

IIMI INFORMATION

October 1992

PURPOSE

The International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI) has defined its mission to foster the development, dissemination and adoption of lasting improvements in the performance of irrigated agriculture in developing countries.

An intrinsic component of this mission is the dissemination of information on IIMI's activities and research results to its partners, collaborators, and a wide range of people holding key positions in national irrigation management agencies and irrigation research systems.

This is achieved principally through the publication of IIMI's research work, although other activities include the services offered by the Library and Documentation section, and by direct mailings to selected persons and organizations by direct mailing.

PUBLICATIONS

Series

A variety of publications, which may be internally generated, externally commissioned, or simply supported, are produced by IIMI. In order to cater to the wide range of audiences, the Institute has produced its publications in several categories or series. The series that have been established to date are:

- Country Papers
- Governance documents
- Institute periodicals
- Management Briefs
- Monographs
- Newsletters
- Proceedings
- Project Reports
- Reprints
- Research Papers
- Working/Discussion Papers

The ensuing paragraphs describe the characteristics of each series.

Country Papers are a category intended mainly for national, rather than international, audiences. There are a series of Country Papers for each country in which IIMI maintains a collaborating field operations activity. Because of their country-specific nature, various explanations about the local geography, environment, institution, and so on, which would be necessary to a non-country readership, are curtailed or omitted; likewise, local terminologies and practices are assumed to be understood. Heads of Country Programs are principally responsible for developing and controlling these series, in consultation with their national Consultative Committees.

Governance documents are those which enunciate aspects of the Institute's policies and plans, or give overviews of its performance and accomplishments. Some, such as an Annual Report on the preceding year and an Annual Program and Budget for the succeeding year, and a volume of papers on research findings presented at the Institute's Annual Internal Program Review, are produced in an annual cycle. Others, such as the Charter, Strategy and Medium-term Workplan, remain current for much longer periods.

Institute periodicals currently includes only the "IIMI Review", but more may be added later. The aim has been to produce one issue of the "IIMI Review" annually, but this has recently been changed to two issues annually. The audiences for these are wide, including donors, professional colleagues, staff of irrigation management agencies, and other media. The "IIMI Review" presents the principal findings of IIMI's work, and users' reactions to them, as well as keeping its readers informed of new IIMI undertakings and their rationale. It is intended to create and sustain external awareness of IIMI's programs.

Management Briefs are a vehicle for conveying concise summaries of significant findings rapidly to a wide audience of irrigation professionals and decision-makers. These are short, of the order of 2-4 pages, and aim to draw attention to results which IIMI believes are likely to be usable by managers more widely than in the specific location where they were developed or tested. They also draw attention to the more extensive and detailed publications in other series, in which the basis of the findings can be examined. Management Briefs, although they are tightly condensed, are taken to represent the Institute's corporate view.

Monographs are substantial texts reviewing some area of research or program interests that are significant to the Institute. Such texts do not confine themselves to IIMI's own research findings, but aim to provide the reader with an integrated view, including non-IIMI work. They may be written internally by IIMI staff, or commissioned externally, and they are intended to be read by a broad international audience.

Newsletters, with or without accompanying papers, are the main way of sustaining communication among members of a subject-oriented network of researchers or other professionals. In 1987 IIMI initiated a network on Farmer-managed Irrigation Systems (FMIS), and in 1988 a further network on Irrigation Management for Crop Diversification (IMCD). The FMIS newsletter published twice a year has a circulation of 1,500 and the IMCD newsletter which is published annually has a circulation of 500.

Proceedings are published in connection with workshops, seminars and conferences. Usually, but not exclusively, this series relates to events in which IIMI is the primary sponsor, either alone or in partnership. Proceedings may include papers called for in advance; paraphrased accounts of discussion; and records of conclusions or recommendations generated by the conferences.

Project Reports are required in satisfaction of the conditions of many externally-funded projects, and their style may therefore vary widely in accordance with donors', and collaborators' views. They are also produced under IIMI's own initiative, in cases where there is no contracted requirement.

In collaborative field research studies, it is the normal practice to produce a report in this series each year, and a final report at the end in the case of studies continuing over several years. These Reports are normally generated by the project research staff, and are aimed at national audiences in the country where the research takes place. Final reports often have some further input, or review, from other IIMI staff. Project Reports are often re-written in briefer format as Research Papers, to make their major features available to non-country audiences. Project Reports also perform a function of record: they are the place where, for example, data collected during the project is tabulated or otherwise put on record for the benefit of future workers.

Reprints of materials initially published elsewhere are produced, subject to agreement with the initial publishers, mainly in the following two groups: (i) reprints of articles and papers written by IIMI staff or closely-related colleagues (e.g. associates, consultants, national collaborators) and presented first in journals, conference proceedings, and so on; (ii) reprints of texts authored by non-IIMI people, which in the Institute's opinion make significant contributions to the literature and whose wider availability is desirable.

Research Papers have some characteristics similar to monographs, but are generally narrower in scope and scale. Often they report specific case studies or project results, but in a form intended to make the findings accessible to audiences outside the country where the original studies were conducted. They concentrate on presenting IIMI findings, or the findings of researchers who are in some way associated with IIMI, such as research fellows.

Working/Discussion Papers are intended to make available quickly, the results, or sometimes just the progress of research, at stages before it is ready to be formalized for one of the higher-level series, such as a Research Paper. They are not expressions of an "Institute" or corporate opinion: the statements made in a Working Paper are the responsibility of the author(s) alone. Because of these characteristics, their print run is normally relatively small, in the order of few hundreds. Authors are not encouraged to make excessive use of this series.

DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING

Distribution of publications occurs through a variety of processes. Some are distributed without charge, for example to national collaborators and other categories of professional colleagues. All publications will also carry a market price, at two levels, the lower of which will be applied to purchases by persons or organizations belonging to developing countries. Free distribution is made to persons on lists nominated by the author(s), in consultation with relevant Heads of Country Field Operations, Theme Leaders, and others. There is also limited free distribution through standard mailing lists.

The Information Office prepares, and updates periodically, a catalog of publications in print. The Information Office has also developed methods for rapid announcement of new publications, for example through dissemination of "flyers" to an extensive mailing list.

Languages

IIMI uses English as the principal working language. IIMI recognizes the importance of disseminating its publications in languages which are widely used in its collaborating country programs. In view of the establishment of important regional programs in West Africa and Latin America, IIMI endeavours to publish selected materials in French and Spanish. IIMI also endeavours to arrange translation into Arabic and national languages, outputs of special significance.

Outputs

Since 1985 IIMI has produced 4 general, 3 co- and two occasional publications on its research work, 12 technical publications and monographs, 16 country papers, 21 working papers, 15 newsletters relating to the Networks, 8 issues of the institute periodical - the IIMI Review, and 7 Annual Reports.

LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION

This section accrues formal and informal literature from national and international sources and provides regular and customized dissemination of information to a total of 70 staff, partners and collaborators worldwide. Currently, the Library subscribes to 51 primary journals and holds 8504 books and articles relating to irrigation management. The Documentation section also holds several international citation databases on CD-ROM.

MAILING LISTS

The details of the distribution of IIMI's publications have been displayed in Table 1. Publications are sent to depository, exchange and general libraries, individuals, clients/partners and donors giving a total mailing of 3024 entries.

OUTPUTS

The most significant outputs of the institute's to pass from the Information Office, comes through the publication program. The width of the distribution of this work to partners and clients is illustrated by the statistics shown by the mailing lists.

INSTITUTIONS/INDIVIDUALS ON IIMIS MAILING LISTS

| CATEGORY | COUNTRIES REPRESENTED | TOTAL ENTRIES | AMERICAS | EUROPE | AFRICA | ASIA | AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|----------------------------|
| Depository Libraries | 71 | 85 | 13 | 10 | 38 | 21 | 3 |
| Exchange Libraries | 14 | 33 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 12 | 1 |
| General: Libraries | 73 | 217 | 42 | 43 | 53 | 72 | 7 |
| Individuals | 123 | 2172 | 404 | 387 | 429 | 918 | 34 |
| Clients/Partners | 26 | 196 | 27 | | 52 | 117 | |
| Donors: CGIAR | 36 | 229 | 86 | 86 | 29 | 23 | 5 |
| Other | 29 | 92 | 15 | 8 | 24 | 45 | |