



## **Irrigation: Making it work for the poor**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

**13:45 – 17:00**

**ICE, ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET, LONDON, SW1P 3AA**



Irrigation can contribute significantly to poverty alleviation, food security, and improving the quality of life for rural populations. However, irrigation often does not live up to expectations and can also be highly inefficient and have negative environmental and socio-economic effects, such as water logging and salinization, water and vector borne diseases, and inequitable access to water. In turn, these negative social and economic impacts can be compensated through improved planning, implementation and management of irrigation systems.

This meeting explores the linkage between irrigation and drainage, and hunger and poverty alleviation, in which the poor benefit through higher yields, lower risk of crop failure, adoption of diversified cropping patterns, increased high-value and market-oriented crop production, and fixed employment. Experts will share lessons from various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.



## **Programme**

13:45	Registration
14:00	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Helen Houghton-Carr (IWF & CEH)
14:15	<b>Key and Smart Actions to Alleviate Hunger and Poverty Through Irrigation and Drainage</b> Peter Lee (FAO)
14:45	<b>Lessons in sustainable agricultural groundwater management</b> Timothy Foster (University of Manchester)
15:15	<b>Networking break</b>
15:45	<b>Irrigation, food security and poverty: The Lessons from three large dams in West Africa</b> Jamie Skinner (IIED)
16:15	<b>Farmers/irrigators in semi-arid lands: what future?</b> Peter Newborne (ODI)
16:45	<b>Concluding discussions</b>
17:00	Close of meeting

## **Registration**

To book your place for this event please visit:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/events/private-events/irrigation-making-it-work-for-the-poor-london>

Please note to watch online you do not need to pre-register.



## **Speakers**

### **Peter Newborne, ODI**

Peter Newborne is a researcher and consultant on water and environment policies/programmes and Research Associate to ODI. His recent work has included: research on water management in semi-arid lands in West Africa; studies of private sector involvement in water management and 'stewardship' in the UK/Europe and beyond; review of the national environment system in Colombia; and analysis and debate relating to the strengths and weaknesses of the regulatory framework for water supply and water resources management in England & Wales.

### **Timothy Foster, University of Manchester**

Tim Foster is a Lecturer in Water-Food Security in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester. His research integrates crop and hydrologic models, earth observation techniques, and economic analysis to evaluate decision-making about land, water and energy use in agriculture. A core focus of his research is on evaluating policies to support resilient and sustainable agricultural water management, in particular in areas of intensive groundwater-fed irrigation. He holds doctoral and master's degrees in Hydrology from Imperial College London, and a bachelor's degree in geography from University College London.

### **Peter Lee MSc, DIC, MICE, MCIWEM, President Honoraire ICID**

Peter graduated from Imperial College in 1966, and initially worked as a VSO for the Department of Water Affairs in Zambia. He joined Sir M MacDonald & Partners in 1973, becoming a Partner in 1987 and a Director of Mott MacDonald in 1989. He retired after 33 years with the firm in 2008. He is now kept busy helping run his local U3A, and as historian and head gardener for his son's 39 acre property in Norfolk.

With Mott MacDonald (MM) he worked on many water resource projects in Africa and West Asia, and travelled extensively as MM's International Director, finishing his career running the Group's Indian operations.

Whilst working for MM, he was Chairman of the British National Committee of ICID 1992-95, and an active member of the ICE's Water Board (1989-1999), a member of the Steering Group DFID's Engineering KAR programme (2001-03) and Chairman of the Consultative Group of IPTRID at FAO (2001-08).

Active in ICID's international activities since 1987, he was elected Vice-President 1997-2000, and President 2005-2008. While President he encouraged *inter alia* the formation of a task force on the Role of Irrigation and Drainage in Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods, and became its Chairman in 2009, until the completion of its tenure in 2014. He will talk today primarily about the findings of that work body, with reference to the recent paper in *Irrigation and Drainage* by Olcay Unver, Robina Wahaj *et al* on 'Key and Smart Actions to Alleviate Hunger and Poverty through Irrigation and Drainage'.



**Jamie Skinner, IIED**

Jamie Skinner is the leader of the water team at the International Institute for Environment and Development. He led the Global Water Initiative in West Africa that engaged communities and decision makers to improve outcomes from large dams and their irrigation schemes as well as writing on water and land governance issues. He was the Environment adviser at the Secretariat of the World Commission on Dams and is a member of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol social chamber, focussing on mechanisms for the equitable sharing of benefits from large dams.