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Kyrgyz republic reforms in management of pasture resources

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Overview The land reform process in the Kyrgyz Republic started in the mid 90s with the major focus on privatization of arable land . However , a vast area of pasture land-which is about 90 percent of the total area of the country-was left in state ownership and has been used on a lease basis . However , the current system of management of pasture resources is ineffective and detrimental to the sustainable use of these resources because pastures are divided between three administrative tiers-provincial , district and village with the village government managing near settlement pastures , the district administration managing intensive pastures , and the provincial government managing remote pastures . This division of management responsibility over three levels of pastures inhibits sustainable use of pastures with livestock often concentrated at one level or another instead of moving seasonally to ensure pasture rotation and its regeneration . Sustainable pasture management depends on maintaining the ecosystem of the pastures , which is impossible if they are not managed as a whole .

Policy Analysis Approach : The Government Working Group on pasture reforms conducted round tables , workshops and conferences to understand the current situation , and the needs and expectations of livestock keepers , and to discuss possible ways of reforming the system with stakeholders . As a result of these extensive consultations , the Pasture Department came up with a concept for reform .

Major policy recommendations Devolve decision making and management of pastures down to the village government and communities in the form of pasture users associations in order to promote sustainable and equitable use of rangeland resources . New bodies of local self government will be established-Pasture Users Associations (PUA) which will include various pasture users living in the defined territory . PUAs will have executive bodies (PMC) which will be responsible for allocation and management of pasture resources .

- The Pasture Management Committee (PMC) will have the authority to establish the user fees based on a rational formula developed by the PMC .
- Pasture revenues will be allocated for pasture improvement and needs identified by all PUA members . This approach will ensure fair and transparent access to these resources and their sustainable management .
- Natural mountain pastures will be treated as a single , integrated entity and cannot be leased as subdivided parcels .
- The PMC , in cooperation with the local *aiyl kenesh* (clarify what the foregoing is ?) , and taking into consideration local pasture use traditions , rational pasture use and conservation requirements , shall develop a pasture management plan that ensures adequate seasonal movement of animals over the entire range of the available pastures and prevents unsustainable use of any part thereof , and shall take effective measures to enforce the provisions of this plan in protecting pastures .
- The PMC will be responsible for resolving disputes involving users of the pastures under its management authority .
- The use of the more distant pastures must be made obligatory for all livestock owners during the spring , summer and fall , when only a minimal number of animals , to cover the needs of the local households , should be allowed to graze on the near-village pastures . This is a fundamental prerequisite for the rehabilitation of the winter pastures , since they must have adequate time to recover and seed in the spring and early summer .
- Rotational grazing systems should be introduced to provide the plants the necessary rest periods and the possibility to produce seeds . An annual change of specific areas to be excluded from grazing should be considered if the introduction of a rotational grazing system is too difficult to realize .

Summary Based on these recommendations , the Kyrgyz Government is preparing a new Law on Pastures which will reflect all these issues and bring management of pastures into sustainable and fair pattern .