



CONFERENCE

"Multifunctionality of livestock grazing systems, a lever to envision its possible futures"

(Montpellier, Agropolis, April 19th, 2024)

(Provisional Agenda)

Rationale

Livestock farming is strongly questioned in general on its contribution to sustainable food systems, including livestock grazing systems on more specific aspects. Mono-criteria assessments that focus on animal production, greenhouse gas emissions, carbon-sequestration capabilities, threats/preservation of biodiversity, etc. fuel a controversial view of the activity and do not help to think about a future by maintaining its own characteristics... Are there specific ways to chart the future of this activity beyond proposals to intensify productions that reduce its own capacity as a low-input activity? Its links to land use, its social and environmental contributions, its typified productions, the cultural identities that these types of livestock system assert are regularly brandished to contribute to a more positive vision of the activity but sometimes by freezing it in a timeless and conservatory permanence more than prospective. A more objective and holistic assessment of the large multifunctionality of these livestock grazing systems might be one of the possible ways to draw their future. The Action Network "Restoring Value to Grassland" of the multi-stakeholder platform Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) organize this conference to enrich debates about this approach.

General objectives

The aims of the conference are to:

- revisiting the concept of multifunctionality

- report on the work undertaken for several years within the framework of GASL Action Network “Restoring value to grassland” on case studies in contrasting contexts throughout the world and to identify the lessons learnt from cross-cutting analysis
- compare these approaches with other works carried out in different regions of the world on livestock grazing activity
- elaborate on recommendations on the research priorities to be pursued and the design and implementation of appropriate public actions.

This conference should also be considered as a step in the preparation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026, and the organization of a pre-congress workshop at the XIIth International Rangeland Congress (IRC - Adelaide, Australia in 2025)

Provisional agenda

Montpellier, Agropolis. Friday 19th April 2024 - 9:00 – 17:30

Morning: 9:00-12:15

- Welcome to Montpellier Agropolis, CIRAD and INRAE
- Introduction to GASL and Action Network “Restoring value to grassland”: Shirley Tarawali (FAO-GASL Chair), Alexandre Ickowicz (GASL-AN2 Chair) (30mn)
- Keynote presentation on **‘Livestock grazing systems and society challenges’: how to unlock the cognitive dead end?** (Guest Speaker: Saverio Krätli, Associate research fellow DITSL Germany; Tufts University, Boston US; CEI-ISCTE Lisbon, Portugal; Hon. Ed. in chief of Nomadic Peoples journal, 30+15 minutes)
- A series of presentations aimed at identifying the salient features of the studies conducted within the GASL AN2 network on the three following topics: (3 X (2x10 + 10) minutes and 30 minutes of synthesis exchange)
 - Multifunctionality, multi-stakeholder approach, collective action and ability to reconnect livestock grazing systems and society (AN2 Argentina and France case studies)
 - Importance of combining various forms of knowledge to account for and equip multifunctional approaches (AN2 Brazil and Senegal case studies)
 - What changes are instigated or facilitated for public action concerning livestock grazing systems and its future through the multifunctionality approach? (AN2 Mongolia and Vietnam case studies)

LUNCH: 12:15 – 13:45

Afternoon: 13:45-17:30

- **A comparison of analysis of grazing livestock systems multiple functions** by invited personalities from different regions of the world (Europe, South Africa, Asia, South America). (4 x 20+10 minutes)
- Bharat Kakade, BAIF, India: "Grassland management for Livestock based Sustainable Livelihoods in India"
- Igshaan Samuels, ARC, South Africa: "Unveiling the past and present drivers shaping rangeland multifunctionality in South Africa's pastoral drylands"
- Bertrand Dumont, INRAE, France : "The multiple values of European grass-based farms along pedoclimatic and stocking density gradients"
- Muhammad Ibrahim, CATIE, Costa Rica: "Grazing livestock systems, landscape and biodiversity management"
- **15h45 - 16h00 : Coffee break**
- **16h00 - 17h15: Two round-table/Panels/Debates** (30 + 40 min)

1. *Is Multifunctionality a useful concept to envision possible futures for grazing livestock given contrasting challenges (from North to South, from East to West)?*

Arona Diaw LDB, Emmanuel Coste CNE, Anne Mottet FIDA, Michele Nori EC-DG ARD, Hsin Huang IMS.

2. *Is Multifunctionality an actionable lever for development projects and public action involving these forms of livestock?*

EC-DG INTPA (Philippe Thomas), FAO (Gregorio Velasco Gil, PKH), World Bank (tbc), French Ministry of Agriculture (Hélène Hampartzoumian), AFD (Alexandre Bouchot), CGIAR-ILRI (Fiona Flintan, ILRI), INRAE-ACT (Benoît Dedieu), CIRAD (Sylvain Perret).

- **17:15 - 17h30: Wrap-up and closing: Bernard Hubert (GASL-AN2)**