

Side event – “Multi-disciplinary action research for collective action and sustainable rangeland management”

13 November 2024, from 3 pm to 5 pm

At the Conference on “(Agro)pastoralism in Africa, current dynamics and prospects, in preparation for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)”, Saly, Senegal, 12th to 14 November 2024.

Organized by, CGIAR (ICARDA/ILRI) & CIRAD



RATIONALE

Rangeland governance is quite complex and cannot be effectively addressed in isolation from the imperatives of territorial intelligence and economic diversification in pastoral areas. Both of these broader concepts require an innovative 'territorial approach' that promotes social and economic interactions that pragmatically and systematically address the challenges of rangeland pressure and governance within broader territorial development perspectives. Such an approach would involve innovative interventions and targeted investments covering both direct and indirect drivers of pressure on rangelands that cause their degradation and marginalization.

OBJECTIVE

This side event aims to review and discuss some of the existing and applied multidisciplinary research approaches (Tunisie, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, etc.), which are being used to pilot, support, and enable collective action for sustainable rangeland management. Some of the approaches used in Tunisia and Senegal will be considered to reflect on existing and available tools for designing, testing, and promoting enhanced pastoral territorial development investments.

CONTENT OF THE SIDE EVENT

The side event will present the available experience and ongoing work of CGIAR, CIRAD, and their national partners in North and West Africa, focusing on the respective multidisciplinary research approaches used to promote collective action and rangeland restoration in pastoral areas, illustrating best practices and discussing key successful outcomes of these approaches and remaining challenges. The session will be facilitated by researchers from both countries and will devote time to listing and discussing some of the well-documented results of successful multidisciplinary work experiences.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations from the Pastoral Living Laboratory (PLL) in Tunisia and similar approaches in Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso will be presented. As illustration, the Tunisian PLL, was established in South Tunisia since 2019.



ILLUSTRATIONS

Within this PLL, multidisciplinary action research has been carried out in various fields (community empowerment, farmer organisations, rangeland ecology, animal nutrition, policy engagement, etc.) with local, national and international partners. Rather than relying solely on researchers, the PLL approach encourages collaborative experimentation with partners to identify research needs and to co-design, implement and scale up technical, social and institutional innovations. Such 'socio-technical innovations' identified and prioritised through partnerships will be more affordable, viable and applicable to smallholder farmers and agro-pastoralists. Through a living lab approach, stakeholders can also collectively monitor and evaluate their impact and decide on the need for further adaptive or basic research and development to address outcomes and impacts. Similar approaches to the PLL, in Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso will also be presented and discussed.

The key dimensions of multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement for collective rangeland restoration are Strong participation (involving partnership between local, national and international actors towards a flexible and holistic approach to restoration); multidisciplinary coverage (not only working on rangelands or rangeland ecology, but also addressing other complementary social and institutional dimensions of sustainable rangeland management and territorial development), etc. This may also include work on complementary technical and economic innovations that can enhance the commitment and ownership of Living Lab stakeholders in the actions to be piloted and the results to be achieved.

PROGRAM 2 HOURS

- **Presentation 1.** “Introduction to the session”, Irene Carpentier, CIRAD-ICARDA.
- **Presentation 2.** “Collective Action For Sustainable Management Of Pastoral Resources, - examples From Pastoral Territories In Southern Tunisia And Senegalese Ferlo” - Irene Carpentier, CIRAD-ICARDA; Baba Ba, ILRI.
- **Presentation 3.** “Local Conventions for Natural Resource Management in the Mopti Region, Mali: Improving Agro-Pastoral Resource Governance through Consultation and Collective Action.” Baba Ba, ILRI.
- **Presentation 4.** "Multi-disciplinary action research for collective action - case of a business model for agroecological transition of a milk value chain in Burkina Faso", Eric Vall - CIRAD.
- **Open discussion Session** (1 hour):
 - a. What are other criteria and good practices for successful and effective action research?
 - b. What are other possible outcomes of successful action research in pastoral areas?

