



PROGRAMME

Celebrating the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Madrid International Meeting

"Young Pastoralists and New Technologies"

April 9, 10 and 11, 2026 (Madrid – Spain)

APRIL 9-10. MAIN EVENT: ["CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS"](#)

APRIL 11. FIELD VISIT

APRIL 7-8. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR CIHEAM - [MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS](#)

Date: April 9, 2026

Place: Main Auditorium, Institute of Engineering of Spain. Madrid (Capacity: 200 people) + streaming

From 08:30 Delivery of accreditations and simultaneous translation recipients

09:00 – 09:45 | OPENING SESSION (punctuality is requested)

- **Brief messages from the Organizing Committee.** Presentation by Ms. Mónica Martínez Castañeda, Managing Director of the Madrid Institute for Rural, Agricultural and Food Research and Development (**IMIDRA**) of the Community of Madrid, with the intervention of:
 - Mr. Carlos Novillo Piris, Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and the Interior of the Community of Madrid. Institutional welcome words
 - Mr Gregorio Juan Velasco Gil, Coordinator of the **Pastoral Knowledge Hub, FAO**
 - Mr. Raúl Compés López, Director of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (**CIHEAM**) - Zaragoza
 - Mr. Manuel Bahillo Martín, Secretary General of the **Transhumance and Nature Foundation**
 - Mrs. Francesca Pasetti Bombardella, Co-chair for Europe **Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists (GA4RP)**
- **Message from the GA4RP Youth Group** – Jacob Lekaitogo, coordinator of IYRP Young Pastoralists Working Group and President of Pastoralist Youth Alliance- Africa
- **Official video presentation IYRP2026**
- **Presentation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).** Mr. Gregorio Juan Velasco Gil, opening remarks by FAO representative

09:45 – 11:15 | SESSION 1: GLOBAL FRAMEWORK, PUBLIC POLICIES AND CHALLENGES OF PASTORALISM

Introductory Lecture: Mrs Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, a German veterinarian based in India, expert in global pastoralism and President of Camel Charisma

Round table: Ms. Ana Rodríguez Castaño, Secretary General of Agricultural Resources and Food Security



Participants:

- D^a Ariunzaya Enkhtuya, Representing MOFALI (Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry) of Mongolia.
- Mr. Ángel de Oteo Mancebo, Director General of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and the Interior. Community of Madrid. (Spain)
- D. Bernard Bonet, Institute for Research and Applications of Development Methods (IRAM - France)
- Mr. Blamah Diallo, Regional Technical Coordinator Réseau Billital Maroobe. (Niger)
- Mr. Rolando Manzano, President of the Foundation for the Development of the High Andean Camelid-Markas Layku. (Chile)

11:15 – 11:45 | Coffee/tea break

11:45 – 13:30 | SESSION 2: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION IN PASTORALISM

Presenters and moderators of the table: Ángela Arevalo Robles. International Land Coalition (ILC)

Introductory presentation: D. Balint Sándor, member of the research group on traditional ecological knowledge, Hungarian Ecological Research Centre. (Hungary)

Round table: "Indigenous knowledge": presentation by Basele Galgesa (President Pastoralists Goals Foundation – Kenya)-& Menita Kupano (Pres green earth Warriors – Kenya)

Dialogue, tradition and science:

- Seidou Soumay Abdoul Rahamani: "Restoration of degraded land through grazing, an ancient technology". (Niger)
- Maya Sherpa. (Nepal)
- Abdoussaman Ag Alhousseini. (Mali)
- Livasoa. (Madagascar)
- Imran Khan Mamad Mutva. (India)

13:30 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 | SESSION 3: VALUE CHAINS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Presenters and moderators of the table: Mireia Llorente (Fundación Entretantos) and Juana Victoria Alcasihuincha (Peru)

- Ahmad Saad Al-Huweita, tourism with traditional pastoralism. (Jordan)
- Ilse Kölher-Rollefson, Camel Charisma, Experiences of Camel Charisma Marketing
- Verónica Camila Apaza, Red Puna. (Argentina)
- Montserrat Castellanos, Technical Advisor of the General Directorate of Agricultural Productions and Markets. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food "Spanish logo '100% Native Breed': awareness of the importance of animal genetic resources through the product". (Spain)
- Patricia Jiménez, Technical Team of the Platform for Extensive Livestock and Pastoralism-Certified Extensive Livestock Mark. (Spain)
- Gerardo Báguena, Fundación Quebrantahuesos. Pro-biodiversity brand. (Spain)



16:00 – 17:30 | SESSION 4: INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE: THE FUTURE OF PASTORALISM

Presenter and moderator of the table: Tamara Mitrofanenko (Carpathian Convention).

Intergenerational dialogue:

- Santiago León: "Intergenerational dialogue". (Spain)
- Irene Namongo: "Pastoralism as a woman and as a business activity: promoting female participation in pastoralism". (Uganda)
- Milan Seculovic. (Montenegro)
- Bárbara Aguilar: "Pastora under high voltage lines". (Spain)
- Joseph Bousson: "The vision of pastoralism as feedback, shepherd and wild animal relationship". (France)
- Megha Seth, coordinator of the Pastoral Alliance of South Asia (SAPA): "Recognition of the rights of pastoral communities". (India)

17:30 – 18:00 | SESSION 5: SUMMARY OF THE DAY

Reading of the day's conclusions

Youth Manifesto/Letter Presentation: Francesca Pasetti - Jacob Lekaitogo: Key Demands, Solutions and Commitments for IYRP 2026 and Beyond

Logging Out and Technical Notices

Date: April 10, 2026

Place: Main Auditorium, Institute of Engineering of Spain. Madrid (Capacity: 200 people) + streaming

From 09:00h delivery of simultaneous translation receivers

09:30 – 11:00 | SESSION 6: TRANSHUMANCE AS CULTURAL HERITAGE

Presentation of the conference: Ms. Mónica Martínez Castañeda, Managing Director of IMIDRA

Presenter of the session: Sonsoles Zabala Argüelles (Head of Livestock Research and Improvement Area, IMIDRA)

- **Institutional act:** Ms. Mónica Martínez Castañeda, Managing Director of IMIDRA. Announcement and relevance of transhumance as an Asset of Cultural Interest in the Community of Madrid
- **Exhibition and defence of the Transhumance file as a BIC:** Ms. M^a del Carmen Jiménez Morán, Head of the Area of Cataloguing of Cultural Assets, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport of the Community of Madrid
- **Scientific and informative presentations:**
 - Ms Rusudan Mirzikashvili, ICOMOS, Presentation of the results of the ICOMOS "Transhumance Initiative" and its "Thematic Approach". (Georgia)
 - Ms. Laura Reyes, Heritage Area of the Subdirector General for Management and Coordination of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture: "Plans for the safeguarding

of intangible cultural heritage as management tools: the case of transhumance in Spain". (Spain)

- Mr. José Alberto Millán González, Head of the Livestock Route Area, General Directorate of Agriculture, Livestock and Food. Community of Madrid: Utility of VVPP in Transhumance. (Spain)
- Dr. Marta Moreno-García. Institute of History of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC): "Transhumance in an archaeozoological key: the first pastoral societies of the Iberian Peninsula". (Spain)
- **Round table:** Moderator Juan Manuel Gallardo Bolaños, Head of the Technical Department of the Royal Federation of Select Livestock Associations (RFEAGAS);
 - M^a Carmen García Moreno and Diego Torres González. (Spain)
 - Nicole Colantuono. (Italy)
 - Abdoussamad Ag Alhousseini. (Mali)

11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee/tea break and networking

11:30 – 13:00 | SESSION 7: - NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND CURRENT PASTORALISTS

Presenter and moderator of the table: Antonio López-Francos (CIHEAM - Zaragoza)

Introduction: Mediterranean Network of Sustainable Livestock Systems: conclusions of the CIHEAM Zaragoza – FAO International Seminar. Claudio Porqueddu, CNRS ISPAAM. (Italy)

Thematic round table:

Block 1: New information and communication technologies applied to pastoralism

- Agustín Oliet Palá, Director of the Center for Animal Selection and Reproduction – IMIDRA: "GPS and virtual fences". (Spain)
- Yolanda Pueyo Estaún, Pyrenean Institute of Ecology IPE-CSIC: "Remote sensing and technologies for the evaluation of grasslands". (Spain)
- Joshua Laizer, Pastor, Afriscout: "Mobile Apps for Rangeland Management and Grazing." (Tanzania)
- Georgios Ziagkas, Transhumant Shepherd. (Greece)
- Ángela del Carmen, Ganaderas en Red: "Personal experience in communication – Ganaderas en Red and communication in social networks". (Spain)

Block 2: Technical innovation applied to extensive livestock farming

- Hichem Ben Salem, National Institute of Agricultural Research, INRAT: "New sources of food: nutritional value of grassland plants, example of cactus, use of by-products". (Tunisia)
- Manuel Luque, Royal Federation of Select Livestock Associations (RFEAGAS): "The best animals for pastoralism: what should be conserved and selected?". (Spain)
- Joshua Laizer, Pastor, Afriscout, Tanzania)
- Ángela del Carmen, Ganaderas en Red. (Spain)
- Georgios Ziagkas, Transhumant Shepherd. (Greece)

13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch



14:30 – 16:00 | SESSION 8: PASTORALISM AND SUSTAINABILITY: TERRITORY, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Presenters and moderators of the table: Angela Arévalo Robles (ILC Advocacy and Youth Expert) and Jacob Lekaitogo (President and co-founder of the African Youth Pastoralists Initiative (AYPI)| Global Coordinator, IYRP Youth WG), with support from Pati Jiménez (Fund Entretantos).

- Pedro M. Herrera Calvo, FAO Working Group on Drylands and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
- Mohamed Ould Baba GUEYA, Director of the National Office for Research and Development of Livestock and Grazing (ONARDEP). (Mauritania)
- Ashwini Machindra Labde, a pastoralist community dedicated to sheep farming and a member of the steering committee of the South Asian Pastoral Alliance (SAPA). (India)
- Mireia Llorente, Extensive Livestock Area of the Entretantos Foundation. (Spain)
- Laia Batalla, Head of the School of Shepherds and Shepherdesses of Catalonia. (Spain)
- Dr. Francisco Martín Azcárate, Professor of the Department of Ecology of the Autonomous University of Madrid. "Herbivory and ecological restoration in cattle trails: lessons from the LIFE-Cañadas project". (Spain)

16:00 – 17:00 | SESSION 9: CONCLUSIONS, FINAL STATEMENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Presenter: Tamara Mitrofanenko

- **Development**
- **Reading of conclusions**
- **100 photos of the meeting**
- **Reflection workshop: a vision of the future on pastures and pastoralism:** D. Pedro M. Herrera Calvo: Perspectives of the Global Alliance for Pastures and Pastoralists, Legacy of the IYRP2026.
- **Reading of the Young Pastoralists Declaration**

17:00 – 17:15 | SESSION 10 AND FINAL CLOSING

Acknowledgements from the organizers

Institutional closure (Ms. Mónica Martínez Castañeda: Managing Director of IMIDRA)

Date: April 11, 2026 (10.00- 16:00)

Place: Casa de La Monta - IMIDRA, Aranjuez, Madrid

1st STOP: Cultural stop in the surroundings of the Royal Palace of Aranjuez: 1 hour.

2nd STOP: Casa de la Monta, 12:00 hrs.

Photographic Exhibition "History of La Casa de la Monta"

Photographic Exhibition "The Horse in Spain"

Monographic exhibition of native breeds of horses and donkeys

Photographic Exhibition "Spanish Native Breeds" Bestiarium, by José Barea



Main room. 56 indigenous breeds of sheep, goats, cows and sheepdogs

Wool textile art exhibition

Exhibition of tapestries and blankets made with native wool. (Celebration of European Wool Day)
Examples of traditional and current uses (crafts, textiles, insulation, innovative products), highlighting the value of wool as a sustainable resource within the circular economy

Introductory workshop to traditional wool spinning

Didactic tour of the wool process from fleece to spindle spinning and spinning wheel

Screening of the documentary "Transhumant Shepherds, Carding Memories"

Chair of Leonese Studies at the University of León

Recital by Luis García Valera – Escuela de Músicas Populares Entresierras - *Sierra Norte de Madrid*

A sound journey through popular roots, enjoying simple instruments of traditional origin, many of them linked to the world of shepherding

Traditional grazing demonstration

Extensive livestock management, herd driving techniques with carea dogs and the role of the shepherd in the territory

Shearing Exhibition

Traditional shearing process, its importance for animal welfare and its cultural and productive value

Pastoral food

Rice tasting, accompanied by "Paquitos" (lamb sandwiches) in collaboration with INTEROVIC

Tasting of products covered by the "100% Native Breed" logo (MAPA)

As an action to enhance the native breeds and their productions of differentiated quality. Cheeses of Pasidega, Merino breeds from Grazalema and Guadarrama, as well as cecina from Avileña-Negra Ibérica