

## **Update to ISG on the IYRP process**

**Dated: 29 October 2019**

### **FAO COAG process**

Following the successful submission of the IYRP proposal by the Government of Mongolia to FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in June 2019, a lunch meeting was organised at the FAO by the Embassy of Mongolia in Rome on 17 October 2019, with the support of ILRI. Ambassadors from the following countries were invited: Ethiopia, Kenya, Australia, Argentina, Spain, Iran, Bolivia, Switzerland, Namibia, China, Senegal, Sudan, Russia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Morocco and others. However, perhaps due to the short notice, only a few country representatives came: Spain, Madagascar, Iran, and Namibia. Nevertheless, it was an excellent opportunity for the Mongolian Ambassador and Representative to FAO, Mr Jambaldorj Tserenedorj and his Alternate Mr Ganbayar to inform the chair of COAG Mr Mohamed Hossein Emadi, the Iranian Representative of the importance of rangeland and pastoral issues and to discuss ways forward.

By now, more than 20 letters of support have been sent to the Government of Mongolia, mostly from civil society. But only one of them is an official government letter of support (Iran). Much more needs to be done for national governments to show support to the process or even, if desired, to agree to co-sponsor the proposal with Mongolia.

The Livestock Division of FAO (AGA) is expected to be the technical unit to support the process.

The critical time for gaining country support for the proposal is between now and May 2020. The formal vote on the designation of the International Year will be taken by COAG in October 2020.

*ISG Partners* are requested to seek the support of their governments. It is suggested that:

- a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ulanbaatar (Mongolia) will send letters of request for support to additional countries through their Embassies in Rome;
- b) Interested national governments would send letters to the Chair of COAG in Rome showing their support;
- c) Interested governments would nominate a focal person for IYRP so that a clear contact person is identified in the capital; countries can also consider to establish a National IYRP Committee, consisting of representatives from different stakeholders, including government, NGOs, pastoral associations, academics, and local offices of international partners so as to facilitate coordination and broad-based efforts up to and during the International Year;
- d) Interested governments would direct their Embassy in Rome to support the IYRP in the FAO COAG process.

For more information, please contact:

Ykhanbai Hijaba – [y.hijaba@gmail.com](mailto:y.hijaba@gmail.com) (Mongolian efforts)

Fiona Flintan, ILRI – [f.flintan@cgiar.org](mailto:f.flintan@cgiar.org) (FAO COAG and other processes)

## **Recent events where IYRP was mentioned and supported**

- UNEA-4, Kenya, March 2019: IYRP was recognized in an Assembly Resolution on “Innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism”
- World Rural Forum 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Family Farming, Spain, March 2019 (promoting pastoralists as family farmers/IYRP)
- Conference on Pastoralism and Rangelands Restoration, Burkina Faso, June 2019
- UNCCD CoP14, India, Sept 2019
- Global Landscapes Forum, USA, Sept 2019
- Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) conference, USA, Sept 2019
- Tropentag pre-conference workshop & pastoralism film festival, Germany, Sept 2019 (mention and display of poster on IYRP)
- Australian Rangelands Conference, Australia, Sept 2019
- October 2019: FAO-CIHEAM joint meeting in Morocco on Sheep and Goats and Mediterranean Pasture and Forage Resources; a presentation by Engin Yilmaz of Yolda Initiatives included the IYRP.
- 15 October 2019: Fiona Flintan represented the ISG at the Meeting of the World CSO Coordinating Committee for the Decade of Family Farming held at FAO, to ensure coordination between our two initiatives
- 17 October 2019: At a Side Event at the FAO Committee on Food Security organised by FAO-PKH and others, awareness was raised on the IYRP by the Chair of the Side Event (also Chair of COAG) and by ILRI’s Director General and ISG member Iain Wright.

*ISG Partners* are encouraged to send us brief reports (including pictures) on activities that they participate in or organise that include awareness-raising on the need to designate the IYRP, including any upcoming meetings.

## **Upcoming events**

- ✓ Side Event at 35<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC35), March 2020, Jordan – to be organised by the Government of Mongolia with support from ISG members
- ✓ Joint XVIV International Grassland and XI Rangeland Congress, October 2020, Nairobi, Kenya. Several ISG partners are preparing relevant events. The following are expected: a Keynote Speech by Dr Kathrine Johnsen on the recently published report of the UNEP Gap Analysis on information about pastoralism and rangelands; poster presentations from various members; and a Concurrent Panel focusing solely on the IYRP.