational blocks, from which BDOs were invited to participate.

The increasing demand for food, including inequities in house-hold food and nutrition security, is exerting pressure on the agrifood system, which is already threatened by climate change, environmental degradation, and declining agro-biodiversity. Prof Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli and his team has put together a draft policy publication focusing on the mainstreaming neglected and underutilised crops species in South Africa. More details are available in the News Update.

A research paper titled "Misconceptions and misunderstandings in agricultural water management: Time for revisiting, reflection and rethinking" by PH Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab, published in the Irrigation and Drainage Journal. It covers the observations on how concepts were developed and how practitioners in water resources, modelling, remote sensing, irrigation, reservoirs and dams design, and sustainable management misunderstood them. The paper has uploaded in ICID website and can be accessed through https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/PH_Ragab%20Research%20Article2024.pdf

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year. 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 30 May to 1 June, 2024. For more details visit at <https://tajncid.tj/>. 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" will be hosted in Sydney, Australia from 01 - 07, September 2024. For more details visit at <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>

I look forward to the participation in the large numbers of AWM professionals in these events and thank you for your continued support.

With warm regards

A.B. Pandya
Secretary General

1st Middle East Regional Conference, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 26-28 February 2024

The Saudi Irrigation Organization in cooperation with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), organized the First Middle East Regional Conference on the theme “Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development” held from 26 – 29 February 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The conference acted as a regional platform to discuss the main challenges being faced by the irrigation, drainage, and water resources management sectors in the Middle East region. It created an opportunity to review the latest experiences in the irrigation sector and follow up on the latest technologies and practices in it, in addition to future challenges in the field of irrigation and water resources management. Such as the effects of climate change, rapid population growth, depletion of water resources, deterioration of water quality, and pollution of water resources.

The conference revolves around the theme “Integrated Irrigation Sector Management for Sustainable Development” and sub theme (i) Climate Risk Management, Water Scarcity, and Environmental Sustainability in the Irrigation Sector (ii) Technologies and Innovations for sustainable Solution in Irrigation Water Management (iii) Reuse of Treated Water and its Relationship to Water and Food Security (iv) Governance and Innovating Financing for the Irrigation Sector. The conference leads a vast discussion on production and reuse of non-traditional water resources, such as treated wastewater, as it sheds light on the trends in developing and managing irrigation methods, treated irrigation water technologies, and the operation of dams. For irrigation, the added value of data collection technologies and supporting the use of artificial intelligence in smart, sustainable irrigation.



The conference marked the presence of the Dr. Michelle Leno, International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD); Dr. Abdulqawi Khalifa, Former Minister of Water and Sanitation Utilities in Egypt; Dr. Rachel McDonnell, Deputy Director of the International Water Management Institute, (IWMI); Dr. Aqsa Bahri, Former Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources in Tunisia; Dr. Youssef Brozin, IWMI; Dr. Cecilia Tortajada, University of Glasgow; Dr. Asit Biswas, University of Glasgow; Dr. Hazem Al Nasser Former Minister of Water and Irrigation, Jordan; Dr. Walid Abu Al-Hassan, Chief Water Resources Management Officer for the Gulf; M.Youssef Al Muhaish, Project Enginner, General Organization of Irrigation; M. Saad Al Qurain, Director of the Specialists, General Organization of Irrigation; M. Abdul Latif Al-Jabr, Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority; Dr. Abdulaziz Al Suwailam, Advisor to the Research and Innovation Agency; Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Qahtany, Water Agency Advisor; Dr. Fathi Al-Labadi, General Corporation for Irrigation; Dr. Mohammed Shaker, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); M. Muhammad Zaid Abu Wahid, Acting Chairman of the General Irrigation Corporation; Dr. Saeeda

and Razan, Agricultural Development Agency; Dr. Amal Talebi, Global Water Practice Leader, World Bank; M. Arnaud Durand, Project Manager in Al-Alaa; a.Biagio di Terlizzi, Deputy Director of the Mediterranean Agricultural Institute; M. Sufyan Boudi, Vice President of Operations – General Organizations for Irrigation; Walid Zahid, Member of the Shura Council; M. Abdullah bin Tuwaim, Chief Trans action Officer – Saudi Water Partnership Company; M. Khaled Abdullah Al- Luhaidan, CEO of Environment, Water & Agriculture; A. Addullah bin Hasan Al Nimri, Deputy Directors of Dams Administration; Dr. Walid Abdul Rahman, Vice President of the Arab Water Council; Mr. Dr. Pascal Saikaly, Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering – King Abdullah; a. Abdul Rahman Al-Zughaibi Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture; Mr. Vivek Kapadia, Secretary to the Government of Gujarat, India; Prof. Dr. Abdul Rasul Al Omran, Department of Soil Physics and Water Relations, Kings Saud University; Dr. Iman Suleiman, Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations; Dr. Muhammad Al-Fityani, General Corporation for Irrigation; M. Tariq Al-Ghafari, Deputy Governor of



Desalination for Research and Innovative Projects; Dr. Green rolla, Mediterranean Agricultural Institute of Barrie.

The opening ceremony of the event is covered under the Engineer Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadhli, Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, Saudi Irrigation Organization (SIO). Saudi Irrigation Organization (SIO) Chairman of the Board of Directors, President, Engineer Mohammed Ben Zaid Abu Heed, delivered an opening speech, stressing the importance of such conference for exchange of experiences between partners and entities to take care of agricultural irrigation and drainage issues with concerted efforts, as it deals with the issues and challenges being faced by the irrigation and drainage sector. "Over the past years, the Kingdom has been keen to adopt many plans and strategies that would improve water services and maximize their benefits and sustainability with a comprehensive vision and an integrated system of planning and work, in line with the vision of the Saudi Vision 2030 to achieve the objectives of the National Water Strategy, the strategy of the Saudi Irrigation Organization (SIO), and the Saudi National Committee for Irrigation and Drainage," Abu Heed said. He concluded with a special thanks for the attendees and participants of the conference, appreciating the effective partnership between (SIO) and (ICID) for organising such a successful conference.

The first day of the forum addressed the vast issues of water resources, supported by the sessions and workshops. The sessions included (i) Confronting climate risks and mitigating their effects on water resources (ii) Effective strategies for reuse and governance of treated water

(iii) Effective methods for financing the irrigation sector, visions for the future (iv)Pioneering innovations in irrigation technologies towards the sustainability of water resources. The workshops were (i) The role of artificial intelligence and remote sensing in innovation for irrigation water sustainability and (ii) Dam management and water harvesting techniques for irrigation purposes (iii) Involving the local community in managing, improving and distributing irrigation water (iv) Enhancing irrigation and drainage efficiency to achieve sustainability in the agricultural sector.

On the second and closing days, the event covered the following issues: (i) the role of reusing treated water as a basis for water management resilience; (ii) international partnerships to secure water resources for irrigation in light of climate change; (iii) integration between modern monitoring techniques and water management; (iv) integrating saltwater desalination technologies and building capabilities for a sustainable future; (v) exploring sustainable irrigation at Al-Hasa Oasis: A journey through Saudi Arabia's agricultural innovation

On behalf of the (ICID) President, Dr. Marco Arcieri, the (ICID) Honorary President, PH Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab, and Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya attended and addressed the conference and highlighted the issue of confronting the world with insufficient water stocks or sources, how the growing demands on the world's freshwater resources threaten the most optimistic forecasts, while climate change will increase these conditions, groundwater stress in South Asia, concurrent El-Nino impacts in agriculture, and the importance of

geospatial technology in the management of the water resources for irrigation, agriculture, drinking, and industrial use.

Dr. Ragab stressed the strategic importance of saving water, increasing agricultural production, and ensuring adequate levels of food security, as modern irrigation can play a crucial role in ensuring food supplies, supporting economic development in many countries, and financing for new irrigation projects that have been developed, which contribute significantly to improving productivity and increasing the resilience of rural communities through the most efficient use of water resources.

The conference included the participation of more than 54 speakers from the Middle East and around the world. The conference highlighted sustainable solutions to manage available water resources and maximize the use of renewable sources to meet the increasing demand for water in the agricultural sector, in addition to promoting modern technologies to provide a platform for those interested in irrigation, drainage, and awareness to exchange experiences and knowledge, create partnerships, and integrate the management of irrigation and drainage water.

In the closing ceremony, President Dr. Marco Arcieri conveyed special thanks to all attendees and participants of the conference, appreciating the effective partnership between (SIO) and (ICID) for organising such successful conference, which is hoped to be a great start for effective partnerships and fruitful cooperation in the future.

Research Article by President Hon. Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab published in ICID Journal, 11 March 2024

A Research Article on "Misconceptions and Misunderstandings in Agricultural Water Management: Time for Revisiting, Reflection and Rethinking" has been published in the Irrigation and Drainage Journal. It covers the core issues of water resources, modelling, remote sensing, irrigation, reservoirs and dams design, and sustainable management.

Abstract

Over the past years, several concepts in water management have emerged and were further developed. They included approaches for saving water and improving water use efficiency and productivity, sustainable water management

strategies, salinity control, remote sensing applications to estimate crop evapotranspiration (ETc), soil moisture, crop yield and land cover, using models as water management tools and for designing reservoirs and dams. The intention was great, but the application of the concepts did not always match the intention. Examples of misunderstandings and misconceptions include incorrect application of deficit irrigation, using water use efficiency instead of water productivity, misunderstanding the water accounting system elements, misuse of the term sustainability, leaching with every irrigation, using the term upscaling instead of aggregation, incorrect use of long-term average flow for designing dams and

reservoirs, believing that remote sensing data are direct measurements for ETc or soil moisture and believing that well-calibrated/validated models do not have inaccuracy and uncertainty in their results. This paper highlights these concepts and their misuse and misunderstandings as well as explains the true meaning and application of each concept. The paper also explains why concepts were misunderstood and suggests approaches to improve the understanding and accurate application of the concepts. For details, please visit <https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/PH_Ragab%20Research%20Article2024.pdf>.

Workshop on “Rejuvenation of Water Bodies”, New Delhi, 12 February 2024

A workshop under the banner of “State Support Mission” on the theme “Rejuvenation of Water Bodies” was organized by Unit Water & Land Resources and Communications, NITI Aayog on 12 February 2024. The conference focused on the importance of water bodies and how they play a critical role in ecosystems to support agriculture, irrigation, pollination, and domestic use for drinking and other activities. The event included the (i) inaugural address by Mr. BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog; (ii) thematic session by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog; and (iii) keynote address by Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister Jal Shakti.

The workshop is divided into three sessions. The first session of the event is moderated by the Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B. Pandya. He talks about the importance of water bodies in summer or drought times and how they support local economic activities based on agriculture. The objective of the workshop is to share experiences and learn from the Amrit Sarovar and NITI Aayog-A.T.E. Chandra Foundation (ATECF) programs on water body rejuvenation. The workshop centralized the discussion on 92 water-stressed aspirational blocks, from which BDOs were invited to participate in the workshop on the rejuvenation of water bodies. The sessions are described below.

- **Session 1** - presentations from BDOs from six states who successfully rejuvenated water bodies in their districts. The Plenary Session had policy perspectives and thematic addresses.
- **Session 2** - presentations from States and UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, J&K, Maharashtra and UP on their states' initiatives in water conservation and Amrit Sarovar programme.

- **Session 3** - presentations from DMs from three districts that had successfully rejuvenated water bodies under NITI- AETCF collaboration, along with insightful films and deliberations.

Rejuvenation and conservation of water bodies and open areas emphasizes the implementation of an interconnected urban environment comprising green spaces, recreational places, biodiversity, and natural conservation areas. This manual aims to help cities adapt integrated policies and plans for resource efficiency, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change, as well as disaster resilience. Adopting urban rejuvenation solutions would help city level and zonal/district authorities to protect, conserve, and manage biodiversity, ecosystem services, and it would enable them to take informed actions by the municipal authorities to combat challenges.

The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, fostering cooperative federalism, and moving away from bargaining federalism through the involvement of state governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. The objective of the bodies is:

- To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors, and strategies with the active involvement of States.



- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learned through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) and WatSave 2024

ICID is pleased to announce the “Call for Nominations for 2024 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) for the 75th IEC Meeting to be held from 1-7, September 2024, Sydney, Australia. ICID instituted the ‘WatSave Awards’ in 1997, presented every year, to recognize outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving in agriculture across the world. The WatSave awards are given in four categories:

- (i) Technology (ii) Innovative Water Management (iii) Young Professionals; and (iv) Farmers. Likewise, a Task Team is set up every year to select historical structures as received from various National Committees (NCs) to give them recognition along the lines of World Heritage Sites (as recognized by UNESCO) in the field of irrigation and drainage. Nominations are invited from ICID National Committees for the selection of “World Heritage Irrigation Structures” (WHIS)

that include old operational irrigation structures as well as structures of archival value. National Committees are requested to kindly circulate this announcement widely amongst professionals/ teams within their country. NCs may submit their nominations to the Central Office by e-mail on or before latest by **31 May 2024**. For more information, please visit: <https://icid-ciid.org/view_page/9>.

Report from South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID)

Draft policy publication focusing on the Diversifying the Agrifood System in South Africa: Mainstreaming Neglected and Underutilised Crop Species (NUS) has been published by the South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID). The report focuses on increasing demand for food, including inequities in household food and nutrition security, is exerting pressure on the agrifood system, which is already threatened by climate change, environmental degradation, and declining agrobiodiversity. The report recommended following points.

Policy harmonisation for Underutilised Crop Species (NUS): Evidence-based revision of existing land-use, environment, agriculture and health policies, for cross-sectoral mainstreaming and integration of NUS for agrifood systems transformation.

- Agriculture and nutrition support programs must promote and incentivise the production and consumption of diverse crop and livestock species to ensure sustainable and healthy diets;
- Policy harmonisation for NUS production, marketing, and consumption, with reduced transaction costs, improved licensing and legal frameworks, incentivisation, targeted research, and upgraded infrastructure to facilitate market access;
- Public-Private Partnerships for nutrition security should prioritise agrifood systems diversification with NUS as critical in equitable food systems

Crop improvement with (Underutilised Crop Species) NUS: Develop new varieties and improve existing crops by deploying next-generation genetic

and genomic tools—including de novo domestication of NUS to diversify the agrifood system.

Inclusive value chains with (Underutilised Crop Species) NUS:

Incentivise creation and development of inclusive NUS value chains. This includes improving the post-harvest efficiency and processing of NUS and promoting distribution and marketing of NUS.

- Integration and economic scaling, with minimised transaction costs, of NUS value chain from production, post-harvest and processing, distribution, including to upmarket stores, and consumer marketing;
- Improved storage and post-harvest practices, through installing storage facilities, cleaning, grading, packing sheds, with localised value-add processing including canning and packaging of NUS as contemporary food;
- Integrate vulnerable and marginalised groups, especially women, through empowerment into diversified and responsive NUS agricultural production and value chains.

Access to finance for Underutilised Crop Species (NUS):

Promote access, and ease constraints, to capital and financial services provision, including credit facilities, tenure security, and viable land markets for smallholder farmers, including women.



Capacity strengthening and awareness building for Underutilised Crop Species (NUS):

Increased capacity of smallholder production and processing of high-quality NUS as aspirational and desirable food for consumers.

- Extension officers capacitated to train smallholder farmers to produce, process, can, and supply NUS as attractive modern foods to local supermarkets;
- Increasing awareness and knowledge of NUS' multi-dimensional benefits, including nutritional and medicinal value, stimulates broad consumer demand for NUS;
- Capitalise on consumers' preferences for ethical, organic, natural, nutrient-rich, and convenient food, changing perception of NUS, especially to youth and urban dwellers, as "poor people's crops" and rebrand as "opportunity crops", "superfoods", etc.;
- Develop materials, e.g. recipe books, for value-adding pre-cooked or prepared convenient forms of NUS for marketing for urban dwellers and youth.



Working Group / Task Force Meetings held in February 2024

S.No	Working Group	Date
1	Task Force to Guide ICID Inputs to 10th World Water Forum (TF-WWF10) Chair: Dr. Saeed Nairizi	8 February 2024
2	Task Force on Long Term Financial & Technical Sustainability of ICID	12 February 2024
3	Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) Chairman: Dr. Willem F. Vlotman	15 February 2024
4	Task Force on Women Empowerment in Water Management (TF – WEWM)	19 February 2024
5	Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST) Chairman: Dr. Kamran Emami	29 February 2024

14th International Drainage Workshop, Dushanbe, Tajikistan 30 May - 1 June 2024

Call for Papers

The Tajikistan National Commission on Irrigation and Drainage warmly invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners in irrigation water management and drainage to join the esteemed 14th International Drainage Workshop. This significant event will take place in the beautiful city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from May 30th to June 1st, 2024.

Under the theme "Modernization of Irrigation and Drainage Systems to Adapt to Climate Change and for Sustainable Development," this workshop offers an invaluable platform for the exchange of ideas and insights concerning the pressing challenges posed by climate change on irrigation and drainage systems.

In order to facilitate this event a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee have been established. These committees comprise seasoned experts and practitioners, responsible for meticulously designing the workshop's structure, content including papers to be presented, and direction.

The 14th International Drainage Workshop extends an earnest call for scholarly contributions that encompass the spectrum of modernization in irrigation and drainage, with a specific focus on new technologies and strategies for climate change adaptation, and including pumping stations, canal and gravity pipe systems, control technologies and management. Authors are encouraged to send in their papers that discuss innovative research, modern technologies, and sustainable methods related to these important subjects.

All accepted papers will be published in the event's proceedings, giving recognition to the authors. This helps others learn from their work and experience and builds a helpful network of shared knowledge. Authors of selected papers of particular merit/ interest/ relevance will be invited to present their papers during the workshop.

To ensure a coherent and streamlined submission process, a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee of the 14th International Drainage Workshop have formulated the following submission guidelines. Authors are required to adhere to these guidelines:

General Guidelines

1. The title of the paper should be as brief as possible, preferably

not exceeding 70 characters and spaces.

2. The length of the paper should not exceed 4,000 words (i.e., equivalent to 10 pages of A-4 size including tables and figures).
3. The language of the paper should be English.
4. The paper must be written in third person.
5. The data and numerical information should be given in metric units.
6. Detailed references should be given at the end of the text of the paper.
7. Example: Broner, I. and R.R.P. Law. 1992. Water balance for irrigation using ET input. ICID Bull. 41(2): 173-182
8. The general text to be in Arial with font size 10.

Abstract: The abstract provides a brief overview of the article, summarizing its key points and findings. It should not exceed 300 words and should encapsulate the essence of the entire article.

Introduction: The introduction sets the stage for the article by introducing the topic and its relevance. It outlines the main objectives and scope of the article, giving readers a clear understanding of what to expect.

Body: The body of the article is where you delve into the main content. It is typically divided into several sections, each addressing a specific aspect of the topic. Use clear headings and subheadings to enhance readability and organization. Present facts, evidence, literature review and arguments logically, and ensure a smooth flow of information between sections.

Analysis: In this section, you can delve deeper into the subject matter by providing an in-depth analysis of data, theories, or concepts. Present different viewpoints, offer comparisons, and provide insights that contribute to the reader's understanding.

Table, Charts, Graphs, Pictures, etc.: Visual aids such as tables, charts, graphs, and pictures can enhance the reader's comprehension of the content. Ensure these visuals are relevant, properly labeled, and referred to in the text.

Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the main points discussed in the article and reiterates the significance of the findings. It should provide a sense of closure and leave the reader with a clear understanding of the key takeaways.

Citation: Accurate and consistent citation is crucial to acknowledge sources and provide readers with the means to access further information. Use a recognized citation style APA and ensure that all sources cited in the text are included in the reference list.

Size and Formatting: Ensure that your article does not exceed 10 pages, considering the inclusion of tables, charts, graphs, pictures, etc. Page size A4 (Width 21 cms, Height 29.7 cms) with Top Margin 3 cms, Bottom Margin 3 cms, Left and Right Margins 3.8 cms. The general text to be in Arial with font size 10.

Submission: Before submitting, carefully review your article for grammatical errors, clarity, and coherence. Ensure that all required sections are present, appropriately formatted and submit.

SCHEDULE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS / FULL PAPERS

The schedule is given below:

1. Notification of acceptance: by 15 March 2024
2. Submission of full papers (max. 10 pages): by 15 April 2024
3. Notification of acceptance of full papers for (i) publication, and/or (ii) presentation during the workshop: by 30 April 2024

For more information and detailed submission guidelines, kindly visit the official workshop website or contact a member of our dedicated committee:

- Website: www.tajncid.tj
- **Scientific Committee contact:** Dr. Mohamed Wahba, [mswahba@gmail.com](mailto:mwahba@gmail.com)
- **Steering Committee contact:** Dr. Willem F. Vlotman, vlotmanwf@gmail.com
- **Secretariat of the event:** secretariat@tajncid.tj
- **Secretariat of NCID Tajikistan contact:** tajncid@bk.ru



75th International Executive Council Meeting and 9th Asian Regional Conference (AsRC), Sydney, Australia; 1-7, September 2024

Irrigation Australia is thrilled to announce the Southern Hemisphere's Premier Water Event, incorporating the 9th Asian Regional Conference for Irrigation and Drainage, the 75th International Executive Council meeting of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and 2024 Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition.

Act swiftly to secure your spot at this premier event, as early bird registrations will soon be available, offering discounted rates for a limited time only. The Irrigation Australia Exhibition Prospectus and Sponsorship Prospectus for 2024 has been released, offering unparalleled exposure, networking, and business expansion opportunities. Act now to secure your place!

The conference promises a rich program with presenters from around the globe, and a structure designed to maximise interaction. Around 100 exhibitors will showcase the most innovative products and services currently available on the market. We are confident that delegates from across the industry will return home with new connections, new friends, and new ideas to try in their own regions, wherever they may be.

To stay updated on the event and secure your participation, keep an eye on the official event website <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>. By joining this event in Sydney, Australia, you can seize the opportunity to establish valuable partnerships, generate leads, and leave a lasting impact on the future of irrigation.

Stay tuned for further details on early bird registration and how to capitalise on these exclusive opportunities to elevate your brand, expand your network, and drive sales success.



Call for Abstracts

The Asian Regional Working Group of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and Irrigation Australia's Committee on Irrigation and Drainage are pleased to invite submission of abstracts for the combined 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) and Australian National Conference, to be held in Sydney from 01 to 07 September 2024.

The World Food Summit (1996) and Millennium Summit (2000) suggested a target of cutting the number of undernourished to half (by 2015) by bringing people out of poverty and enjoying a reasonably happy life with at least two square meals a day. But, unfortunately, the population of undernourished people is still about 768 million in the world (FAO, 2020), in spite of the modernization of agricultural water management in recent decades. In spite of all efforts, including modernization (partially so far), the world has failed to cut the number of undernourished to half by 2015, and given the current trends, it is likely that the world will again miss the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030. Hence, the ARC9 is expected to deliberate on Out-of-Box solutions to meet the target of Zero Hunger by 2030.

Conference Theme: Irrigation's role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban green spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate

Sub-Themes

Governance – identifying and addressing structural and policy impediments to the adoption of better irrigation practices. While the best of our farmers will adopt better/best irrigation practices.

Investment – fit-for-purpose and cost-effective technologies which support end users to implement sustainable irrigation practices (Environmental, Social, Governance and Triple Bottom Line).

Capacity development – ensuring that end users can access and adapt knowledge and systems to support sustainable irrigation practices.

Important Deadlines

- Acceptance from authors available to present - **5 April 2024**
- Submission of final poster presentations* (PowerPoint template) - **29 June 2024**
- Submission of final oral presentations (PowerPoint template) - **27 July 2024**
- Submission of final keynote presentations (PowerPoint template) - **27 July 2024**
- Present at 9th Asia Regional Conference - **1 September 2024**
- **Contact:** David Cameron; dave.cameron@irrigation.org.au Website: <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>

ICID Forthcoming Events

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

76th IEC Meeting & 4th World Irrigation Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-13 September 2025. 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 NC Contact : Eng. Nisreen Sami Tarkhan, Secretary, Iraqi National Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (IRQCID), Planning and Follow up Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources, Palestine Street, Baghdad

77th IEC & 26th ICID Congress, Marseille, France, 12-18 October 2026. 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

Partner Organizations Events

8th India Water Week - The Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing India Water Week-2024 from 17-21 September 2024. The event will serve as a global platform to elicit ideas and opinions from global level decision-makers, politicians, researchers, experts, planners, innovators, students and stakeholders in the field of water resources from across the world, focusing on "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management". The 5-day event hosts Conference, Exhibition and study tours with Seminars, Panel Discussions, Side Events,

Exhibition and Cultural programme, besides providing opportunities to businesses to find prospective partners and customers through a 4000 Sq.m. state of art exhibition.

Theme: Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management, **Venue:** Convention Center, Bharat Mandapam / Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Contact: India Water Week Secretariat, National Water Development Agency (NWD), New Delhi-110066. Email: connect@indiawaterweek.in Web: <https://iww.icidevents.org/>

Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Wastewater Reuse (REUSE EUROMED 2024), 29-31 October 2024, Montpellier, France. - The aim of the conference is to share the experiences and viewpoints of these different players on Reuse in the Mediterranean and Europe, in terms of feedback (success stories but also analysis of failures), outlook and different methodological approaches linked to the design, operationalization and evaluation of Reuse projects.

The conference is co-organized by AFEID, the IREUSE Network of INRAE and the Chair

Water & Agriculture and Climate Change. For more, please visit: <https://reuse2024.sciencesconf.org/>

Responsible Water Management and Circular Economy, 3-6 March 2024, Website: <https://www.iitr.ac.in/rwc/>

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

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

The conference is held annually by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation since 2021, to exchange knowledge, technology, and studies on the best use, storage, and treatment of water to serve as many countries and people as possible. Baghdad International Water Conference is a gateway to communicate with the regional and international community to build bridges of cooperation in water resources management, in accordance with the principles of international law, to achieve the aspirations of the shared people in the water basins, present and future.

Vision: The constant endeavor to maintain strong ties in planning and joint coordination for implementation, drawing on the desire to achieve security, stability, development, and address challenges through technology and collaborative management.

Goal: Water management is one of the essential foundations for enhancing international relations and its role in developing relations between peoples and communities, as well as its stability on the local, regional, and international levels. It is also the gateway to the future of development and innovation, seeking to maximize its availability to achieve development and prosperity.

10th World Water Forum, 18-24 May 2024 – The forum based on the subthemes which includes (i) Water Security and Prosperity (ii) Water for Humans and Nature (iii) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and (iv) Governance, Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy (v) Sustainable Water Finance (vi) Knowledge and Innovation <https://worldwaterforum.org/>

FAO organized a Webinar on Black Soil, 6 February 2024

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the International Network of Black Soils (INBS), organized a webinar on “Sustainable black soil management: a case study from China held on 6th February 2024. It is the second in a series of webinars organized by the International Network of Black Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, an initiative aimed at raising awareness about sustainable management of black soils for food security, agricultural sustainability, and climate change mitigation. The webinar lead discussion on case study (i) to introduce good practices on sustainable black soil management from China (ii) Exchange knowledge and technology among black soil countries (iii) Gaps and challenges in black soil management.

The webinar marked the keynote addresses by Mr. Ganlin Zhang, Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, on Understanding the Formation Time of Black Soils; Mr. Tusheng Ren, China Agricultural University, on No-Till Farming: A Viable Option for Sustainable Agriculture in the Black Soil Region of Northeast China; Mr. Zhongjun Jia, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, on The Query for High Fertility of Black Soils and

Grand Challenges in China; and Ms. Xueli Chen, Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, on The Query for High Fertility of Black Soils and Grand Challenges in China.

About Black Soil

Soils are the source of 95 percent of our food. With their rich organic matter content and high fertility, black soils are unique amongst soils. As the source of high productivity and rich ecosystem services, black soils are known as the world’s food basket and have been linked with human well-being for hundreds of years. Throughout history, black soils in China have been associated with health and prosperity. In South America, the ancient heritage of black soils ensures the survival of communities and promotes the preservation of biodiversity through best traditional agricultural practices. For centuries, these fertile soils have played a key role in the global production of cereals, tuber crops, oilseed, pastures, and forage systems. Despite representing only 5.6 percent of the global land area, these black earth belts feed not only the 223 million people settled on them, but also millions of others in countries that import commodities produced in black soils, thus significantly contributing to the global economy development and food

security. With over 828 million people facing food insecurity in 2021 and in the midst of a global fertilizer crisis, the role of soils – including black soils – is more relevant than ever. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring our soils is vital to address global challenges such as food insecurity, poverty, the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Black soils are well known as the world’s food basket or the “giant panda on arable land”. For decades, these fertile soils have been widely cultivated, and have played a key role in global agricultural production of cereals, tuber crops, oilseed, pastures, and forage systems. In addition, black soils are paramount for climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, this black treasure is under threat. Because of land use change from natural grasslands to cropping systems, unsustainable management practices and excessive use of agrochemicals, most of the black soils have lost half of their SOC stocks and suffer from moderate to severe erosion processes, as well as nutrient imbalances, acidification, compaction and soil biodiversity loss. For Webinar: <<https://youtu.be/kJFQr1NDFNY?si=OaoPxXu8AFWZzZc2>>.



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