

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL 5TH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON WATER SAVING IN IRRIGATED AREAS (WG-WATS)**

19 October 2020, 15:30 hours (IST)

Strategy Theme: Schemes

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 2015

Completion of the Mandate: 2021

Scope: (a) water accounting and irrigation auditing (and other ancillary uses); (b) irrigation water measuring devices; (c) assessment of water loss in various components of irrigation systems; (d) various methods and techniques used for water saving in irrigation; (e) policies and strategies for irrigation water saving; (f) charging for Irrigation Services; (g) success stories and best management practices in water saving; (h) tools and processes applied in irrigation water saving; (i) outreach of water saving technologies; and (j) WatSave Awards.

Members Present: (1) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani, Chair (Iran); (2) Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhashti, Secretary (Iran); (3) Ms. Jianxin Mu (China); (4) Dr. P. Soman – Direct Member, Jain Irrigation Systems Limited (JISL) (India); (5) Engr. Rafat Nael Abdulghani Al-Intaki (Iraq); (6) Dr. Tasuku Kato (Japan); (7) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (8) Dr. Ray Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (9) Secretary General, ICID represented by Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Executive Director, ICID (India).

Observer: VPH Ian Makin (UK).

Dr. Joe Stevens (South Africa) could not join virtual meeting due to connectivity problem.

Webpage: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/108

WG-WATS Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

- Chair welcomed the members and briefed on the actions taken after the Bali meeting held in September 2019. Engr. Rafat Nael Abdulghani Al-Intaki (Iraq) briefly introduced himself during the virtual meeting and the group accepted him as member. Membership status is given in **Annex 3 (page 43)**.
- The group reviewed the existing member who were not participating/ contributing to the working group for one or more years and recommended as follows:

Sl. No.	Members	Country	Recommendation
1.	Mr. Yalçın Dalgin	Turkey	The group noted that they didn't participate this year too. WG suggested that ICID Central Office to request the NCs to send new nominees.
2.	Eng. S. Mohanarajah	Sri Lanka	
3.	Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Sheikh	Pakistan	
4.	Eng. (Ms) Hala Ramadan El-Sayed Ismail	Egypt	

WG-WATS Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 - Status of activities on water saving in irrigated areas

- During virtual meeting, the group reviewed and updated the status of activities on water saving in irrigated areas as part of Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (refer **Annex**).

WG-WATS Minutes Item 2.1: Publication of the WG

(a) Best practices and successful story on water saving

- Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani, Member of Panel of Judges for ICID WatSave Awards and the chair of WG-WATS informed that Dr. J. Stevens has submitted a proposal on Virtual Irrigation Academy to improve irrigation water productivity. Chair requested Dr. Stevens to make a presentation around 10 minutes during the virtual meeting of WG-WATS however, Dr. Stevens was unable to attend the virtual meeting.

(b) Policy and legal approaches to water saving

5. The group noted that the final questionnaire was submitted by Ms. Mu Jianxin (China) to ICID Central Office. The ICID Central Office circulated the final questionnaire to NCs to collect information/ data. The chair thanked Dr. Ian Tod (UK) and Engr. Heriter Rutabara (Mali) for filling the questionnaire. The group discussed and noted that small number of filled-in questionnaires were received and the chair requested the ICID Central Office to send follow-up email to the members and NCs for getting information and filled in questionnaire from more members and NCs.

(c) Water Charging Policies:

6. WG members participated in the virtual meeting and shared the countries policies for water charging in their own countries. Dr. Tasuku Kato (Japan) mentioned that in order to support the farmers and agriculture, there is no water charging in Japan. Engr Rafat Nael (Iraq) supported the topic and said there is no water charging in Iraq but they have to pay for construction and maintenance. It is based on the law that is passed in Iraq parliament. Dr. Ian Tod (UK) said there is a case study on water charges in Pakistan by IWMI. Also he suggested to send the questionnaire to NC members of WG, not just the NCs secretariat, and encourage them to complete it.

(d) State of the art on water saving:

7. Dr. Joe Stevens (South Africa) apologized for not attending the virtual meeting because they experienced an electricity interruption which made communication impossible to attend the virtual meeting. He also mentioned that they (Dr. Backeberg and Dr. Stevens) are working on the article "State of the art on water saving" and will share the same to members for comments.

(e) Condensed overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving:

8. During the virtual meeting, Mr. Mortaza Yazdekhashti (Iran) briefed the members and updated on the status of overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving. He also requested other members to send him the new relevant publications that they would like to share with the group.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 3: Updating Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD)

9. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the item was postponed for one more year for updation of the dictionary. It was proposed that ICID Central Office will contact Prof. Ms. Choi (Korea) to see if she would like to continue or not. Chair Mr. Ehsani also informed that there are some words that he would like to add in the dictionary and he will send the same to Prof. (Ms.) Choi.

WG-WATS Minutes Item 4: Any other business

10. Chair Mr. Ehsani briefed the group about the experiences around the world on water saving. He suggested that the NCs should be more active to introduce new cases especially in arid and semi-arid areas. In this respect, Mr. Ehsani informed that Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) has recently brought out a new book titled "An Approach on Concept of Irrigation Efficiency" in Persian language and IRNCID is working to issue English version of the above-mentioned book and will share with ICID and NCs.



Annex [Item 2]

ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORKBODIES

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021
Goal A: Enable higher crop productivity with less water and energy							
A3. Strategy: Improving water saving techniques and technologies	3.1 Support Watsave award winner selection	Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards	Presenting Annual Watsave Awards
	3.2 Best Practices and Successful Story on Water Saving	Documents	Workshop on Watsave awards	Announcing annually for Watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Announcing annually for Watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Announcing annually for Watsave awards and selecting successful stories	Setting up 10 years respective work as the documents and release by CO (2010 - 2020)
Goal B: Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices							
B1. Strategies: Supporting development of appropriate policies	1.3 Disseminate the water saving award technologies	Workshop proceedings					
	1.4 Policy and legal approaches to Water Saving	Policies/ Document	Breakdown the works in the WG	-Workshop -Designing and preparing questionnaire to collect data	Collecting and reviewing relevant laws and regulations from NC	Providing first draft	Finalize the book on policies and strategies drives on water saving
	1.5 Water Charging policies	Position paper	Define responsibility in WG	Designing Standard questionnaire	Reviewing Water Charging procedure on NC	Providing first paper	Final Paper
	1.11 State of the art on water saving	Journal Paper		Preparation of the draft of first paper	Submission of first paper for IRD	Preparation of the draft of second paper	Submission of second paper for IRD
Goal C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology							
C1. Strategies: Providing knowledge sharing platform for AWM professionals	1.1 Organize Workshop, Seminar and Symposium	Compilation of proceedings	Seminar/ Symposium on Water Saving	Workshop			Workshop
C4. Strategy: Compile, collate and share knowledge and experiences	4.8 Condensed overview of existing key books, manuals, guidelines and other relevant publications on water saving	Technical report		Release the first report		Release the second report	Release of third report

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)

