Conceptual models to assess the multiple values of grassland systems

Key messages

- Conceptual modelling addresses the need to make explicit the different perspectives from which the grassland system can be seen and valued.
- Conceptual models are representations of the same system from different perspectives and articulates them in order to explore the trade-offs among a variety of concerns using simulation.
- Conceptual modelling is useful for scientists, experts and stakeholders to share there representations and help decision-making.

Livestock-based solutions

- Study of the multi-functionality of grassland systems is still missing despite its importance for the poorest populations in hardest environmental conditions.
- At least four functions have been identified with distinctive values: the social role of livestock, the production of livestock-based products, the role in local development and the positive and negative impacts on ecosystem services. The conceptual models have been elaborated and the interactions highlighted in order to be able to discuss the trade-offs.

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Scale of the tool
- Household
- Landscape
- Value chain
- Farming system

Status of the tool
- Elaborated in international workshops
- On-going validation of the conceptual models
- Prototype of a simulation model

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