



## GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

### SUMMARY OF FA2 “VALUING GRASSLANDS” GROUP DISCUSSIONS

*Ottawa 17/18 October 2013 Multi Stakeholder Platform meeting*

In the morning participants were given an update on progress of FA2 during the plenary (see attached presentation).

### SUMMARY OF FA2 GROUP DISCUSSIONS

#### **Expectations of participants**

The following expectations for FA2 were articulated by the workshop participants:

- Learning from and sharing other’s experience
- Recognising the role of context for valuing grasslands
- Gaining acknowledgment by urban population and policy makers for a number of values from grassland
- Availability of a tool kit for assessment
- Operating as a knowledge hub
- Help recognising land use rights and policies related to grassland
- Approaches to development of grassland systems in a sustainable way
- Recognising and assessing the contribution of grassland systems to social stability

#### **Purpose for FA2**

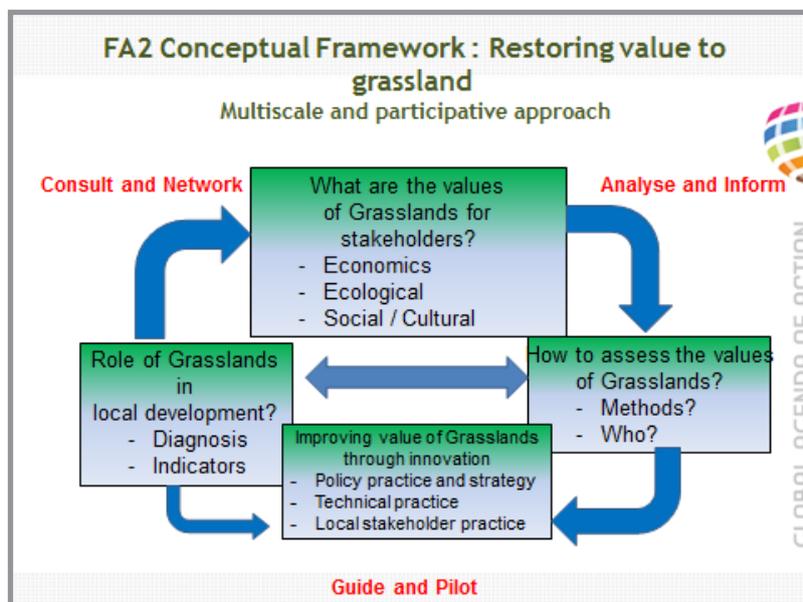
Following the discussion on expectations, participants then endorsed the following global purpose for FA2:

*“To maintain, restore and enhance environmental and economic value of grasslands, while promoting their social and cultural functions globally”*

## Tangible Outputs proposed

Discussions were held on the outputs proposed following feedback from previous FA2 meetings and the following were agreed to:

- There was endorsement of the conceptual framework for thinking about the focus area presented to the group



- Lessons related to monitoring and managing progress towards sustainable grassland livestock systems

There was a strong focus on identifying practices that will lead to desired outcomes and also the related understanding of the characteristics of people and their operational environment that will enable adoption. There was also a keenness to ensure that practice is shared and taken up at the local, regional, national and global scale.

- Identification, and dissemination, of appropriate practices that will enable desired change

It was noted that the definition of practice should be wide, involving not only implementation of an activity in the field but also for example, knowledge systems, policy, incentives, other instruments etc.

- Gap analysis

It was agreed that a gap analysis is required that covers all the areas that we are focused on including: the needs of the producers, stakeholders, research priorities etc.

- Evidence based messages about the value of grasslands for use in dialogue

There was discussion on the lack of engagement between rural producers and urban populations and that there is requirement for a dialogue with urbanites to increase their understanding of livestock systems and the value that grasslands can add to their values.

- Strategies for the recognition, establishment, protection of rights and property resources, particularly common property

Many rural livestock producers are under pressure from local authority confiscation of land, unstable land tenure and total disregard for the rights of common property.

## Comments on the WEB portal

A WEB portal has been recently set up and accessed through the GAA web site. It is currently being used as an inventory of information on grassland values. We plan however to expand its functionality and build a workspace within the portal. Participants were asked at the workshop to note what information they would like and the following notes capture their comments:

- The portal could be organised into criteria such as: topic, ecological context
- Participants were aware of other web sites containing information that is relevant to FA2, e.g. GRA, SALSA, ILC and therefore encouraged the building of links to avoid duplication
- Develop databases of e.g. projects, practice, people, pilots, tools etc.
- Provide access to methods and tools
- Use as a repository of knowledge with a local context so that it is captured in one place

A key point to come out of the discussions was to take into consideration and make a priority the accessibility of the information contained on the WEB. This was to help address the fact that not everyone speaks English nor has access to internet. This point was followed up at the plenary where it was noted that mobile phones allow access to the internet by many people; and that the language issue extends also to translation of technical into popular. It was also noted that the WEB is only one means of informing and a communication strategy will have to be developed and tailored to the context.

A new organisation and structure of the web portal will be proposed and built in the coming weeks. Then, FA2 members will be asked to help furnish it.

## Building networks while participating in a series of Grassland related meetings and conferences

A number of workshops and conferences related to FA2 have been held over this year that participants of the GAA have attended. Discussions related to up and coming events led to a more in depth conversation related to participation and what this means for the GAA. This was also discussed at the plenary. It was decided that we need to think of how we promote the GAA at events and how we might decide to report on activities related to FA2 activities.

It was suggested that information on FA2 topics related upcoming conferences will be delivered through the web portal. A strategy of FA2 to attend relevant events will be then possible. People attending these events will be asked to provide for the Web Portal short summary of main issues and opportunities discussed during these events.

## Pilot sites

Prior to the Ottawa meeting the FA2 co- chairs circulated a template to record and describe pilot sites. The template was originally populated with sites that are part of the “Livestock Farming and Local Development” network (LiFloD). A few more were added by FA2 members, but not many prior to the meeting. There was general confusion about the definition of a pilot site and the following definition was proposed. The sites all have to be multistakeholder and they can range from research through to application and development and can be current, proposed or historic. As well as pilot sites it was acknowledged that most participants will have access to success stories i.e. where practice change has been successfully implemented and that the lessons from these could be shared. Success stories can be from a broad typology of activities including development and policy programmes/initiatives and documented experiences by pro-

ducer associations and extension agencies. Once this distinction was made there were many examples from the workshop noted verbally and now these need to be formally captured. It was agreed that the template for capturing the pilot site information would be altered to reflect this extended thinking and be circulated to FA2 for filling in. At the plenary it was identified that all of the Focus Areas will identify pilot sites and therefore these should be shared between the group to see how synergies and aligned lessons could be extracted.

There was also discussion about who the audience for these lessons would be and therefore how we will present our information. In the first instance we will use the information on the sites that we currently have to enable a synthesis to be undertaken and from this some topics to be identified and actions formulated. This is still too vague and a priority is to sharpen and prioritise.

Development of an inventory and undertaking a synthesis of global pilot sites will assist us to:

- Undertake a global comparative description
- Describe the different values and measures for grassland held by stakeholders.
- Describe the contribution of livestock farming to sustainable development
- Develop tools and processes for multi stakeholders to assess and explore impacts of multiple drivers on future grassland systems

The comparative advantage of the Global Agenda is through a synthesis of the pilot sites to provide the link between the stakeholders and regions, without the Global Agenda these sites would remain isolated activities.

This will then lead us to the identification of new pilot projects and activities that will:

- Fill in the gaps of the current configuration of pilot sites to provide diversity of approaches
- Provide evidence and example of how grassland values can be restored and enhanced in practice
- Allow us to test innovation and practice change
- Note figure 1 below.

### **Future FA2 workshop**

We decided to hold an FA2 specific workshop in the first quarter of 2014 (early march 2014) with a purpose of building consensus on concerted FA2 action by:

- Sharing results of pilots
- Concentrating on a small number of pre identified topics for synthesis
- Proposals to test innovation on pilots
- Building a programme for change addressing identified priority areas

Actions towards this meeting will include:

- Participants completing the new format template of pilot sites and success stories so as to increase the pool of sites at our disposal

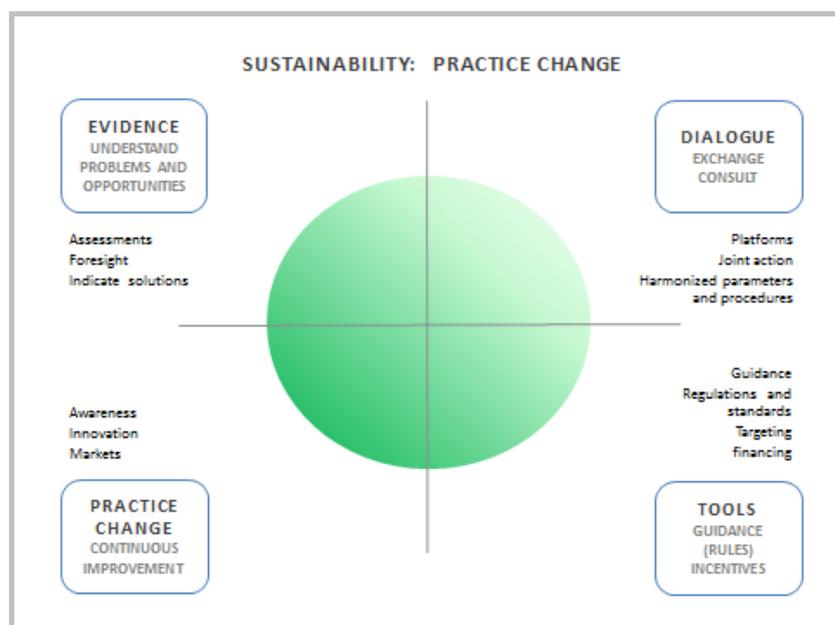
- Undertake a provisional analysis (FA2 chairs) of the information to allow identification of topics for synthesis and discuss them with FA2 members
- Develop a draft outline for synthesis (FA2 chairs)
- Gain funding for the workshop and work out the logistics

There were many discussions at the plenary after the report back from each of the focus area groups. There are a number of activities occurring across the groups that offer the ability to gain synergy and efficiency, particularly in the area of integrative assessment. It was also noted that the focus area groups are also currently technically focused (mainly FA1 and FA3) and it is not yet very clear how the integration with social, cultural and economic values will occur. However this is a strength of FA2 as we have also chosen pilot sites where the values of the stakeholders are being articulated as are the world views along with methodologies to undertake multi-criteria assessment and inclusion of human behaviour that will aid in defining and articulating the trade-offs. This approach will provide evidence to inform the design of transition pathways through collaborative dialogue and deliberation.

Expected results from this FA2 Workshop are :

- Share experiences and knowledge between FA2 members
- Develop synthesis on few topics (e.g.: The Values of grasslands; Grassland management policies; Grasslands degradation processes; Best practices; Methods and tools to assess grasslands;...)
- Develop main messages for FA2
- Develop new activities to test innovation and practice change on pilot sites

Figure 1 Depicting how the pilot sites can inform practice change by providing evidence, creating environments for dialogue and deliberation within a multi stakeholder platform and providing examples of successful practice change (Proposed by Henning Steinfeld in plenary).



## Participants

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