

**DRAFT MINUTES
OF FIRST INTERIM MEETING OF WORKING GROUP ON IRRIGATED
AGRICULTURE UNDER DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY (WG-IADWS)**

13 July 2003, Tehran, Iran

Members Present : (i) Dr. S. Nairizi, Chairman (Iran); (ii) Mr. S.A. Assadollahi (Iran); (iii) Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK); (iv) Dr. G.R. Backeberg (South Africa); (v) Dr. B.R. Sharma (India); (vi) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (Central Office, ICID); (vii) and other members of IRNCID.

Since only Sub-Theme Leaders were present during this meeting, selected items from the Agenda of the 6th meeting of the WG-IADWS were discussed.

Item 3 : Review of progress by coordinating countries about sub-theme activities of the Working Group

Dr. S. Nairizi, Chairman, WG-IADWS suggested to discuss the sub-themes activities (Item 3) of the Working Group since only various sub-theme leaders had been invited for this Interim Meeting.

Sub-Theme No. 1 : Survey of publications on irrigation under condition of drought and water scarcity”

Dr. Abdul Majeed (Pakistan) was assigned the task of Sub-Theme 1 during Montreal meetings. He however, has not responded so far. The Central Office is to write to Dr. Majeed with a date to respond. The Chairman may then request Mr. Anthony John Horton (Australia) for providing leadership to sub-theme 1.

Sub-Theme No. 2 : Develop select appropriate indices to describe and quantify the implications of drought and aridity in relation to agricultural, ecological, social, economic and political issues”

Dr. B.R. Sharma (India) briefly described the progress of activities under sub-theme 2. He, however, said that only three responses have been received so far and therefore, we may restrict to develop regional indices instead of international/global indices to describe and modify the implications of drought and aridity. Dr. Mohammed Bazza (FAO) suggested to contact ICID member countries for their national indices and use them for developing indices as mentioned earlier. Dr. G.R. Backeberg (South Africa) thought that may be such indices do not exist and therefore, we may have to develop these indices afresh. Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK) suggested to use the proceedings of Workshop on Drought organized during 48th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in 1997. Dr. Sharma may contact Dr. Ragab for electronic version of these proceedings.

Sub-Theme No. 3 : Develop guidelines for - (i) Assessment of drought on irrigated agriculture; (ii) Development of policies and management strategies for various drought and water scarcity situations

Mr. M.F. Villjoen (South Africa) presented a document on “Guidelines for the Evaluation of Social and Economic” and “Quality Impacts of Drought and Water Scarcity” during Montreal (2002) meetings on behalf of Dr. Backeberg. The Chairman opined that these guidelines are very good and formed the core of management strategies. However, only two responses have been received so far. Dr. Backeberg (South Africa) to send these guidelines to Dr. Bazza (FAO) for review and comments with a copy to Central Office and Chairman for wider dissemination.

Sub-Theme No. 4 : Investigate the application of long term weather forecasting for drought prediction and economic viability of drought early warning systems”

Dr. Nairizi briefly described activities to be undertaken under this sub-theme and suggested to develop an approach vis-a-vis terms of references for drought prediction and early warning systems. Two papers related to “Climate Change” and “State-of-the-Art of Use of Saline Water” were circulated during Montreal (2002) meetings. Central Office to send the address list of WG members to Dr. Ragab for circulating these papers amongst members. Further, Dr. Ragab to write to Dr. Hussein El-Atfy (Egypt) for cooperation in the activities of this sub-theme.

Dr. Backeberg suggested that Dr. Ragab may assign some of his work to other members of British National Committee of ICID.

Sub-Theme No. 5 : Investigate and report on suitable technologies and agro-irrigation practices for the utilization of non-conventional water resources under conditions of drought and water scarcity”

Dr. Nairizi would send documents to to Dr. Ragab about the Iranian approach for the utilisation of non-conventional water resources, for information. Dr. Ragab may then develop and present a document on sub-theme 5 at Montpellier meeting in September 2003.

Sub-Theme No. 6 : Dissemination of products of this Working Group”

The Chairman suggested that the outcome of this Working Group would be a Guideline for Drought Management. Dr. Bazza suggested to make use of any national strategies developed by National Committees so far. FAO is doing the same thing and can help in developing these guidelines. The first draft of this guideline is expected to be placed for discussion during Beijing Congress in 2005. Chairman further suggested that the sub-theme leaders may send their reports to Mr. Bazza for review and feedback.

Item 4 : Compilation of the “General Questionnaire on the Water Status of ICID member countries”

Mrs. A. Sabetraftar (member of IRNCID) reported that 8 questionnaires have been received so far from the National Committees of India, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Australia, Iran, South Africa and Poland. The Chairman has sent the compilation of these general questionnaire to Central Office and concerned National Committees to fill-up the missing information, update and correct any other information where necessary. Other members of the Working Group have also been requested to send their country questionnaire to Chairman as soon as possible.

Item 10: Workshops organized by WG-IADWS

A workshop on “Drought Management Strategies in different countries” has been planned on 16 September 2003 at Montpellier, France. Dr. Nairizi, Chairman of WG has reported that 7 papers have been received so far. The contributors are from South Africa, Netherlands, Iran, France and China. Chairman to inform Dr. Alain Vidal, Organizer of 54th IEC about above developments.

Further, the 1st Announcement and Call for Papers for International Workshop on “Water Harvesting and Sustainable Agriculture” during 2004 at Moscow, Russia was discussed and finalized. The Chairman will circulate and announce the same during Montpellier meeting. The Central Office to give it wide publicity through ICID website, News Update and Newsletter after receiving a final copy from Chairman.

Item 17 : Any other business

The Chairman thanked all the member for coming and participating in this very first interim meeting of WG-IADWS.

