



FACULTY OF LIFE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

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Organizers

Dr Jens Raunsø Jensen (jrj@life.ku.dk)

Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen

Dr Mukand S. Babel (msbabel@ait.ac.th)

Water Engineering and Management, Asian Institute of Technology

Participants: Practitioners and scientists involved in water management issues related to canal irrigation schemes.

Registration and Fee: There are a limited number of **grants** available for participants covering the full cost of travel and participation. These grants are primarily targeting participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Denmark and AIT. Others may participate at their own expenses.

Application including name, title, position, institutional affiliation, address, area of expertise and e-mail should be forwarded to the workshop secretariat latest by 16 August 2009, att. Mr Aldrin Rivas (rivas@ait.ac.th , phone 02-524-6599 or 085-211-7500).

Location: AIT, Asian Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand; Telephone: (66 2) 5245000 or (66 2) 5160110-44 Fax: (66 2) 5162126.
www.ait.ac.th

Further information: www.danishwaterforum.dk , workshop secretariat and organizers

Regional R&D Workshop on:

Water saving irrigation practices in rice-based canal systems

October 8-9, 2009

Asian Institute of Technology

Bangkok, Thailand

Organised by University of Copenhagen (KU) and

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Sponsored by Danish Water Forum (DWF) and

The International Research School of Water Resources (FIVA)



International Research School of Water Resources

Background and Objective

Improved management of water resources in agricultural operations is a basic requirement for coping with water scarcity at basin, community and farm levels. Agriculture is the major water user in many basins, with eg., irrigated lowland rice receiving about 40% of the global irrigation water equivalent to 25% of total freshwater withdrawals. Furthermore, agriculture is now under pressure to increase food production under increasing competition for water from other users (urban, industry, energy and environment). Water productivity therefore needs to be improved under increasingly limited water supplies using water saving irrigation practices.

Opportunities and practices for coping with water scarcity in rice-based irrigation systems have been identified at the field and system levels by national and international research and development organisations. However, operationalisation of these practices may be constrained by the requirements of a relatively high level of technical water control and governance. Furthermore, the long term sustainability of some of these practices and the impacts on surface and groundwater systems, productivity, ecosystem services and environmental conditions are uncertain, which in combination with the location specific nature of these practices calls for more research and testing.

The **objective** of the Regional Workshop is *to review water saving issues and experiences in medium and large rice-based canal irrigation systems, for identifying knowledge gaps and fostering international collaboration on exchange of experiences, research, education and development.*

Participants and Programme

Participants will comprise mainly of practitioners, scientists and development experts from the S-Asia and SE-Asia region and of the group of PhD-students following the course *Advances in Agricultural Water Productivity Assessment and Improvement in Irrigation Schemes* preceding this workshop (3-7 October 2009; www.fiva.dk).

Programme (to be confirmed, details forthcoming):

08 Oct: 08:30 – 17:00

- Opening (AIT President, DWF Representative)
- Invited presentations: challenges, experiences and opportunities
 - Key presentations:
 - Mr Thierry Facon, FAO Regional Office, Thailand
 - Dr T P Tuong, IRRI, Philippines
 - Dr Francois Molle, Centre IRD, France
 - Presentations by participating regional and international scientists and practitioners
- Group discussions: issues and opportunities
- Social event in evening

09 Oct: 08:30 – 17:00

- Key issues and initiatives
- Way forward, alignment with related activities