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COMMENTAIRE

(Micro résumé de 30 mots environ)

Irrigation.

Répertoire de 864 organisations et/ou institutions spéciali-
sées dans le domaine de l'irrigation réparties dans 109 pays.
Classement par ordre alphabétique et par pays avec nom, co-
ordonnées, domaines d'activités - Index organismes, pays et
sujets. In fine Liste des abréviations et acronymes. 247

Irrigation International Guide To Organizations And Institutions

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International Irrigation Information Center

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PREFACE

This publication is unique. For the first time 864 organizations from 109 countries concerned with irrigation appear under one cover. Though by no means exhaustive, this Guide goes a long way to answer questions such as 'which organizations in the Ivory Coast deal with irrigation' or 'which ministry in India is responsible for irrigation.'

To appreciate the difficulties in compiling this Guide, the nature of irrigation should be examined. Irrigation is a discipline encompassing a broad range of diverse subjects. Thus, organizations devoted exclusively to irrigation, such as the U.K.'s Institute of Irrigation Studies at the University of Southampton or Australia's Division of Irrigation Research at Griffith, New South Wales, are rare. More commonly, irrigation units are concealed in departments of soil science, agronomy, agricultural or civil engineering, water resources, etc. Even the national ministries responsible for irrigation vary from country to country. Though irrigation usually falls under the mantle of the Ministry of Agriculture, it may also be within the Ministry of Public Works or the Ministry of Lands and Land Development, or other ministries depending on the organizational structure within a particular country.

Locating irrigation units is further complicated by the fact that irrigation is not limited to practicing technologists. It is also the domain of economists, policy makers, administrators, social scientists, missionaries, anthropologists, etc. Thus, the presence of the Adventist Agricultural Centre in Ougadougou, Upper Volta, though surprising, is quite appropriate. This Centre is concerned with irrigated vegetable production, economics of irrigation and water conservation and erosion studies.

Other entries may also surprise the reader at first sight, yet all are relevant. For instance, the Institute of Geodesy, Photogrammetry, Cartography and Land Management in Romania is involved in irrigation system design and the Public Works Department in West Perth, Australia is concerned with all facets of irrigation and drainage engineering.

The entire Guide is based on information provided by the organizations themselves, hence some omissions and unevenness in coverage is inevitable. Of about 1,500 questionnaires mailed, over 50% were completed and returned.

Specific information on the scope of interest and activity in irrigation provided by the various organizations has not been transferred to the Guide. This information though obviously valuable would have required extensive editing and sometimes correspondence with source to clarify ambiguous statements. If a second edition of the Guide is published, this detailed information will be included.

We wish to thank the computer department of the National Center of Scientific and Technological Information of Israel for the development of the computer systems for this Guide and its companion volume *Irrigation Equipment Manufacturers Directory*, published in 1979. Their assistance and guidance is greatly appreciated.

The compilers, Mr. M. Berg and Ms. Linda Perlmutter, would be pleased to receive any suggestions for improvements or amendments.