

Project implementation workshop

“Identifying low carbon and climate resilient pathways for the ruminant sector in the selected countries of Central Asia”

4 October, 2019

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

BACKGROUND

The FAO Strategy on Climate Change emphasizes livestock as one of the most important sectors for the climate change adaptation and mitigation. The main source of the livestock-related emissions in the region is from the enteric fermentation and manure management produced by ruminants. At the same time, grassland management practices can increase carbon sequestration by increasing productivity or reducing carbon losses. As ruminants are an essential source of nutrition and livelihoods for the vulnerable populations, the actions to enhance adaptation to climate variability are needed to be taken. The national ruminant management policies or programmes can streamline climate-related practices in order to improve productivity and sustainable management. Policies related to the ruminant sector can be enhanced to encompass climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and incorporate consistent, integrated strategies that focus on the potential synergies between mitigation and adaptation in the context of the agricultural sector. There is obviously a need for an effective policy that will optimize ruminant management and capitalize on the country's ruminant resources taking into account the climate change issues. The FAO assistance is instrumental considering that this topic is poorly understood in the region and not supported under the ongoing and implemented interventions. The aim of this project is to evaluate the role of the ruminants in reducing agricultural GHG emissions and the potential in grassland carbon sequestration, to prepare a groundwork for the successive large-scale projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the ruminant production sector. The review of ruminant sector policies will evaluate the potential to increase productivity and mitigate GHG emissions by improving the husbandry, feeding and manure management practices. The mitigation and adaptation to climate change will enhance the resilience of rural communities, including a gender aspect. Additionally, this project will contribute to the assessment of the ruminant related information and development of database (GLEAM) by complementing the currently available data. Overall, this project will sustain rural development, food security and livelihoods, ecosystem services and maintenance of traditional production systems under the climate change impact.

OBJECTIVE

Share information and practices on ruminant production systems, pasture management and its relation to climate change in the 3 targeted countries of Central Asia. The information will help to the GHG assessment. In order to improve GLEAM baseline data, after the collecting the preliminary information from Activities 1.1 and Activity 2.1 a consultation with local experts could be carried out along with the workshops for characterization of ruminant production systems. Production systems can be defined by a set of productivity, resource use and socio-economic variables, but for GLEAM, the starting point is to define the diets (feeding practices feed availability and feed quality among production systems) and then move to the herd parameters, manure mgmt., allocation, etc. Another component is the herd population & distribution.

Expected outputs:

- Knowledge and practices on ruminants production systems, its location among the stakeholders shared
- Gaps identified and next steps defined

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METHODOLOGY AND PROGRAMME

In order to produce a successful workshop, FAO would like to involve the participants in a pre-consultation process to collect relevant information regarding the ruminant production systems, pasture management and its description in Central Asia. The consultation process will allow FAO to prepare an overview of the current situation in the country and tailor the discussion during the workshop.

Preparatory consultation process

FAO will send a questionnaire to key actors in the government (policy developers, including local governments and food producers' organizations and other relevant CSO actors to gather information at national and local level (Annex 1). This process will provide a better understanding of the identified information from the activities 1.1 and 2.1 and its gaps.

Workshop program

1 day-workshop to discuss the finding results and to complement them. Information collected during the preparatory process will be used as a base for the discussion. The workshop will use a participatory methodology to be proposed based on the expected outputs. All methodologies have to promote dialogue and knowledge sharing.

Day 1

Morning – What is a current status of the ruminant production and pasture management in Tajikistan?

Short presentation followed by a discussion using fish bowl methodology

Afternoon - Working groups

Working group activities (3 working groups)

WG 1 – opportunities and constraints for ruminant production

WG 2 – opportunities and constraints for pasture management

TARGET AUDIENCE

This workshop will target 1 country and four different groups of stakeholders:

- Policymakers,
- Farmers representatives, food producers' organization and other relevant CSO actors
- Academia
- FAO national staffs

It is expected 20-30 participants in the workshop.

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Annex 1 – Description of the current ruminant production systems and pasture management in the targeted country

This questionnaire aims to collect the information on ruminant production systems and pasture management.

Please answer each of the questions below and if you have relevant data, report, case studies that can be useful, please add the links.

1. What types of the production systems you have in your country?
2. Define the diets (feeding practices, feed availability and feed quality among production systems) and then move to the herd parameters, manure mgmt., allocation, etc. Another component is the herd population & distribution.
3. What are the challenges of ruminant production and pasture management?
4. Does the national stakeholder promote climate change mitigation via ruminant production/pasture management?
5. How productivity of ruminant production?
6. How to make pasture management more sustainable?
7. How from your point of view ruminant production is regulated via legislative base?
8. Do you have specific credit lines for the development of livestock/pasture management? In addition, for family farmers/smallholder farmers?
9. Does your country have subsidies and incentives?
10. Information on pasture and its management
11. Numbers of livestock
12. Management systems (stocking rates, biological control)
13. Manure management
14. Information on diseases
15. Is the income from the livestock production goes for export or for the domestic provision? What do they sell particularly?
16. What is the background for feed production (land use change, fertilizers and chemicals used, manure excreted and applied to soil, agricultural operations (tractors), feed processing, transportation)?