

GRANADA ICID DECLARATION

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Fifty years, although a long time in the life of a person, is short in the development of a drainage basin. Nonetheless, 50 years is an appropriate time for the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) to take stock of its achievements and make an effort to address its weaknesses. In these 50 years ICID has increased its membership from 11 to 69 countries. The first Congress was attended by less than 100 delegates and this grand Congress in Granada in excess of 700 delegates. ICID started by publishing a periodic bulletin and now publishes a full fledged peer reviewed quarterly scientific journal, a web site and other means of disseminating information. ICID has progressed from not being recognized by other organizations to one whose counsel is sought by world leaders.

ICID encourages all stakeholders to irrigate and drain arable lands to their optimum efficiency, maximize food production and assure that water not used is recycled to the extent that is reasonably possible. Basin wide the use of water will be optimized, where applicable shared among states and regions and pollution will be controlled to an acceptable level.

ICID supports food security and proposes methods to conserve water by increasing the productivity per unit of water used, by reducing non beneficial uses, by relocating uses from low to high value crops, by tapping uncommitted outflows from systems, and by seeking new sources essential to meet additional demands.

Rehabilitation and modernization of systems will have to be brought about by encouraging the formation of water users organizations, by effective participation of users in the initial assessment of needs and by evaluating alternatives. ICID concludes that rehabilitation and modernization must result in additional benefits to farmers and be financially viable in that operation and maintenance costs should be at an acceptable level.

Irrigation, drainage and flood control of agricultural lands are no longer options. They are necessary for feeding billions of people, for providing employment for rural poor and for protecting the environment. With respect to this, ICID stresses that dams have played and will continue to play an important role in the development of water resources, especially in developing countries. A balance needs to be found between the requirements based on the needs of society, acceptable side effects and a sustainable environment.

The strategy for the future must be to optimize the use of water and mitigate its harmful effects. The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage resolves to continue its commitment to serve the world in determining methods of managing water for the production of food and fiber.