

Pre-Tropentag workshop 12: Wednesday morning, 18 September 2019

Research in pastoral systems: filling gaps and avoiding methodological traps

Organisers: Ann Waters-Bayer, Agrecol Association; Brigitte Kaufmann, DITSL (German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture); and CELEP (Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism)

Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2019, 09:00 – 12:00 h

Venue: University of Kassel, Hollaendischer Platz, Lecture Room (Hörsaal) 3 (H3) Campus Centre

Why are there so many misunderstandings about pastoralism and rangeland management? The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) asked the UN Environment Programme to make an analysis of the gaps in data and other information on pastoralism and rangelands. This workshop takes the opportunity of a Tropentag with the theme “Filling gaps and removing traps for sustainable resources management” to present the findings of the UNEP gap analysis and to show how the gaps could be filled while avoiding methodological traps in the process. Participants will learn about research needs and relevant methods to study pastoralism and rangeland management.

The lead author of the gap analysis, Kathrine Johnsen (Norway), will present the main findings of the study team. Panellists from Benin, Kenya,

Turkey and Germany will discuss how researchers could fill some of the gaps identified in the study. They will also highlight challenges in conducting research on pastoralism, e.g. mobility and multifunctionality in common property systems of resource use, and suggest appropriate research methods for working with mobile peoples using heterogeneous rangeland resources. They will offer examples of such research in West and Eastern Africa and in the Mediterranean region. Discussion will then be opened up to the other participants.

This workshop is meant primarily for graduate and postgraduate students, researchers and lecturers dealing with issues of resource use and management by pastoralists and other stakeholders in rangeland areas. Other interested individuals are also welcome.

Programme:

- 9:00–9:40 Kathrine Johnsen, Norwegian Institute for Water Research: **A case of benign neglect – gaps in knowledge about pastoralism & rangelands** (lead author of UNEP study) – presentation & questions of clarification
- 9:40–10:00 Hussein Wario, Center for Research & Development in Drylands (CRDD) Kenya: **Linking time and space in research on pastoral mobility** – presentation & questions of clarification
- 10:00–10:20 Georges Djohy, University of Parakou, Benin: **Taking gender issues into account in research on pastoralist organisation** – presentation & questions of clarification
- 10:20–10:35 Break
- 10:35–10:50 Engin Yilmaz, Yolda Initiative, Turkey: **Investigating links between pastoral mobility and biological and cultural diversity** – presentation & questions of clarification
- 10:50–11:10 Brigitte Kaufmann, German Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), Germany: **Research on pastoral development: “a house full of trap doors”** – presentation & questions of clarification
- 11:10–11:55 Discussion among panellists and with other workshop participants about emerging issues (moderation: Ann Waters-Bayer)
- 11:55–12:00 Wrap-up: Brigitte Kaufmann and Ann Waters-Bayer

Open-air film festival: To set the scene, short films about pastoralism in various parts of the world will be shown on the eve of the workshop – on Tuesday 17 September from 19:00 h onwards – in the amphitheatre of the University of Kassel near Hollaendischer Platz. If it rains, the films will be shown in the old Lecture Hall 1 just beside the amphitheatre. Be prepared to be flexible and mobile – like pastoralists – and bring a cushion and a warm jacket!

Please share this announcement with others who may be interested.