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## Irrigation training program set for Rio Grande Valley

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is co-sponsoring the 7<sup>th</sup> Rio Grande Valley Irrigation Conference and Trade Show set for Wednesday, Oct. 29 in Mercedes.

Irrigation experts, including Texas AgriLife Extension Service agricultural engineers **Dr. Guy Fipps** of College Station, **Dr. Dana Porter** of Lubbock and **Dr. Juan Enciso** of Weslaco will speak on improved irrigation technologies and irrigation and crop management. Other speakers include **Erasmio Yarrito**, the Rio Grande Watermaster team leader; **Alan Moore**, Cameron Drainage District manager; and **Charles Stichler**, retired Extension agronomist.

The conference will be at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, 1000 N. Texas Ave. in Mercedes.

Participants may register at the door. A \$10 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and admission to the trade show and educational sessions. Participants can receive 2 hours of certified crop advisor or pesticide applicator continuing education credits.

The Rio Grande event is the third of six Irrigation Training Program (ITP) events being held around the state to help farmers and others learn about efficient tools and techniques of irrigation management. Each event will offer region-specific information about irrigation practices, cropping systems, policy updates and cost-share programs available to local producers. The next event, the Gulf Coast Irrigation Conference, is scheduled for Nov. 18 in Sinton.

The ITP is a collaborative effort of TWRI, AgriLife Extension, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Texas Water Development Board funds the project through its Agricultural Water Conservation Grant program.

Other sponsors of the Rio Grande event are Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association and the Irrigation Technology Center.

For more information about the Rio Grande Valley or Coastal Bend conferences events, visit <http://itc.tamu.edu/conferences.php>. For more information on the Irrigation Training Program, visit <http://http://twri.tamu.edu/project-info/ITP/>.