

PRESS RELEASE
INDUS RIVER SYSTEM AUTHORITY (IRSA)

Dated: The 4th of November, 2025

Background Perspective

Under the Australia–Pakistan MoU on Water Management, the WAA-Tool was jointly developed by Pakistani (MoWR, IRSA, WAPDA, PIDs) and Australian (CSIRO, ACIAR) entities over 2018–2022. Since December 2020, it has been actively used in Pakistan for seasonal planning, reservoir operations, and inter-provincial water distribution under WAA 1991. To sustain its impact, IRSA identified two priorities: (1) broader and deeper training; and (2) expanding the Tool’s role in intra-season allocation planning to address climate-driven hydrological uncertainties.

2. To advance intra-season planning, a Subsidiary Agreement titled “Climate Resilient and Adaptive Water Allocation in Pakistan” was signed in October 2024 between Pakistan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs and ACIAR. Approved by MoPD&SI on IRSA’s request, the five-year project (2024–2029) is funded by Australia with AUD 3 million.

Project Review & Status

3. To review project progress, a meeting was held on 04 November 2025 at IRSA HQ, chaired by Mr. Amjad Saeed (Chairman / Member Punjab), and attended by IRSA Members from Sindh, Federal, and KP, along with the Director (Ops) / Secretary IRSA, and senior technical staff. The Australian side was represented by Dr. Neil Lazarow (ACIAR), Dr. Mobin ud Din Ahmad, and Ms. Susan Cuddy (CSIRO).

4. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IRSA expressed gratitude to the Australian Government, ACIAR and CSIRO for their technical and financial support in developing the WAA Tool.

5. The Australian team commended Pakistan’s efforts through IRSA in managing IBIS, the world’s largest contiguous irrigation system. They shared updates on enhancing the WAA-Tool’s spatial resolution—from system zones to canal commands and river reaches—being implemented at both federal and provincial levels. Federally, the Tool supports IRSA in surface water allocation, with LUMS contributing to improved inflow forecasting. Provincially, research is underway to shift from supply-based warabandi to demand-based irrigation, using tools like soil moisture meters implemented in Khikhi Distributary Sub system located in District Toba Tek Singh. Other initiatives include distributary-level water ponds, kitchen gardening to engage rural women, and exploring AI integration. The team emphasized that the project would also strengthen IRSA’s research and development capacity.

6. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman IRSA were presented souvenirs to the honourable Australian Team members.



END.