

Improving forage value chains in Afghanistan

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Assessing the systemic and gendered opportunities and constraints for innovation in forage value chains in Afghanistan, with a focus on Baghlan province, is the objective of a three-day workshop that started in Dubai on 3 July 2017.

The event is part of a joint research initiative between ICARDA and KIT (Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam), “[Forage options for smallholder livestock in water-scarce environments of Afghanistan](#)” project, which started in 2014 and will be completed in 2018.

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The workshop has brought together 20 stakeholders, including Afghan government officials, researchers, development practitioners, cooperative members, private seed and input suppliers, as well as farmers.

The participants will discuss types of cultivated forage varieties, different functions within the forage value chain, with a focus on innovation, and roles of stakeholders, with a focus on gender, and more specifically on the role of women given prevailing social and custom norms related to female engagement.

Through interaction with women, the organizers expect to identify the main drivers affecting the development and adoption of new knowledge, technologies and seed varieties within forage value chains, as well as how these drivers affect women and men differently.

Funded under an agreement between the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research ([ACIAR](#)) and ICARDA, the event is facilitated by Dr. Remco Mur and Dr. Yngve Braaten from KIT in collaboration with Dr. Shinan Kassam from ICARDA.