



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DESCRIPTION (PROGRAM) FORM

### 10<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

**HLP Session Code and Title:**

- **HLP19 Paddies for the Planet and People**  
Bali Ministerial Dialogue on Sustainable Paddies

**HLP Session Co-Coordinator (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):**

- Michael John Webster, Program Manager, 2030 WRG Multi-Donor Trust Fund, World Bank Water Global Practice, [mwebster@worldbank.org](mailto:mwebster@worldbank.org)
- Amal Talbi, Global Lead for Climate Resilient Irrigation, World Bank Water Global Practice, [atalbi@worldbank.org](mailto:atalbi@worldbank.org)
- Joanna Kane-Potaka, Deputy Director-General Deputy Director General for Strategy, Engagement, and Impact, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), [j.kane-potaka@irri.org](mailto:j.kane-potaka@irri.org).

**HLP Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):**

The High-Level Ministerial Discussion at Bali aims to drive transformative change in rice cultivation practices, prioritizing sustainability and climate resilience while reducing emissions and enhancing productivity. Rice production, particularly in irrigated lowlands, is a significant anthropogenic source of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), resulting in 10% of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from agriculture. Methane, contributing 20-30% of the global warming effect, represents about 89% of the global warming potential (GWP) from rice. Sustainable rice production practices such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) can save up to 25% water, 35-40 person days / ha, and energy up to 27% of diesel avoiding GHG emissions. Global experience has suggested that the transformation of irrigation service delivery is a critical pre-condition for farmers to adopt low emission practices.

However, the challenge is to ensure production increases that do not exacerbate GHG emissions. Practices like Direct Seeding of Rice and intermittent irrigation offer promise in reducing CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 25-70% without increasing N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. Given these circumstances, it's imperative to develop actionable plans, leveraging regional and political processes to address climate change urgency in rice cultivation while considering global scenarios and fostering thematic collaboration.

### **The objectives of the discussion:**

1. Promote South-South Cooperation on water security through agricultural water-use efficiency at scale and achieving reduced GHG emissions in rice-based cropping systems.
2. Initiate a comprehensive dialogue among global leaders, policy makers (ministers), private sector and development partners to facilitate sustainable irrigation investments for climate-friendly transformation in rice landscapes.
3. To facilitate agreement among participating ministers on adopting sustainable rice cultivation and prioritizing climate-smart water management practices for public subsidies.
4. To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among ministers and stakeholders to enhance understanding and implementation of sustainable rice cultivation techniques, including direct seeding, intermittent irrigation, nutrient and residue management. This objective also aims to build the capacity of stakeholders to adopt climate-resilient practices and technologies in rice farming.
5. To enhance global outreach of the success stories and best practices from the selected countries.

### **The anticipated outcomes of the High-Level Ministerial Discussion at Bali:**

1. The participating ministers from African Region (Ghana, Tanzania), Southeast Asia (China, Viet Nam, and Philippines) Pacific (Australia) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India) aim to reach consensus on collective commitments, programmatic approaches, and actionable measures to advance sustainable rice cultivation, including methane reduction, enhanced water productivity, and support for farmer livelihoods.
2. Participants will gain insights into successful initiatives, innovative strategies, and evidence-based policy recommendations from different regions, strengthening cross-learning and capacity building in sustainable agriculture practices.
3. The discussion will facilitate the establishment of partnerships and collaborations among governments, private sector, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society groups to support the implementation of sustainable rice cultivation initiatives globally.

4. The co-conveners of the session will pursue the establishment of a global multi-stakeholder platform under the World Bank Global Challenge Program on Fast-tracking Water Security and Climate Adaptation.
5. The ministerial panel will reaffirm their commitment to climate action and sustainable development, recognizing the importance of rice cultivation in achieving global climate goals, water stewardship and ensuring food security for all.

**Detailed HLP Session plan: (90 min- As suggested in the attached guidelines)** (The duration of an HLP session is a maximum of 90 minutes.)

#### Draft Agenda

TIMING	SEGMENT	SPEAKERS
5 min	Opening and Welcome	<b>Anna Wellenstein</b> , Regional Director, East and Pacific, World Bank
5 min	Keynote: Setting the Context	<b>Yvonne Pinto</b> , Director-General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
60 min	Presentation of case studies	Panel Moderator: <b>Agnes Kiribata</b> , President, AGRA <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Australia</b>, Tanya Pilbersek, Minister for Environment and Water</li> <li>2. <b>Bangladesh</b>, Md. Abdus Shahid, Minister of Agriculture</li> <li>3. <b>China</b>, Li Guoying, Minister of Water Resources</li> <li>4. <b>Indonesia</b>, Minister of Water Resources (TBC)</li> <li>5. <b>India</b>, Manoj Ahuja, Govt. of India Secretary, Agriculture</li> <li>6. <b>Philippines</b>, Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza, Secretary DENR</li> <li>7. <b>Tanzania</b>, Hussein Mohamed Bashe, Minister of Agriculture</li> <li>8. <b>Private Sector</b>: Joseph Agyepong, Jospong Group</li> </ol>
10 min	Open Thematic Discussion	
5 min	Way Forward	Indonesian Minister of Ag/Water (WB tbc)
5 min	Closing	Moderator

Press Statement (prior endorsed by all ministers)