

Minutes of the virtual zoom meeting of
**WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE ON-FARM IRRIGATION SYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT (WG-SON-FARM)**

09 September 2021: 12:30 hour (Indian Standard Time)

Members Present: (1) Dr. A.K. Randev, Chairman (India); (2) Mr. Carl Walters, Vice Chair (Australia); (3) Mr. Suman Sijapati, Secretary (Nepal); (4) Dr. Yu-Min Wang (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Chen, Ching-Tien (Chinese Taipei Committee); (6) Mr. Dilip Yewalekar – Direct Member, JISL (India); (7) Dr. Hossein Dehghanisani (Iran); (8) Dr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy); (9) Mr. Taku Mori (Japan); (10) Prof. Chang Eon Park (South Korea); (11) Mr. Ömer Faruk Akbulut (Turkey); (12) Dr. Guan Guanghua (China); (13) Prof. Luo Yufeng (China); (14) Dr. Neelam Patel (India); (15) Dr. Ashish Pandey (India); (16) Secretary General represented by Executive Director Harish Varma, ICID Central Office (India).

Office Bearer Present: President Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK)

Minutes item 1: Review of the previous WG meetings including status of membership and activities of the WG as discussed in detail under the following agenda items

1. Chair welcomed and congratulated Dr. Ragab Ragab, President, ICID and all members of the WG and wished all for their safety from pandemic at their respective places. Chair briefed all about the purpose of holding this virtual meeting so as to lay emphasis on status of membership and strategical activities of the WG in reference to presenting and publishing position, overview as well as technical papers in the light of road map of the WG. Chair specifically pointed out that the related details of either type of papers will be discussed under agenda items. The Egyptian National Committee (ENCID) has nominated Dr. Gamal Mohamed Elkassar (Egypt) while the Indian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) has nominated Dr. Neelam Patel and Dr. Ashish Pandey (India) in place of Mr. Sher Singh for the membership of the group. In September 2021, Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) has nominated Dr. Guan Guanghua, Prof. Luo Yufeng and Prof. Yao Bin (China) for the membership of the working group. All the new members presented their bio data in brief and WG accepted new nominations.

Minutes item 2: Presentations by the WG members

2. Chair apprised all the WG members that during previous meetings, 9 presentations have been made by the WG members – six presentations in Mexico (2017) and three presentations in Bali (2019). As proposed by Mr. Carl, a paper entitled “improved decision making on overhead spray irrigation systems” was presented by Mr. Chris N, and Mr. Nick O in the Joint Session at Bali.

3. Mr. Taku Mori from Japan has re-submitted revised version of position paper that will be presented in the next meeting of the WG at Marrakesh, Morocco. Dr. Teoh Chin from Malaysia and Dr. Chang Eon Park from South Korea may update about the status of their respective papers.

4. As per Road Map, next presentations to be made up in 2022 on position, overview and technical papers, as three papers and one article have been proposed, as shown in the road map of the WG up to 2022, will be discussed and decided in the next WG meeting at Marrakesh that who will be presenting what type of paper, therefore, members may think of developing either type of the papers/ article.

Minutes item 3: Publications

5. Previous publications, pending for a long period of time entitled (i) “Improvement of On-Farm Irrigation Systems using simple water control, measuring and application devices” and (ii) Micro Irrigation for small holders and greenhouses” no response has been received from Er. Felix, Former President, ICID. Chair informed the members that during the next meeting that the status of these two papers will be finalized. Dr. Hossein Dehghanisani from Iran is finalizing a paper entitled “Micro Irrigation under Saline conditions, will give updates on the paper during the next meeting. Chair pointed out that *Very good achievement w.r.t presentations and Webinars has been there to the credit of all the WG members, ONLY REQUEST IS THAT AFTER PRESENTATION IT WILL BE FAR BETTER IF AUTHOR DEVELOPS PAPER AS PER GUIDELINES OF ICID JOURNAL FOR PUBLICATION. MEMBERS ARE FURTHER REQUESTED, as requested earlier also, TO KINDLY INFORM THE

CHAIR/CO CHAIR/SECRETARY OF THE WG ABOUT THEIR PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER JOURNALS TOO (other than ICID Journal).

Minutes Item 4: Webinars

6. To acquaint all the new members amongst all the members, Chair reiterated that Dr. Grazano Ghinassi, Researcher, Dept. of Agriculture, Univ. of Florence, Italy, delivered a Webinar on “Smart Technology to reduce energy consumption for water spreading and pipe production in hose reel sprinkler irrigation” on Dec 5, 2018. Prof. Yaohu Kang from Geographic Sciences and Natural Resource Research, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, delivered a Second Webinar entitled “Importance of Micro irrigation to improve water use efficiency in relation to food production” showing importance of micro irrigation in the world. On July 29th, 2019. Mr. Carl and his team delivered 3rd Webinar entitled “Organization of Irrigation Automation Systems” on July 22nd, 2021. This paper has highlighted the contribution of many institutions including University of Melbourne, in the irrigation modernization project by developing the required innovations that lead to saving of water simultaneously taking care of environmental parameters. Members are informed to participate in the Webinar facility for highlighting their research/development work, especially in the form of thematic document/paper.

Minutes item 5: Internal Workshop on Micro irrigation systems impacting Agricultural Growth and Farm Incomes:

7. As decided in the previous WG virtual meeting held on November 5, 2020, internal workshop may be changed to international Workshop under the same theme so as to make it more comprehensive enabling more participation of international Scholars. May be discussed with WG members under present scenario of pandemic for its period which has been tentatively fixed for 2023. Er. Harish Varma, Ex. Director ICID informed that the next WG meetings may be held in hybrid mode scheduled at present for Nov, 2021 at Marrakesh. Thus confirmation of the same may be awaited till last of Sept. 2021. Authors of previous papers (as 3 papers were received) received may be informed accordingly by the CO. WG members are requested to be in touch with the current developments on international workshop from the CO and hopefully participate to make it a success.

Minutes item 6: 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in 2021, Morocco

8. As communicated by the CO, during previous virtual meeting in Nov 2020, 5th AfRC & 72nd IEC meeting is scheduled from Nov 24-30, 2021 and going to be held at Marrakesh, Morocco. During this virtual meeting, the CO informed that 10th IMIC on the theme “Micro Irrigation in the era of technology innovation and digital transformation”, may be held as a stand-alone event in April, 2022 before the next ICID events going to be held in Adelaide, Australis in 2022. As 10th IMIC theme has a direct relationship with the mandate of the WG, hence all WG members need to participate actively in this international conference on receiving final information from the CO, ICID. All WG members kindly note that either Position, or Overview or Technical paper, as per detailed program of the conference, may be developed and presented.

Minutes item 7: Water and crops’ productivity relation

9. All the WG members are informed to have basic information on relation between irrigation through On-Farm Irrigation systems and agricultural crops produced viz. productivity of crops with system and without system so as to have an idea on incremental benefit in crops production on account of installation of drip/sprinkler systems on farms – only exchange of information through discussion among members was emphasized by the Chair.

Agenda item 8: Any other business

10. Although, each WG amongst three working Groups under Strategy theme “On-Farm” has exclusive objectives and methodology so need to be independent yet on common issues, joint efforts are to be made by the members of all the WGs. Chair informed that extension of the WG term up to 2025 has already been approved by IEC.

11. Any other issue, raised by any WG member within the purview of the objectives of the WG, were discussed. Dr. Ragab Ragab informed to have a plan of action that Chair clarified that based on modus operandi of WG meetings in future as per information from the CO, the above item-wise details will become plan of action of the WG. Mr Carl Walter discussed the importance of improved on farm irrigation practices. Dr Neelam Patel raised points regarding food-water-energy nexus, women participation and environmental impact to be considered in on-farm irrigation discussion. Chair pointed out that as per mandate/objective no. 3 has already covered these points and all the presentations and publications may take care of these points/issues. Dr Ashish Pandey discussed about soil related parameters to be the most important and farmers as the most important users so field studies may consider these points. Again the Chair informed that objective number 2 and 3 under mandate of the WG take care of this and all the members may develop their papers accordingly. Finally, the Chair informed that during the next meeting going to be held in Marakesh, Morocco, the previous papers will be presented in the WG meeting and discussion as per agenda items will be discussed. With new members having good experience in on farm irrigation systems in relation to agriculture will be fruitfully involved in contributing to the activities of the WG.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the President, ICID, all ICID executive members and WG members.

[Note: Clarification on any item by any WG member may please be sent to: ashwanirandev19@gmail.com]

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Agenda Item 4: Webinars Draft agenda of the Zoom meeting of WG-M&R

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