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 amenities, 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