



University of Kentucky
UKnowledge

International Grassland Congress Proceedings

XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII
International Rangeland Congress

Mobility and Development: Iranian Perspective

Hossein Badripour

Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization, Iran

Follow this and additional works at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/igc>



Part of the [Plant Sciences Commons](#), and the [Soil Science Commons](#)

This document is available at <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/igc/21/18-1/52>

The XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII International Rangeland Congress took place in Hohhot, China from June 29 through July 5, 2008.

Proceedings edited by Organizing Committee of 2008 IGC/IRC Conference

Published by Guangdong People's Publishing House

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Plant and Soil Sciences at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Grassland Congress Proceedings by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

Mobility and development : Iranian perspective

*Hossein Badripour , Range Improvement and development Expert ,
Forest , Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization , Tehran , I .R .Iran
Badripour@yahoo .com*

Key words : mobile pastoralists , mobility , development , grazing permit

Mobile pastoralism has been considered as a sustainable mode of resources exploitation in dryland areas (Chang and Koster , 1994 ; Falkin , 1997 ; Ridds and Waagenar , 1984) . Mobile pastoralists have developed efficient ways of using local natural resources . Mobile pastoralism based on human and animal mobility is an ecological response to harsh condition of an arid environment . This kind of land exploitation system is a very common practice in most parts of the world specially those enjoying arid environments . Iran locates in the arid area of the world which this system is very common dating back to human history . Even though , these people had a considerable part of human population before 19th century , but its figure is declining due to lots of reasons which which development is one of the most important aspects .

Around 200 million people in mobile pastoral system are in the world , they dominate 40% of the total land areas of arid and semi arid regions (Kossila , 1985) . Based on the latest census on the mobile pastoralists population carried out in 1998 , there are 199 ,930 families equal to 1 ,304 ,000 people accounting to 1 .5% of the county's population . Approximately , 60% of the total area of the country are their territories . Over 33% of the total rangelands in the country , most of which are mountainous , are used directly by these people , and 25% of the total animal units in the country belong to these people (Raiss-Dana , 1990) .

Even though , this kind of pasrtoralism produce about 500 ,000 tones of dairy products and create a considerable working opportunities but due to some reasons including political ones , these people are always marginal . Along with the measures that governments took to push their countries towards development , such as industrialization they tried to take measures to omit tribal authorities and mobility just to increase the federal power around the country . In those years , land reform policy was one of the main policies that many countries followed within which it was supposed to cut the hands of the land lords and fragment large farms . Another policy that many countries followed was to settle the mobile pastoralists , they thought that services can be delivered to the settled people better thus the country would develop faster . In order to settle the mobile people , governments provided some facilities such as allocating a piece of farm lands , house , etc . . Lands allocated for farming or housing were part of the tribal rangelands of the mobile pastoralists . People take advantage of the provided facilities but not continue their grazing rights . Along with the sedentarization policy that governments followed , the growing population and their increasing demands caused many rangelands to be converted to other land uses such as farms , orchards , infrastructures etc . . It could be mentioned that the number of towns in 1976 was 49 ,000 while the figure increased to be 104 ,000 now . Needless to say that more rural and urban settlements and infrastructures including farms is equal to less rangelands for the mobile pastoralists .

In mobile pastoralism , livestock producers follow the irregularities of the weather , in search of drinking water and pastures for their herds and flocks (FAO , 1991) through certain route and between two grazing rangelands which is the alpine and the other in the low land areas . After the enforcement of the afore-mentioned Act , grazing permits became the basis for their movement . They were to consider their rules such as grazing time and period . They used to exit the rangelands on the extremes and move towards the other side . Since the rangelands in the route were converted into other land uses , thus they can not exploit the rangelands in the route and they always have conflicts with the rural people while they are not allowed to graze on areas which is no longer considered as rangeland . Now lots of measures have been taken to have more developed mobile pastoralists i .e . educational and health have improved comparing to last decades but still there is a long way to go especially about the people's living .

References

- Amir-Ahmadi , B . 1990 , A need for change of life of nomads of Iran . Proceedings of a seminar on strategies for development of nomadic life , Nomadic Association of Iran : Shiraz , Iran , pp 375-392 .
- Badripour , H . (2004) . Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles : Islamic Republic of Iran , FAO .
- Koocheki , A . S .R .Gliessman , 2005 , Pastoral nomadism , a sustainable system for grazing land management in arid areas , Journal of Sustainable Agriculture , vol . 25 (4) , pp 113-131 .
- Rais-Dana , F . 1990 , A guideline for nomadic development . Proceedings of a seminar on strategies for development of nomadic life . Nomadic Association of Iran : Shiraz , Iran , pp265-297 .