



Expert Meeting

Developing a Rangeland Restoration / Rehabilitation Toolbox

16 - 18 April 2019

**Hotel Golden Tulip Taj Sultan
Hammamet South – Tunisia**

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Introduction

Within the context of designing and planning for a new comprehensive rangeland management toolbox for dry land areas can help promote sustainable land use, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in collaboration with The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Tunisian and Jordanian national partners, organized the expert consultation workshop on Developing a Rangeland Restoration / Rehabilitation Toolbox in Hammamet- Tunisia, 16-18 April 2019. The main objective of the workshop was to Develop a rangeland restoration / rehabilitation toolbox specific to the dry areas. This included a site-specific tool to manage agrosilvopastoral production systems sustainably in the dry areas, achieving a neutral level of degradation and offering a strong potential to restore degraded rangelands. The workshop brought together various regional and national delegates, from ministries, universities and research institutes and international organizations. Throughout the three-day workshop, presentations and discussions were held on the addressing the underlying root causes of agrosilvopastoral ecosystem degradation at the local scale and in different contexts, sustainable rangeland management practices and main representative case studies from the dry areas (MENA or WANA region).

Objectives and expected results of the workshops.

Based on the workshop agenda and the various exchanges undertaken among the participants, the expected results of the workshops can be summarized as follows:

- Exchanges on terminologies, tools and techniques for restoring / rehabilitating rangelands.
- Case study, approaches and lessons learned.
- Define and describe key sustainable rangeland management practices

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- Contribution to the development of a practical guide (Toolbox) for the restoration / rehabilitation of rangelands.
 - Illustrate how the toolbox is used (context/site specific) through scenarios from the region

The workshop was opened by Dr Mounir Louhaichi, (ICARDA principal scientist and project leader) to welcome all the attendants and the collaborating organizations who had made the event possible. He presented the main messages from this workshop, setting the context for discussions about methodologies. He urged participants to set up on a basis to develop and evaluate scenario-based concepts for different agroecological conditions.

The participants showed active involvement in the discussions with fruitful exchanges. The diversity of the participants' background and high level of expertise formed assets for the conduct of the workshop and helped it to run smoothly, while enhancing the exchange with concrete proposals and relevant case studies.

Based on an initial consultation with the workshop organizer, the content was clarified through specific presentations followed by discussions and working groups. The information exchange among participants was at a high level, approximately more than 7% of the workshop duration was devoted to structured discussions and working groups. The workshop was conducted in 8 sessions of one and a half hours each, with a 30-minute coffee break. The detailed agenda of the workshop is provided in Annex 2.

In addition, the workshop pedagogies approach promoted the active exchange among participants by avoiding the monopolization of speech. Besides, the discussions were structured and thematic-oriented, avoiding at times overflowing the subject.

During the workshop, participants highlighted the most important themes to be identified when developing a rangeland restoration / rehabilitation scenario:

1. Terminologies clarification and importance
2. Description of key sustainable practices for rangelands restoring and rehabilitating
3. Assembling the information and experiences in the region
4. Documentation of local knowledge
5. Participatory approach
6. Analysis of the rangeland ecosystem goods and services
7. Integration and multidisciplinary of interventions
8. Documentation of adopted procedures and approaches
9. Characterization of territory and landscape approach
10. Future Communication program.

Figure (1) summarizes the main themes discussed by the participants.



Figure 1. The most themes to be identified when developing a rangeland restoration / rehabilitation scenario.

Working groups

Based on discussions of criteria and experiences, three case studies were identified (Figure 2):

- Middle East Badia (Jordanian Badia)
- North African rangelands (The collective rangelands in southern Tunisia)
- Mixed agro-pastoral system (Central Tunisia)



Figure 2. Identification of case studies and distribution of working groups

Synthesis of discussions and case studies.

The most important suggestions / remarks raised by the participants following the working groups exercises are reported below:

Group 1. <i>Badia</i>	Group 2. Experiences in the management of collective rangelands in southern Tunisia	Group 3. Experiences of mixed agro-pastoral system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for local community involvement • Importance of the water harvesting • Area's limitation • Integrated interventions and its impact on the local population's income • Diversity and diversification of techniques • Roles of local community arrangements • The cost of feed supplementation (barley) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important pastoral lands • Collective rangelands specifications • Structuring interventions • Role and cost of feed supplementation • Water and soil conservation techniques • Promotion of community-based organizations • Intensive impact on investments and sustainability • Failure of shrub plantations • Participatory approach developed but still requiring support • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral vision of rangelands • Diversification of interventions • Importance of fodder shrubs/trees • Limited number of herds • Movement of herds to the North (Fallow) • Frequency of drought periods • Expansion of croplands • Importance of the participatory approach and Community based organization • Significant cost of supplementation • Promotion of indigenous legumes and establishment of pastoral seeds production system

Workshop evaluation elements

- In general, the level of interest among participation was very good. Also, the qualification of the participants resulted in a positive contribution and dynamics discussion among working groups.
- Regarding the organization and logistics relating to workshop arrangements, the participants greatly appreciated the reception, catering, accommodation and service conditions. Note that the training room was pleasant and well appointed. Overall, the conditions for hosting and running the workshop were considered to be very satisfactory.
- In terms of assessing workshop expectations: The opinions of the participants, although a little vague at the beginning, were clarified as the work progressed. The majority of participants found the workshop outputs to be very interesting and meet their expectations with the acquisition of new technical concepts.
- For the moderation and the pedagogy used: The participants fully adhered to the moderation method adopted and respected the rules of the activities.

Next steps:

- The development of the practical guide requires a contribution from all participants prepare diversified technical modules based on different themes addressed during the workshop. sending contributions was discussed and agreed based on schedule to meet deadlines .
- Communication and circulation of information: Some participants insisted on maintaining communication within the group by ensuring exchanges for the validation of the guide. The proposal was accepted and the offices of ICARDA and IUCN in Amman that will ensure the flow and the exchange of information.

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Expert Meeting Agenda

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Overall objective:

- Develop a rangeland restoration / rehabilitation toolbox specific to the dry areas

Expected outcomes:

- Define and describe key sustainable rangeland management practices
- Illustrate how the toolbox is used (context/site specific) through scenarios from the region



Day 1: Tuesday 16 April 2019

08:30 – 10:00	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICARDA - IUCN - Participants <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rangeland degradation - Objective(s) of the meeting <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration vs. rehabilitation 	<p>All</p> <p>Mounir Louhaichi</p> <p>Azaiez O. Belgacem</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Rangeland Management Practices (SRMP) <p>Brainstorming (SRMP)</p>	<p>Abu Zanat M.</p> <p>Y. Saadani (Moderator)</p>
11:30 – 12:15	<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory approach (case of PRODESUD) - IUCN experience (focus on <i>Hima</i>) 	<p>Y. Saadani</p> <p>Samar Taha</p>
12:15 – 12:45	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential innovations in rangeland restoration 	<p>Abu Zanat M.</p>

12:45 – 13:00	Template (format) characterize/describe SRMP Review ICARDA R4D example	Y. Saadani	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	All	
14:00 – 15:30	Agree on 4 main representative case studies from the dry areas (MENA or WANA region) Define main criteria for each case study	Y. Saadani Mohamed Neffati	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break		
15:45 – 17:00	Example # 1: Scenario # 1 Jordanian Badia (all) Develop flowchart for scenario # 1 Define working groups and assign tasks	Y. Saadani	
Day # 2: Wednesday 17 April 2019			
08:00 – 10:00	Group # 1: Scenario # 2 (description and flowchart) Group # 2: Scenario # 3 (description and flowchart)	Working groups	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break		
10:30 – 12:30	Group # 1: Scenario # 4 Group # 2: Develop/Review SRMP	Working groups	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 – 15:00	Develop/Review SRMP		
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break		
15:30 – 17:00	Develop/Review SRMP	Working groups	
Day 3: Thursday 18 April 2019			
08:30 – 10:00	Group presentations - SRMP - Four scenarios	Working groups	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break		
10:30 – 12:00	General discussion	Y. Saadani	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	All	
14:00	Departure		
14:00 – 16:00	Writing minutes & agreeing on next step(s)	ICARDA and IUCN team	
			