



IGC/IRC 2021 Theme “Pastoralism, Social, Gender and Policy Issues” Concurrent Session on International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralism (IYRP)

Summary of Panel 2: Socio-economics and demography

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Nahid Naghizadeh (MENA)

She highlighted the critical issues for the 31 million pastoralists in the MENA region. These issues include government neglect, sedentarization, fragmentation, lack of financial support, lack of well-being mobile services and low capacity building for pastoral youth.

She reported critical actions should include the recognition of customary governance system of pastoralists, incorporation of pastoralists into the economy, provision of mobile services and capacity building.

She emphasized the need to develop a strategy and action plan to tackle land degradation and pastoral discrimination. Also, the need to document, expand and apply evidence-based and IK of pastoralists into decision-making.

Barry Irving (North America)

He highlighted the system of beef marketing in Canada and North America, where the market determines the prices and not pastoralists and that the profit margins are low. Pastoralists also see niche marketing as a potential but are challenging. The attractiveness of jobs outside the pastoral systems also threatens this livelihood.

His recommended actions include the improvement of off-farm income, adopting economies of scale approaches, entering niche markets and leasing land to others.

Prisca Mugabe (Southern Africa)

Southern African pastoralists experience challenges of marginalization and conflict with other land uses. Pastoral institutions and governance systems are not appreciated. Gender imbalances exist whereby less empower youth, women and men remain behind when others seek jobs in the urban areas.

Her actions include a social-ecological approach to tackle pastoral challenges, having holistic SDGs and co-construction of solutions. She emphasized that pastoral value chains should be contextual and inclusive and there is a need for cross-sector partnerships in the value chain.

Questions:

Due to lower production efficiency and disaster for rangeland low investment in these areas how can we change this for IYRP?

Barry's response: There has to be financial reward for investment and it comes from land appreciation. Investment flows to capital, and if there is no capital (for ranchers that is mostly land) then there will likely be limited investment.

What are the most fundamental and needs immediate action?

Nahid's response: Secure land tenure rights and address the fragmentation of the pastoralist territories issues that threaten their mobility, right to land and their livelihoods.

Mobility, territory and, right to land are the basis of pastoralists' social identity and livelihoods and a part of their historical conservation strategy to cope with climate change and live in harmony with nature in drylands ecosystems