

Social and institutional management aspects of rangelands: what role should pastoralists play?

Summary of the recommendations of the third working group

For the Sahelian States

- Include, as a political choice, all those engaged in pastoralism in forming the legislative framework for managing the pastoral resources.

This should include time to experiment with and evaluate the social practices related to a concerted management of pastoral resources. The objective is to produce a legislative framework based on existing social practices (pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, agriculturalists, communities, state) and at various community levels (inter-villages, inter-community, inter-region and countries).

For the pastoral organisations and their partners in development

- Develop information and teaching networks on the local, national and international levels, making use of existing practices.

This development will be based on middlemen (Rouga in Niger, Khalifa in Chad, Dioro in Burkina Faso and Mali), on markets, on livestock festivals, on exchange trips and on rural radios.

- Improve the capabilities of the pastoralists in organisation, competence and efficient use of local resources, so that they can play a full role on all levels, in particular within the framework of decentralisation (rural communities, inter-communality).

Real support is required from the development partners such as financiers and development projects. The new organisations must acquire a true legitimacy and become representative.

For the development projects

- Where regional planning is dealing with settling pastoral communities, a combination of viable territorial settling (in social, economical and ecological terms) that preserves pastoral mobility should be identified.
- In pastoral resource management programs, take into account the social needs of the pastoral populations (education, health, provisioning) and the aspects of animal production (health and feeding).

The actors concerned should be included in defining the regional planning choices and the priorities in each field.