



## Regional Consultation on Sustainable Grassland and Pasture Management in Asia 27 to 30 November 2015, Lanzhou University, China

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### Background

The 1.2 billion ha of grasslands constitute approximately 35 percent of the Asia-Pacific land area and livestock grazing is the dominant form of land use of grassland, providing meat, milk and fibre as marketable products. Although the estimates of the geographic extent and severity of grassland degradation vary, there is a general consensus that in many places, grassland degradation is an issue of serious concern. The causes of grassland degradation are complex, variable and contested, but in most instances grassland degradation is the result of the interplay between climatic factors, herbivorous animal populations and socio-economic forces.

In addition to its important functions of water regulation and biodiversity maintenance, grasslands are being seen as a major carbon sink, with the potential to sequester 1.5 gigatonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-eq of carbon annually if a broad range of grazing, pasture improvement practices were applied to all of the world's grasslands. There are large discrepancies between estimated potential C-sequestration by grasslands and field observations and realistic levels of achievable C-sequestration under the diverse prevailing circumstances are lacking. Furthermore, verification of grassland C-sequestration is extremely difficult and trade-offs exist between enhancing grassland C-sequestration and other ecosystem and 'productive' functions.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) noted that degradation of grasslands can have severe negative local impacts and far-reaching consequences, including soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, desertification, dust storms, diminished livelihood opportunities, and reduced yields of products and services. The conference also stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the underlying causes of grassland degradation and loss, and urged FAO support for related analysis and the formulation of action plans for addressing such factors. In particular, the APRC requested FAO to support member countries in advocacy, awareness raising and engagement of key decision-makers in support of grassland restoration, building technical capacities and formulating policies and measures to create an enabling environment for effective grassland restoration; and exploring opportunities for innovative financing of restoration activities.



**Regional Consultation on Sustainable Grassland and Pasture Management in Asia**  
27 to 30 November 2015, Lanzhou University, China

**PROGRAM**

Time	Program
<b>27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Friday)</b>	
08:00-22:00	Registration at Legend Hotel of Lanzhou.
17:00-20:00	Welcome reception and dinner (In the Dining Hall-The second floor of the Danguiyuan Building)
<b>28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Saturday)</b>	
07:30-09:00	Breakfast (Dining room of Legend Hotel of Lanzhou) Opening Ceremony <b>Chair: Prof. Ruijun Long</b> (Lanzhou University, China) Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors College (8th floor of Guanyun Building)
09:00-09:30	Welcome Address by Prof. Baotian Pan (Vice President of Lanzhou University, China) Welcome Address by Mr. Chunguang Ouyang (Director of Foreign Affairs Office Gansu Provincial Sci. & Tech. Department, China) Welcome Address by Dr. Vinod Ahuja (Livestock Policy Officer, FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand)
09:30-10:00	Group photo and Tea break in lobby of Cuiying Honors College
<b>Session 1 Country presentation</b>	
<i>Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors</i>	
<b>Chair: Dr. Fachun DU</b> , Yunnan Agricultural University, China	
10:00-10:25	Rangelands in Silk Road countries by Prof. <b>Victor Squires</b>
10:25-10:50	Country report: China [Dr. <b>Yongfei Bai</b> ]
10:50-11:15	Country report: Mongolia [Ms. <b>D. Dulmaa</b> ]
11:15-11:40	Country report: Japan [Dr. <b>Shoji Matsura</b> ]
11:40-2:05	Country Report: Korea [Dr. <b>Jong Geun Kim</b> ]
12:05-14:00	Lunch (Dining Hall-The second floor of the Danguiyuan Building)
<b>Session 2 Country presentation</b>	
<i>Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors</i>	
<b>Chair: Dr. Gopal Rawat</b> , Wildlife Institute of India, India	
14:00-14:25	Country report: India [Dr. <b>Devendra Malviya</b> ]
14:25-14:50	Country report: Pakistan [Dr. <b>Abdul Jasra</b> ]
14:50-15:15	Country report: Bhutan [Dr. <b>Karma Phuntso</b> ]
15:15-15:40	Country report: Nepal [Dr. <b>Madan Koirala</b> ]
15:40-16:00	Tea Break
<b>Session 3: Technical presentations</b>	
<i>Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors</i>	
<b>Chair: Prof. Sergio Garcia</b> , The University of Sydney, Australia	
16:00-16:30	Transdisciplinary approaches to sustainable management of grassland ecosystems under global change: A case of Tibetan grasslands-- <b>Ruijun Long</b>
16:30-17:00	Empowering Herders and Pastoralists: Sustainable Rangeland Management Conservation, Livelihoods & Governance -- <b>Irene Hoffman</b> [via skype]
17:00-17:30	Valuing grassland for social, cultural, economic and environmental solutions - - <b>Liz Weddenburg</b>
18:00-20:30	Dinner (Dining Hall-The second floor of the Danguiyuan Building)




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**29<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Sunday)**

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07:30-09:00 Breakfast (Dining room of Legend Hotel of Lanzhou)

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***Session 4: Technical presentations***

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*Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors*

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**Chair: Dr Yu Yoshihara, Tohoku University, Japan**

**Dr. Jiafa Luo, AgResearch of New Zealand, New Zealand**

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09:00-09:30 Opportunities for reclamation of degraded grassland using fodder plants--**Harinder Makkar**

09:30-10:00 Grassland Restoration in the context of Climate Change Mitigation: Issues and options--**Jianchu Xu**

10:00-10:30 Potential for carbon sequestration and grassland restoration in salty areas: An East Asia Perspective--**John Leake**

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10:30-11:00 Tea Break

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11:00-11:30 Toward sustainable restoration of degraded land and food security in the agro-pastoral region in northern China-- **Xueyong Zhao**

11:30-12:00 Losses in pasture productivity in intensified grazing-based systems: can we apply a similar model to extensive grassland ecosystems--**Sergio Garcia**

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12:00-14:00 Lunch (Dining Hall-The second floor of the Danguiyuan Building)

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***Session 5: Panel discussion***

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*Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors*

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**Moderators: Vinod Ahuja and Harinder Makkar**

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14:00-15:00 Panel discussion: Grassland restoration: Causes, solutions and the response

**Panelists: Prof. Wenjun Li, Prof. Lynn Huntsinger, Prof. Atai Ayatkhaan**

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***Session 6: Panel discussion***

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*Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors*

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**Moderators: Vinod Ahuja and Harinder Makkar**

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15:00-16:00 Panel discussion: Grassland management: policy, institution and science

**Panelists: Yu Yoshihara, Hyowon Lee, Muhammad Ismail**

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16:00-16:30 Tea Break

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***Session 7: Action plan preparation***

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*Venue: In the meeting room of Cuiying Honors*

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**Moderators: Vinod Ahuja and Harinder Makkar**

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16:30-17:30 Moderated discussion to develop a preliminary action plan for grassland restoration.

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***Session 8: Conclusions and closing***

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17:30-18:00 Free discussions

Conclusions and closing

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18:00-20:30 Farewell dinner (Dining Hall-The second floor of the Danguiyuan Building)

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**30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Monday)**

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09:00-18:00 Departure

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