

COFO21

ROME 2012

FAO-Near East Forestry and Range
Commission

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- Countries in the Near East Region(NER) are Low Forest Cover Countries with some exceptions like Turkey but with vast rangelands of natural or anthropogenic characterized.
- The forests in the NER are scarce but fragile ecosystem to manage with rangelands sustainably.
- Sustainable Forest and Rangeland Management(SFRM) is requisite not only in the NER but also in the other regions to address agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock for a more integrated landscape approach, predominantly for a single silvopastoral production system.

- Effective coordination through NEFRC between forests and rangelands public institutions and other related bodies within and among countries and regions is needed to access and improve the qualitative and quantitative information on rangelands and forests.
- This can be achieved if **national forests and rangelands inventory system** is developed to generate the verified data and information.
- This national inventory system will help to construct a unique **information system of forests and rangelands**, which are the integral parts of the natural resources.
- A **forest and rangeland monitoring system** is also requisite to assess the health and vitality of the natural resource by regularly revisiting the permanent systematic large scale plots and permanent representative intensive plots.

NEFRC is concerned about:

- a coordination mechanism to enhance more streamlined actions towards SFRM
- capacity building in inventory, information and monitoring systems
- increased human and financial resources support to applied project based activities in forests and rangelands by FAO
- policy and strategy reforms for better legislation and enforcement on SFRM with view to multi-disciplinary landscape approach
- effective SFRM planning development to diversify non-wood goods and services and their marketing interactions to mainly contribute to food security
- concerted efforts and close coordination with all sides to achieve common benefits from natural resources