

**AGENDA FOR THE 8TH MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC-IRPID)**

03 September 2024: 14.00 – 15.30 Hours
Sydney, Australia

Members: (1) VP Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair (Japan); (2) Dr. Narges Zohrabi, Head, Ahwaz Regional Node of IRPID-IRN (Iran); (3) Ms. Gao Hong, Vice Secretary, CNCID & Representative of Beijing Regional Node of IRPID (China); (4) Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda, Head, Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Node (Tajikistan), (5) FAO Representative; (6) Ms. Amal Talbi, World Bank Representative, (7) Dr. Alok Sikka, IWMI Representative; (8) VP Mr. Kushvinder Vohra, Strategy Theme – Irrigation and Drainage (India); (9) VP Dr. Watchara Suiadee, Strategy Theme – Irrigation and Drainage (Thailand); (10) VP Mr. Ali Reza Salamat, Strategy Theme – Natural Resources (Iran); (11) VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Strategy Theme – Natural Resources (South Africa); (12) VP Mr. Aziz Fertahi, Strategy Theme – Climate Change and Impacts (Morocco); (13) VP Dr. Tian Fuqiang, Strategy Theme – Climate Change and Impacts (China); (14) VP Mr. Bruno Grawitz, Strategy Theme – Sustainable Development (France); (15) VP Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Strategy Theme – Sustainable Development (Uzbekistan) and (16) Mr. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID

Terms of Reference (ToR):

The Advisory Committee is responsible for developing a Framework Action Plan for the program, guided by the concept document as was presented at the 61st IEC in Yogyakarta in 2010 and keep overall coordination among the Nodes duly supporting their autonomy and maintaining flexibility in fulfilling their roles. These can be categorised as follows:

- (a) Develop the Strategy duly describing the strategic objectives and a Framework Action Plan for the program;
- (b) Review and monitor the implementation of the program to ensure the quality of outputs and their effectiveness; and
- (c) Mobilize and allocate extra-budgetary resources through joint activities.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 1: Brief introduction by SG, ICID

1. IRPID Scheme was initially notified vide Notification No.16 of 2016 dated 27 April 2016. However, at the AC-IRPID meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 05 November 2016, the Advisory Committee reviewed the IRPID Scheme and had a relook at the Vision, aligning its focus with the new ICID Vision 2030 concentrating more on AWM for Rural Development. It was also recalled that while IWMI research is aimed at 'management', ICID should continue to work on the technology aspects. Later, the modified IRPID scheme (https://www.icid.org/irpid_scheme.pdf), giving its vision, mission, objectives, organizational structure, coordination mechanism, etc. envisaging a proper regional balance at the global level in fostering collaborative activities amongst the NCs within that region by affiliating NCs to the identified regional node with similar AWM challenges, was adopted by 67th IEC vide Resolution No.IEC-3/67 at Chiang Mai, Thailand on 12 November 2016 which was notified amongst the NCs vide Notification No.6 of 2017 dated 23 February 2017, while urging the NCs to establish more Regional Nodes. So far, Ahwaz Regional Node and Beijing Regional Node are the only two nodes functioning under the scheme.

2. SG, ICID will provide a brief introduction and overview of the IRPID Scheme to the Committee members.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 2: Inputs from Beijing Regional Node

3. The Head/Representative of the Beijing Regional Node will present a report on the activities undertaken so far by the Beijing RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 3: Inputs from Ahwaz Regional Node

4. The Head/Representative of the Ahwaz Regional Node will present a report on the activities undertaken so far by the Ahwaz RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 4: Inputs from South Africa Region Node

5. The Head/Representative of the South Africa Regional Node will present a report on the activities undertaken so far by the South Africa RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 5: Inputs from Mediterranean Regional Node

6. The 69th IEC at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in August 2018 vide its Resolution IEC-2/69 gave in principle approval to the establishment of Regional Nodes for Mediterranean Countries proposed by Italian NC and Central Asia.

7. The Head/Representative of the Mediterranean Regional Node will present update on establishment the Mediterranean RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 6: Inputs from Central Asian-Caucasus Regional Node

8. The 69th IEC at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in August 2018 vide its Resolution IEC-2/69 gave in principle approval to the establishment of a Regional Node in Central Asian and Caucasus Region (CACRN) at the initiative of Tajikistan NC. Since then, TAJNCID has made considerable efforts towards its establishment by contacting the member and non-member countries of ICID in the region.

9. The Head/Representative of the Central Asian and Caucasus RN will provide an update about the establishment of the Regional Node in CACRN, and activities, if any, undertaken so far, and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 7: Evolving Collaborative Research Mechanism among the Regional Nodes

10. The Advisory Committee in its last meeting at Adelaide, Australia reviewed the existing collaborative research mechanism among the RNs and requested all RNs and NCs to encourage the research institutions in their country involved in AWM to join the network by projecting key information of their research activities for wider dissemination and fulfilling the objective of research mechanism among RNs.

11. With this objective to help ICID to serve as a repository of knowledge in the irrigation and drainage sector, IrriSEARCH (https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/62), an important tool in fulfilling the objectives of IRPID, has been put in place in accordance with the Irrigation Research (IrriSEARCH) database template approved at the 68th IEC meeting in Mexico City, Mexico in October 2017. It aims to bring together all agriculture water management (AWM) research activities from various NCs on a single forum to help others learn from their experiences. The IRPID Scheme is one of the activities that could provide NCs an opportunity to improve their profile within the countries as it provides various research stakeholders in AWM research, a window to exchange and showcase ongoing research activities in the irrigation and drainage sector worldwide.

12. So far, seven research institutes have registered in the portal. All the RNs and NCs are requested to encourage the research institutions in their country involved in AWM to join the network by projecting key information of their research activities for wider dissemination and fulfilling the objective of collaborative research mechanism among the RNs.

13. The Advisory Committee may review the existing collaborative research mechanism among the RNs and advise the ways and means to further improve it.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 8: Dissemination Mechanism on Exchange of Research Findings

14. With the objective to encourage the exchanges of research findings on an intra-node basis and inter-nodes basis, ICID CO has created a dedicated page on ICID web site for IRPID (https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/77) and also disseminated about IRPID activities through ICID News update and ICID News. The existing functional RNs will be able to upload their activities on this dedicated page for the benefit of all, as it will act as an important tool for the exchange of research findings between the RNs for the benefit of their network countries. The CO offered its assistance in uploading the information, if RNs face any difficulty.

15. Further, the site will provide a brief para of about 100 words of the prospective research paper and thereafter the link, which can be visited by interested professionals for more detailed information. The research organizations once registered in IrriSEARCH, will be provided with User IDs, so that they will be able to upload the information on the IRPID page themselves.

16. AC-IRPID will deliberate on mechanisms to improve wider dissemination and exchange of research findings among RNs, NCs, and other stakeholders.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 9: Establishment of Additional Regional Nodes

17. ICID has requested the NCs to establish additional Regional Nodes, by circulating the IRPID Scheme in force, in regions, where the RNs are yet to be formed, keeping in view that new Regional Nodes, should be recognized on the basis of their willingness to be able to pursue the research activities from their own resources. The RNs should be proposed voluntarily, based on identified needs. It is necessary to set some guiding principles in defining the scope of Regional Nodes both in terms of their geographical location and region-specific needs.

18. In 2018, during the 69th IEC meeting it was proposed that the Saudi Arabian National Committee may take initiative to create a Regional Node in the Middle East; while keeping in abeyance the proposal for establishment of a Spanish speaking Regional Node in Mexico consisting of Mexico and other Latin countries, with the initiative of Mexican NC.

19. The representatives of NCs of Saudi Arabia may apprise the Committee about the progress in the establishment of RNs in the proposed regions.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 10: Leveraging National Funding for Raising Financial Resources by RNs

20. One of the objectives of the IRPID is to support the NCs to receive adequate funding from their own governments. During the 2016 meeting of the Advisory Committee, the members were unanimous in their opinion that the NCs, through the outcomes of the Regional Nodes, sharing the best and new technologies, making use of various ICID communication channels, such as web pages, ICID News and Irrigation and Drainage Journal, were in the best position to leverage the research and development outcomes for their direct implementation in the field. They should be able to leverage their national funding sources through international collaboration. Although it is recognized that in many cases, the NCs may not be able to raise resources for international activities. In such cases, the Program can approach international funding mechanisms that support AWM activities. However, in order to attract such funding for the IRPID program, there is a need to have a good track record of successful outcomes.

21. Thus, the Committee may discuss the means for raising financial resources, including securing supports from the government, obtaining enterprise sponsorship, and lobbying international organizations like FAO to support IRPID training and research programs.

22. The Committee may deliberate on the ways and means to RNs for raising financial resources and provide its recommendations to the RNs to act upon.

AC-IRPID Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

