Why a focus economics?

Land degradation has been mainly associated and confined to Environmental Ministries eg, Agriculture, Water & irrigation, (low in pecking order when finances are allocated)

SO:
There is a need to communicate better with decision makers at national level in their language ie money
There is a need to communicate to decision makers who have control of funds – raise the issue to a higher profile at national government level – already have high profile at international level (through UNCCD)

Large economic benefits from maintaining and protecting the land – must be backed by solid scientific understanding

But the scientific language is not influencing decision makers at country level – need a different language to convey the importance of these issues
• Several interested groups that want to look at economics of land degradation – OSLO consortium, GIZ/BMZ, ZEF/IFPRI, North American research groups
• There is a need to pull together the different initiatives that exist
• A need to determine what should be the roadmap forward to harmonize the different methodologies,
• what needs to be done to build capacity
• Focus on economics is to answer a specific question and target a specific audience – in no way does it diminish other efforts or aspects of land degradation
Called for an economic assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management (LD/SLM)

Information on economic costs of LD is a prerequisite for monitoring and assessing LD

There is a need to identify and evaluate instruments in the assessment of LD/SLM
Criteria to evaluate methods/instruments include:

- Efficiency
- Improvement of environmental quality
- Information availability
- Transaction costs
- Practicality
- Time lag
Addressing the science-policy gap

Speaking same language is a first step

But what platforms are there to facilitate these discussions?

Use of existing IPCC or IPBES?

Or suggest E-LD/SLM as a first working group of a land panel
Results of the European Science Foundation/DNI Alghero conference on economics of SLM:

Need for harmonization of approaches/methods
More case studies linked to capacity building
Global synthesis and major report for policy makers