

Indian Council of Agricultural Research and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Work Plan Signed

10th June, 2014, New Delhi

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) signed a memorandum of understanding for furthering scientific and technical cooperation in water management technologies through collaborative research and capacity building in a function held at the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) here on 10th June 2014. The proposed collaboration includes Strategic Research Programs under the Consortium Research Program (CRP-5): Water, Land and Ecosystems and Implementation of the activities/ projects for the Indian component of the Consortium Research Program (CRP-7) on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, and Capacity Building, Publications, organizing Conferences/ Seminars and other activities for promoting research, influencing policy and knowledge dissemination.



The session was co-chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR; and Mr. Jeremy Bird, Director General, IWMI, Colombo. Mr. Arvind Kaushal, Secretary, ICAR and AS (DARE), Dr A K Sikka, DDG (NRM), Ms. Srabani Roy, Director-Asia, IWMI, and other Senior Officers of ICAR and IWMI participated. At the outset, Dr. Ayyappan, elaborated the importance of water in Indian agriculture and urged IWMI to work towards bringing global lesson on scientific water management to India and evolve a focussed, practical oriented approach towards enhancing water use efficiency and water productivity. He further emphasised IWMI's involvement in suggesting best practices as preparedness for ensuing monsoon - 2014. Mr. Jeremy Bird, Director General, IWMI, Colombo in his remarks highlighted the need for a water secure world focusing on agricultural water management. Dr. A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM), ICAR highlighted the need for water smart and climate smart products under the changing climate scenarios. He also mentioned the initiatives taken by NRM division of ICAR under National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (ICAR) and urged the scientist community to align the research work with Govt priorities so as to make the research outputs more visible.

Dr B R Shrama, IWMI presented the progress made on collaborative research in India. Scientists from ICAR institutes and IWMI presented new project proposals covering various aspects of water management, namely, Ganges Aquifer Management for Environmental and Social outcomes (GAMES), Management Strategies for Reducing Energy Consumption and Carbon Emission due to the Groundwater Irrigation in IGP, Evolving an Efficient Framework for Rainwater Management in Upper Ganga Basin, Understanding the productivity variability across rainfall regions and cropping, Wastewater Irrigation and Innovations for Producing More Food With Less Water. This was followed by discussion and finalization of the ICAR-IWMI Work Plan for 2014-2016.

The meeting was also attended by scientists from different ICAR Institutes, IWMI, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, Ministry of Water Resources, and Director (DARE). ADG (AAF & CC) from NRM Division presented formal vote of thanks.

(Source: NRM Division, ICAR)