

# International Workshop on **DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND DESERTIFICATION CONTROL**

**MASHHAD, IRAN  
22 – 24 MAY 2017**



**Centre for Science and Technology  
of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries  
(NAM S&T Centre)**



**Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM),  
Mashhad, Iran**

## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable food production is a major concern for all the governments worldwide, many of which are challenged by an increasing population while relying on limited water resources for irrigation, desertification of productive land and less predictable rainfall. At the same time, shift to more protein-rich diets in the presence of climate change and competing utilisation of limited land and water have created social and political tensions that can lead to disasters. High pressure on renewable water and desert ecosystems have caused temporary or permanent migration of people from villages dominated by marginal natural resources to metropolises. Climate change studies due to Global warming predict not only a rise in temperature but also an adverse change in rainfall and its distribution. These will further limit productivity of crop lands and rangelands.

Desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. This process has already affected one sixth of the world's population, 70% of all drylands, amounting to 3.6 billion hectares, and one quarter of the total land area of the world. The most obvious impact of desertification, in addition to widespread poverty, is the degradation of 3.3 billion hectares of the total area of rangeland, constituting 73% of the rangeland with a low potential for human and animal carrying capacity; decline in soil fertility and soil structure on about 47% of the dryland areas constituting marginal rain fed cropland; and the degradation of irrigated cropland, amounting to 30% of the dryland areas with a high population density and agricultural potential. The priority in combating desertification need be in the implementation of preventive measures for lands that have still not degraded, or are only slightly degraded. However, the severely degraded areas also need to be kept in focus. In combating desertification and drought, the participation of local communities, rural agencies, national governments, non-governmental organisations and international and regional organizations is essential.

Many meetings have been dedicated to different aspects of drought stress and desertification control, such as 'Inter Drought I-V'. The outcome of these discussions has been a varied success of developmental efforts and management issues. Keeping the above in view, the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) announces the organisation of an International Workshop on '**Drought Management and Desertification Control**' at Mashhad, Iran during 22–24 May 2017 jointly with the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM), Mashhad, Iran. The prime goal of the event is to develop a platform for the relevant professionals and policymakers in third world countries to act appropriately and share the knowledge and experience. This meeting is especially concerned with the less developed countries that confront an increasing problem of abiotic stresses like drought and high rainfall uncertainties in both the major land uses namely the range lands and those under crop husbandry.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objectives of this Workshop are:-

- To serve as a platform for presenting and debating key issues and strategies relevant to increasing the yield and stability of crops and of rangelands under

drought conditions and desertification control in developing countries using various management approaches.

- To explore the most effective approaches to achieve sustainable land productivity under future climate scenario
- To encourage and promote popular participation and environmental education, focusing on capacity building to cope with desertification control and ill-effects of drought.

#### **TOPICS OF THE WORKSHOP:**

- Droughts and land productivity
- Scope of crop diversification and other agronomic practices to minimise ill effects of drought
- Breeding for drought tolerance
- Desertification control and natural resource management
- Capacity building and criticality of peoples' participation

### **PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP**

A tentative programme of the Workshop is given below:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	
Sunday, 21 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Arrival of Delegates in Mashhad	
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	Inauguration	Technical Sessions
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017	Technical Sessions	Technical Sessions
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Concluding Session	Field Visits
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Departure of Delegates	

A detailed Session-wise Programme will be made available before the Workshop.

### **VENUE**

The Workshop would be organised at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM), Mashhad, Iran.

### **RESOURCE PERSONS**

Resource persons for the Workshop will comprise experts from Iran and other countries.

### **ABOUT THE ORGANISERS**

#### **NAM S&T CENTRE**

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)) is an inter-governmental organisation with a membership of 48 countries spread over Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin

America. The Centre was set up in 1989 in New Delhi, India in pursuance of recommendations of various NAM Summit meetings for the promotion of South-South cooperation in science and technology. It undertakes a variety of programmes, including organisation of Training Workshops, symposiums, meetings and training courses and implementation of collaborative projects. It also offers short-term research fellowships to scientists from developing countries in association with the Centres of Excellence in various countries. The Centre also brings out technical books and other scientific publications in different subjects of interest to developing countries. The Centre's activities provide opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interaction; familiarising participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas; identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance; locating technologies for transfer between the members and other developing countries, dissemination of S&T information etc. In addition, the Centre encourages academic-R&D-industry interaction in the developing countries through its NAM S&T-Industry Network.

### **FERDOWSI UNIVERSITY OF MASHHAD (FUM), MASHHAD**

**Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM)** (Persian: دانشگاه فردوسی مشهد) is a university in Northeastern Iran named after the great epic poet Ferdowsi who is the author of Shahnameh. The FUM campus is in Mashhad, the capital city of the Razavi Khorasan province, which is most famous and revered for housing the tomb of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam. The university was established in 1949 with the title of Mashhad University, making it the largest and oldest university across the East of Iran. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad is one of the nation's premier and prominent research universities. FUM offers 180 bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. programs to 23,000 international and local, male and female students studying under about 900 faculty members with the aid of 1500 staff employees. Foreign students especially from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Tajikistan, make the university a popular institution in attracting non-Iranian students so that the university could be ranked first in Iran amongst other universities in recruiting foreign students, after the efforts made to declare Mashhad as "Iran's spiritual capital".

### **PARTICIPANTS OF WORKSHOP**

The Workshop is primarily designed for policy makers, academia, researchers and agricultural practitioners having interest in control and management of desertification.

### **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Persons desirous of participating in the Workshop, **excepting those from Iran**, should submit their filled-in Nomination Forms (**enclosed**) directly to the NAM S&T Centre as early as possible, but latest by **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.

Applications from Iran however should be submitted only to the local organisers in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM) (contact details given at the end of this Brochure), and NOT to the NAM S&T Centre.

The Nomination Form should be completed in all respects, typewritten or in clear handwriting in capital letters, and no column should be left blank. The following documents must be submitted as e. mail attachments:

- i) Filled-in Nomination Form (blank form **enclosed**)
- ii) An extended (about 2 pages) abstract (**in MS Word format**) of the paper that would be presented at the Workshop
- iii) A short (**maximum two pages**) CV (**in MS Word format**)
- iv) Copy of the relevant pages of the passport(**i.e. pages showing identity, photo and date of expiry of the passport**)

***PLEASE Note that documents referred to under (ii) and (iii) above must be in MS Word Format; .Pdf or image files will NOT be accepted.***

Hard copies of the Nomination Form and the attachments are NOT required to be submitted.

## **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

Each participant will be required to present a country status report or a research / scientific paper on any topic appropriate to the Workshop.

## **PUBLICATION AS A FOLLOW UP OF THE WORKSHOP**

A publication edited by one or more international experts and based on the papers presented during the Workshop and also containing papers contributed by other invited experts in the field will be brought out in the form of a book as a follow up of this scientific programme. Therefore all participants are required to submit the manuscripts of their full country reports / scientific or research papers in **MS-word** format well in advance, but at least 15 days before the commencement of the Workshop

## **LOCAL HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL**

The Iranian hosts will provide free local hospitality, including accommodation, meals and local transport to all the foreign participants from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 (Noon) to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Noon) i.e. for 4 nights. The foreign participants will have to make their own arrangement of stay beyond these days and therefore they should arrange their flight schedules accordingly.

## **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL**

This is being conveyed separately to each member country of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries.

## **ENTRY FORMALITIES AND IMMIGRATION**

Participants of the Workshop must be in possession of a current passport for entry into Iran. The embassies / diplomatic mission of Iran located in the country of the participants should

be approached for obtaining an entry visa. If required, FUM, Iran will facilitate the issuance of a visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

Participants of the workshop from yellow fever endemic countries must ensure that they obtain a Vaccination Certificate before arrival in Iran.

## **OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION:**

**Climate:** In the months of May, Mashhad's weather is mild and dry, ranging from 20°C (68°F) to 25 °C (77 °F). The humidity is about 45% during this month.

Standard Time: 3:30 hours ahead of GMT

Voltage: 220 volts 50 Hz

International Dialing Code: +98

Internet Domain: ir

## **NOTE**

- ***The governments / institutions of all foreign participants will be required to bear the following costs:***
  - *All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passports, required medical examinations, vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to the airport of departure in the home country.*
  - *Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the period of the Workshop.*
  - *Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of participation in the Workshop.*
- ***The organisers will not assume responsibility for the following expenditure in connection with the participant's attendance in the Workshop:***
  - *Expenses incurred with respect to any insurance, medical bills or hospitalisation fees.*
  - *Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.*
  - *Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.*
  - *Other costs, including airport tax and excess baggage.*

### **Contact Details**

#### **NAM S&T CENTRE**

**Prof. Dr. Arun P. Kulshreshtha,**  
*Director General,*  
*Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre),*  
*Zone-6A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road,*  
*New Delhi – 110003, INDIA*  
**Tel: +91-11-24645134, 24644974; Fax: +91-11-24644973**  
**E-mail: [namstcentre@gmail.com](mailto:namstcentre@gmail.com), [namstct@bol.net.in](mailto:namstct@bol.net.in)**  
**Website: [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org)**

**Mr. M. Bandyopadhyay,**  
*Senior Expert & Administrative Officer*  
Address, Tel. and E-mail: (O) as above.

#### **FOR IRANIAN APPLICANTS**

**Prof. Mohammad Kafi**  
*President FUM,*  
*Professor, Department of Agronomy*  
*Faculty of Agriculture*  
*Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM),*  
*P.O. Box 91775-1163*  
*Mashhad, IRAN*  
**Tel: +98 511-879-5618 Ext 545**  
**Fax: (+98 51) 388 36011**  
**E-mail: [mkafi36@yahoo.com](mailto:mkafi36@yahoo.com), [M.Kafi@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir](mailto:M.Kafi@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir), [intr@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir](mailto:intr@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir)**  
**Website: <https://en.um.ac.ir>**

***In order to avoid confusion, interested scientists from countries other than Iran may in the first instance please correspond only with the NAM S&T Centre, and not with FUM. All these applications will be initially processed by the NAM S&T Centre. Scientists from Iran should however submit their requests to the FUM.***

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NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**  
**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**  
**ON**  
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**MASHHAD, IRAN**  
**22 – 24 MAY 2017**

**NOMINATION FORM**

*PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK CAPITALS;  
NO COLUMN SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK)*

Please affix your  
scanned  
photograph

**SECTION –A**

(To be filled in by the nominee)

- 1 Name (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms): .....  
(As in Passport)
- 2 Father's/Spouse Name: .....
- 3 Designation (Position held): .....
- 4 Nationality: .....
- 5 Date of Birth: ..... Place of Birth (City) ..... (Country).....
- 6 Passport No: .....Place of issue: .....  
Date of Issue: ..... Valid up to: .....  
(Please **attach** copies of the relevant pages of your Passport)
- 7 Name of the Parent Institution (Employer):  
Full Address (Office): .....  
.....  
Phone: ..... Mobile: .....  
Fax: ..... E-mail: .....
- 8 Full Address (Home): .....

.....  
Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Fax: ..... E-mail: .....

9 Educational Qualifications: Highest Degree. ....

Year of Award: ..... University: .....

Field of Study: .....

10 Brief Bio data: .....  
(**Maximum two pages, in MSWord**; to be attached on separate sheet)

11 What in your opinion qualifies you for the participation in this Workshop?  
(To be attached on separate sheet)

12 Abstract of your paper proposed to be presented in the Workshop.  
(**About 1-2 pages, in MSWord**; to be attached on separate sheet)

Date: ..... Signature: .....

**SECTION -B**

**ENDORSEMENT BY NOMINATING AUTHORITY**

(The Applicant in a member country of the NAM S&T Centre may get the following endorsement signed by the Focal Point of the Centre in his/her country, *if he/she wishes to take advantages accrued to the official nominee of the country*. For the list of member countries and names/addresses of the Focal Points please visit Centre's website [www.namstct.org](http://www.namstct.org))

Signature: .....

Name (in full): .....

Designation: .....

Date: .....

**SEAL**