Global comparisons of migration and adaptation features in pastoralist communities

Margherita Gomarasca - EAAP 2016, Belfast
Project «Regional Consultations with Pastoralist and livestock breeders CSOs. Towards better policies in support of pastoralism»
Main components of the study:

- Surveys
- Pastoralist CSOs gatherings

The path to greener pastures

Pastoralism, the backbone of the world’s drylands

A. Jenet, M. Gomarasca, N. Buono, K. Van Troos, S. Mason, S. Di Lello, R. Saavedra
Surveys [October to December 2015]:

- Pastoralist practices at household/community level
- Policies and Enabling Environment

- 8 ‘hotspots’:
  - n=315 pastoralists and
  - n=49 pastoralis leaders

- 26 countries
Regional consultations with pastoralist CSO and stakeholders:

• 5 regional meetings [Jan 2016]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western &amp; Central Africa</td>
<td>Bamako, Mali</td>
<td>85 participants, 10 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa &amp; West Asia</td>
<td>Hammamet, Tunisia</td>
<td>39 participants, 10 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>La Paz, Bolivia</td>
<td>30 participants, 5 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern &amp; Southern Africa</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>28 participants, 8 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Hustai National Park, Mongolia</td>
<td>30 participants, 5 countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Special Session of Farmers’ Forum with pastoralists and livestock breeders [12-13 Feb 2016]

5 Statements:
• Priorities for investment in pastoral development,
• Recommendations for policy dialogue
• Better partnership with development organizations

Statement of the Special Session
Pastoralism is the main livelihood in many drylands and marginal areas, where other forms of agricultural practices are impossible. Pastoralists contribute to efficient management and governance of rangelands and protection of natural resources. In such challenging territories pastoralism presents the best livelihood strategy to provide food, income and employment.”

Statement of the Special Session of the Farmers’ Forum with Pastoralists and Livestock Breeders
Rome, February 2016
Access to land and tenure rights remain a main concern for pastoralists worldwide. Most formal legal systems do not recognize or guarantee customary tenure rights.

Encroachment because of mining, urbanization, extensive cropping, nature reserves and wildlife parks. Implications also for water.
Mobility is a critical livelihood feature that enables adaptation to harsh conditions. Mobility differed markedly among the pastoralist hotspots.

Average annual migration distance of associated pastoralist groups (in km) in the 8 surveyed pastoralist hotspots. * and ** represent different groups.
Pastoralists chose distressed coping mechanisms which require longer periods to recover over adaptive mechanisms that do no harm. Our research suggests that this is because of constraints that limit full mobility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distressed coping mechanism</th>
<th>Adaptive</th>
<th>Adaptive</th>
<th>Adaptive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selling of livestock at low prizes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock migration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd splitting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced or changed food consumption</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughter offspring to save mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depletion of other productive assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common adaptation practices used by pastoralists in order to cope with droughts/stress
(Pastoralist respondents in %)
Land and Mobility: recommendations

➔ Recognize and protect customary land-tenure rights, traditional rules and rangeland management norms.

➔ Support mobility:
  • Basic services (education, human and animal health) adapted to the mobile lifestyle of pastoralism
  • Limit investments which prevent pastoralists to accessing land; FPIC
  • Corridors for transhumance and marketing

➔ Involve communities in participatory territorial planning, building and managing infrastructures and facilities in pastoral areas (e.g. water sources, trading facilities, ...)

➔ Special attention to cross-border areas
✔ Rural markets play a dominant role for pastoralist trade, except for processed dairy products.

Pastoralist respondents in %
Pastoralists’ access to market

✔ Perceived barriers in the livestock market chain:

- Transport cost
- High cost of middlemen
- Information asymmetry
- Market inefficiency
- Rent seeking behaviour
- Feed cost at holding grounds
- Vet Costs
- Feeding while trekking
- Vet and health inspection fees
- International trade tariffs
- Import and export taxes
- Movement permits
- CBPP test
- Local taxes imposed
- Government taxes and fees
- Auction fee
- Marketing fee
- Illegal taxes and bribes
- Off-loading cost

Information-related problems

Decisive importance
Considerable importance
Minor importance
Pastoralists’ access to market: recommendations

- Need to improve pastoralists’ marketing capacity:
  - marketing groups
  - link to credit institutions
  - Vocational training (business and marketing skills)
  - Improve access to information

- Need to add value to livestock products:
  - Certification
  - serving niche markets
  - Added value (processing)

- Focus on women and youths
Knowledge exchange and communication

✓ Communication among pastoralists is occurring today mainly through face to face meetings. Mobile technologies, radio and TV are important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group meetings</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local radio</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National television</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual meetings</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National radio</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field excursions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pictorial leaflets</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billboards</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local television</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National newspaper</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local newspaper</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

appropriate media in % pastoralist respondents
Knowledge exchange and communication: **recomendations**

→ improved knowledge management through:
  * greater presence of **change agents** in the field
  * **mobile ICT** adapted to the local socio-cultural structure.
Need to **strengthen pastoral CSOs and their networks**, so that they can engage in policy dialogue, and contribute in piloting projects.

Increase **involvement of pastoralist in policy making** and increase policy effectiveness.
“Pastoralism is more than livestock production; it is a way of life, a culture and an identity. We pastoralists are citizens and our rights, culture and customary institutions should be recognized and respected. International organisations and policymakers should recognize the uniqueness of our livelihoods that need tailored approaches and investments.”

Statement of the Special Session of the Farmers’ Forum with Pastoralists and Livestock Breeders

Rome, February 2016
THANK YOU

Margherita Gomarasca

coordinator@vsf-international.org

www.vsf-international.org