



For more information, contact:

Nathan Russell

n.russell@cgiar.org / +94 (0) 773369533

World Bank Lead Economist to Head Premier Global Research Institute Addressing Water Issues

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (2 May 2017) – At a time of heightened global concern about scarce and variable water supplies together with worsening water-related hazards, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has announced the appointment of Claudia W. Sadoff, by decision of the Institute’s Board of Governors, to serve as its next director general.

Dr. Sadoff brings to IWMI – the CGIAR Research Center focused mainly on water – three decades of diverse and distinguished experience as a global researcher and development practitioner. She has engaged with development experts and policy makers at the highest levels in dozens of countries, addressing a wide range of water development challenges, including climate adaptation, drought and flood response, and transboundary river basin management.

Dr. Sadoff currently serves as the World Bank’s Global Lead for Water Security and Integrated Water Resources Management. In this and prior leadership roles at the Bank, she has coordinated major initiatives dealing with water issues in Africa and Asia, compiling a strong record of program management and building a global network of development partners. Most recently, she has led major studies on water security in the Middle East and on water management in fragile and conflict-affected states.

“I believe that IWMI is uniquely well placed to champion the cause of improved water management worldwide, and I look forward to offering my knowledge, experience and energy in support of the Institute’s mission to deliver evidence-based solutions for water management,” Dr. Sadoff said.

“Through sustained and strategic efforts, Dr. Sadoff has made a major contribution toward the achievement of global water security, and we are delighted that she will lead IWMI’s ongoing work toward this goal,” said Donald Blackmore, Chair of Institute’s Board of Governors.

Expected to take up her new post in early October, Dr. Sadoff succeeds Jeremy Bird, who completes a 5-year term that included development of the *IWMI Strategy 2014-2018, Solutions for a Water-Secure World* and the launch of the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE), which IWMI leads and is now entering its second phase.

Dr. Sadoff earned her doctorate in economics at the University of California at Berkeley and a master's in international affairs at Columbia University. She has written dozens of peer-reviewed publications on water challenges and solutions. She has also received numerous awards and appointments from organizations such as the University of Oxford, the Global Water Partnership and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

###

The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** is a non-profit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of water and land resources in developing countries. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with regional offices across Asia and Africa, the Institute works with governments, civil society and the private sector to develop scalable agricultural water management solutions that have a real impact on poverty reduction, food security and ecosystem health. www.iwmi.org

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Its work is carried out by 15 research centers in close collaboration with hundreds of partners across the globe. www.cgiar.org