

# Yogyakarta Declaration

October 2010, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## 61ST INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AND 6TH ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

We, the participants of the 6th ICID Asian Regional Conference, held on 14-16 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

### Discussing

- Improvement of Irrigation and Drainage Efficiently through Participatory Irrigation Development under Small Land Holding Conditions

### Considering

- that most of the food production in the Asia region is done by smallholders and that smallholders are amongst the poorest segments of the population;
- the conversion of irrigated lands to non-agricultural purposes, because of urbanization;
- the continuous change of farmland ownership to people from cities;
- the increasing financial reliance on commercial and off-farm income opportunities for smallholders brought by urbanization;
- the gradual decline in interest of better educated young people to continue smallholder farming;
- the rapid increase in urban population which has changed the standard of living requires a significant increase in food production.

### Recognizing

- the need for improved land and water productivity to improve smallholders livelihoods and to meet food security targets as a result of land conversion;
- irrigation and drainage efficiency must be improved as a priority in order to improve smallholders' livelihood;
- the need for off-farm income to cover smallholders' basic needs;
- the limited financial capacity of smallholders to pay irrigation service fees or to invest in improvement of technology;
- the need for more resilient farming practices to cope with increasing climate variability and water scarcity;
- the need for better environmental management of catchments, rivers, and irrigated areas covered by water management and flood protection systems;

### We call upon

- Governments to:
- Direct agriculture policies and support programs towards generation of more sustainable off-farm employment by developing local agro-industries, provide affordable credit systems, and access to markets;
- Facilitate the development of WUAs (Water User Associations) and WUAFs (Water User Association Federations) towards becoming integrated water, agriculture and eco-system managers, and make them the guardians of the environment;
- Develop a vision and facilitate the transition process from the present smallholder systems to commercial farming entrepreneurs;
- Knowledge Institutions to
  - Analyze experiences and develop best practices and approaches for scaling up of integrated WUA/WUAFs as water, agriculture and eco-system managers;
  - Analyze experiences of other countries and develop best practices and approaches, for managing the medium to long term transition for smallholder based farming to commercial larger farming and agro-based enterprises;

- Develop and introduce new affordable, water efficient, climate resilient, and eco-friendly technologies to enhance smallholder productivity and improvement of smallholder livelihoods;
- Agricultural services and irrigation and drainage management agencies to
- Act as service providers which effectively engage the smallholders' WUA/WUAFs as partners in all aspects of development and management, in a coherent and coordinated way, especially with adaptation to urbanization, industrialization, land conversion and climate change;
- Welcome entrepreneurial activity that increase rural participation in the value chain and addresses the discrepancies in rural-urban livelihoods
- International organizations and financing institutions to
- Stimulate information exchange, research, technology transfer, and facilitate international dialogue in the challenges of, and options for irrigators and smallholders undertaking agriculture in rapidly urbanizing and industrializing societies.