

Working group 2

Restoring Value of Grassland

While- carbon sequestration is a relevant entry point for restoring value of grasslands- this is too narrow, **it will be critical to include the social, cultural and environmental benefits of restoring rangelands in general**

THEMATIC AREAS

- **Geographic focus:** yes- include scales- landscape, systemic approach is important: Question: easy win- will exclude groups
- **Species:** grasslands, pastures, silvopastoral-agroforestry systems; diversity of livestock species

Assumption: improvement of grasslands/pastures- improve livestock systems; valuing ecosystem services will lead to improved grasslands

Thematic areas contd

- **Products and systems**: intensive and extensive systems; pastoral vs non-pastoral systems, small-scale, introduced vs natural species; land tenure: community, communal, private.

Products: ecosystem services

- **Supply chain**: integration- interaction
- **Value added**: environmental services: water, biodiversity, resilience, productivity, green labelling, improve assets of small holders

Thematic areas cont

- **Boundaries:** emphasis on natural resources and connect to people and communities
- **People behaviour and institutions:** adoption, change behaviour and enabling institutions, cultural outcomes and indigenous-local knowledge

Problem

- **A) Non tailored technical solutions:** lack of incentives (public and private), responsibility not clear, lack of awareness, decision makers biased, loss of indigenous knowledge. Agriculture not a priority of politicians

b) Lack of policy and incentives:

- Lack of prioritization- agenda more important (agro-ecological zoning)
- Lack of socio-economic valuation-data- benefits and communication
- Absence of credit facilities
- Inadequate information and communication system: credits, knowledge, capital, infrastructure-

Problem-cont

- C) **Narrow subject** -Scientific knowledge is new, science is too compartmentalized, - reductionism, need a systemic approach, balance between depth and breath is out of kilter, information aligned with past systems may not be applicable to present or future systems; sartorial focus, lack of ecosystem approach
- d)**Changing values of communities**: lack of opportunities, migration of rural to urban, lack of basic ammenities, lack of status, under investment in rural areas: infrastructure and health, mobility of pastoralist that does not goes well with services, can buy food at low prices; little retribution to farmers-value chain

Problem cont

- e) **Grassland is not profitable**: decline in productivity, competition push beef systems to marginal soils, value chain capturing the profit, we are not recognizing the social, cultural and environmental benefits
- F) **Disease and lack of water**: complexity nature of disease, eradication expensive, no vaccines have been produced, needs ecosystem approach, link with grassland less risk of vectors in extensive system than intensive system; system design not aligned with management; lack of water associated with degradation. Lack of understanding of the arid ecosystem ecology, people like “quickfixes”; lack of research

Common problems we wish to address

- Knowledge: While there is a lot of knowledge on discrete parts of grazing land issues, the ecosystem approach is not sufficiently well understood within the policy environment to be addressed as one issue
- While management for grasslands is better understood for humid areas, there is still a lack of consensus and understanding of range ecology in arid and sem-arid lands. This is further complicated by the land regime in arid and semi-arid lands
- Lack of robust system for making choices- trade-offs analysis- common tool box
- Farmers have little knowledge or access to technology adapted to their farming environment
- Creating economic incentives for government, private sector and communities to invest in grazing lands

