



The Role of the Private Sector in Irrigation Management: Experiences and Opportunities

Half day meeting on Friday 26 February 2016 (14:00 to 17:00) at ICE Westminster

Good management of large scale irrigation remains a challenging prospect, despite numerous initiatives in recent decades. Although a large proportion of global food production is dependent on such irrigation systems, they are still widely perceived to be poorly managed, wasteful of water and money, and to cause adverse social and environmental impacts. Since the 1990s Water Users' Associations have been almost universally promoted to address these problems, but these cannot yet address the underlying problems, particularly on very large scale irrigation in South and East Asia. More recently, a more commercial approach has been promoted by the World Bank and Asian Development, with much larger components of irrigation development and management being contracted to the private sector. The Guerdane scheme in Morocco is often cited as a success story, but decades on it has rarely been replicated.

This meeting aims to explore some of these issues, including the challenges of managing irrigation for subsistence purposes in very poor countries, the opportunities for introduced advanced methods from more developed economies, and the role that agribusinesses and socially aware consumers can have.

IWF members have been involved in many of these developments and have a strong interest in improving the performance of irrigation systems globally. This meeting will provide an opportunity to share experiences, successes and failures.

13:45 Registration

2:00 *Welcome and Introduction* by **Simon Howarth**, IWF & Mott MacDonald

2:10 **Alan Clark** (North West Hydraulics) *The challenges of private sector involvement in management of large-scale surface irrigation in Bangladesh*

2:35 **Suvi Sujamo/Nick Hepworth** (Water Witness) *Agribusiness, water stewardship, and irrigation management*

3.00 **Coffee, tea, biscuits**

3.25 **Simon Reid** (Marks and Spencer) *Sustainable agricultural water management from a supermarket perspective*

3.50 **Wietse Van Tilburg** (AgDevCo) *Innovations in irrigation financing and management in Africa*

4.15 **Florence Malherbe** (Societe de Canal de Provence/AFEID) *French experience with private sector management of irrigation*

4.45 **Concluding discussions**

5.15 **Close**



This event includes teas, coffees & networking.

- Q&A will follow each presentation. Informal discussions may continue after the event.
- Capacity at this meeting is limited, and registrations will be confirmed on a first come first served basis. Please see below regarding registration.

Information:-

To Register: There are no charges to attend this technical meeting, but registration in advance is required click on this link and follow instructions <https://www.ice.org.uk/events/the-role-of-the-private-sector-in-irrigation>

Any queries should be addressed by phone or mail to Tim Fuller, IWF Secretary, c/o The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, Westminster SW1P 3 AA. Email: Tim.Fuller@ice.org.uk Tel: 0207 665 2234.

Location: The meeting will be held at ICE, One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA.

Membership We encourage more people to join the Irrigation & Water Forum. Annual membership for 2015 is £60, £30 for young professionals under 35, and £15 for students. This gives you entrance to meetings as a member and access to the ICE building in central London as a member. To join check out the website <http://iwaterforum.org.uk/about/membership/>

The Irrigation & Water Forum/ICID.UK has engineers and natural/social scientists with interests in agriculture, irrigation and water resources management principally with an international focus. Although we represent the UK section of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, we have been running seminars addressing contemporary issues related to water, food, the environment & society for many years. We welcome your membership and involvement.