

TOKYO CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP ICID 2000

Toward Sustainable Development in paddy Agriculture

July 2000

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), the Japanese National Committee of ICID organized a workshop in Tokyo from 24-28 July 2000. The workshop entitled as "The Asian Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development of Irrigation and Drainage for Rice Paddy Fields" was designed to support the activities of the Asian Regional Workshop Group of ICID as well as to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among Asian countries. Delegates from countries in the monsoon region of Asia and rice producing countries as well as international organizations participated in the workshop and addressed their views and experiences in association with the said subject.

Most Asian countries which are located in the monsoon region attributed their economic development basically to paddy agriculture in the past. There is a common understanding that innovative technology in irrigation and drainage played a substantial role to the development and to the social and economic stability of the monsoon region of Asia, as well.

The continuing increase in the population and the growth of economy in the monsoon region of Asia, which inevitably affects the future demand for food, will call for more attention to the efficient development and management of land and water resources. Paddy agriculture, which is generally viewed as highly productive in terms of land and labour as well as an environmental-friendly measure, still needs innovative technologies and practices in order to achieve sustainable development. It is a shared recognition that these continuing efforts and achievements in the monsoon region of Asia will contribute, to a considerable extent, to the development of world agriculture.

Regarding the technological and socio-economic aspects of paddy agriculture, the Tokyo Workshop ICID 2000 has summarized the following prospects and issues to be challenged in close cooperation among countries concerned in the region :

1. Paddy agriculture in the monsoon region of Asia has multi-functions, such as, reliable food supply to meet ever-increasing demand, economic development, land and environment conservation, and the vitalization of rural community. These multi-functions of paddy agriculture will continue to be effective for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas.
2. Irrigation and drainage technologies play a key role in achieving sustainable development of paddy agriculture. The national commitment to the continuing research and development of these technologies needs to be increased to be extent possible.
3. Rural area is endowed with a double-functional space for the activities of people' one is for production of food and the other for livelihood of the people. It will be necessary to take comprehensive measures to promote agriculture and to vitalize the rural area simultaneously, which has to take into consideration integrated land and water resources management, the improvement of the community environment, regional/basin planning approach, and institutional renovation as well as the construction of infrastructure for production. In this respect, it will be vital to build-up a network for international cooperation aimed at human resources development and technology transfer.
4. It is recommended that countries in the monsoon region of Asia tackle proactively with the following issues :
 - i. To continue the efforts of construction and modernization of irrigation and drainage facilities together with the establishment of water management institutions for the efficient use and control of water resources.

- ii. To empower farmers to actively participate in forming farmer's associations for effective and integrated land and water resources management, as well as to recognize the important roles of women, and strengthen their capacity.
- iii. To put more attention to the other salient functions of paddy agriculture and to strengthen these functions in practice, such as, preventing floods and soil erosion, securing water resources, improvement water quality, maintaining bio-diversity and empowering rural communities, and
- iv. To establish a network of information and technology of agriculture and rural development on the basis of efficient irrigation and drainage management and to strengthen international linkages of farmers, engineers, researchers, academicians and government officials concerned.