

Message from the INWEPF to the 7th World Water Forum



In the ministerial meeting on “water, food and agriculture” at the 3rd World Water Forum (the 3rd WWF), recommendations were adopted on three challenges, namely “food security and poverty alleviation”, “sustainable water use”, and “partnership”. To realize these recommendations, International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields” (INWEPF) was established in 2004 among the countries in Asian monsoon regions, where more than half of world population resides and paddy field farming is the mainstay of agriculture. So far, various activities have been implemented to promote effective water management for efficient water use, share the knowledge and information of multifunctionality of paddy field and enhance the understanding of it’s roles and values to world audience.

Focus (Priority) areas of action by INWEPF are listed as follows;

Enhancing Multifunctional roles of paddy field farming

Paddy field farming is suitable and sustainable form of agriculture in Asian monsoon region with high precipitation, without causing salt accumulation or damage by continuous cropping. In addition, it provides multifunctional benefits including flood protection, prevention of soil erosion, recharging underground water, and ecosystem conservation.

INWEPF enhances the understandings of the multifunctional roles by evaluating the monetary value and promoting the adoption of measures to enhance these benefits.

Implementing case studies at GIAHS sites

The GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) is an initiative which was established by FAO in 2002 to promote public understanding, awareness, national and international recognition of Agricultural Heritage systems to safeguard the social, cultural, economic and environmental goods and services these provide.

31 sites in 13 countries have been recognized so far, of which 13 sites are related to paddy field farming (with multifunctionality) in Asian monsoon region.

INWEPF promotes further understandings of multifunctional benefits of paddy field farming through studies and surveys at GIAHS sites.

Promoting Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)

To secure food under increased incidence of flood and drought by climate change, not only investments for irrigation and drainage facilities, but also improved water management are indispensable for efficient and sustainable management of limited water resources.

INWEPF published guidelines on infrastructure development and water management of paddy fields taking accounts of commonalities/differences among countries and regions. By utilizing these guidelines, the training on PIM has been conducted through the cooperation among member countries for further promotion and extension of PIM.

World population will reach 9.1 billion by 2050, and FAO estimates food production must increase 70 % to feed this population, under intensifying climate variability.

INWEPF member countries will continue to cooperate to implement studies and surveys for establishing better water management practices and promoting the manifestation of multifunctional benefits in paddy field farming. As part of above mentioned efforts, INWEPF, with stronger network of member countries will proactively contribute to solving food security and water management issues by formulating new action plans for further development of INWEPF activities.

INWEPF will organize the 12th steering meeting and symposium in Sri Lanka and joint conference with PAWEES in Malaysia in 2015.