



Press release

Sustainable pasture management could prevent land degradation, increase Kyrgyzstan meat production and rural income

Know-how: Electronic pasture management in the pilot rural areas of Naryn oblast

Naryn, Kyrgyzstan (June 25, 2015) — Kyrgyzstan could become a net exporter of meat through sustainable pasture management, State experts said at a meeting of Kyrgyzstan's newly established Coordination Council for Sustainable Pasture Management, held at Naryn State University on 25 June 2015. The meeting, organized at the request of the Department of Pastures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic, reviewed best practices in field of pasture management by Pastures Committees of the Republic.

The informational system 'Electronic Zhayyt Committee', under a pilot programme supported by the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, may be ready for replication in other regions. The opportunities to replicate this system from the budget of the Department of Pastures and fund raising from other sources of funding were also discussed at the meeting.

"Sustainable pasture management in Kyrgyzstan is of high economic, political and social importance. After joining the Customs Union it is expected that Kyrgyzstan could become a supplier of meat, and then the Government has to create the appropriate conditions, the construction of laboratory, certification and ensure timely vaccination," said Kyrgyz Republic Parliament member, Mr. Isakov Esengul.

"We have to be ready in advance and proper use of pastures is one of the objectives, the quality of meat depends on this. The launch of new projects on sustainable pasture and forestry management funded by other donors, should replicate a similar electronic system," he noted in his welcoming speech at the event.

Replication of the best practice of the "Demonstrating Sustainable Mountain Pasture Management in the Suusamyр Valley, Kyrgyzstan" project implemented by UNDP and funded by GEF in other regions of the country has become one of the objectives of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty- Environment Initiative. And in its programme these activities have been implemented in five pilot Aiyl Okmotu (rural areas), i.e. Kara-Suu, Kara-Koyun, Dobolu, Ortok and Sary-Oi. The activities on inventory, geo-botanical surveys, economic assessment and development of Livestock Grazing Plans have been undertaken. They allowed pasture managers to define the boundaries and dimensions of the pilot areas to determine the composition of plant communities, types and seasons of pastures, their productivity, yield, gross forage supply, and presence of ungrazed plants, ruderal and toxic vegetation.

The recording of the existing livestock capita, its grazing sites, routes of livestock migration and terms of use were also considered. An economic assessment of livestock production was taken into account, as well as the final cost and opportunities to generate incomes by villagers from the used area. As a result of the work, it was found that the explored area under the proper management could generate incomes equal to US\$ 13 million.

Taking into account these activities, the computer based informational system "Electronic Jaiyt Committee" has been installed and introduced in five pilot aiyl aimaks of At-Bashy and Naryn rayons of Naryn oblast. This system allows pastoralists to manage their pastures effectively. It will improve the pasture status monitoring, and allow them to monitor the process of pasture degradation in the region.

"Thanks to the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative an inventory of our pastures and their economic evaluation was conducted and a system of electronic management of pastures was installed," said the resident of Ortok rural area, Mr. Omurzakov Erkinbek.

Additional information:

The UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative is implemented by support of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and provides financial and technical support in mainstreaming environmental priorities and poverty reduction issues into national, sectoral and local development strategies and plans. The main partners of the Initiative in Kyrgyzstan are the Ministry of Economy, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the State Agency on Local Governance and Interethnic Affairs and the National Statistics Committee.

More information about Poverty-Environment Initiative is available at <http://www.unpei.org>



Pastures in Naryn oblast, Kyrgyzstan

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Программа развития Организации Объединенных Наций (ПРООН) – глобальная сеть ООН в области развития, выступающая за позитивные изменения в жизни людей путем предоставления странам-участницам доступа к источникам знаний, опыта и ресурсов. Мы работаем на территории 166 стран, оказывая им содействие в поиске решений глобальных и национальных проблем в области развития. В процессе развития своего потенциала страны используем опыт и знания персонала ПРООН и широкого круга ее партнеров.