

SEVA Annual Report 2024 – 2025

National workshop on Rangeland management for sustainable rural development at Srinagar, 28-31 July 2024, Jammu and Kashmir

A three-day workshop on 'Rangeland Management for Sustainable Rural Development' was organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia (RISG-SA) and NABARD at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar between 29 and 31 July 2024. This workshop aimed to harness ongoing government programmes and schemes from various states to promote sustainable management of rangelands. The workshop was attended by 137 participants, which included officials from the Central Government and different line departments of Jammu and Kashmir like the Forest, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Agriculture among others; faculty members and students of varying academic institutions especially SKUAST-Kashmir, University of Kashmir, pastoralists across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Gujarat, different NGOs, researchers, and volunteers, besides participants from organizer institutions. 30 FPO representatives supported by NABARD participated in the workshop. The workshop focused on the United Nations General Assembly's designation of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). India has supported and co-sponsored the UNGA Resolution on IYRP (2022), which aims to raise awareness about the importance of rangelands and pastoralists for food security, the economy, the environment, and cultural heritage. The goal is to promote scientific conservation and management of rangelands and ensure sustainable livelihoods for pastoralists through community participation. The workshop aligned with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), marking 2026 as a transformative year for rangelands, pastoralists, and global environmental health.



National workshop on “Pasture lands, Commons and Pastoralism: Issues, Challenges and Way forward” Oct., 18-19, 2024 at Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Two days' workshop on Protection of Pasture lands, Commons and Pastoralism: Issues, Challenges and Way forward has been organised on October, 18-19, 2024 at Agronomy Seminar Hall, Agricultural College, Madurai, jointly by Thozhuvam Farmer Producer Company Ltd., SEVA and International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP) support group, Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoralist People Sangams, Tamil Nadu, NABARD - MABIF, Government departments with the main objective of understanding the present status of pastoralism, commons, leveraging ongoing government programmes and schemes of different departments for sustainable rangeland management and pastoralism. The workshop includes an inaugural ceremony, technical sessions (including the participation of experts through online) and group discussions attended by about 200 pastoralists, CSOs., Academics, Govt. officials and volunteers.

In the inaugural ceremony a book on "Inclusive and Sustainable management of Rangelands" (proceedings of workshop held at Srinagar on 29 - 31 July 2024) and a book on Preconference papers on : 'Pastoralism in Tamil Nadu towards a green economy" has been released by Honourable Minister of Commercial Tax and Registration Mr. P. Moorthy. Special address by dignitaries on history of Pastoralism in Tamil Nadu, natural farming along with of local livestock breeds and role of gramasabha in protection of commons were given by Mr Pamayan, Prof. Palanithurai, and Madurai Member of Parliament Mr. Su. Venkadesan.



Professionals from Foundation for Ecological Security, PRADAN, IGFRI Rajasthan, TANUVAS shared their research papers . At the end of the workshop recommendations were made for sending to different departments.

Herbal Treatment Practices for Livestock Management through AI Chatbot Application

Mr. Vivekanandan has got one fellowship from ISDM/CDSSI New Delhi for Digitalisation of traditional veterinary practices. The current challenge that farmers or livestock keepers face

in our country are they have to depend upon government veterinarians for any type of disease conditions of animals leading to delay, mortality of animals and economic loss for them. The alternative, low cost green herbal treatment practices in livestock management using traditional knowledge which is nowadays becoming rare or not available to all. The urgency and reliability of such information is given much importance for preventing disease spread and mitigating economic hardship.

Under such circumstances chatbots provide round-the-clock answers to common queries about livestock treatment options and protocols, reducing wait times and improving their satisfaction with low or no cost.

This output is possible by harnessing the digital power. It begins with preparing and compiling best practices which are time tested, low cost and environment friendly. A database on Herbal Treatment practices (numbering 153) compiled in English, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam corrected and updated and made available in digital format overcoming inaccessibility and digital divide. The coding and programming of practices in a data set for enabling Chatbot /NLP linked with cloud/Amazon web services completed by giving access to instant, relevant herbal medicine in text and voice in Tamil and English language for specific animal conditions.

The final product is web based APP works in mobile or in any browser. Therefore it is immediately usable by field or extension workers with a minimum of 500 workers with whom our user feedback is being undertaken in different districts. In the next 3 years it aims to reach out 1 million livestock keeping community across the country in their local language.

The domain for access is shown below : www.livestockseva.org

The feedback of using green practices in livestock management are plenty as we involved in documentation, testing and dissemination over the last 3 decades :

- Farmers benefitted economically by reducing or avoiding allopathic veterinary medicine which is costly and unavailable in remote areas.
- Sustainable livestock management practices promoted with improved animal health and increased productivity.
- It will ensure implementing “one health” concept by reducing pollution to the environment.

In order to sustain and scale up our program beyond the project we associate with institutes and non profits through formal MoUs for combining best of knowledge and digital power. We signed a MoU with Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram. Students intern from Agriculture college, Gandhigram, MEPCO Engineering college, Sivakasi, Ladydoak college for women, Siddaganga college of Engineering Tumkur associated with us in developing the App in English, Tamil, Kannada.



21 st Livestock Census of in our country included pastoral communities and their livestock



Interaction with Bargur pastoralists 6 Dec 2024 at Velampatti village, Erode district along with staff of Animal Husbandry dept.

Livestock Census in being undertaken for every 5 years in our country. 21st Livestock census first time included pastoralists and their livestock. This was possible due to lobbying by our network members viz. Sahjeevan promoted this concept and it has been accepted by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry. The definition of pastoralists has been included in the manual and we oriented many pastoralist groups of Tamil Nadu to be covered in the census undertaken during October 2024 to Feb. 2025.

Training on Herbal Medicine for Livestock

One day training program on ‘Herbal Treatment for Livestock’ has been organized in Kalapur village near Singampunari, Sivagangai district on 7.12.2025. There was participation of 25 livestock keepers/ farmers rearing dairy cows, sheep goat and poultry birds. P. Vivekanandan and Chellammal from SEVA demonstrated 3 herbal preparations viz. herbal masala bolus, mathanthailam and herbal dewormer. There was discussion on traditional medicine used for animals and few practices shared by farmers. Mr Sevugaperumal has organised this event.



Attrampakkam Panchayat Field Survey and training on organic farming and for development of local waterbodies



Further to understanding with students internship of California University through their RISHI project 4 members team of SEVA viz. Vivekanandan, Sangeetha, Udayakumari and Ranjit visited Attrampakkam village Panchayat in Thiruvallur district on 29,30 Nov 2024 and 1 Dec 2024. The visit is to understand the socioeconomic status of villagers especially scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and marginal communities in Attrampakkam SC colony, Irular colony, Govindaraja kuppam, Othappai and Devendrapakkam villages and propose future work plan to promote organic farming and natural livestock production and improving local water bodies through participatory resource mapping.

1. Second visit cum training was organised during 2-6 March 2025. We organised 2 days training programme on herbal treatment for livestock and natural farming practices on 4-5 March 2025 at Attrampakkam training centre. Farmers, Livestock keepers 34 members attended the training programme. In the first day we have undertaken

preliminary study about the present status and trend in their understanding on organic farming and also the extent of chemical inputs being used by them in crop cultivation for paddy, chillies, vegetables, groundnut, banana and coconut. We attended group meeting with villagers in Govindarajkuppam Tribal colony, Govindarajkuppam SC colony, Arunthathiya colony to understand their issue/problem pertaining to water for irrigation or drinking water purpose for human and animals.

Survey format has been designed to record the present status of agriculture, scope for promoting organic farming and herbal medicine for livestock, drinking water, nutrition and village sanitation.

Grassroots Innovators Workshop



One day workshop with grassroots innovators has been organized on 30.6.2024 at Kondekoundampalayam, Coimbatore District. Mr. Nandakumar organized this program at Panchayat Community Hall. There was participation of 25 innovators, volunteers and traditional healers and shared their innovation / knowledge status. We also visited farm forestry maintained by Mr. Nandakumar on 30 acres of land. He shared his income status from trees and their value and contribution to increase in water table near by wells maintained by 2 farmers who cultivate coconut and plenty of water made available. Due to efforts of farm forestry.

Activities to celebrate International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026

Sl. no	Date	Event Name	Organised by / in Collaboration with
19	June 21-23, 2024	Building a Resilient Future for Pastoralism: Exploring Commons, Climate, and Culture with a Youth Perspective, Bechraji, Mehsana, Gujarat.	SAPA & RISG-SA
20	July 29-31, 2024	Workshop on Rangeland Management for Sustainable Rural Development – Srinagar, Kashmir	RISG-SA, Department of Rural Development, Jammu & Kashmir, NABARD

21	Aug 27-29, 2024	Participated in "Common Convening workshop" at New Delhi on Panel discussion "Role of IYRP 2026 and Action Plan"	FES, UNDP, and TISS
22	Oct. 18-19, 2024	Two-day' workshop on Protection of Pasture lands, Commons and Pastoralism Oct. 18-19, 2024, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.	Thozhuvam, RISG-SA