

WatSave Scheme¹

I. BACKGROUND

As a follow-up to the 15th ICID Congress in the Netherlands in 1993, a WatSave Work Team was formed, which mooted a proposal in 1997 to institute WatSave Awards to promote and recognize water conservation success amongst member countries. The proposal was approved in principle by PCTA as well as IEC and ICID instituted WatSave Awards in the year 1997. The Work Team prepared the conditions and criteria for the Awards and presented these to the Management Board for approval. These were subsequently revised in 2007 and 2010 by IEC. The WatSave Scheme is presented herein to consolidate all the decisions taken by the IEC based on the recommendations of WG-WATS, Jury Members, and PCTA from time to time. It also includes some of the recommendations made, but not followed up or approved subsequently by IECs of that year, which needs special consideration.

II. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

The award(s) is/are presented to an individual or a team for an innovation that contributes to water conservation/water saving for increasing the beneficial and/or efficient use of water to develop and improve the sustainable use of the critical resource. The WatSave awards aim at:

- (a) Promoting and encouraging the best technological applications or projects which have been successful in saving and/or recovering waste waters/low-quality waters.
- (b) Promoting other non-technological interventions and/or innovative land and water management/ techniques for increasing the availability of water for different uses.
- (c) Promoting research that leads to substantial savings in water applications or uses.
- (d) Promoting the development of new policies/approaches for water saving leading to cost-effective and beneficial use of water.

(a) Scope

The primary emphasis of the WatSave Award is on the achievement itself. It is “an award for the achievement to the individual or team behind the achievement” in that order. The purpose and spirit behind ICID WatSave awards are as follows:

- (i) The awards are intended to relate to particular activities or related sets of activities and not to highlight the overall professional accomplishments of an individual or any particular group.
- (ii) The awards are not intended to acknowledge research studies, per se, but rather to recognize accomplishments in actually saving water.
- (iii) Savings can be on a pilot scale or over a larger area, but they must have been introduced in the field to farmers or managers and applied by them, rather than remaining purely hypothetical.

The WatSave Awards are given in four categories.

1. WatSave Technology Award

This award is given for work promoting and encouraging the best technological innovations / applications or projects which have been successful in saving water and/or recovering waste waters/low-quality waters.

2. WatSave Innovative Water Management Award

This award is given for innovation promoting non-technological interventions and/or innovative land and water management/techniques for increasing the availability of water for different uses; Promoting research that leads to substantial savings in water applications or uses; or Promoting

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development of new policies/approaches for water saving leading to the cost-effective and beneficial use of water.

3. WatSave Young Professional Award

This award is given for water-saving/ conservation work by young professionals (less than 40 years). The work carried out by the Young Professional should have been carried out individually or as a group.

4. WatSave Farmers' Award

This award is given to farmers for proven water-saving success stories to promote successful water conservation.

(b) Award

Each of the awards consists of an honorarium of US\$ 2000 and a Citation. In the event of the award being made to a team, the amount shall be disbursed to the nominated leader of the team which will be shared equally by all contributors. The Citation Plaque should bear the name of ICID as the promoter.

The award money may be disbursed either in USD or in the local currency of the host National Committee at the convenience of the National Committee.

In case a winner is unable to attend the IEC Meeting to receive the award money, he/she should provide written consent to the National Committee representative attending the IEC Meeting to receive the award money on their behalf.

(c) Dissemination of the awarded works

Based on the awarded works, ICID compiles and disseminates information on water-saving/ conservation practices adopted by member countries the world over through publications, websites and organizing regional workshops. The award winner should submit a chapter (about 2000 words) describing the technology (ies), along with images and/or videos before receiving the award. The awardees need to cooperate with the ICID Central Office for making any changes, including any missing information. The developers of the innovation in terms of technology or management techniques will have to give an undertaking that they would provide full intellectual support to the Central Office in disseminating the achievement.

III. PROCEDURE

(a) Application

Nominations must comply with these rules:

- (i) Nominations for the Awards are open to all professionals/ teams from ICID member countries/associate member countries as well as non-member countries, but the nomination must be made and validated by a member National Committee/ Committee/ Direct Institutional Member of ICID.
- (ii) A completed Nomination Form
- (iii) A type-written discussion of about 1500 words in English or French summarizing the nominee's work related to water saving/conservation.
- (iv) Supporting documents to be submitted
- (v) Images and/or videos of the innovation should be provided
- (vi) A brief curriculum vitae (CV) of the nominee(s)
- (vii) Recent photograph(s) of the nominee(s).
- (viii) Entries should be sent electronically to the Secretary General, ICID to reach the Central Office, New Delhi, by the Last Date of Receipt of Nominations at the ICID Central Office announced by the Secretary General.



The idea of routing the nominations through the NC is to receive only one nomination per category per country after an initial scanning of the nominations for a sequential ordering based on merit and recommending only one. ICID member countries can support one nomination from a non-member country but every country should present only one candidate per category.

National Committee can nominate newly developed work of previous WatSave Award winners provided it is for a different innovation, as the purpose of the award is to identify successful water-saving technologies and management techniques in practice among the ICID family and disseminate them across the world. A nominated innovation once rejected for the WatSave award by ICID should not be re-nominated, even under a different category.

Please note that any nomination papers, as listed above, if received after the Last Date may be considered in the following year with updated information and forwarded to the Panel of Judges. All the papers related to nomination received on or before the due date will be acknowledged within a week by the Central Office by e-mail/fax. In case of non-receipt of the acknowledgement, the concerned National Committee/ Committee should contact the Central Office immediately.

For a fair evaluation process, a minimum of three entries should be present in each category. In case of lesser nominations within any category, the nominations may be considered in the following year with updated information on the innovation. In addition, if the committee is not convinced with any of the submissions, it may defer the decision to the year after when more or better submissions become available.

(b) Jury

The nominations should be reviewed by a panel of 5 judges -- one each from the four regions of ICID (The Americas, Africa, Asia -Oceania and Europe) and the fifth from any region but there shall not be two judges from the same country. The Chair of PoJ shall submit his report to the President of ICID giving reasons for selecting particular innovation for the award along with suggestions for improvement in the Scheme and its implementation or the way to disseminate it. A judge shall not evaluate a nomination from his or her own country. The panel will be appointed by the President of ICID in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group on Water Saving for Agriculture (WG-WATS).

The decision of the President ICID as arrived at through the process described herein will be final and binding. No discussion or correspondence relating to the award will be entered into.

(a) Schedule

The following schedule for receipt of applications and announcement of the WatSave Awards will be adhered to as far as possible:

- Last date for receipt of nominations — 120 days before the IEC date
- Review by the Panel of Judges — Within 60 days from the Last Date
- Declaration/Announcement of the Award — 45 days before the IEC date.

(b) Evaluation Criterion

(1) Technology and Management Awards

- (i) Has the innovation made an outstanding contribution to water conservation and increased the beneficial use of water and/or freed water for other uses?
- (ii) Have the quantities of water saved been quantified and documented in the submission?
- (iii) Is there a reasonable expectation that the innovation will be sustainably practised?
- (iv) Has the input and responsibility of each involved individual been delineated in the submission?

**(2) Young Professional Award**

- (i) Does the innovation promise to make an outstanding contribution to water conservation and increased the beneficial use of water and/or freed water for other uses?
- (ii) Has the innovation been pilot tested in the field and is the potential water savings estimated and documented in the submission?
- (iii) Is there a reasonable expectation that the innovation can be sustainably practised?
- (iv) Has the input and responsibility of each involved individual been delineated in the submission?

(3) Farmer Award

- (i) Is the innovation easily adoptable by other farmers in the region?
- (ii) Has the innovation made an outstanding contribution to water conservation and increased the beneficial use of water and/or freed water for other uses?
- (iii) Is there a reasonable expectation that the innovation will be sustainably practised?

The Jury is empowered to shift a nomination from the category under which it is submitted to another category if such a shift is appropriate and beneficial and essentially warranted.

(c) Authentication by the National Committee

For the Jury to adjudicate the awards, which are highly dependent on the actual application of the technology in the field, the nominating National Committee/Committee has to play a crucial role since members of the Jury will often not have detailed first-hand knowledge of the situation in a particular country, and thus would not be in a position to judge the realism of individual submissions.

National Committees should establish a broad-based WatSave Awards National Screening Committee for screening the nominations at the national level against criteria laid down for each category of Award for which the nominations are proposed to be submitted to the Central Office and ascertain their eligibility. The Screening Committee should authenticate the innovation and its implementation and ensure that it is an original work carried out by the authors.

(d) Financial

The host National Committee of IEC meeting of each year shall sponsor the Awards presented for that year.

Central Office shall make adequate provisions in the annual budget as appropriate to disseminate the works awarded.

(e) Contact

The ICID Central Office may be contacted for further information on the WatSave Awards,

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