

GLP dryland workshop

GLP held a small, but intense and very successful workshop on the topic of *“Vegetation productivity in drylands. Trends, Similarities, Differences, Causes & Research gaps”* from the 12th-14th January 2009 in Birkerød (close to Copenhagen), Denmark.

Trends in ‘vegetation greenness’ for dryland regions over the period 1982 to date are currently available from global data sets. This workshop was mainly based around the use of the Global Inventory Modelling and Mapping Studies (GIMMS) normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) dataset (and current improvements and updates of this dataset).

Many dryland areas actually experience an increase in vegetation greenness over the period, e.g. the Sahel, while other dryland regions, such as the Mediterranean, experience a reduction.

This workshop brought together 17 experts from 7 different countries with the aim to explore recent, satellite based documentation of changes in dryland regions. As a point of departure, the workshop discussed the robustness of these identified trends, but an equally strong emphasis was put into a joint effort of interpreting the observed changes in vegetation productivity. The participants contributed with technical and methodological insight as well as in depth local knowledge to each their specific region of empirical expertise.

The results of this workshop will be summarized in a publication that is currently under preparation.



From left to right: Andrea Gaughan, Christian Schweitzer, Stephen Prince, Quang Bao Le, Anette Reenberg, Alberte Bondeau, Tobias Langanke, Jonathan Seaquist, Howard Epstein, Cheikh Mbow, Kjeld Rasmussen, Compton Tucker, Lennart Olsson, Bob Scholes, Ron Eastman and Ulf Hellden