

5.15: AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

What problem is the solution trying to address?

The solution addresses particularly the problem of **food insecurity in arid and semi-arid areas** from a food systemic and holistic approach.

The solution focuses on the impact of sustainable **livestock sector** to contribute simultaneously to increase food security and health, reduce environmental impact, enhance communities' livelihoods, especially if **combined with sustainable forestry and soil management (agroforestry and/or silvopastoral systems** that combine fodder, trees, crops).

What, in brief, is the solution?

The suggested solution is the **adoption of national and international policies to promote the use of agroforestry systems** (including for example silvopastoral systems) to boost the high potential of sustainable livestock sector and agriculture, towards all the dimensions of resilience.

What was/ were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

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How can this solution address that problem?

This solution is based on the recognition of the **multidimensional contribution of sustainable livestock farming** for sustainable development in general, taking into consideration the multidimensional feature of the agricultural sector and the contribution it can provide in terms of economic, social and environmental development, through a holistic and pragmatic approach.

Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?

This solution can be a game changer because it contributes to the capacity of food systems to deal with shocks while at the same time increasing food security, contributing to animal, human and environmental health, increasing local communities' livelihoods, especially farmers' livelihoods, make food systems sustainable and resilient in the short as well as long term, strengthen value chains, it is replicable, it can have a positive impact on gender and youth empowerment among others.

What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

Farmers, through their farmers' organisations, are already working on best practices to increase sustainability of the livestock sector.

Also, multi-stakeholder partnerships like GASL but also LEAP partnership, are already in place to support this approach.

Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?

This solution is particularly addressed to arid and semi-arid areas. However, we actually think it could be replicated elsewhere, tailored on the local context and making sure farmers first are engaged, together with all the other actors of the value chain.

What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution?

Agricultural policies must be repurposed towards social, economic and environmental positive outcomes, making sure farmers are engaged in the decision-making processes related to agriculture. Farmers are entrepreneurs, experts, food producers, the first ring of the value chains and end users of such policies, so they must be engaged and their capacities need to be strengthened if we want food systems to be effective, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

We need to make sure the solutions we suggest use a holistic and systemic approach as food systems are complex mechanisms where all actors and sectors are interconnected, and we must address such complexity if we want to succeed.