



## **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**



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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



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- 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



## Results from 1<sup>st</sup> scientific conference

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**



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