



20/08/2020

Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Email: fao-hq@fao.org

Subject: Support to the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

The National Pasture Users Association of Kyrgyzstan, as the representative of all pastoralists in Kyrgyzstan, fully supports, on behalf of and in the interest of the members of the association, the initiative of Mongolia to proclaim 2026 “International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists”.

Livestock production is the main source of income for more than 65 percent of Kyrgyzstan's population, and is not only one of the main types of employment in rural areas, but a source of livelihood for more than 3 million people. Similar to the rest of the world our rangelands are facing increasingly unstable climatic conditions, degradation and desertification. The adoption of the law «On pastures» in Kyrgyzstan in 2009 became one of the most important decisions of our Government to preserve all available natural resources. Consequently, the right to manage and use pastures was transferred to the local communities - the pastoral committees. Since then, 454 pastoral user communities throughout the country have been established and national pasture reforms have been effectively implemented. A large number of projects have been implemented in the country to improve pastoral infrastructure, increase its productivity and conserve biodiversity. In recent years, there has been an increase in awareness of the rural population, recognition of the value of pastoral resources and importance of preserving national pastoral traditions in order to preserve healthy pastures, as well as increasing the involvement of the local population in key strategic decisions on pasture management.

However, the preservation and improvement of the quality of Kyrgyzstan's pastures require support and sustainable development of the pasture users' associations themselves, development of their potential and enhancement of their capabilities, protecting their rights, as well as supporting local initiatives to improve pastoral resources and protect biodiversity. We strive to make local pasture user communities strong and independent associations, supported by all stakeholders, capable of effectively managing pastures and supporting improvements in livelihoods and welfare of pasture users throughout the country.

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists could provide the impetus needed for global understanding of the importance of rangelands. This initiative will help to draw attention to the acute problems of pasture users, the need for equitable access to natural resources for all, improved management and use, and restoration of land resources. In addition, the International Year of Pastoralists will make it possible to promote a policy of careful and humane use of natural resources, strengthen cultural values and traditions related to pastoral lands, and strengthen and protect the rights of pastoralists. As a result of multiple activities under the umbrella of this initiative, we expect to improve gender diversity and involve young people in decision-making processes, to raise Government awareness on sector's problems and innovative ways of addressing them, Increased funding for the sector by donor organizations, both within the framework of this initiative and in support of global development and environmental goals.

Respectfully,
Director General A. Egemberdiev
on behalf of the members
of the National Association
of Pasture Users of Kyrgyzstan
(454 pastoral committees).

