

## Call For Papers

### **Irrigated land tenure : Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Irrigation Development**

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Access, control, and management of land and water are, and will continue to be, hotly debated topics as shown by the recurrent and highly political discussions on land and water grabbing as pressures over natural resources and food security issues grow in importance

This special issue of the journal *Cahiers Agricultures*, published in collaboration with the COSTEA (Comité Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau Agricole, <https://www.comite-costea.fr/>), deals with a less publicized but just as important issue for the millions of smallholders of the Global South: **irrigated land tenure**.

Irrigation development, whether from surface or ground water, induces significant changes in agricultural and rural dynamics and impact relations to land. Notably, it leads to changes in the status, value and modalities of land management. As such, land tenure is a key issue when it comes to irrigated agriculture, notably due to the multiplicity of actors involved (smallholders, agri-businesses of various sizes, state administrations, etc.) who are often driven by different and sometimes contradictory logics and interests.

Irrigated land tenure is sometimes seen as a 'distinct domain' of governance but the multiplicities of irrigation modalities means that land tenure issues unfold in a myriad ways, notably because of (1) the various modalities of access to and use of land prior to the development or rehabilitation of very diverse irrigation infrastructures that have differential territorial 'footprint'; (2) the agro-environment in which irrigation development takes places - in particular in terms of water availability and/or pressure on land or (3) the major productive and agrarian dynamics irrigation inserts itself into and contributes to shape - in particular via the promotion of an intensive model partly based on agri-business.

In sub-Saharan Africa, questions and debates have largely focused on the need to reconcile different land tenureregimes and on the issues of security, formalization and compensation in the context of public or private irrigation investments that reconfigure the modalities of access to and use of land. In the Maghreb, the extension of irrigation, notably motivated by a political will to intensify and optimize the use of limited water resources, raises sustainability questions including around the multifaceted interactions between land regulation instruments and the governance of surface and groundwater. In Southeast Asia,

there are some micro frontiers where irrigated areas continue to increase, but debates around land tenure mostly relate to issues of socio-economic differentiation and exclusion.

This special issue aims at taking stock of current debates on irrigated land tenure in contexts as diverse as sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the MENA region, Southeast Asia and Latin America. The special issue will highlight commonalities and divergences in multiple land tenure dynamics inherent to irrigation development in these parts of the world. The contributions will address the following non-exhaustive themes:

- The identification and critical analysis of land tenure issues in relation to different irrigation development modalities and practices: so-called 'traditional' or 'community-based' irrigation; groundwater-based irrigation instance; irrigation schemes under publi, private or 'hybrid' management;
- The policies and models of development for irrigated agriculture and the way they account for land issues, notably highlighting the objectives, tools and means of such policies and models but also their possible contradictions and inconsistencies;
- The relationships between rights to water *and* rights to land, and the modalities of (collective) management of these two closely linked resources in an irrigation context;
- The reconfigurations of these rights in relation to new modalities of irrigation development and related rules and tools for land tenure management (indirect land tenure, Public-Private Partnership, outgrowing systems, etc.) and their implications in terms of socio-eco-environmental sustainability;
- The plurality of access rights to irrigated land and, in particular, the interactions and articulations between so-called 'modern' and 'traditional' rights and so-called 'formal' and 'informal' practices in various irrigated contexts;
- The opportunities but also the risks linked to various modalities of access to and management of irrigated land, notably in relations to the economic sustainability of farms from the point of view of irrigators and/or the State;
- The mechanisms for secure and equitable access to promote sustainable development of irrigated land for farmers in the South;
- The vulnerability induced by the formalization of rights (in relation, notably, to the absence of formal recognition of customary rights and tenure arrangements, or new practices such as the sale and/or use as colletaral of land titles etc.)

In line with the editorial line of the journal, two types of contributions will be accepted: (1) original articles (30,000 characters maximum, including spaces) based on empirical case study research and/or reviewing the issues identified above and (2) opinion articles (10,000 to 20,000 characters, including spaces) describing operational and/or political experiences of irrigated land tenure management and governance. Articles should preferably be submitted in French, but contributions in English from English-speaking authors will also be considered. Detailed instructions on formatting the submissions are available on the journal's website: <https://www.cahiersagricultures.fr/author-information/instructions-for-authors>.

Interested contributors should send **abstracts of 500 to 1000 words**, including a few key references, to the coordinators of this special issue ([jean-philippe.venot@ird.fr](mailto:jean-philippe.venot@ird.fr) ; [ali.daoudi@edu.ensa.dz](mailto:ali.daoudi@edu.ensa.dz) ; [sidysecksn@yahoo.fr](mailto:sidysecksn@yahoo.fr) ; [amandine.hertzog@cirad.fr](mailto:amandine.hertzog@cirad.fr) ) with a copy to [cahiers.agric@cirad.fr](mailto:cahiers.agric@cirad.fr) by **15/06/2021**. The indicative timeline below shows the key dates of the publication process. Papers will be processed 'as they come in', and articles published and posted online upon acceptance by the journal following peer review:

Call for paper	<b>05/05/2021</b>
Deadline for abstract submission	<b>15/06/2021</b>
Decision on abstracts	<b>09/07/2021</b>
Deadline for full submission	<b>30/09/2021</b>
Review process until	<b>15/12/2021</b>
Deadline for submission of revised manuscript	<b>01/03/2022</b>
Publication	<b>01/06/2022</b>