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Community based pasture development

Experiences of Caritas Switzerland in Tajikistan

Presentation for FA2 workshop by

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The Muminabad pastures...





...and related problems.

- ▶ High stocking rates because community pasture areas are decreasing and households highly depend on livestock
- ▶ Incentives for investment are lacking because access to community pastures is insecure
- ▶ Inadequate knowledge related to sustainable pasture management and smallholder livestock keeping
- ▶ Increased disaster risk because of degraded pastures and increased rainwater run-off and sediment transport
- ▶ Low off-take from livestock because of low pasture yields



Caritas community based pasture development approach

- ▶ Establish Village Livestock (Land use) Committee, develop capacities of members;
- ▶ Secure long term user rights for communal pastures;
- ▶ Introduce rotational grazing (& provide funds for investments) and other pasture improvement technologies;
- ▶ Increase fodder resource base & improve animal health.



Developing tools for learning and impact assessment



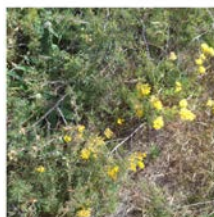
Integrated Watershed Management Project

Common pasture plants of Muminabad, Shurabad and Khovaling districts

Growth in the Rural Economy and Agriculture of Tajikistan



Zone	Seasonal use	Water sources	Area (ha)	Summary pasture areas				LU/ha	Notes
				Alt. (m)	WP	PI (-1,+1)	GC (%)		
Hill pastures	March - November	5 springs	220	1600 - 2100	038, 042, 043	0	80 - 100%		more than half of the surface is actually forest.
High pastures	August - September	Boboi Sufi spring/ 5 springs	310	1900 - 2500	030, 034, 037	0	60 - 90%		
Forest	?	River?	130	2100 - 1700	-	-	-		not surveyed



From left: GC pictures in Kundapokun (wp 130), at around 2500 metres, in Novk (wp037, 2200 m. and Romut (wp043, 1800 m). In the first wildrose bushes and Hypericum are dominant, graminaceous (especially Dactylis glomerata) in the second and low-grazed Ajlrik plus liquorice in the third.



Lessons learnt (1)

1. Village Livestock Committees are suitable institutions to take charge of community pasture development
2. and are already making a substantial contribution towards sustainable land management and rural livelihood improvement through introduction of rotational grazing and other sustainable pasture management practices



Lessons learnt (2)

3. Pasture assessment is an effective learning tool for VLCs to improve their pasture management skills and has the potential to be used for measuring project impact;
4. Livestock Association Muminabad with membership of 18 VLCs, provides a good platform to defend the interest of community pasture users and has gained recognition, through representation of Muminabad pasture users in the national pasture network