

Principles and strategies to safeguard livestock mobility and access to pastoral resources in the Sahel.

Summary of the recommendations of the second working group

Recommendations for the Sahelian States

- Recognise the importance of pastoralism as an ecologically well adapted exploitation of the natural resources, and its significance for the national economies.
- Introduce and harmonise legislation to ensure pastoral populations have access to the space and resources they need.
- Include pastoral livestock keeping when considering planning, decentralisation and ecological improvements.

Recommendations for development agents

- Take into account pastoral livestock keeping in all development projects and in particular those touching directly pastoral or agro-pastoral zones.
- Encourage pastoral livestock keeping on the same level as agriculture, in particular with regards to credit possibilities etc.
- Reinforce professional pastoral organisations.
- Continue to support research on pastoralism.

Recommendations for research

- Orient research also towards institutional and socio-economical aspects of pastoralism.
- Carry out surveys into the significant changes that occurred during the two last decades (1980-2000) and to document the current economic importance of the pastoral systems.
- Support surveys into the historical and current legal texts concerning the mobility of “livestock herds”, and explore legal ways to secure use-rights of natural resources by pastoral systems.
- Observe and evaluate the decentralisation process within the livestock sector.