



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

International Workshop on the Role of Irrigation on Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods

Sacramento (California), 4 October 2007, 14.00-17.00

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This workshop gathered participants from quite different worlds: some were clearly concept-oriented, some were concerned by large investments (World Bank, IFAD), and some were more working on practical aspects at local scales (NGOs). As a result, the workshop was focused at a common understanding of concepts.

A. Vidal introduced the discussion by reminding that this meeting was actually launching a network that would contribute to the preparation towards WWF5, on the *topic "Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger"* contributing to **Theme 2: Advancing human development and the MDGs**.

From the presentations made, the following **common issues** could be derived:

- How to refine poverty analysis with a better understanding of the role of irrigation in livelihoods at household level and to scale it up to system and basin level?
- How to identify the best capability for optimal impact of pro-poor investment?
- How to upgrade capacities (?), esp. how to raise the poorest and highly vulnerable to the group of traditional/subsistence farmers, giving due recognition to the social role of irrigation?
- How to upgrade irrigation water services to support multiple use approaches, and how to finance these upgrades?
- How to target pro-poor interventions to make them effective?

Further discussions helped clarify the following:

- **Scope of the group**
 - Synthesize our specific knowledge and experience from the irrigation sector –"clean our house first"–, to design pro-poor actions in a wider understanding of irrigation, ie from full-irrigation to supplementary irrigation along the whole rainfed-irrigated continuum (*aka* agriculture water management).
 - Looking for technical solutions that work, within a clearly defined socio-economic context, so that it can be mobilized on a case specific approach.
 - Multiple-use irrigation systems could be emphasized as a specific approach to alleviate poverty in this context.
- **Regional focus**
 - The group recognized that interventions differ regionally, and that it is not in its mandate to detail too much at regional level. Prime focus on Africa, but other regions (Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean) should not be forgotten, esp. to draw some lessons learnt from irrigation and poverty alleviation experiences.
- **Outputs**
 - A network aiming at enhancing the impact of irrigation on poverty alleviation and livelihoods, animated by a core group constituted by an ICID Task Force (see below 'Further Step'), and linking with the consortium preparing WWF5's topic on "*Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger*".
 - A position paper prepared by late 2009 for WWF5.
- **Next milestones**
 - ICID African regional conference 6-9 November 2007 (<http://www.sancid.org.za/>) where among others 8 stock taking studies will be presented by the World Bank.
 - WWW 2008 in Stockholm, 17-23 August 2008 (<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>)
 - Next formal meeting of the group during ICID Congress in Lahore, 13-19 October 2008 (<http://www.icid2008.org/>), where concepts, examples and messages should be finalized – tentative date 15 October 2008 13:30-17:00.

Further steps

- Presentations and workshop summary posted on the web by late October 2007
- ICID Task Force established, composed of workshop contributors and those who have expressed interest before but could not attend (November 2007), and called 'ICID Task Force on the Role of Irrigation on Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods' (TF-Poverty)
- A. Vidal (TF-Poverty Convener) will keep TF members informed on the progress made with the preparation of WWF5 on the topic "*Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger*", link with the consortium that will prepare activities under this topic (next WWF5 milestone Nov 2007), and ask for further contributions from the group to elaborate an ICID position paper on the TF focus.

Present Composition of the Network

Summer Allen	UC Davis
Wouter Linklaen Arriens	ADB
Rudolph Cleveringa	IFAD
Simon Cook	CPWF - BFP
Salah Darghouth	WB
Anisa Divine	USCID
Jean-Marc Faurès	FAO
Annette Huber-Lee	CPWF
Intizar Hussain	INPIM
Nancy Johnson	CPWF
Andrew Keller	Keller-Bliesner Engineering
Peter Lee	ICID
Ian Makin	ADB
Monique Mikhail	IDE
Audrey Nepveu	IFAD
Christelle Pezon	AgroParisTech
Paul Polak	IDE
Mary Renwick	Winrock
Julienne Roux	WB
Mark Svendsen	USCID
Henri Tardieu	AFEID
Barbara Van Koppen	IWMI
Alain Vidal	AFEID
Linden Vincent	WUR
Steve Vosti	UC Davis
Dennis Wichelns	University of Hanover
Jonathan Woolley	CPWF
Bob Yoder	IDE