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## ICAR signs pact on water management

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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on Tuesday signed a work-plan agreement with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) of Colombo on water management.

According to the plan, the two organisations would work together in the identified areas of multiple water use systems, understanding and improving water productivity, safe and sustainable use of poor quality waters and watershed management and water institutions.

ICAR Director-General Mangala Rai and IWMI Director General Frank Rijsberman signed the work-plan in Colombo for 2006-07. "Through the work-plan, the overall water productivity will be enhanced, which will prove beneficial for a country like India where every drop of water is valuable," Dr. Rai said.

Besides developing and implementing mega projects in these areas, the work-plan has also identified areas for collaboration such as developing a regional drought assessment, monitoring and management system for the benefit of countries in the south and western Asia, Middle-East and North and Central Africa. The two organisations would also work together for sharing the knowledge and expertise.