

14/05/2024

Support to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026

This letter is to acknowledge that the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) supports the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP). SLU is committed to contribute to increased knowledge and capacity of relevance to the IYRP.

SLU is one of the leading agriculture and forestry universities in the world, and is committed to contribute to the sustainable development goals through partnerships for global development, as expressed in the [Policy for SLU's global contribution to Agenda 2030](#). Issues relating to rangelands and pastoralists are an important part of these efforts and at the heart of many of SLU's collaborations and processes. SLU contributes directly to many of the core aims of the IYRP, including increasing worldwide understanding of importance of rangelands and pastoralists for food security, economy, environment, and cultural heritage; filling knowledge gaps about rangelands and pastoralists through participatory research and communication; and promoting informed, science-based policy and legislation for current and future generations. Activities that contribute to increased knowledge and capacities relating to rangelands and pastoralists include the research collaboration *Drylands Transform*, which investigates the links between land health, livestock based livelihoods, human well-being and land management governance together with partners in East Africa. The closely linked partnership *Restore4More* identifies synergies in the biodiversity-water-climate nexus to accelerate restoration of degraded rangelands for improved climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhanced biodiversity and water and food security in the drylands of East Africa. SLU researchers are engaged in many collaborations to increase knowledge on improved animal health and reproductive health, animal breeding and genetics of relevance for pastoral communities. One example is research focusing on the role of animal source foods (from dairy production) for undernutrition and stunting in children in northern Rwanda that study animal husbandry, feeding and management practices, and One Health issues like zoonoses. In 2023, SLU contributed to and co-organized the first Drylands Summer School in Jordan. The school was hosted by FAO in partnership with the IYRP and the FAO Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems. This year SLU is again contributing to the Drylands Summer School, which this time will be held in Kenya.

SLU furthermore intends to communicate about IYRP through different channels, to contribute to increased awareness about rangelands and pastoralists, and looks forward to a constructive relation with the IYRP coalition in this regard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sara Gräslund', is placed above the name of the signatory.

Sara Gräslund, Head of SLU Global