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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)

Celebrating irrigation

Felix Reinders
President Honoraire: ICID

PLATINUM JUBILEE



Indo-Global Irrigation Summit 2025
24-25 June 2025, New Delhi, India



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Celebrating irrigation

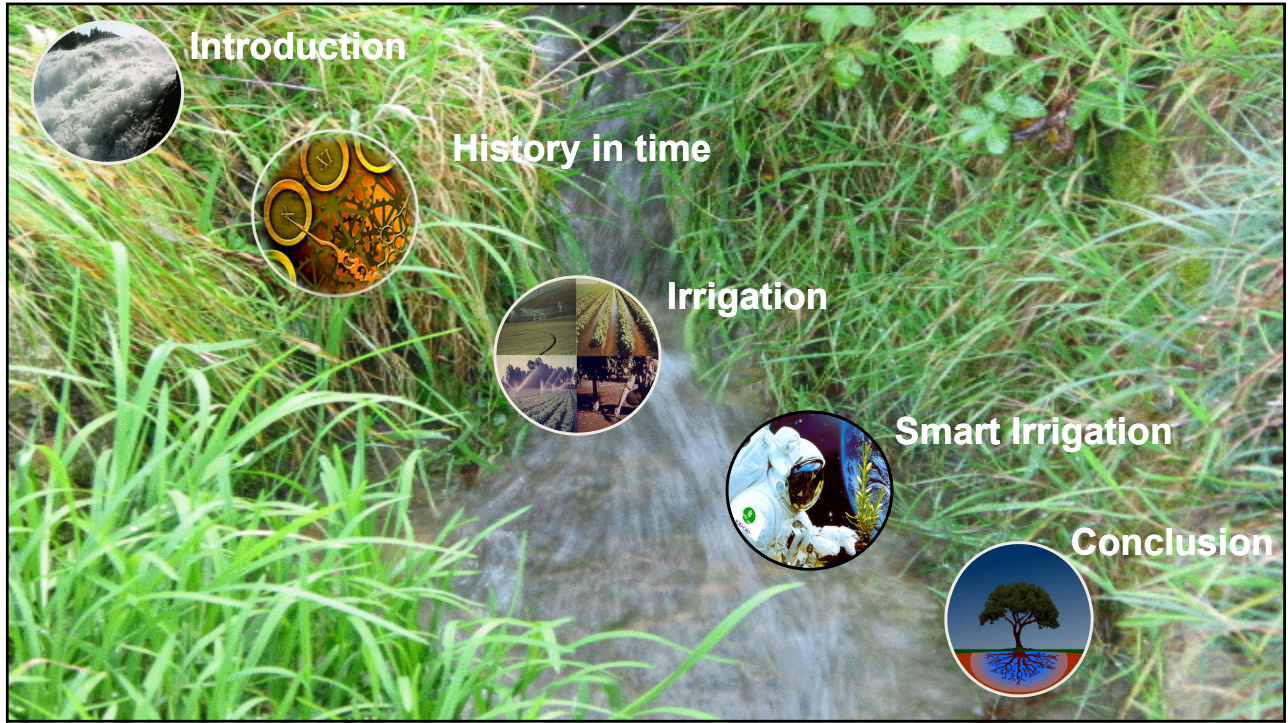
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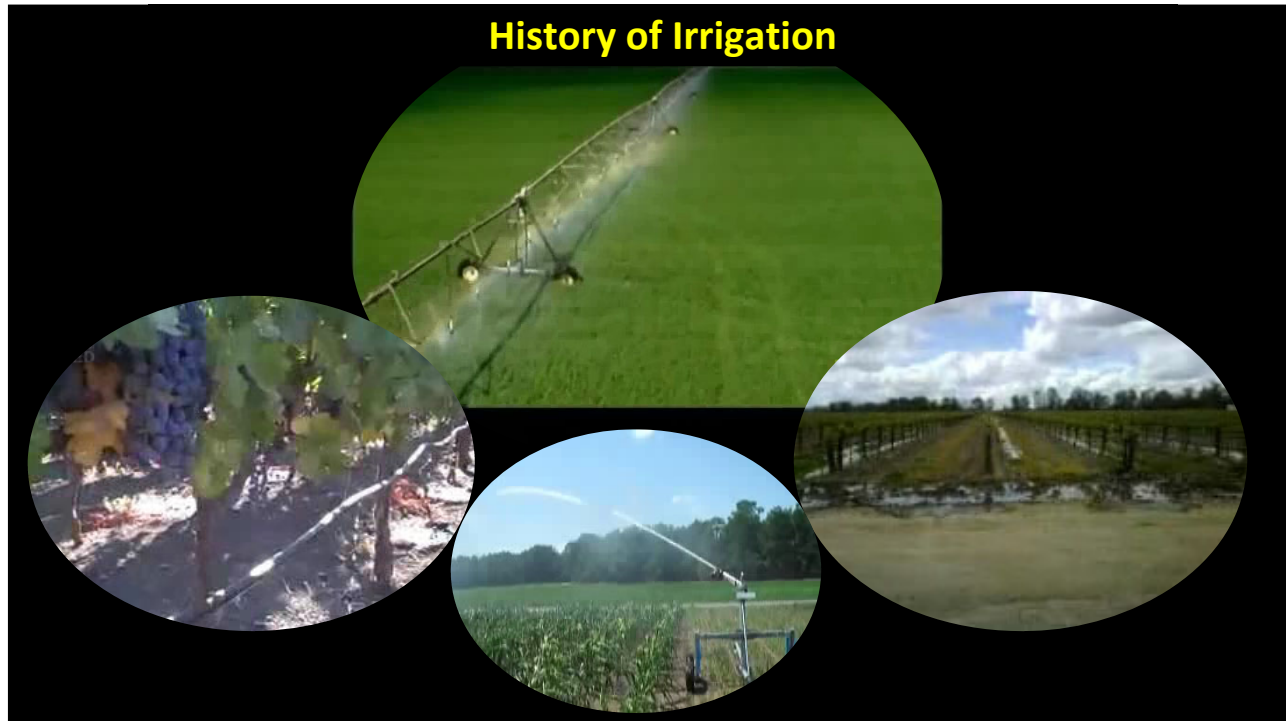


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE



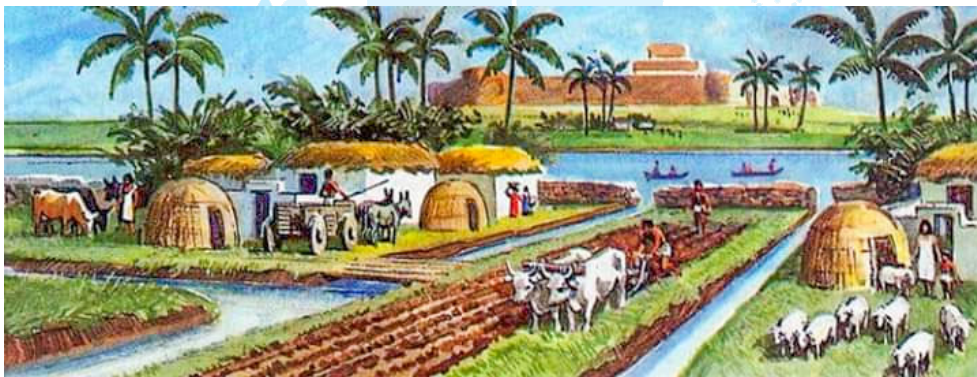
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Ancient Beginnings: The Birth of Irrigation

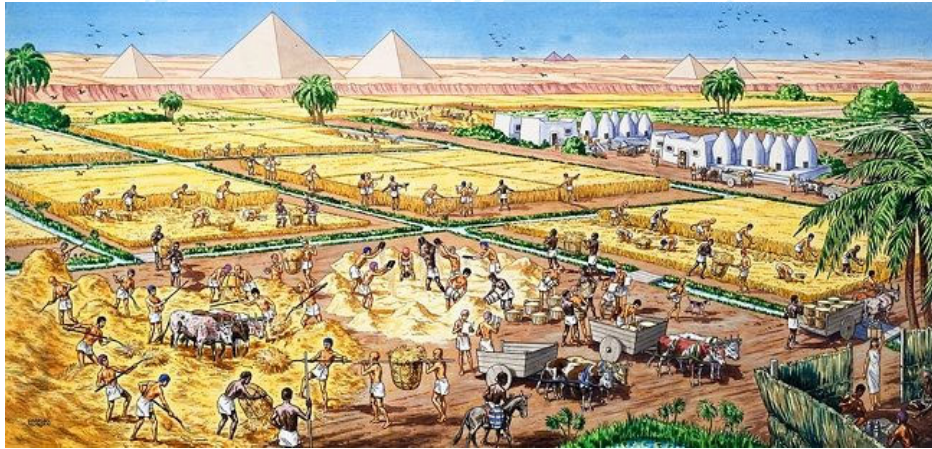
The earliest known irrigation systems date back to ancient Mesopotamia, around 6000 BCE. The Sumerians, living in the fertile crescent between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, developed simple yet effective methods to channel water to their fields. Using a network of canals, dikes, and gates, they could control the flow of water, ensuring their crops received adequate water during dry periods.



Similarly, in ancient Egypt, the annual flooding of the Nile River was harnessed through basin irrigation.

Farmers built earthen embankments to capture floodwaters, which then slowly seeped into the soil, nourishing crops.

This technique was instrumental in supporting the agricultural productivity that underpinned the rise of Egyptian civilization.

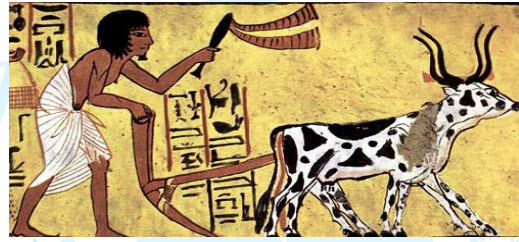


Mesopotamia 6000BC

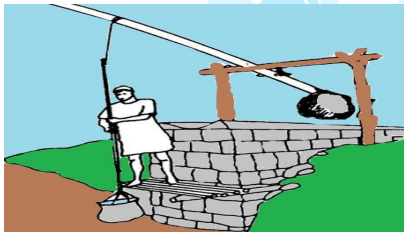


**"The land between the two rivers"
also called
"The cradle of Western civilization"**

Agricultural inventions in Mesopotamia



Animal power to pull a wood plough



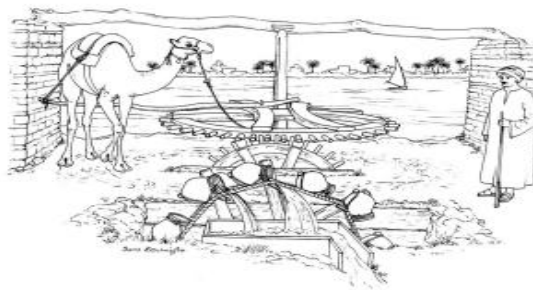
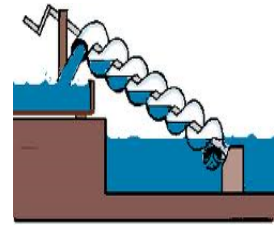
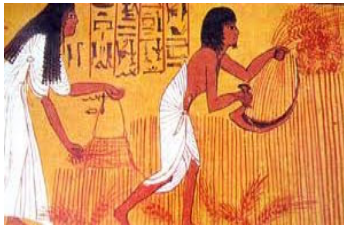
Shaduf

Human power lifting irrigation water
3m high to irrigate wheat fields



Man made flood irrigation furrows

Ancient Egypt, 3000 BC



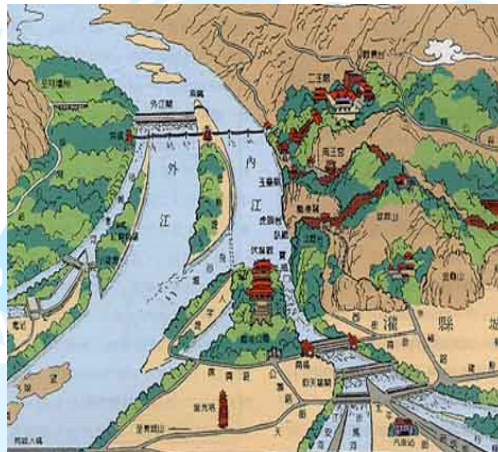
Human muscular and animal power were employed in harnessing the Nile

PUMPING WATER for FLOOD IRRIGATION



This water propelled water wheel or SAKIA could "lift" water 10m to the aquaduct to flood irrigate wheat fields

Ancient China, 3000 BC



Irrigation schemes equipped with innovative technologies

Irrigation studies and research
over many years on the techniques of
flood-, sprinkler-, mechanized- and micro-irrigation
contributed tremendously to the knowledge base
of applying irrigation methods correctly.

