

REPORT

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GCSAYN ROAD TO THE IYRP 2026 CONSULTATIONS



22nd November 2025

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN) successfully hosted the official launch of its "Road to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026" consultations on November 21, 2025. The virtual event brought together a distinguished panel of experts, scientists, and academic leaders from across the globe to mobilize GCSAYN's extensive network of 88 Centers of Excellence in 178 countries.

Key Highlights:

- Successful virtual launch with international participation
- Clear roadmap established for IYRP 2026 consultations
- Strong commitment from academic and research institutions
- Focus on pastoralist women and youth empowerment

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The United Nations' endorsement of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) provides a critical platform to highlight the importance of these ecosystems and communities. GCSAYN builds upon its foundational work, notably the East African Regional Consultation in September 2022 supported by ILRI, which led to the establishment of the African Youth Pastoralist Initiative (<https://csaynglobal.org/african-youth-pastoral-initiative/>).

This official launch marks the beginning of GCSAYN's formal journey towards IYRP 2026, outlining a structured plan to amplify voices of pastoralists and leverage scientific research for sustainable rangeland management.

3.0 MEETING PROCEEDINGS AND KEY DISCUSSIONS

The meeting followed a structured agenda with presentations from global experts:

3.1 Opening Session

- Welcome Remarks by Mr. Divine Ntiokam, Executive Director, GCSAYN
- Keynote Statement by Prof. Abdullahi I. Musa, Vice-Chancellor, KASU Nigeria

3.2 IYRP 2026 Overview

Dr. Lauren Svejcar (IYRP Global Alliance & University of Arizona) provided:

- Global context and objectives of IYRP 2026
- Strategic roadmap for implementation
- Role of youth networks in advocacy and awareness



3.3 Experience Sharing Session

Expert presentations covered critical themes:

Speaker	Institution	Focus Area
Dr. Jagadeesan Krishnan	Tamil Nadu Veterinary University, India	Research needs in pastoralism
Prof. Ahmadu A. Baba-Singhri	Peace & Food Security Expert, USA	Leadership in food security
Dr. Rahab Swatchet Makama	Kaduna State University, Nigeria	Women and youth challenges
Prof. Ruth K. Oniang'o	AJFAND, Kenya	Science and innovation
Mr. Garry Brooks	African Community Project, Canada	Livestock and forest contributions

Key Discussion Points:

- Need for localized research in pastoral communities
- Importance of leadership in food security governance
- Addressing gender-specific challenges in rangelands
- Leveraging technology for rangeland development
- Integrating traditional knowledge with modern science

3.4 Declaration and Closing (5:45-6:00 PM EAT)

- Reading and adoption of official declaration
- Closing remarks by Dr. Lauren Svejcar and Mr. Divine Ntiokam
- Commitment to sustained collaboration

4.0 KEY OUTCOMES AND RESOLUTIONS

4.1 Formal Launch of Consultations

- Multi-level consultation process initiated (National, Regional, Community)
- Timeline: November 1 - December 15, 2025
- Coverage: 88 Centers of Excellence across 178 countries

4.2 Strategic Commitments

- Integration of IYRP into GCSAYN's 2026-2030 core programs
- Appointment of IYRP leads across all Centers of Excellence
- Establishment of monitoring and evaluation framework

4.3 Partnership Enhancements

- Strengthened collaboration between academia and practitioners
- Enhanced North-South and South-South cooperation
- Commitment to join IYRP International Support Group (ISG)



5.0 NEXT STEPS AND ACTION PLAN

Activity	Timeline	Responsible Party
National-level consultations	Dec 1-15, 2025	GCSAYN Country Chapters
Regional synthesis workshops	January, 2026	Regional Coordinators
Consolidated report submission	Dec 20, 2025	GCSAYN Secretariat
ISG membership formalization	Jan 2026	Executive Director
IYRP logo integration	Immediate	Communications Team

6.0 CONCLUSION

The official launch successfully positioned GCSAYN as a key contributor to IYRP 2026. The event demonstrated strong global commitment to addressing rangeland challenges and supporting pastoralist communities. Through its extensive network and strategic approach, GCSAYN is well-placed to ensure meaningful youth participation and scientific contribution throughout the International Year.

APPENDIX: SPEAKER PROFILES

1. Mr. Divine Ntokam

**Founder & Executive Director,
Global Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture and Youth Network
(GCSAYN)**

Talking Points:

- Consultation phase: National dialogues across all networks
- Youth-led participatory research action
- Youth voices in national and global forum
- Every Center of Excellence will have an IYRP action plan
- 2026 is our moment – but the work starts now
- We are building a global pastoral youth database



2. Prof. Abdullahi I. Musa

Vice-Chancellor, Kaduna State University, Nigeria

Professor contributed on institutional leadership perspective and integrating rangeland and pastoralist studies into higher education. His presentation addresses the importance of academic research and curriculum development in providing evidence-based solutions for pastoral communities. He emphasizes the university's role in fostering innovation and policy dialogue to enhance the resilience of rangeland ecosystems in Nigeria and beyond.

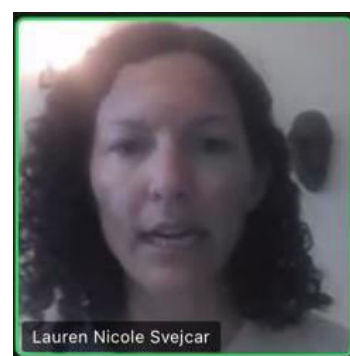


3. Dr. Lauren Svejcar

Research Ecologist, IYRP Global Alliance & University of Arizona

Talking Points:

- Pastoralism sustains over 200 million livelihoods globally
- Rangelands cover 54% of world's land surface
- IYRP 2026 is a UN-mandated opportunity to elevate pastoral voices
- Objective: integrate pastoralism into global sustainability agenda



4. Dr. Jagadeesan Krishnan

Assistant Professor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary University

Talking Points:

- **Saving Indigenous Breeds:** Kongu Matai, Umblachery, Burgur Breeds at risk, genetic biodiversity = climate resilience
- **Soil & Carbon Benefits:** Dung economy enriches soil organically, pastoral systems sequester carbon naturally
- **Cultural & Livelihood Protection:** Pastoralism = cultural identity + plus sustainable income. Red green meat: sustainable protein source



Dr JAGADEESAN KRISHNAN
Assistant Professor
Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal
Sciences University, India

5. Prof. Ahmadu A. Baba-Singhri

Peace and Food Security Expert, USA

Talking Points:

- Resource-Based conflicts affecting pastoral mobility
- Climate change as a threat multiplier for insecurity
- Personal peace-building as food security strategy
- Secure livelihood prevent youth radicalization
- Women's participation builds community resilience
- Youth engagement creates alternatives to violence



Prof. Ahmadu A. Baba-Singhri
Peace and Food
Security Expert, USA

6. Dr. Rahab Swatchet Makama

Deputy Dean, Kaduna State University

Talking Points:

- Patriarchal norms limiting women's decision-making
- Unfair market systems disadvantaging women producers
- Climate change impact: Droughts, land degradation
- Low literacy limiting access to extension services
- Weakened intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Invest in women's pastoral enterprises as climate solution
- Secure tenure and inheritance rights for women and youth



Dr. Rahab Swatchet Makama
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Kaduna State University, Nigeria

7. Prof. Ruth Oniang'o

Founder, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development

Talking Points:

- Pastoral products (Milks, Meats) as nutrient-dense foods
- Women's roles in pastoral food processing and safety
- Connecting pastoral production to urban nutrition needs
- Agri-business opportunities in pastoral value chains
- Sustainable intensification of pastoral systems



8. Mr. Garry Brooks

Founder, African Community Project, Canada

Talking points:

- Pastoral mobility maintains landscape connectivity
- Technology transfer appropriate for pastoral contexts
- Learning exchange between pastoral communities globally
- Include pastoralists in REDD+ and carbon credit programs
- Traditional grazing prevents forest encroachment
- Invest in pastoral-led conservation initiatives



Shots from the Dialogue



"THE ROLE OF GCSAYN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN ENHANCING RANGELANDS AND SUPPORTING PASTORALIST WOMEN AND YOUTH DURING THE IYRP 2026".

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GCSAYN ROAD TO THE IYRP 2026 CONSULTATIONS AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND COMMUNITY LEVEL.



Dr JAGADEESAN KRISHNAN
Assistant Professor
Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal
Sciences University, India



Dr. Rahab Swatchet Makama
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Agriculture,
Kaduna State University, Nigeria



Keynote Speaker
Prof. Abdullahi I. Musa
Vice-Chancellor, KASU,
Nigeria



Guest Speaker
Dr. Lauren Svejcar
Research Ecologist IYRP Global
Alliance & University of Arizona, USA



Divine Ntiokam
Convener, USA



Prof. Ahmadu A. Baba-Snghri
Peace and Food
Security Expert, USA



Garry Brooks
Founder of African
Community Project, Canada



Prof. Ruth Oniang'o
Founder, African Journal of Food,
Agriculture, Nutrition and
Development (AJFAND), Kenya

November 21, 2025
5:00 pm EAT / 9:00 am
EST / 3:00 pm WAT

TO Register





**Contact us for
further
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