



Pasture close to community sun inclination (Zevارشoev Askarsho)

Pasture inclination used for developing grazing plan (Tajikistan)

Накшаи чарондани чорво дар чарогоҳ аз руи мавқеи ҷойгиршави (офтобруя ва сояру)

DESCRIPTION

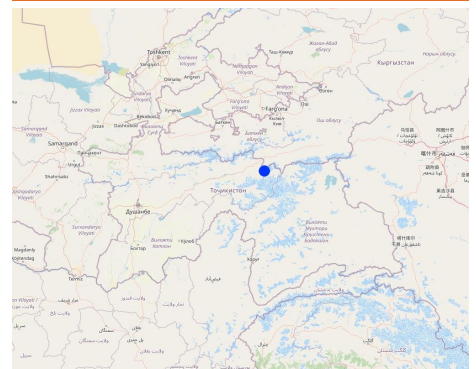
In this approach the inclination of pasture land and its effect on the spread of sun and shadow is used to identify different periods for grazing. This simple approach will raise awareness and provides biological aspects in pasture management. In this approach the vegetation cover of the pasture is linked to the position of the sun. This is specific to mountain areas, where in one location vegetation periods can differ in two spots although they are in the same location.

Considering pasture's geographical location and its inclination to the sun is identified as an important element of developing rotational grazing plans. Because of the mountainous geography of the area, within certain pasture areas one part can be sun inclined and the other is shadowed. This is effecting the vegetation growing process, since on the sun inclined part the vegetation is growing faster compared to the other where sun is reaching later. Communities in the past did not take this into consideration and grazed in both areas at the same time. This leads to degradation in the areas where vegetation did not grow properly. On the other side if the areas inclined to the sun are not grazed in time they dry up. The main objective of this approach is to apply an ecosystem based adaptation approach in pasture use, with vegetative periods for different areas and locations. By applying this approach communities will be enabled to organize grazing plans correctly and to prevent pasture degradation.

The implementation period will start from the planing phase up to the implementation of the pasture plan. Mainly livestock owners and the PUU management is involved in the implementation of this approach. Pasture users will be mobilized according to the grazing plan, in which part of the pasture when to graze with taking into consideration the position to the sun. Beside land users, the local government is also involved to ensure sustainable use of this approach as one of the techniques in prevention of pasture degradation. Based on the existing traditional community knowledge and experiences the communities identify the geographical location. Based on this knowledge while developing the grazing plan for the year in a meeting in a participatory manner they do community resource mapping, where the location of resources is provided. After preparing the community resource maps, especially with focus on pasture resources they mark the plots according to assigned attributes. Based on these attributes, where the important features is pasture exposition, a timeframe for grazing for each plot is set up.

Livestock owners are very much in favor to implement this approach as a simple method to prevent degradation and raising awareness on importance of periodic and systematic use of pasture lands. It was not well perceived well by some individual livestock owners, who abused the absence of grazing plans and benefited from early use of grazing without considering the degradation of the pastures.

LOCATION



Location: Central Asia/Tajikistan/Rasht Valley, Tajikistan

Geo-reference of selected sites

• 71.816, 39.224

Initiation date: n.a.

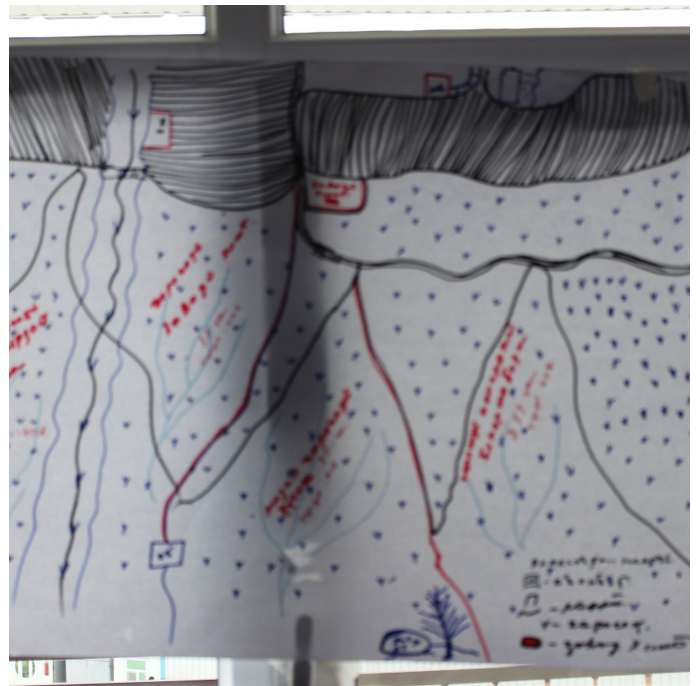
Year of termination: n.a.

Type of Approach

- traditional/ indigenous
- recent local initiative/ innovative
- project/ programme based



Pasture with exposition to sun (Zevارشoev Askarsho)



Community resource mapping with assigning attributes to each plots (Zevارشoev Askarsho)

APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Main aims / objectives of the approach

The main aim of this approach is to set up clear timeframes for grazing in different plots of the pasture. When the pasture plot is sun inclined this will define the grazing time earlier, because the vegetation grows faster and bigger. On the other hand the pasture plot which is in the shadowed part is grazed later after winter, because the grass should reach a certain height before grazing.

Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values:** Since the beginning traditional institute based on traditional knowledge used to apply this approach.
- **Availability/ access to financial resources and services:** No financial resource is required to apply this approach. It is purely based on the management techniques and depend on the organizational capacity of the communities.
- **Institutional setting:** Traditionally community based organizations exist, which were responsible for management of community resource, including pasture lands. Nowadays, based on this knowledge community in their newly established Pasture User Unions apply this approach.
- **Legal framework (land tenure, land and water use rights):** No legal framework is required for this approach.
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support:** Community members usually inherit this kind of traditional practices from their ancestors.

Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	livestock owners	People traditionally use this approach as a limiting factor to plan for grazing and this approach is also incorporated into the community pasture plan.
community-based organizations	village organizations	In those communities, where official legal structure is not established, community based organization still use this approach as traditional practices inherited from previous generation.

Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land users and their community structure is traditionally aware of this approach and consider it in their planning process.
planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Once a community initiates its pasture plan they take this approach into consideration.
implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The plan is developed in a participatory way with involvement of all stakeholders and agreed on. The grazing location within different timeframe is implemented by the responsible person according to the plan.
monitoring/ evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community leaders or PUUs management assign responsible people to follow up on the approved grazing plan and follow up on the progress by reporting to them.

Flow chart

Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- land users alone (self-initiative)
- mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- SLM specialists alone
- politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- research findings
- personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- Capacity building/ training
- Advisory service
- Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research

FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- < 2,000
 - 2,000-10,000
 - 10,000-100,000
 - 100,000-1,000,000
 - > 1,000,000
- Precise annual budget: n.a.

no special budget is required to implement this approach

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- Financial/ material support provided to land users
- Subsidies for specific inputs
- Credit
- Other incentives or instruments

Other incentives or instruments

Some people usually try to graze in those plots which are exposed to sun and the vegetation is growing earlier. Especially farmers who are limited in fodder crops start grazing earlier. They are provided with some incentives to balance fodder and livestock number and are not permitted for earlier grazing.

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Impacts of the Approach

	No	Yes, little	Yes, moderately	Yes, greatly
Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? Because the design of a grazing plan takes place in a participatory meeting, it brings together all stakeholders to agree on the decision. In addition all stakeholders are involved in preparing community resource map and plan accordingly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? The approach is considered as one of the important steps to prevent pasture degradation. Once this approach is applied correctly it leads to implementation of other SLM technologies for improving pasture conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? When the whole pasture area is used sustainably, it improves land users rights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did the Approach lead to more sustainable use/ sources of energy?

If the approach is applied, it will minimize the risk of pasture degradation, where people also collect wood for energy.

Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters?

Because of the effect of climate change in the mountain areas unplanned grazing leads to degradation immediately.

Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- increased production
- increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- reduced land degradation
- reduced risk of disasters
- reduced workload
- payments/ subsidies
- rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- environmental consciousness
- customs and beliefs, morals
- enhanced SLM knowledge and skills
- aesthetic improvement
- conflict mitigation

Sustainability of Approach activities

Can the land users sustain what has been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

- no
- yes
- uncertain

The approach does not require technical knowledge in implementing SLM technology. It therefore is simple and mobilized communities can sustain it for a long time once practiced successfully.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Strengths: land user's view

- cost effective, simple to apply and produces good effects
- simple techniques, easy understandable, based on traditional knowledge
- can be applied in big areas

Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- traditionally practiced and adapted to local conditions
- cost effective and easy to document and provides evidence based results in a short period of time
- could be replicated in all other mountain areas

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's view how to overcome

- not considered within other factors, like meteorological Research could be applied to study it on scientific evidence.

Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's view how to overcome

- If overall pasture management is not planned properly and managed chaotically, the uncontrolled use of this approach can easily contribute to pasture degradation. It should be well documented as it is a simple and effective approach in degradation prevention.

REFERENCES

Compiler

Askarsho Zevarshoiev

Editors

Reviewer

Maximilian Knoll
Yacime Khadraoui
Joana Eichenberger

Date of documentation: March 26, 2018

Last update: Aug. 22, 2024

Resource persons

Askarsho Zevarshoiev (askarsho2006@yahoo.com) - SLM specialist
Murod Ergashev (soil_m@rambler.ru) - SLM specialist

Full description in the WOCAT database

https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_3474/

Linked SLM data

Technologies: Pasture management in Western Pamir https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_1363/

Documentation was facilitated by

Institution

- Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) - Switzerland

Project

- Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihood Project

Key references

- Pasture and Livestock Management Plan of PUU Soyru, 2015: from community, free of cost

This work is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)

