

EU Common Agricultural Policy and IYRP at a Glance

The aims of the proposal for a UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) are in line with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which holds 37.4% share of the EU budget in 2019, just upscaling the messages and approach of the CAP to the world towards:

- supporting small scale pastoralist farmers
- safeguarding pastoralists to make a reasonable living
- helping tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources
- maintaining rural areas and landscapes across the world
- keeping the rural economies alive

As it is a requirement of the CAP within which more than half of the beneficiaries of income support have very small farms, pastoralists as small-scale farmers work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, and maintain soil and biodiversity.

Business uncertainties beyond the capability of pastoralists to develop responses and the environmental impact of pastoralism justifies and calls for worldwide attention and support. Accordingly, it is also the spirit of the CAP's actions to support these communities through tools such as income support, market measure, rural development measures.

Despite the decrease, there is still a significant pastoralist population within the borders of Europe either mobile or sedentary.



Migration routes of mobile pastoralists in Spain

Pastoralists contributes to the conditions defined by the CAP:

- **Produce food:** Pastoralists in Europe and worldwide provide an impressive variety of abundant, affordable, safe and good quality products. They play a significant role in ensuring food security
- **Rural community development:** Pastoralism is crucial to maintain and build strong and resilient rural communities. Thus it has utmost importance of encouraging young people to embrace their identity and livelihood as pastoralists.
- **Environmentally sustainable and climate smart farming:** Pastoralism is the most sustainable animal production system worldwide in terms of use of natural resources, water and energy and land management, climate mitigation and adaption.

There is a need for IYRP, as the CAP states, towards ensuring common policies that make sure that there is a level playing field and fair competition between pastoralists and industrial sector. Secondly, environmental problems and climate change do not stop at national borders. Thirdly, IYRP will allow States and regions to learn from each other. This is particular important when it comes to developing the potential of rural areas.