

## **INPIM-ICID Collaborative Special Session on PIM Reforms at ICID's 20<sup>th</sup> Congress on Irrigation and Drainage**

INPIM and ICID Collaborated a special session on PIM reforms at ICID's 20th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage. The Special session was held on 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008, hrs, 13:30 to 17:00 at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore. This session on PIM reforms was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq. Senior INPIM officials, representatives of ICID and delegates from national and international organizations attended the session.

Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Irfan Ahmad Baig and Muhammad Arif Raza presented the different aspects relating to reform experience in Pakistan. Dr. Ashfaq presented the frame work of the study. The study was carried out in LCC (East) and LCC (West) systems of Punjab province of Pakistan. Basic approaches adopted for the analyses were; Cross Comparison within the systems, before and after situation analysis and with and without situation analysis.

Study was carried out at three levels covering distributaries, water courses and farm households. Presenting the results of poverty estimates, Dr. Ashfaq highlighted that introduction of reforms in the project area has created better opportunities for the farmers and head count index has reduced by about 4% in post reform period in the reform area as compared to the non-reform area.

Extending the findings of Dr. Ashfaq, Mr. Irfan discussed the financial aspects of the PIM reforms on the cost recovery, sustainability of irrigation infrastructure and their impacts on productivity. Almost all indicators showed an immediate improvement in the cost recovery, cost efficiency and quality of maintenance work. "The long term sustainability of these reforms is still a question to answer" Mr. Baig added. Presenting the results of simultaneous equation model, he reported that introduction of PIM reforms had imparted positive effects on the linkages between irrigation management, cost recovery and productivity for wheat crop in the study area while the effects on other major crops were still to be investigated. Other aspect of his presentation was the effects on irrigation reforms on technical efficiency of the farmers in the study area. PIM reforms did significantly well in improving the technical efficiency of the farmers.

Mr. Arif Raza strengthened the above findings by presenting the results of single equation models employing OLS. He showed analytically that farmers at the tail reaches of the distributaries were benefitted more than the farmers at the head and middle reaches. "Irrigation reforms have a good start, but their long-run sustainability depends on the sincerity of stakeholders and interest of the policy makers" he concluded.

Speaking at the event, representatives from India have also expressed similar feelings. It shows that developing countries have similar experiences and have some reservations in implementation of imported reform models. These findings were part of a comprehensive research project for the doctoral studies carried at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (Pakistan), in collaboration with INPIM.