



Water for Food Conference

National conference addressing water management issues, food security, environment and climate change in Sri Lanka

Organized by
International Water Management Institute
Irrigation Department
Department of Agriculture and
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

09 to 11 June 2009 - Colombo, Sri Lanka

A 'Water for Food Conference' is being organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Irrigation Department, the Department of Agriculture and the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) to discuss issues of water management for food security in Sri Lanka.

Key Issues

The sharp increase in food prices worldwide has raised serious concerns about food security, especially in developing countries. This is the driving force for the conference. To effectively address these concerns a holistic approach is required. This should encompass improved agricultural water productivity; adaptation to climate change; targeted and appropriate institutional and financial measures; and environmental considerations. The main purpose of the conference is to share experiences in these areas and to find opportunities to improve farmers' incomes and food production. In addition, it is to promote environmentally sustainable practices in Sri Lanka in the face of growing water scarcity and the challenges of climate change. The conference will bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners to address these key issues.

Chief Guest

The Prime Minister, Hon. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake

Guests of Honour

The Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister for Irrigation and Water Management and
Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Services

Special Guest

Dr. M.S Swaminathan, Member of the Rajya Sabha and Chairman of the Swaminathan Foundation, India



Irrigation
Department



Department of
Agriculture



HARTI



IWMI
International
Water Management
Institute

The conference has several inter-linked objectives, which are to:

- Provide a level platform for participants to share experiences and lessons learned.
- Develop practical approaches for sustainable development.
- Promote partnerships among disciplines and organizations on land and water management for food security.
- Identify future directions on key issues such as water scarcity, food security and climate change in Sri Lanka.

Conference Highlights

Speakers

The inaugural session will include addresses by several speakers who are well respected in their fields, these include:

- **Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and Water Management**
- **Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services**
- **Dr. Colin Chartres, Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**
- **Dr. M.S Swaminathan, Member of the Rajya Sabha and Chairman, Swaminathan Foundation, India**
- **Eng. H. P. S. Somasiri, Director General, Irrigation Department**
- **Dr. C. Kudagamage, Director General, Department of Agriculture**
- **Mr. V. K. Nanayakkara, Director, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)**

The conference will cover a wide range of topics that will be presented and discussed in nine sessions with nearly 50 papers being presented over the two days. The sessions will result in key messages to be delivered to policy makers, as well as clear statements of needs for further research and development.

The final morning of the conference will be used to share these findings and ideas with a wider range of people including government officials and donor agencies. It is expected that the conference will result in new, positive directions for water resources management research in Sri Lanka.

Discussion Topics

Theme 1: Irrigation for Food Security

- Revitalizing irrigation systems for food security
- agriculture and food security: opportunities and constraints
- Enhancing water productivity on irrigated and rainfed lands

Theme 2: Water Quality, Environment and Climate Change

- Water quality, irrigation, environment and health
- Water recycling for productive use
- Climate change and agriculture

Theme 3: Policies, Institutions and Data for Water Management

- Data and information management for water management
- Policy interventions to improve water productivity and access to water
- Methodologies for national water resources assessment

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And see the website
<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/NationalConference>