Practical Approaches to Sustainable Pasture Management in Central Asia

Where the weather is extremely windy and arid in summer, and very dry and frosty in winter the livelihoods of the local farmers mainly depend on breeding cattle. Accessing remote pastures as during Soviet times has drastically decreased because of decaying infrastructure and diminished economic means. Thus, sustainable pasture management solutions have become increasingly relevant.

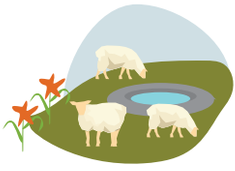
Low-cost and practical solutions for sustainable pasture management

Pasture rotation for recovery of degraded grassland

Establish Farmer Field Schools and deliver hands-on field trainings for pastoralists focused on value addition and product development, resilience and climate adaptation practices, and improved farm profitability

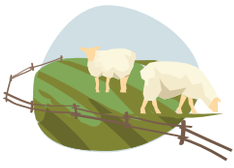
Resource-effective conservation technologies:

Construction of hydraulic ram pumps run by hydropower, and the provision of access to water resources in Kyrgyzstan to expand the use of remote mountain pastures by local communities



Building water infrastructure to improve pasture management: more than 30 wells and Sardoba were constructed in drylands

Strengthening the resilience of pastoral communities in Kyrgyzstan by building artificial glaciers and extending seasonal grazing with water access in remote mountain pastures



Establishing Seed islands and fencing to restore degraded pastures and to improve winter fodder supply

Collaboration on pasture use

Developing community-based Sustainable Pasture Management plans through participatory approaches across **690,000 hectares** in Central Asia

Organizing international study tours for high-level policymakers across Central Asia, Türkiye, and Mongolia to exchange knowledge and experience on landscape restoration technologies, ecosystem services, and sustainable pasture management practices

Seed isles for local crops, such as wheatgrass and sainfoin and rehabilitation of pastures using drought/salt resitant crop seeds

Teaching best practices for sustainable use of natural pastures in desert conditions

Developing Central Asian regional dashboard that maps land and water resources, soil organic carbon, climatic trends with 20-year historical database maps, and degradation hotspots to support regional Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) initiatives and inform national policies and decision-making process.