

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

ICID Congress

Marseille, France | October 12th 2026

TIME	PROGRAMME
9:00 – 9:30	Seating of participants in plenary hall & Arrival of dignitaries
9:30	Welcome addresses and opening remarks - Ms. Annie Genevard, Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food, and Food Sovereignty, France - Ms Bénédicte Martin, Vice-président of Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France - Mr. Bruno Grawitz, President, Eaux Agriculture et Territoires (EAT), France - Mr. Marco Arcieri, President of ICID, Italy - Mr. Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, France
10:00	Strengthening the Strategic Role of Irrigated Agriculture in the Global Water Agenda Introductory video: Ms. Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNCCD - Ms María Begoña García Bernal, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Food, Spain (UN Water Conference) - H.E. Abdulaziz Muharib Al-Shaibani, Deputy Minister for Water at the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (World Water Forum) Marseille Call presentation (link with the ministerial session) Mr Bruno Grawitz, President EAT & Mr Sami Bouarfa, Secretary general of EAT, France
10:30	Scientific questions addressed during ICID 26 - Congress Question 66 – Agroecology (Mr. Vinay Nangia, ICARDA) - Congress Question 67 – Innovative technology (Mr. Maher Salman, FAO) - Congress Question 68 – Non-conventional water (Mr. Juan Antonio Rodriguez Diaz, Univ. of Córdoba)



TIME	PROGRAMME
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	N. D. Gulhati Memorial Lecture and Award Presentation Mr. Marco Arcieri, President of ICID and Prof Michele Perniola
11:30	High-level round table : “Innovative financing for water and food security” - Mr. Nicolas Murlon, director of Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse French Water Agency - Ms. Sandra Rulhiere, deputy director of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity Division at AFD & IFAD Agri-PDB Platform Representative - Ms. Maria Angelica Sotomayor, Practice Manager for Water in Central Asia at the World Bank Group - Mr. Jean-Pierre Touzet, Head of Crédit Agricole S.A.'s Agri-Agro, Guarantee and Capital Development Department
12:30	Local voices - Ms Korka Diaw, Agricultural leader, Senegal - Ms Astou Camara, FAO, Senegal
12:45	End of the high-level opening segment – Lunch break