

INSPIRE Launch Webinar: Chat Summary

November 25, 2020

from Mange Ram Adhana:

Dear sir / Madam Greetings from APSD. Our organization want to join INSPIRE network. please take a appreciate action in the subject. thank you, Mr. Mange Ram Adhana President Association for Promotion Sustainable Development from India Email apsdhisar@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Mange. Welcome to INSPIRE. Joining INSPIRE doesn't require registration. It just requires an active participation in events organized by INSPIRE. We have added your name to the mailing list. Please be on the look-out for updates on activities!

from Olaf Verheijen:

How will INSPIRE facilitate exchange and learning? Website, webinars, training sessions?

INSPIRE will use the full gamut of options to facilitate exchange and learning. At the moment, we will have to focus on on-line methods, including webinars, on-line events, and twinning between organizations, but we hope that we can soon add person-to-person interaction. We will soon also start a web-based forum for those interested in discussing irrigation service delivery.

from Etienne:

What will be dialogue tools of the platform that allow us to communicate among us and share specific experiences?

There are multiple ways in which people can communicate. By email is an obvious one, but we will also set up a forum and we will continue to organize events to facilitate communication and exchange, including webinars and training events, and presentations. In the future, we may also set up a website.

from Oytur Anarbekov IWMI-Central Asia:

How INSPIRE is going to solve language barriers within the regions, taking into consideration that in some regions not many actual service providers understand English?

During these COVID times, we will be challenged with interpretation during events. We learned that the zoom platform offers real-time interpretation, but this requires a special license. We will explore this for the next event. When person-to-person events are possible, we will follow ICID's policies for interpretation during events.

from Simon:

It seems from the framing presentations the big focus is on formal irrigation systems. What of informal and farmer led irrigation, both big growth areas for irrigation?

INSPIRE focuses on the managers of irrigation. It is recognized that many of the smaller irrigation systems do not have agencies responsible for their management. Informal and farmer-led irrigation does not necessarily mean small scale irrigation; in many large-scale schemes, success is led by

individual farmers. In fact, the interesting question is: how can irrigation systems provide personalized irrigation services that cater to the needs of individual farmers?

from Pasquale Steduto:

QUESTION: What is the expected governance of INSPIRE? Could we please answer this and how we would like the procedure to be in general? I would suggest that WB and ICID or all of us in the organization of the launching to answer this.

INSPIRE will function as a lean organization without a heavy bureaucracy or administration. Initially, we do not seek to have formal officials. It will be embedded within ICID and may become one of ICID's working groups. Over time, if and when INSPIRE is able to demonstrate demand and becomes successful, we will cautiously put in place a governance system.

from Simon:

Informal irrigation offers greater opportunities for women and younger people.

Informal irrigation is not the opposite of formal irrigation. In many irrigation systems, the two co-exist. The key service delivery question is: how can we provide irrigation services in such a way that women and young farmers can thrive?

from David Ginting:

Suggestion: as there are many interesting profiles/introductions in the chat box, would it be possible to have a consolidated list of the participants with their affiliation/position and contact details? Would be useful to have for future collaboration. Thank you.

We will attach a list of participants and their affiliation.

from Khem Raj Sharma:

One area that I think is important will be on traditional knowledge base and its promotion for a greater acceptability by the farmer communities.

This is an excellent suggestion. Traditional knowledge plays a key role in driving farmers' decisions and irrigation systems need to leverage this to improve their performance. INSPIRE will provide a platform for discussing how this can be made possible.

from Marco:

I believe a good ally for INSPIRE could be WMO...

INSPIRE aspires to partner with a wide range of stakeholders provided they can improve the quality of irrigation services. Meteorological services as provided by WMO are key to reduce risk, improve the reliability of water supply, address weather related events and prepare for a future with climate change.

from ICID-H K Varma:

In my opinion good ally for INSPIRE could be FAO, ICID etc.

FAO and ICID are key founding partners of INSPIRE that we look forward to continuing working with.

from Oytüre Anarbekov IWMI-Central Asia:

INSPIRE can potentially contribute to facilitate/exchange knowledge/experience on implementation of public-private partnership projects/ideas/innovations in developing countries.

This is a good suggestion. INSPIRE can facilitate information exchange on a wide range of issues, and we expect that INSPIRE will become a platform for innovation, including private sector involvement and PPP.

from Khem Raj Sharma:

Current practice of fragmented sectoral planning of water development activities for the finite resource to the more integrated approach could be an area for INSPIRE to focus.

We agree. Irrigation is part of a much larger environment that is increasingly faced with competing demand for water. As the largest and often the least efficient user, irrigation systems will come under increasing pressure to use water more efficiently and reallocate the savings to sectors outside irrigated agriculture. INSPIRE can bring successful experience in this area together and share with all.

from François:

May I suggest that INSPIRE be the occasion to set up a kind of "encyclopedic directory" of ISP (Irrigation Service Providers) worldwide, along with the related typology : Institutional (Public, Semi-Public or Private, Governance...); Technical (Scope of services, Size of area served and no of user, Single/Multiple use of water; Economy and Finance...)?

We agree that INSPIRE offers this opportunity. We have started to collect this information when people expressed interest in the launching webinar, and we have attached to this email a short survey with similar questions. Please fill out the information!

from Dr. Ajay Singh:

To make a big real on-field impact which specific agricultural-production input, except irrigation water, can make a considerable difference in 'INSPIRE' network? And how it is going to deal with overall water scarcity in agricultural production system?

Successful irrigated agriculture will use a mix of different inputs. The precise composition of that mix will depend on each farmer individually. Some have access to labor and will want to spend their money on expanding their land. Others are limited in their plot size and will want to invest in fertilizer. One of the key questions in service delivery is to provide personalized irrigation services to those different farmers.

from Peter Lee:

Putting service provision and the 'customer' on top are not new objectives, but does it happen only where the customer pays for the service? If this is too difficult to achieve (at least in the short term), how can we incentivize sufficiently, the provision of better services?

Payment for irrigation services serves three different objectives: cost recovery, efficiency and service delivery. Many irrigation systems that don't charge for water operate on a low-level equilibrium where the agency has little money to improve the quality of its services, and the farmers don't demand or expect better services that are not being paid for. But payment for water does not need to be the only incentive to improve the quality of services. Performance monitoring and benchmarking, and connecting performance to fiscal transfers of public funds, citizen engagement and accountability are other examples. INSPIRE could collect examples and best practice in this area and share within the platform.

from S.D. Sharma:

How INSPIRE can inspire to achieve better irrigation water efficiency in different countries vis-a-vis climate change. Dr. Sharma, Dir Academic ICE(I)

Irrigation efficiency is an important part of irrigation service delivery, especially against the backdrop of climate change. INSPIRE can provide a platform for exchange of information and of best practice in incentivizing efficiency improvements.

from LECOLLINET:

It could be good to precise the next steps expected of INSPIRE. The sharing of experiences was very interesting. Thanks to all the presentations. Now how do we move on with this new platform: Association? SCP has been sharing its experience in modern irrigation worldwide in the last 40 years and is still willing to continue to contribute to the improvement of the service delivery in sharing with others. Thank you.

Thank you for contributing to INSPIRE. We look forward to leveraging SCP's experience in irrigation modernization and learning the lessons that you can share with us. It will be difficult for us to be more precise on the next steps at this stage, but we welcome ideas for specific future events and invite you and others to propose ideas and volunteer to put them together.