



Transforming agrifood systems with forests

Digital FAO–Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)

Pre-CoFo26 and the 8th World Forest Week 2022

Thursday, 29 September 2022

High-Level Panel: The World in 2050: a vision of forestry towards sustainable & resilient agrifood systems

13.00–14.10 (CEST, UTC+2)

Session Objectives

- Highlight silvopastoralism and the benefits trees can bring to dryland ecosystems
- Showcase best practices from around the world that can be scaled up to make our agrifood systems fit for the future, using trees
- Discuss the link between agricultural production and deforestation, and how the problem can be addressed
- Discuss how we can improve production in dryland systems through youth and community involvement, policymaking, better data and the latest tools.

13.00–14.10 High-Level Panel	
The World in 2050: a vision of forestry towards sustainable & resilient agrifood systems	
Moderated by Ms Tiina Vähänen , Deputy Director, Forestry Division, FAO	
<i>During this session, the publication Grazing with trees – a silvopastoral approach to managing and restoring drylands will be launched.</i>	
13:00 – 13:05	Welcome and housekeeping issues by the moderator
13:05 – 13:12	Robert Nasi – Keynote speech – The World in 2050: a vision of forestry towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems
13:12 – 13:20	Opening of the FAO Global Landscapes Forum Maria Helena Semedo , Deputy Director-General, FAO and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
13:20 – 14:00	Moderated high-level panel – Forestry in sustainable and resilient agrifood systems: Regional perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [5 min] H.E. Pindi H. Chana, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania - [4 min video] H.E. Abbas Haji Hassan Minister for Agriculture, Lebanon - [5 min] Dr Igshaan Samuels, Co-Chair, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP): Efforts towards dryland sustainability - [5 min] Ms Mary Jane Magan, President-Ormoc-Kananga Young Farmers Association, Philippines
14:00 – 14:10	Closing reflections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [3–4 min] Mr Ainsley A. Henry, CEO and Conservator of Forests, Forestry Department, Jamaica and Vice-Chair of the FAO Committee on Forestry - [3–4 min] Ms Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Secretary of the FAO Committee on Forestry



Input by Dr Igshaan Samuels on the role the IYRP could play in promoting sustainable forests and agrosilvopastoral systems in drylands

On 15 March 2022, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution led by the Government of Mongolia to declare 2026 the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP). The resolution was co-sponsored by 102 countries and calls for recognition and protection of pastoral livelihoods, protection and restoration of rangeland including dryland forests systems that are vital to the economic growth, resilient livelihoods and sustainable development of pastoralism including agrosilvopastoral systems. In order to build momentum towards 2026, the IYRP set up 11 regional support groups around the world, and the Global Coordination Group (GCG) for the IYRP activities. Currently, the IYRP is an alliance and collaboration between 312 organisations worldwide, and we are steadily growing.

In order to promote sustainable forestry and rangelands in general and to transform agrifood systems, the IYRP and its supporters are actively involved in awareness raising, advocacy, policy dialogue, knowledge generation and collation, coordination, linking key stakeholders, and building a partnership with FAO CoFo.

Some examples

Considering that rangelands – which include drylands and dryland forests and the production or livelihoods systems associated with these landscapes – are so diverse and extensive, it is undeniably important to forge collaboration to make meaningful impacts. The IYRP is such collaboration between partners who can make huge impacts that would allow the sustainable use and protection of forests as well as securing tenure rights for pastoralists and supporting their livelihoods and knowledge systems.

Our goal of rangeland sustainability includes forest sustainability, given that forests offer livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. Through our extensive networks worldwide, we advocate the protection of drylands and dryland forest through our engagement with stakeholders at global events such as the COPs, regional activities, national fora and conference as well as local pastoralist gatherings.

We as the IYRP have indeed been raising awareness and advocating for transformative actions.

An example of setting up sustainable and equitable value chains is from one of the supporting organisations of the IYRP, Meat Naturally in southern Africa, that implements mobile abattoirs to reach remote communities and to reduce the spread of diseases.

We have made policy inputs into how the African Union could implement The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, where it was re-emphasised the key role of pastoralists, their indigenous knowledge systems, connected landscapes and actions that promote disaster preparedness.

In our activities, we strongly encourage the participation of land users, including agrosilvopastoralists, to provide local context but also inform the need for relevant research and



actions to promote inclusivity, participation and empowerment. Our supporting organisations are involved in and arrange pastoralist gatherings to provide a platform for pastoralists to raise their voices. A recent pastoralism film festival also provided a platform for this. The IYRP has also been involved in the Dana Declaration +20 event on mobile pastoralism, where issues around livestock mobility and its connectedness with conservation were discussed. Pastoralist participation was prominent in this event.

We are also active in the space to promote restoration of drylands through our activity and presence at the recent UNCCD COP. A designated IYRP Working Group is developing a research paper on dryland restoration and associated policy recommendations.

We agree that any planting of trees should not result in large and long-lasting trade-offs. We are aware of these trade-offs and have highlighted the need to consider local livelihoods and pastoralists when embarking on reforestation projects, for example. Thus as noted, we as rangeland scientists, pastoralists and supporters are not against tree planting but we are against indiscriminate planting of trees that could, for example, transform existing grasslands and areas where trees are not endemic, into afforested areas or commercial plantations. These grasslands are important for pastoralists and offer them livelihoods. We take note of the need to implement carbon mitigation measures, but we also offer alternative options to consider rangelands themselves as landscapes that have tremendous carbon mitigation potential.

Thus, a further action of the IYRP would need to be forging a stronger partnership with CoFo, where we can find common ground on mitigation actions in forested and non-forested areas to achieve optimum climate mitigation but also continue to promote agrosilvopastoral livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and delivery of ecosystem services.

Thank you.