



20 February 2023

Dear International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Coordination Committee,

I have the pleasure to refer to our ***“IYRP Summer School initiative by Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems”***, which will see its first cycle during the third COFO Working Group session in Amman, Jordan, from **Tuesday, 12 September 2023 to Friday, 15 September 2023**.

The COFO Working Group understands the important role the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists has in highlighting the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism and advocating for increased investment in the pastoral livestock sector, the scaling up of sustainable land management practices, ecosystem transformation, and equitable access to markets.

Furthermore, being a subsidiary body aimed at developing a comprehensive understanding of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems and the promotion of good practices for their protection, the COFO Working Group feels compelled to contribute to your efforts by facilitating cross-regional expertise exchange on innovative and sustainable agrosilvopastoral systems through this summer school initiative.

We are confident this new collaboration will provide much needed Drylands Champions, with the tools to transform the way drylands and agrosilvopastoral systems are managed and to disseminate sustainable innovations around the different dryland regions.

Considering all of the above, and on behalf the COFO WG Steering Committee, I would like to express our gratitude for your endorsement and our eagerness for the beginning of this fruitful partnership to promote drylands and agrosilvopastoral systems restoration, and sustainable management.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Malmer
Chairperson
Committee on Forestry Working Group on
Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems