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## **REGIONAL CONSULTATION WITH PASTORALISTS' AND LIVESTOCK BREEDERS' ORGANIZATIONS LEADING TO THE GLOBAL MEETING OF THE FARMERS FORUM AT IFAD**

***"Building an enabling environment for pastoral development in Latin America"***



**HACIA MEJORES POLÍTICAS EN APOYO DEL PASTOREO**

1. Valoración del pastoreo sostenible e incidencia en tomadores de decisiones para mejorar condiciones productivas y de vida.
2. Fortalecimiento de redes y alianzas de pastores en cada una de las 5 subregiones identificadas: África del Norte y el Cercano Oriente, África Occidental y Central, África Oriental y Meridional, Asia y América Latina.
3. Visibilizar la agenda de pastores en los debates y foros nacionales regionales e internacionales a través de una campaña coordinada de promoción y sensibilización.

**La Paz 17 – 19 January, 2016**

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***Main conclusions of the working groups on specific issues with pastoralists' organizations and  
FAFO - IFAD***

**WORKING GROUP 1: The importance pastoralism and extensive livestock keeping for the  
development of rural areas in the region**

- Pastoralism guarantees food security and sovereignty
- It ensures family finances - allows us to generate our own jobs.
- It promotes community development and builds the identity of indigenous peasant communities on this subject.
- It preserves the ecological balance and the conservation of species. Livestock keeping is natural, environmentally friendly and conserves biodiversity, we are not destroying anything to produce.
- It promotes people's incidence in public policy.
- It promotes exchanges between different peoples/communities
- It gives value to the ancestral knowledge of our regions.
- Pastoralism encourages communication from humans to animals, and the relationship between man and nature itself.
- It has a role in the whole production chain; we want to be part of production, industrialization and commercialization of our products.
- It generates natural goods, not commodities; livestock keeping for us is not just a resource to create money, is part of our life; we produce to keep on living.
- It brings sustainability and respect for the Mother Earth
- It gives value to ancestral approaches and techniques in each of our regions.
- It allows the recovery of traditional medicine; we know how to treat our animals with the plants of our surroundings.
- It maintains native pastures and rangelands.
- It unifies the language; we can be from different geographical regions (valleys, Amazon, Chaco, highlands), but we know what we are talking about and we understand each other.
- It allows to adopt a farmer-to-farmer methodology, we can easily share information and knowledge.
- It safeguards our territories and culture; this is not a mere economic activity, but this is our life and our culture.
- It prevents rural exodus and migration.
- It creates job opportunities and therefore it makes people coming back to the countryside.
- It maintains viability for education, particularly for specialized and quality education in rural areas. If states do not provide quality education in these areas, it is natural that migration is strong in our territories.

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- It generates economic alternatives; pastoralism is an economic alternative which can thus generate other economic activities in cascade; we support pastoralism because it generates and stimulates the local economy of our territories.

#### **WORKING GROUP 2: Priority areas for investment in pastoralism and livestock keeping.**

- Investment projects for extensive livestock keepers must be comprehensive, considering the entire production chain, but also strengthening the institutions and organizational systems set up by each community, in order to ensure project's sustainability.
- Investment projects should not benefit only a few families, breaking the logic of territorial organization / community that exists. Projects must respect peasants' and indigenous peoples' forms of organization.
- Investment projects are designed in offices, but when they are implemented on the field we find out that they can not be applied because they are designed only from an economic perspective and do not take into account geographical aspects in our countries.
- Although there are resources by the State, international cooperation and NGOs, most of these resources go to bureaucracy and research. We recommend that IFAD invest in productive development projects strengthening the entire value chain, in order to eliminate middlemen both in the meat and fibres chain.

#### **WORKING GROUP 3. Identification of priorities for policy dialogue, lobbying and other political initiatives in support of pastoralist organizations.**

- It is necessary the development of a specific law for small livestock (small ruminants and camelids) in different countries. The law should target specifically pastoralism and extensive grazing, since current legislations are focusing on big agro-business producing livestock intensively.
- Promote the strengthening of producer organizations at the local, provincial, regional and national levels.
- Formalize organizations so that they can have legal status.
- Promote, in all the countries of the region, the creation of vice-ministries or directorates responsible for extensive livestock production, which should be responsible for all the value chain. This should be established as national policy, and not as component of single projects, in order to assure the sustainable inclusion of pastoralism into policy priorities.
- Open dialogue with all stakeholders on policies, projects, promotion and financing.
- Generate proposals for a "Law of South American Camelids" which should include the production, promotion, processing, marketing and management
- Promote dialogue with big business Textiles, as they have a monopoly; we must talk to them because we can not allow them to impose their conditions, we must reach agreement on prices. The state and IFAD must generate those dialogue spaces.
- Promote dialogue with major mining company on social and environmental responsibility.
- Promote formalization of the informal mining - Ministry of Environment - Regional Direction of Energy and Mining.
- In Argentina, provinces are the legal owner of national resources; IFAD resources are driven to the national government, who negotiate with the provinces.

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- Strengthen producers' organizations so we can make our voice heard, and our demands respected.
- It is also important that all institutions that have been identified conform a platform where we can discuss about the same issues but from different perspectives, and we all go in the same direction.
- The foreign ownership of land is a threat that is happening in our territories, expelling indigenous peoples to the suburbs of the cities, and especially affecting pastoralists because of the decrease of grazing areas.

For the reasons stated above we believe that IFAD loans to the states should be conditioned to the establishment of **National Forums**, as places where all stakeholders (State, pastoralists, extensive livestock keepers and international cooperation organisations/institutions) meet as equals, to negotiate and prioritize areas of intervention and the form of assistance in the field. As a way to control the incoming resources allocated to our governments. In this way we can get to FAFO more realistic proposals and generate full participation of all producers.

**WORKING GROUP 4 Discussion on how pastoralist and livestock keepers' organizations can be associated with the different stages of IFAD's business model:** *Country development strategy, project design, implementation of actions, monitoring and comprehensive implementation of the IFAD program.*

- Stronger organizations are needed in the political, economic and productive sphere, with an organised grassroots basis at local, regional, national and global levels. This is a first step that IFAD should promote at national and global levels.
- We propose to national governments to carry out, together with IFAD, National Farmers Forum to generate:
  - A true representation at international level, legitimated by organizations.
  - Compliance with the internal mechanisms of decision-making of the organizations.
  - Develop leaders' capacities to influence policymaking.
  - Assure participation of pastoralists and mobile livestock breeders to any global event.
- Maintain consultations between IFAD and farmers' and pastoralists' organizations to identify priority areas in each country, not just consultations between IFAD and governments, so as to differentiate Public Policies and Peoples' Policies.

**Plenary discussion on key findings and recommendations of the regional consultation, and messages from pastoralists' organizations to the special session of the FAFO.**

After having discussed in the framework of the Regional Consultation with Pastoralists' and livestock Breeders' organisations leading to the global meeting of the Farmers Forum – "Building an enabling environment for pastoral development in Latin America" – , all participants unanimously agreed on and adopted a general resolution of the event (**See Annex 6**) where the main conclusions, recommendations and messages for the Special Session on Pastoralism and peasant Forum to be held in February next Rome Italy is expressed.

The presentation of the resolution of the Latin American Regional Consultation is delegated to the following representatives:



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1. Sixto Icuña
2. Higinio Porto
3. Alicia Amarilla
4. Maria Teresa Alvarez

We also demand that, after the Special Session and FAFO, those representatives share and disseminate the final conclusions of these events with all participants, supported by VSF-Justicia Alimentaria Global.