

Designing Integrated Financing Strategies for Combating Desertification
Sponsored by GM-UNCCD

The course was presented by Mr. Roshan Cooke, Programme Coordinator at the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). He was joined by Mr. Christian Mersmann, Managing Director of the GM. The course presented a comprehensive approach to resource mobilization that integrates internal resources (those coming from national budgets) with external resources (those provided by donor governments) and innovative resources (those provided by foundations and funds). This latter category included funding mechanisms like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and various incentive programmes that might be provided by governments to increase production and consumption. Mr. Cooke emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder involvement in an “integrated participatory financing strategy”. The themes covered during the course included: international financing contexts related to UNCCD; analysis of the national context; resource mobilization; internal sources of funding; external sources of funding; innovative sources of funding; partnership building; and an integrated financing strategy action plan.

The second part of the course was focused on promoting sustainable land management through trade by examining the linkages between trade, livelihoods and sustainable land management in degraded areas. Through a case study in Lebanon, Mr. Cooke indicated how emerging markets for products based on natural resources (specifically grapes for wine production) are providing ways of enhancing the sustainable use and management of land and advancing rural development. The importance of cooperation was emphasized between governments, the private sector, and investors in developing the market value of dryland resources. This would require creation of a regulatory framework that provides the enabling environment for increasing investment in sustainable use and management of land and natural resources. Such an enabling environment needed to rely on enhancing the interactions among trade and environment stakeholders and on creating adequate incentive mechanisms and tools to increase investment in sustainable land management.