



Natural Resource Policies in the Near East and North Africa: From Management to Governance

*A Research-based Regional Policy Forum
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Alexandria, Egypt*

3-4 July 2006

Organized by the

**International Food Policy Research Institute
and the
International Fund for Agricultural Development**

Background

An important characteristic of the rural poor is that their livelihoods depend heavily on access to and use of natural resources. Policymakers have traditionally framed this access/use issue as an environmental planning and management problem. Failure to achieve the desired policy outcomes has been attributed to flaws in the policy options implemented. Such explanations fail to take into account the actors of change themselves, their capabilities and how institutions shape actors' interactions in decision-making processes.

Research over the past two decades on property rights, collective action and policy processes has shown that for policy changes to be successful and effective, changes are also needed in the way policy options are developed, selected and implemented. Because policies emerge from policy processes that are themselves embedded in political processes, policy changes depend on the political feasibility of required institutional changes.

Policymakers and researchers are accordingly shifting their focus from the choice of policy options and solutions to the choice of the rules governing decision-making processes. At the same time, policy research is becoming less prescriptive and more oriented towards providing analytical tools that will enable policymakers to assess the comparative merits of alternative policy options depending on the institutional context and local conditions.

Improving the governance of natural resources therefore requires institutional changes. These in turn depend on the possibility of crafting agreements among mutually recognized parties. This apparently simple requirement raises a whole range of issues, in particular regarding relationships between the state and civil society organizations. In the Near East and North Africa

region, the existence of representative, autonomous grass-roots organizations in rural areas cannot be taken for granted. State-sponsored efforts to create such organizations have been inconclusive. How can representative organizations reduce their dependency on state subsidies, and how can they minimize state interference with the designation of local leaders?

To reach and enforce new agreements among legitimate parties, it is necessary to identify ways of achieving a more even playing field among resource users on the one hand and between the state and grass-roots organizations on the other. How can the rural poor be empowered to manage natural resources and to overcome poverty? How should capabilities for decentralized natural resource management be measured? What conditions are required to make decentralized natural resource management effective? How can the risk of elite capture be reduced when management of natural resources is decentralized? Analytical tools to respond to these questions are inadequately developed.

The Regional Policy Forum on Natural Resource Policies in the Near East and North Africa is hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and jointly organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It has been planned for a maximum of 90 participants including high-level national policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations and major donors operating in the region. Based on a joint study by IFPRI and IFAD,¹ the forum will have a strong policy orientation, with researchers playing a facilitating role by providing a knowledge base for dialogue between policymakers and donors

Key Issues and Themes

- What is empowerment and how can it be measured?
- What are the determinants of natural resource management capability?
- What policies can empower rural poor communities to access and manage the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend?
- What institutional changes are required to implement these policies?
- What are the pathways to empowerment?

¹ This is the research project “Empowering the Rural Poor under Volatile Policy Environments in the Near East and North Africa Region”. In 2005, national case studies for Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia were presented at national workshops.

Provisional Agenda

Sunday, 2 July 2006

- Arrival of participants
- Accommodation (Hotel Palestine)
- Registration
- Evening: Welcome reception

Monday, 3 July 2006

9.00-10.30 *Session 1: Opening session*

- Chair: Ismael Serageldin
- Welcome address: Mohamed al-Faham: "Conference Objectives and Organization"
- Keynote address: Gunilla Olsson: "Learning from Each Other's Experience"
- Keynote address: Joachim von Braun: "Research Issues in Governance of Natural Resources"
- Keynote address: Mahmoud Mohamed Bachir el-Solh: "Governance of Natural Resources in the Region"
- Keynote address: Ismael Serageldin: "Democratization and Sustainable Development"
- Questions and answers (time permitting)

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00-12.30 *Session 2: How can the rural poor be empowered to manage natural resources?*

- Chair: Gunilla Olsson
- Speaker: Mona Bishay: "Significance of Empowerment for Development Strategies"
- Keynote speaker: Khalid el-Harizi: "Empowerment: Actors and Structures"
- Discussion
- Rapporteur's summary and final remarks by chair

12.30-14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00-15.45 *Session 3: Measuring empowerment*

- Chair/keynote speaker: Ruth Alsop: "Methodological Issues in Measuring Empowerment"
- Speaker: Ahmed Herzenni: "Morocco Case"
- Speaker: Ali Nefzaoui: "Tunisia Case"
- Speaker: Babo Fadlalla: "Sudan Case"
- Discussion
- Rapporteur's summary and final remarks by chair

15.45-16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00-17.45 *Session 4: Capability determinants and empowerment processes*

- Chair/keynote speaker: Parviz Koohafkan: "On Decentralized Management of Natural Resources"
- Speaker: El Sayed Zaki: "Sudan Case"
- Speaker: Ahmed Herzenni: "Morocco Case"
- Speaker: Ali Nefzaoui: "Tunisia Case"
- Discussion
- Rapporteur's summary and final remarks by chair

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

8.30-10.15 *Session 5: Disabling environments*

- Chair: Mohamed Ait Kadi
- Speaker: Youssef Saadani: “Dependency and Autonomy of Grass-roots Organizations in Tunisia”
- Speaker: Bettina Prato: “Resource-Based Conflicts in Kordofan, the Sudan”
- Speaker: Mohamed Tozy: “State Legal Oversight over Communal Lands in Morocco”
- Discussion
- Rapporteur’s summary and final remarks by chair

10.15-10.30 *Coffee break*

10.30-12.15 *Session 6: Towards an enabling policy framework*

- Chair/keynote speaker: Regina Birner: “Policy and Politics for Smallholder Agriculture”
- Speaker: Mohamed Tozy: “Morocco Case”
- Speaker: Ryadh Zghal: “Tunisia Case”
- Speaker: Cheikh el-Mek: “The Sudan Case”
- Discussion
- Rapporteur’s summary and final remarks by chair

12.15-13.30 *Lunch break*

13.30-15.15 *Session 7: Strategic implications for government and donor policies*

- Chair/introductory remarks: Mona Bishay
- Keynote speaker: Peter Hazell: “The Future of Small Farms in the Near East and North Africa”
- Speaker: Gregory Lazarev: “Development Scenarios in the Region”
- Speaker: Mylène Kherallah: “Strategic Implications for IFAD”
- Discussion
- Rapporteur’s summary and final remarks by chair

15.15-15.45 *Coffee break*

15.45-17.00 *Closing session: Next steps?*

- Chair: Khalid el-Harizi
- Free discussion from the floor: Assessment of forum outcomes and required follow-up
- Rapporteur’s summary and closing remarks by chair

20.00 *Evening Reception*

Wednesday, 5 July 2006

- Core research team draws conclusions of the forum and arranges for its proceedings and follow-up
- Guided visit of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Departure of participants

LIST OF CHAIRS/SPEAKERS
3-4 July 2006

Chairs

Ruth Alsop*	Senior Social Scientist, World Bank
Regina Birner*	Research Fellow, Development Strategy and Governance Division, IFPRI
Mona Bishay	Director, Near East and North Africa Division, IFAD
Khalid el-Harizi*	Policy Coordinator, Policy Division, IFAD
Mohamed Ait Kadi	President, Conseil général du développement agricole, Rabat
Parviz Koochafkan*	Director, Rural Development Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Ismael Serageldin*	Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Gunilla Olsson&*	Director, Policy Division, IFAD

Keynote Speakers and Speakers

Joachim von Braun	Director General, IFPRI
Babo Fadlalla	Research Fellow, Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan
Peter Hazell	Professor, Imperial College, London
Ahmed Herzenni	Research Fellow, Institut national de la recherche agronomique, Rabat
Mylène Kherallah	Regional Economist, Near East and North Africa Division, IFAD
Gregory Lazarev	Adviser, Plan Bleu, Paris
Sheikh el-Mek	Undersecretary, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Sudan
Ali Nefzaoui	Research Fellow, Institut de recherches agronomiques tropicales et des cultures vivrières, and National Coordinator of the Tunisia Team
Bettina Prato	Political Scientist, University of California, Berkeley, Member of the Sudan Team
Youssef Saadani	Division Head, Forestry Department, Tunisia
Mahmoud M.B. el-Solh	Director General, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
Mohamed Tozy	Professor of Political Science, University Hassan II, Casablanca
El Sayed Zaki	National Coordinator of the Sudan Team
Ryadh Zghal	Former Professor of Human Resource Management, University of Sfax, Tunisia

Note: An asterix (*) indicates that the chair is also a keynote speaker.