



[Home](#) > [News and Opinions](#) > Managing feed resources in Jordan's agro-pastoral production systems

## Managing feed resources in Jordan's agro-pastoral production systems

Submitted by DrylandSystems on December 17, 2014

One of the most pressing constraints facing dryland livestock farmers is the limited availability of feed – a significant threat to the fertility and performance of herds, a mainstay of agricultural production systems in arid and semi-arid regions. Sustainable and cost-effective solutions are therefore desperately needed to provide a stable source of nutrients capable of maintaining healthy reproductive cycles.

To this end, Dryland Systems scientists from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and their national partners at Jordan's National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE), have initiated discussions on current problems and the practices required to rehabilitate rangelands and improve resting and feed calendars.

This discussion will involve farmers, extension agents, and scientists, and solutions will be disseminated through Farmer Field days (FFDs). A recent FFD, organized jointly by Dryland Systems and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security, dealt with the issue of over-grazing and explored why over-exploitation had intensified in recent years.

One farmer pointed out: "In the past, we were all working on our fields, so were able to protect them from other herders entering. But, now we are all working for the government in offices and no longer work on the farm, so we're not able to protect our fields anymore."

Another farmer suggested that previous rules no longer applied – possibly the result of feed sources becoming increasingly scarce: "Before, farmers just put some stones on the edge of their fields and this was enough to prevent herders from entering into the field with their herds. But now, this system is not functioning anymore."

Finally, it was argued that the decline of traditional structures was to blame: "We used to hire rangers to protect parts of the rangeland, and if someone entered, a fine had to be paid to the local community. While the tribal land tenure system does not exist anymore, a new system hasn't been set up".

The solutions proposed to farmers included proven water harvesting techniques like contour furrowing and scarification, and the planting of drought-tolerant pastoral shrubs such as [Atriplex halimus](#) or [Salsola vermiculata](#).

The use of these pastoral resources will not only mitigate the costs of fodder in Jordan's Badia - or rangelands - but also contribute to the sustainability of livestock production systems. Cactus also demonstrates significant potential as a sustainable source of animal feed – and may also have a dual purpose since its fruit can be sold to supplement household income. ICARDA is now considering promoting the plant to farmers.

Finally, the need for improved coordination and collaboration among agro-pastoralists was raised - common property rangelands can only be managed sustainably and effectively if an entire community is aware of prevailing regulations and the benefits of commonly-held land. During droughts, in particular, a well-managed common rangeland provides users with greater flexibility – to go and graze where it is greener. Private land tenures, by comparison, offer extremely restrictive grazing possibilities.

Contacts: Jutta Werner ([j.werner\[at\]cgiar.org](mailto:j.werner[at]cgiar.org)), Mounir Louhaichi ([m.louhaichi\[at\]cgiar.org](mailto:m.louhaichi[at]cgiar.org))

yammer

0 Comments [drylandsystems](#)

Login

Recommend Share

Sort by Best

Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

### ALSO ON DRYLANDSYSTEMS

WHAT'S THIS?

#### Wfwegwe

1 comment • 7 months ago

[drylandsystems](#) — [wdfweg](#)

#### The Long Arm of Intellectual Property: Patenting Conventional Plants

3 comments • 6 months ago

[Dave Wood](#) — Ruben. The CGIAR could do this with its 'material under development'. For some Centres this was included in the Treaty but I think this was ...

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Privacy

## BLOG CATEGORIES

systems approach

water conservation  
South Asia  
Wealth and wellbeing  
Resilience  
Capacity building  
Gender Equality and Equity

---

## RECENT NEWS

Rural women empowered with knowledge to improve own livelihoods  
Drylands: the opportunities you never imagined  
Land was the missing link in development, until now

---

## TAGS

[dryland systems](#) [climate change](#) [resilience](#) [drylands](#) [gender](#) [adaptation](#) [land degradation](#) [sustainable land management](#) [natural resource management](#) [land degradation neutrality](#) [food security](#) [agriculture](#)

[More](#)

Led by:

Partners:



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#) - [Privacy and Policy](#)