IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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SMART IRRIGATION SUMMIT 2023

Irrigation Association of India in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized the SMART Irrigation Summit on 21st December 2023. The Summit was focused on discussing effective water resource management in

India and ways to meet increasing water demands. It highlighted the vast potential of micro-irrigation in improving water efficiency in agriculture, providing a platform for industry, government, academia, and businesses to exchange ideas on best practices. Discussions encompassed water and nutrient management, automation, SMART Irrigation technologies, and strategies for their faster adoption. These strategies involved improving policies, technological innovations, financial incentives, and other approaches to expedite adoption across different states.

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon. Union Minister of State for Agriculture, highlighted a significant achievement: 75 lakh hectares brought under micro-irrigation since 2016. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), aimed at boosting water efficiency in farming, has covered 1.5 crore hectares, showcasing the government's commitment to sustainable agriculture. Chaudhary also praised agritech startups for their role in revolutionizing Indian agriculture, with over 3000 startups introducing innovative technologies. He called for unified efforts from all agricultural stakeholders to address water scarcity issues.

Shri Franklin L. Khobung, Joint Secretary (RFS) - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare highlighted critical statistics at a recent discussion. He pointed out that a staggering 86% of India's water goes to agriculture, with only half of the country's irrigated land covering most of this usage. This underscores a dire need for more efficient water management, with micro-irrigation capable of covering an additional 69 million hectares.

Joint Secretary stressed the significance of industry collaboration, acknowledging micro-irrigation as an industry-driven scheme reliant on private sector support and innovation. To bolster these efforts, the Ministry has revised operational guidelines, introducing a special purpose vehicle (SPV) in each state. States like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have already seen promising results from this initiative. Additionally, special provisions for cluster development have been introduced to further enhance effectiveness.

Shri Ashish Srivastav, Joint Secretary (RKVY), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare GOI- During the summit he addressed significant industry concerns following the integration of the PDMC Scheme with RKVY in 2022. He stressed the importance of executing State Annual Action Plans under the PDMC Scheme promptly. Such timely implementation is vital for ensuring uninterrupted fund disbursement between the Centre and the State.

Expressing worry over the underutilization of PDMC Scheme budgets, he highlighted a substantial disparity. Despite an annual approval of Rs 4000 crore, only Rs 2000 crore was utilized. An additional Rs 500 crore Centre-Share was allocated by the Department of Agriculture & Water Welfare. Recognizing PDMC's effectiveness under RKVY, he pledged ongoing industry support. Nonetheless, resolving state-level issues remains crucial.

Shri Shrikant Goenka, President, Irrigation Association of India & MD, Premier Irrigation Adritec- He highlighted pressing national concerns about water scarcity, increased demand, and overuse, emphasizing Micro-Irrigation technologies as transformative solutions. These efficient technologies promise to revolutionize water usage in agriculture, boosting yields, doubling farmers' incomes, conserving water, and ensuring energy efficiency.

Stressing its vital role in fostering self-reliant agriculture (Atma Nirbhar Krishi), he pledged industry support and collaboration. Aligning with Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of bringing 5 Crore hectares under Micro Irrigation in the next 5 years, he aimed to forge partnerships across industries, allied sectors, and with both central and state governments to achieve this ambitious goal.

Shri Kaushal Jaiswal, Senior Vice President, Irrigation Association of India, apprised a key water management challenge in agriculture. He compared India's water usage with China, noting India's higher usage of 560 billion cubic meters to produce 320 million tonnes of foodgrains, unlike China, which uses 385 BCM to produce 571 million tonnes.

He also pointed to India's declining per capita water availability, from over 5,000 cubic meters at independence to 1,500 now, due to a growing population and dropping water tables. He stressed India's heavy reliance on groundwater for irrigation, advocating for urgent aquifer recharge. Jaiswal urged the adoption of micro-irrigation and smart agriculture for sustainable farming, vital to tackle agricultural challenges and meet sustainability goals.

Shri Anuj Kanwal, Commissioner, CADWM, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GOI- In his address he pointed out the need for Modernization of Irrigation Commands. According to him, the Ministry of Jal Shakti is committed to Modernizing Canal Commands in a Phased manner, with pilots initiated in Phase I and national-level projects supported by International Funding to be initiated in Phase II. According to him, the Ministry was open to working with Industry to increase MI-Readiness in the Canal Commands. He encouraged the industry to work with Industry.

Shri Kaushal Kumar, Nodal officer, UPMIP (UP), recognized Uttar Pradesh's immense potential for Micro Irrigation Technologies. He commended the Department of Horticulture and the state government for their commitment to advancing Micro Irrigation adoption. To expedite coverage and enhance transparency in implementing the PDMC Scheme, the Government of Uttar Pradesh introduced several strategies:

1. Per Drop More Scheme, a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)
2. Financial Incentives providing substantial subsidies (80%-90%) to farmers
3. Launch of Uttar Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (UPMIP), utilizing an IT-enabled MIS system for effective management. UPMIP, a collaborative effort with GGRC, modelled on GGRC Online Portal
5. Streamlined processes for Work Orders, MIS Installation, Field Verifications, and Payments to Micro Irrigation Companies.

IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA HOLDS ITS ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING ON 21ST DECEMBER 2023

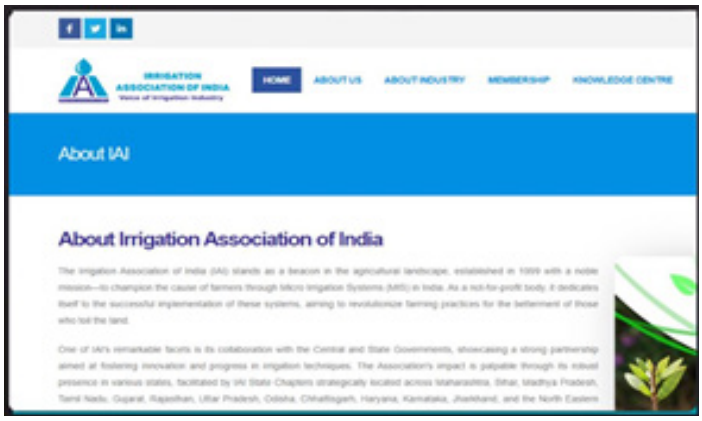
Irrigation Association of India held its **Annual General Body Meeting on 21st December 2023 at Federation House, New Delhi.** AGM was chaired by Shri Shrikant Goenka, President Irrigation

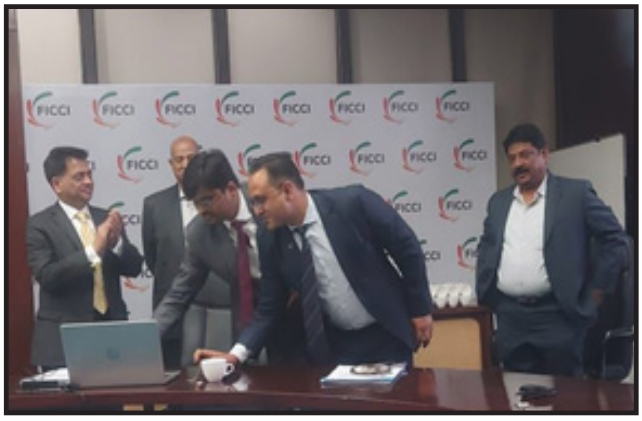
Association of India, the meeting was attended by Members of the Executive Committee, Chairs/Co-Chairs of State Chapters, Chairs/Co-Chairs IAI Working Committees, and members of the Association.

The AGM approved IAI Annual Accounts 2022-2023 presented to it and also approved the appointment of Statutory Auditors 2023-2024.

During the AGM **Shri Kaushal Jaiswal Managing Director,** Rivulis India elected as President of the Irrigation Association and **Shri Saurabh Sangla, Executive Director,** Group Signet as the Sr. Vice President.

IAI Annual General Body Meeting also witnessed the grand launch of the **brand-new IAI website by Mr. Pushkaraj Kothari, the Social-Media and Digital Transformation Committee Chairman** alongside esteemed past presidents.





IAI ESTABLISHES OF STANDARDIZATION CELL AT IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

The Irrigation Association of India has formed its BIS Standardisation Cell, appointing Mr. Vijay Jadhav, Director-Manufacturing & Development at Finolex Plasson, as the Chairman and Mr. Milind Pande, Assistant General Manager at Premier Irrigation Adritech Pvt Ltd, as the Co-Chair of the BIS Standardization Cell.

REINFORCEMENT TRAINING FOR STANDARDIZATION CELLS OF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

Shri Vijay Jadhav, Chairman BIS Standardization Cell Irrigation Association of India & Director-Manufacturing & Development Finolex Plasson, **Shri Milind Pande,** Co-Chair Standardization Cell IAI & Assistant General Manager, Premier Irrigation Adritech Pvt Ltd and **Shri Mahesh Konnur,** Member Standardization Cell IAI & Manager-Production Kothari AgriTech attended the "Reinforcement Training for Standardization Cells of Industry Associations" on 13th December, 2023. The Reinforcement Training cum Meeting was organized by the Western Regional Laboratory of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Reinforcement training addressed the New Standards pertaining to the Micro-Irrigation Industry, the Role of Standardization Cells, the Process of Review of Standards from an Industry viewpoint, and Research and Development Projects in Formulation and Review of Indian Standards. According to new provisions, Companies/Institutes were now eligible to support BIS in undertaking R&D projects for Standard Formulation. BIS Technical Committee had approved the financing of R&D projects up-to Rs 10 Lakhs.

INDIA: INITIATIVE PUSHES TOMATO GROWERS TO ADOPT DRIP IRRIGATION

Netafim, an Orbia business and a global leader in precision agriculture solutions, under Better Life Farming, helping Shivpuri farmers grow more tomatoes with less spending on Agri inputs. Under the initiative, farmers are encouraged to adopt drip irrigation technology.

The farmers across the Shivpuri district have witnessed higher crop yields and higher total income. The drip irrigation technology has helped farmers grow ~30 tonnes tomatoes in one acre and get a total income between INR 1.5 lac to 2.5 Lac compared to the previous 20 tonnes and income of 1 Lakh to 1.2 Lakh in one acre.

Source:https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9547807/india-initiative-pushes-tomato-growers-to-adopt-drip-irrigation/

UNLOCKING AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS IN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

A new initiative, driven by the state, seeks to harness these opportunities to position Uttar Pradesh as a frontrunner in sustainable agriculture on the global stage over the coming five years. Termed the UP Accelerator for Agri-Water-Use Efficiency, alternatively referred to as UP Accelerator PRAGATI (Program for Agricultural Transformation and Increased Incomes), this program originated from the state's Multi-Stakeholder Platform. This platform received support from the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG), an entity managing a multi-donor trust fund under the World Bank's Water Global Practice. The initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural practices in Uttar Pradesh, striving for enhanced efficiency in water usage and sustainable agricultural development.

Source : https://blogs.worldbank.org/water/unlocking-agricultural-transformations-small-and-marginal-farmers-uttar-pradesh-india#:~:text=In%20December%202022%2C%20the%20Cabinet,investments%20in%20agri%2Dwater%20operations.

WATER SHORTAGE FOR CROPS TO BE 4.6K TMCFT BY 2050: TN PANEL

Tamil Nadu faces an impending agricultural water crisis. As per the 'Sustainable Land Use Policy' from the State Planning Commission, the projected water deficit for crops by 2050 amounts to 4,646 tmcft, nearly 50 times the Mettur dam's storage capacity. This signals an imminent need for substantial alterations in agriculture, impacting crop selection, land use patterns, water utilization, and overall productivity in a sector that contributes 13% to the state's economy.

Source:https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2023/oct/08/water-shortage-for-crops-to-be-46k-tmcft-by-2050-tn-panel-2621889.html

GOVT TO RECAST FLAGSHIP PMKSY INTO SMART IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Jal Shakti ministry has ambitious plans to transform the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana, aiming for a whopping 20% surge in on-farm water efficiency. This revamp is set to liberate around 50 BCM of water, playing a crucial role in helping the nation reach its goal of covering 70 million hectares with advanced micro-irrigation methods. All this effort is particularly vital amidst a deepening groundwater crisis.

Source:https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-to-recast-flagship-pmksy-into-smart-irrigation-scheme-101685992085518.html

INDIA'S FARMERS NEED FINANCIAL MOTIVATION TO CHECK INDISCRIMINATE USE OF GROUNDWATER FOR IRRIGATION

India's farmers need financial motivation to check indiscriminate use of groundwater for irrigation India's annual precipitation grants it a vast 4,000 billion cubic meters of rainwater. However, the usable portion of this bounty is a mere 1,123 BCM. This limitation arises from the burgeoning demands of domestic, industrial, and agricultural sectors, mounting undue pressure on groundwater resources. Among these sectors, irrigation stands out as a primary contributor to this strain.

With a per capita annual freshwater availability of 1,486 cubic meters, India treads dangerously close to the brink of being labeled a water-scarce nation. The threshold for this classification is a per capita availability of less than 1,000 cubic meters yearly, while the recommended requirement stands at 1,700 cubic meters. Urgent attention to managing this precious resource is vital to steer clear of water scarcity's looming specter.

Source:https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/water/india-s-farmers-need-financial-motivation-to-check-indiscriminate-use-of-groundwater-for-irrigation-90702

WHY FAMILY FARMERS NEED GREATER ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

New technologies are reshaping family farming, offering prospects for increased productivity and sustainability. Despite occupying 80% of the world's farmland and contributing 80% of global food production value, smaller-scale family farms face poverty and hunger, notably in developing nations.

A 2019 global initiative aimed to support family farmers in adapting to rapid changes, emphasizing the need for tailored technological innovations. Clovis Freire, leading UNCTAD's technology and innovation policy research, underscores technology's pivotal role. He highlights its ability to enhance agricultural productivity, promote eco-friendly practices, and create rural employment for young farmers. This integration ensures the longevity and sustainability of family farming for future generations.

Source - https://unctad.org/news/why-family-farmers-need-greater-access-technology

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES BOOST SMART FARMING IN CENTRAL CHINA

In central China's Hubei Province, the onset of warmer temperatures signals the start of spring farming on the Jianghan Plain. In Sanhe Town, Yingcheng City, a departure from traditional methods characterizes farming practices. Here, smart technologies spearhead vegetable greenhouse operations. Automated drip irrigation, weather stations, and sunshade nets dynamically regulate the environment for optimal vegetable growth.

To bolster local agricultural progress, Yingcheng made substantial investments in a modern agricultural park spanning over 200 mu (around 13.33 hectares) in Sanhe. This innovative space integrates agricultural research, production facilities, and agritourism, creating a cohesive hub aimed at advancing agricultural practices while offering engaging experiences to visitors.

Source: https://english.news.cn/20230309/e0c31eed029d44598284e1a2aa05f79b/c.html

FERTIGATION BEST PRACTICES: BALANCING AUTOMATION WITH HUMAN EXPERTISE

Fertigation, combining fertilization and drip irrigation, stands as a pinnacle in agricultural practices. This technique optimizes water use and nutrient delivery, injecting fertilizers directly into irrigation systems. Efficient and precise, it enhances crop growth while conserving resources, revolutionizing modern farming methods.

Source:https://www.cannabisbusinesstimes.com/article/cannabis-fertigation-best-practices-automation/

ABOUT IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) is an apex industry body established in 1999, representing Micro Irrigation System (MIS) manufacturing companies in India. It is a not-for-profit organization and is working towards the successful implementation of Micro Irrigation in India for the benefit of farmers.

IAI has a registered office at Pune. Maharashtra, India and corporate office at New Delhi. IAI is closely working with the central Government of India and the State Governments. The association has a strong presence in states through IAI State Chapters at Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and North Eastern Region.

What we do

- Policy Advocacy
- Knowledge Dissemination
- Capacity Building
- Convene meeting with Central/State govt. departments to apprise the industry issues
- Sectoral Conference/Workshop to promote Micro Irrigation

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