International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Field (INWEPF)

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The “International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Field” (INWEPF) will be established with identified countries, mainly in the Asian region, and international organizations in November 2004. The network is a flexible platform for exchanging information and fostering partnerships relating to water and ecosystem in rice-based systems. Everyone, at international, national, civil societies and individuals, will be invited to attend it.

The contents have been designed, based on three challenges (i.e. “Food Security and Poverty Alleviation”, “Sustainable Water Use” and “Partnership”), which was stated by the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture held on the occasion of the Third Water Forum in Japan in March 2003. The outline of the INWEPF is as follows:

1. General issues
   1) Overall Goals
      - Securing Stable Food Supply
      - Alleviating Poverty
      - Sustaining Water Use
      - Harmonizing with Nature
      - Developing Sustainable Rural Societies
   2) Objectives
      - Establishing a Flexible Platform for
      - Exchanging and integrating Information
      - Fostering partnerships

2. Modalities
   1) Framework
      a) Everyone is invited:
         - International, national, civil society and individuals
      b) Linkage among three components:
         1) Research
         2) Policy/Action
         3) International cooperation
      c) Four means to achieve outcomes:
         1) Steering Meeting
         2) Virtual Meeting
         3) General conference
         4) Working groups

   2) Target
      a) Target Area
         - Where rice is a major concern for production and consumption
         -- Initially Asian Monsoon region --
      b) Target in each component
         - Research component: “Opinion leader”
         - Policy/Action component: “Leading forum”
         - Int’l. Cooperation component: “New frontiers”

3. Detailed themes
   a) Research component (Part1)
      General agenda with a pro-poor focus
      Information Exchange/Discussion on
      7 items:
      1) Efficient and sustainable water use
         (environmental-social-economic)
      2) Equitable and optimal water allocation/use to
         address poverty alleviation and food security at
         the global, regional and local levels [rainfed, irrigation]
      3) Multiple use and ecosystem functions (e.g.
         biodiversity conservation) of paddy fields,
         including social/cultural aspects and governance
         arrangements.
   a) Research component (Part2)
      4) Measures to mitigate environmental degradation
         associated with paddy production
         (chemicals, methane, water logging, salinity,
         groundwater contamination…)
      5) Field level rice production systems for
         improving water productivity through rice
         varieties and farming practices
      6) Managing risks against flood, drought and
         salinization
      7) Governance, including Participatory
         Irrigation Management to increase capacity
         for integrated water resource management
b) Policy/Action component
Information Exchange/Discussion on 1 item:

- Policies and strategies for good governance for improving sustainable management of rice based systems with specific attention to water, land and environment
- Targets: 1) Rice growing countries
  2) Global community

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c) International Cooperation component
Information Exchange/Discussion on 4 items:

1) Building stakeholder capacity
2) Promoting farmers' and other stakeholders' participation in policy formulation, decision making and project management (planning, construction, operation and maintenance)
3) Promoting the application of countries' experiences and innovative research results
4) Creating and enhancing partnerships

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d) Integrated Action among three components

1) **To hold sessions at the Steering Meeting** summarizing/reporting discussions in the VM
2) **Prioritization of actions and agenda**
3) **To craft key messages and promote them at various water networks, programs, and events** at regional and global levels such as WWF4 or WSSD follow-up, etc

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**Framework of INWEPF**

- **Research**
- **INWEPF**
  - Steering Meeting
  - Virtual Meeting
  - Working Group
  - Conference
- **Policy / Action**
- **International Cooperation**