
EIA Work Group 4 – Training and Knowledge Transfer

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Project: SAVE WATER WITH ...

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Preface:

Training and knowledge transfer has always been recognized to be among most important roles of the EIA. However, it is evident that the challenges and costs of developing own training courses, with requirements for teaching materials, recruitment and training of trainers in multiple languages, organization of training events, etc. far exceed current EIA abilities. EIA should therefore cooperate with, promote, and support various providers of fundamental irrigation knowledge but should not itself engage in developing and organizing courses on irrigation design and installation basics.

Instead, the EIA should focus on tapping into knowledge base and training capacity of its members and offer a knowledge sharing platform that promotes modern irrigation technologies and practices contributing to increased water use efficiency.

Most irrigation manufacturers (even many distributors) are already involved in training of irrigation professionals and growers. With little adjustments of their existing training materials, the EIA members should be invited to engage in a training program which would be offered through EIA platform. Such effort would facilitate knowledge dissemination beyond the boundaries of brand determined training schemes and, at the same time it would further validate the company's commitment to overall advancement in irrigation water management.

Description:

- The project includes firm commitment of key EIA members to develop 3, 4 or more webinars on irrigation technologies and practices which contribute to improved irrigation efficiency.
- In order to highlight the commitment to water saving, the course program should be called "Save Water With ...", or have a similar catchy name for easier promotion.
- Each webinar should be available through EIA website platform on 3 to 4 scheduled dates throughout the year.
- Key EIA members with international presence should be encouraged to recruit trainers within their distribution network to offer webinars in more languages.

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- Training participants should receive online certificates of attendance. Different recognitions could be developed for those who take few courses and those who take all available courses in one year.
 - Reasonable fee should be charged for webinar participation, depending on course relevance, quality, brand independence, etc. (course grading and pricing to be managed by WG members).
 - Trainers should not receive financial compensation. All trainers should be listed on EIA website, possibly be allowed to use a tag: “EIA Water management Trainer 2022” or similar for the year of their participation.

Code of conduct for course development:

- The courses should be developed as 45 min. webinars, with optional 15 min. Q&A time.
- Course developers can offer webinars in subjects which promote the use of products and solutions of their interest, but the course itself should teach on technical concepts, application methodologies, design and operation strategies, water saving benefits, and similar, without any mention of product names and products features, or any other commercial references.
- The use of product pictures, design concepts and similar should be allowed in the measure required for elaboration of the topic, but not in the manner which may be perceived as commercial promotion. Adding pictures of products from different manufactures should add to course relevance rating.
- Each course should aim to clearly describe the contribution of the topic to irrigation efficiency and water conservation.

Some ideas for course topics:

Save Water With ...

... Nozzle efficiency and irrigation scheduling

... MAD irrigation scheduling

... Proper design and management of frost protection systems

... Proper design and operation of boom and hose reel systems

... Increasing irrigation precision of center pivot systems

... Subsurface irrigation of agriculture crops

... Subsurface turf irrigation

... Designing efficient micro-irrigation systems

... Soil and weather sensor-based irrigation scheduling

... Selecting proper methods for Irrigation of (vineyards, olive orchards, blueberries, potatoes, ...)

... Optimal filtration system selection and design

... Auditing and retrofitting agriculture irrigation systems

... Auditing and retrofitting landscape irrigation system

... Remote irrigation control management

Management requirements:

- WG4 to draft general guidelines for development and hosting of training courses.
- WG4 to draft general guidelines for course ratings and pricing.
- WG4 to review each webinar before release.
- Develop EIA promotion tools for training platform.
- EIA internal arrangement for management of webinar applications, course payments, delivery of attendance certificates, individual questions from attendants
- Management of web site section (adding and deleting courses, updating course schedules and list of trainers and attendants, news follow-up, ...)

Technical requirements:

- Develop web site section with course listing and description
- Develop web site tool for online registration and payment
- Develop course templates

Proposed timetable:

TBD