

33 rd Annual Report of SEVA : 2025-2026

During this year SEVA has been active in making awareness program on UN declared International Year of Rangeland of Pastoralists 2026 across the country by joining with different stakeholders including government organizations. Major events organized are given below:

1. Training and awareness for value addition and marketing of local wool in Hajin Block, Bandipora District, Kashmir

SEVA, in collaboration with NABARD, Jammu region organized a ten-days wool processing training-cum-workshop at the Sheep and Wool Development Complex, Block Hajin, District Bandipora, from 7 April to 16 April 2025. The training programme covered various aspects of wool processing, including shearing, scouring, grading, carding, spinning, weaving, and finishing of wool fabrics. There were 30 participants include pastoralists, youth and women SHG members. They also visited wool processing units in different villages in Bandipora, SKUAST, Kashmir (Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology), and IICT (Indian Institute of Carpet Technology) and UNDP wool processing centre , Nowshera, Srinagar, to gain hands-on experience in wool processing. Resource persons from different departments shared their expertise with trainees/participants associated with pastoralism, Kani shawl weaving, Pashmina shawl weaving, and related fields. The Director, IICT, stressed to the artisans to register themselves as artisans in the handicraft department so that they can avail benefits from the scheme. Ganisthan village witnessed increase in the number of kani handloom weavers to more than 100 compared few about 5 years back. They are in need of support for acquiring new looms in the village with subsidized rates or free of cost.



Dr. Henna Jalal, Assistant Professor, Division of Livestock Product Technology, SKUAST, Kashmir, briefed on the animal fibres and animal fibre quality assurance at SKUAST, Kashmir, which involves evaluating and ensuring the quality of fibres from sheep, goats, and rabbits.



Outcome of Training :

1. Issues related to sheep pastoralists understood better. Lack of drinking water, wild animals attack on sheep during night time, lack of stray facilities in the grazing area, lack of adequate shearing machines among the community, lack of adequate veterinary facilities, low cost of wool (Rs. 30 and less per kg. of wool) and high cost of grazing fee charged by forest department.
2. Wool grading Centre owned by private individuals have no pucca building and winter is too cold needs heaters to keep warm. Raw wool is graded and send to Amritsar, Ludhiana in Punjab and good scope for coverage under MGNREGA Convergence. The local BDO, Hajin also agreed to support.
3. Kani shawl weavers in Ganistan need new looms and Community Weaving Centre is to be constructed as Common Facility Centre under MGNREGA Convergence. The list of 20 weavers was submitted through director, Indian Institute of Carpet Technologies, Srinagar to state department of hand looms and handicrafts for availing benefits from government such as insurance etc.
4. The concept of promotion of FPO understood and those 10 women SHG members involved in wool grading in Bazipura are encouraged to undertake this activity.
5. The carpet weavers in Ajas find difficulties in marketing their carpets due to cheap machine made products from China. They can be given orientation in cotton and silk fabrics products to increase their income.
6. Trainees learned weaving skill by using mini loom provided during the training period. There is good scope for self employment for youth through kani shawl handloom weaving. School students can be oriented in acquiring weaving skills. Many youth and women need mini looms for their initial orientation and later as their part time engagements in their house for their additional income.

7. We are able to enter into informal agreement with J&K Wool Development & Marketing Association, IICT, Srinagar, Directorate of Sheep Husbandry, Srinagar, Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Srinagar for providing CFCs, hand looms under private or HADP schemes.

8.

2. Status of Pastoralists, Wool processing in Jammu and Kashmir for Intervention

Further to visit to Hajin and organizing training on wool processing on 7-16 April 2025 and discussion with local community, CBOs, officials we would like to propose the following points for discussion:

1. Pastoralists need shelter facilities in the grasslands or forest zone during their migration for temporary stay, especially along the migratory routes like Dubjan, Pir Galli, Wayil, Naranag, Safapora, and Matrigam gagangir like for other routes Jamiengali, Rupri etc also need some shelter at key halt points because most pastoralists pass through twice, and having common shelters there would provide much-needed rest and protection. Also, in the intervening pastures that are commonly used by all where there are usually no kothas or even tents because everybody just use it for 5-10 days.
As forest dept. will not allow pucca construction 'Mud house' can be constructed under Govt scheme / MGNREGA.
2. In many grasslands no adequate drinking water facilities and new water bodies are to be created under Govt. scheme/MGNREGA. Revival and management of the already present water bodies/ streams can be renovated under MGNREGA. Wherever absent, PHE department should install new drinking water pipelines to provide access to pure drinking water to the pastoralists and their livestock.
3. Migratory routes are to be mapped for entire Jammu & Kashmir state and in such routes, necessary provision for stay and such areas should not be diverted for other activities viz. tree planting etc. as implemented by forest department in Himachal Pradesh state.
4. Forest officials oriented for proactive role in identifying and facilitating local villages for community forest rights under Forest Rights Act 2006. Local NGOs role to be involved and accelerated and completed before 2025 as to celebrate IYRP 2026.
5. Minimum support price for wool should be fixed. The operation of processing centre of Dept. of Handlooms & Handicraft in Navshera should be ensured and evaluated so that pastoralists benefited for cleaning their wool.
6. Common Facility Centres built for wool grading and processing, water chestnut processing, marketing and looms installed for Kani, pashmina shawl and carpet weaving in selected places under convergence scheme.
7. Weaving looms are made available in schools as vocational course and option for interested students studying middle school level.

8. Local Youth and community organizations/institutions are streamlined and strengthened to undertake implementation of Govt. schemes/activities with financial support similar to 'Sabbhavana' implemented by Army.

3. Discussion with Pulikulam Cattle Pastoralists and Release of Map for the Pulikulam Cattle herders Seasonal Migration Route

One day discussion with Pulikulam Cattle Pastoralists and their seasonal migration route was held at Pulikulam Cattle Research Station, Manamadurai, Sivagangai district on 7-3-2026. There was participation of pastoralists from Sivagangai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts.



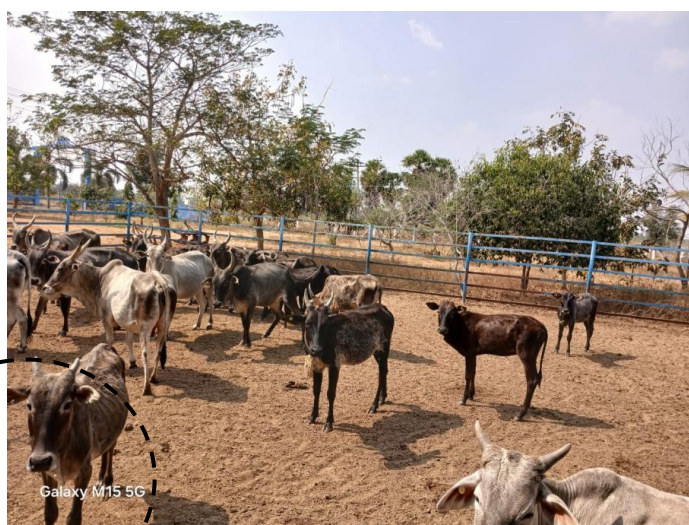
Dr. M. Murugan, Director, Centre for Animal Production Studies, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai was the chief guest and highlighted need for conservation of Pulikulam Cattle Breed and how this centre enable cattle herders to derive more income through training program being organised. Dr. V. Palanichamy, Pulikulam Cattle Research Station welcomed the participants. Mr. P. Vivekanandan, SEVA has briefed about his role in registering Pulikulam cattle breed during 2012 and also the importance of International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists 2026 as an opportunity to empower pastoralists through their traditional livelihoods. Mr. C. Rajiv Gandhi, Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoral Peoples Sangams joint organizer of the event told the need for forming association with cattle herders for claiming their traditional rights including grazing in the forest. He also told considerable number of Pulikulam cattle population in Ramnad district. There was release of seasonal migratory map of Pulikulam cattle pastoralists. Dr. K.Srinivasan, Pulikulam Cattle Research Station proposed vote of thanks.

In the afternoon session there was discussion with the herders on the modality of forming groups / association at district level. Mr. P. Vivekanandan facilitated the process and the following was the outcome :

1. District level association will be promoted for Sivagangai district. Members meet thrice in a year during full moon day of Tamil month viz. *Masi*, *Vaikasi*, *Avani*. Members has to pay Rs. 500/- as entrance fee and quarterly subscription of Rs. 500/-. The office head quarters / meeting venue can be temporarily at Pulikulam Cattle Research Station, Manamadurai.



2. Major disease of Pulikulam cattle are : Lumpy Skin Disease, Foot and Mouth disease and *Karani* disease. *Karani* disease will be noticed after the incidence of Foot and Mouth disease especially during summer season; if *karani* disease incidence is noticed during rainy season with few days of raining the disease will immediately will disappear. Farmers usually grind soaked fenugreek for administering it orally to reduce body heat of the animal as *karani* disease occurs due to increase in the body temperature.



The picture shows karani disease affected animal in the left side marked in a circle.

3. Mr. Ramesh, a pastoralist from Velani shared his ethnoveterinary practices and he is able to cure all the disease of sheep using herbal preparations mainly with betel vine, pepper and salt. He admits that *Valippu* disease in sheep cause death of animal and herbal medicine is not effective.
4. P. Vivekanandan, SEVA agreed to train selected youth on herbal treatment for livestock.
5. Mr. Ramakrishan cattle herder in Manangathan village has presented draft map showing the migratory route in Virudhunagar district (Watrap block).
6. Few issues have been identified to be taken up for redressal of grievances :
 - i. Digging of water pond in Meenakshipuram village so that Vaigai river channel can be connected enabling drinking water source for cattle.
 - ii. The private encroachment in the revenue poramboku land in Kattikulam village is to be removed .
 - iii. Claiming rights as per Forest Rights Act 2006 is to be enabled for herders in Sivagangai district where eucalyptus plantation has been promoted by forest department.
 - iv. Smart card is to be issued to all the cattle pastoralists to prevent harassment or atrocities against migratory herders.
 - v. Removal of *Prosopis juliflora* is to be undertaken in grazing lands; diverting pasture lands for other development purpose is to be stopped.

4. Discussion with Bargur Cattle Pastoralists at Dronagiri Matt, Bargur block, Erode district on 3-3-2026



One day discussion with Bargur cattle pastoralists has been organized at Dronagiri Matt, Bargur block, Erode district on 3-3-2026. This event has been jointly organized by Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoral Sangams, SEVA and Dronagiri Matt. Mr. Ashok Rajendraswami presided over the meeting. Mr. P. Vivekanandan briefed SEVA work over the last 2 decades right from documenting traditional knowledge

of the Bargur cattle pastoralists and also bio-cultural protocol in addressing their issues especially camping the herds inside the forests. He also talked about International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP). Mr. Rajiv Gandhi briefed the procedure in claiming grazing rights and camping inside the forests as per Forest Rights Act 2006. Mr. Anbu, Tribal Foundation described the historic background of Bargur cattle pastoralists and their culture in protecting nature and environment. He agreed to sponsor procuring 5 male bulls of buffalo for breeding purpose. Dr. Subash, Bargur Cattle Research Station briefed about the activities of their centre in conserving 100 number of Bargur cattle and earning income through distribution of calves, milk and milk products and supply of dung to the farmers on cost basis. He also cautioned not to promote artificial insemination using semen of Murrah Buffalo for the local buffalo population. Mr. Ashok Rajendraswami has narrated how the local Lingayat community become vegetarian and gave up hunting the wild animals after the advise of their first Guru Siddha Veereswarar Swami being devotee of Matheswara Swami and this happened about 1000 years back. Now the 36th descendent of the Gurupeetam is the supreme leader and protector of Lingayat culture which worship Lord Shiva and cattle. They never engage cattle for agricultural operation viz. ploughing on Monday as it is auspicious day for Lord Shiva. They will not attend milking on Mondays and allow the calves to suckle. Such a tradition is conserving wild life bio-diversity but forest department is imposing all the hardship in the name of protecting forests. Therefore the rights of the cattle pastoralists ought to be restored and recognize their lifestyle including seasonal migration to forests during cropping season.



In the afternoon the pastoralists divided into 3 groups and discussed on the following themes :

1. Forming pastoralists association and vana gramasabha for claiming rights under Forest Rights Act 2006
2. Status of breeding in buffalo keeping and addressing their issues on availability of buffalo bulls.
3. How to increase income level of Bargur cattle pastoralists.

The group representatives presented the outcome of their discussion. Members agreed in promoting herbal veterinary clinic in Velampatti village where road access is limited. SEVA will provide training on preparation of herbal medicines for animals. Members agreed to construct pucca arch showing the wordings of International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists 2026 at the entrance of Thamarai karai village. Members agreed to approach district collector for official permission for this purpose. It has

been decided to involve volunteers in villages for forming gramasabha under Forest Rights Act 2006 for claiming the grazing and camping rights in forests.

Finally members stand together for oath taking event. Lunch has been arranged for all the participants by Mr. Ashok Rajendraswami. District collector Mr. Kandhasamy visited Dronagiri Matt on 7.3.2026 and assured all support for the pastoral communities as he was unable to present on 3-3-2026.



5. Launching ceremony on 1st January 2026



*Bajan song & Agni hotra during sunrise
at Kanniyakumari.*



Oath taking slogans at Kanniyakumari seashore .

At the southern tip of India i.e. at Kanniyakumari of Tamil Nadu state at the time of Sunrise we have performed few ceremony events viz. prayer song/ bajan song, homa / yagna for sunrise (*Agni hotra*). There was participation of about 30 pastoralists, volunteers and raised slogans along with oath taking.



Release of New Year Calendar at Kallikukalam

By 10.00 a.m. we organised a meeting with 50 pastoralists at south Kallikukalam village, Kanniyakumari district. We interacted with cattle pastoralists and their tenancy system between caretakers during October- January 15 th when cattle are cared by tenant herders. We launched pastoralists association at Taluk level (Radhapuram taluka) and released daily calendar for year 2026 along with IYRP themes printed in the front page. *Rangoli / kolam* (a traditional practice of making art / pattern on the floor in front of the house using lime powder which express spirituality and creativity) has been made with our women volunteers and performed singing folk songs.

These two events were organised by Tamil Nadu Federation for Pastoral Peoples Sangams and SEVA. Officials from Animal Husbandry department of Tirunelveli district represented.

6. Launching IYRP Ceremony on 3rd January 2026



On 3rd January 2026, IYRP launching ceremony cultural events and forming Grama Sabha for claiming Grazing rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 has been organised by SEVA at U. Vadipatti village, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu. We distributed prizes to best Rangoli / Kolam drawn by pastoralist women and girls for performing folk dance on IYRP objective. Officials from animal husbandry department attended.

On 3rd January 2026 IYRP launching ceremony has been organised at Neelbad, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh by Pastoral Youth Association. About 200 pastoralists, officials from Animal husbandry department and youth volunteers from different states participated. They performed bajan (spiritual songs) and submitted a memorandum to animal husbandry department for protection of rangelands, migratory routes, grazing rights in forests and for providing veterinary services to pastoralists herds. They organised a camel yatra for about one kilometre distance by singing songs to create awareness on IYRP.

Pictures of few Rangoli /Kolam performed by pastoral women on the eve of New Year



Rangoli by Mrs. Sangeetha & Mrs. Udhaya, South Kallikulam village



Rangoli by pastoral women at Vadipatti village

Rangoli by pastoral women at Vadipatti village



Rangoli by pastoral women at Vadipatti village



7. Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge, Innovations and Digitisation

SEVA has been documenting Indigenous knowledge and grassroots innovations in agriculture, animal husbandry and rural development over the last 33 years and we publish quarterly newsletter – **Numvali Velanmaai**. We have so far documented about 10,000 practices/ innovations and provide services viz. technology, financial support in association with banks, GIAN, National Innovation Foundation, Dgan Foundation and also recognize them through awards. In addition we organise training program on organic farming and ethnoveterinary practices. SEVA volunteers associate with NGOs, private organisations, students interns in providing training program on herbal treatment for animals.



By documenting traditional knowledge in livestock management over the last 3 decades we are coming out SEVA Vetbot App which helps livestock owners find herbal treatments for common animal illnesses. It supports farmers in rural areas who lack access to affordable veterinary care. Users can ask questions in Tamil, Kannada or English using text or voice. The platform uses AI to suggest treatments from a growing database of traditional practices. Available through a chatbot, it's currently being tested with field workers. Plans are in place to reach 1 million users by 2030.

Link: <https://www.livestockseva.org/>

App Launched in Bangalore in 3 languages Tamil, Kannada or English on 25 April. at .Bangalore International Centre



One day workshop on grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge has been organized at Vandavasi Bharatha Matha Metriculation School, on 13.7.2025. There was participation of traditional healers, mechanics, innovators and farmers. They shared their experiences including ethnoveterinary practices, seed drill, drainage clearer, low electricity operated battery sprayer etc. Members attended include Mr. Mariappan, Sangeetha, Uthayakumari, Venkidasamy, Ramesh, Mr. Ranjith, SEVA Volunteer has organized this event.

8. Minutes of meeting on Mapping of Pastoral routes across Tamilnadu State

Mapping of Pastoral routes across Tamilnadu has been discussed at Maruthanganallur village, Sivagangai district with participation of pastoral people, representatives of pastoralists groups/ Association (Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, Virudhunagar districts) NGOs, government officials and volunteers on 2 Nov 2025. Earlier on 1 November the pastoral trip team comprising of 10 volunteers interacted with the local and migratory pastoralists in and around Manamadurai town , Sivagangai district. Mr Rajiv Gandhi president of Tamilnadu Federation of Pastoral Sangams organised the 2 days event . A total of 35 members attended the meeting.



Members shared their seasonal migration pattern and their problems and issues faced during their migration. Earlier the animal herds (sheep and goats) allowed to walk and now many pastoralists hire trucks for transport; they face hurdles with highway police, speedy vehicles which hit the animals and accidents, death of animals and hardly any claims due to lack of insurance for animals as described by Mr Suresh, Kurnthanni village of Sivaganga district. He told that they migrate to distant places upto Mannargudi of Thanjavur and also Nagapattinam districts which are coastal belt area and travel more than 200 km during Jan- Feb coinciding harvest of paddy crop and return by August.

The pastoralists of Kurmbagoundar told that 15 families along with about 15,000 sheep migrate from Palani (Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu) to Palakkadu in adjoining Kerala state between Jan- June. They return to Tamil Nadu once southwest monsoon starts by the end of May or first week of June. They explained outbreak of Anthrax, Brucellosis disease leading to casualties of animals and expressed inadequate veterinary services in the districts they travel. The Pulikulam cattle herders in Virudhunagar district face theft of calves when herds are taken for grazing.

Discussion on low cost and efficient model of shelter for young ones with iron wires which is becoming popular than conventional *Kodappu* made of palm tree laves. However the improving decision for good aeration while protecting from rains, winds/ theft is discussed. Mr Kishore designer of movable platform to inspect and detect weight or temperature of sheep/ goat also attended and shared the prototype for further testing.

Mr Pandi, pastoralist association of Ramanathapuram district told about how the tank bunds in Kadambodai village has been used illegally as site for raising seedlings of chilies and how the farmers are commercially interested and this encroachment prevents entry of sheep, goats and cattle for access to drinking water. They also told fishing activity encouraged by few panchayat presidents lead to siphoning of water which deprive the water availability for animals during summer. He demanded exclusive allowing of drinking water for livestock during summer months by opening river *Vaigai* as happened for farmers lobbying irrigation purpose.

Hiring of laborers to look after the herds during migration (advance money paid immediately on the date of joining followed by monthly honorarium/ wages) is a traditional practice and this is viewed as an act of bonded labourer and subject to legal proceedings and this is also giving chance to cheat the owner of herd and unnecessary booking of police / court cases.

When tree planting is undertaken adjoining to highways this affects the migration of animals due to objections of forest officials as the herd migration will destroy the newly planted saplings and subject to penalty.

There is no dedicated animal corridor/ underground tunnel to cross the 4 ways highways and no planned layout by authorities concerned. The examples of Madrid city in Spain how pastoralists herd smoothly pass through has been shared by members.

During migration forest officials especially the lower level cadre collect money from the migratory pastoralists for allowing them to graze in the forests but others(local herders) who are not paying many are not allowed and this lead to conflicts among pastoralists groups has been experienced by herders in Kallakurichi district as told by Rajiv.

The need for separate Act as enacted by Karnataka state government to prevent atrocities against sheep pastoralists during migration and forming exclusive Government Authority/ Board dedicated for the welfare of pastoralists were discussed. Ms. Sugnaya shared her experience in sharing the Forest Rights claims as per Forest Rights Act 2006 in the coastal mangroves where non tribal women are now able to enter forest and catch fish.

This is the first meeting of the mapping exercise and this will be attempted by organizing such events in different districts/ areas of the state. Dr Saravanan Asst Director of Animal Husbandry explained schemes and other veterinary services like vaccination of state Animal Husbandry department. Mr Sakthipandian Tamil Nadu Start Up told the need for start ups and venture capital support for new innovations. Dr. Jagadeesan Krishnan facilitated the workshop discussion and gave vote of thanks.

9. Conservation of sacred groves in Idayapatti village, Madurai district



In Idayapatti village near Thiruvathavur, Madurai district there is 1500 acres of sacred groves in the vicinity of Vellai Malaiyandi temple. The sacred groves have open forest with species like Kadamba tree, Thethamaram, Usilai and Cactus species. It has also grasslands being used by wild animals and local livestock. Part of the land has been diverted for stone quarry. The rest of the land is being targeted for other government purpose. However on request by local people meeting has been organised by Thozhuvam on 28.3.2026. It has been resolved to protect the sacred groves as such as it is rich in bio diversity and also livelihood support for the livestock keepers by grazing their livestock.

10. Jallikattu festival at Alanganallur village



On 21.2.2026 a *Jallikattu festival* has been organised to celebrate International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralism 2026 by Thozhuvam at Alanganallur village, Madurai district. About 500 bulls owned by the jallikattu farmers participated along with their bulls. Prizes have been distributed to the best bulls and those who tamed the bulls. SEVA distributed pamphlets about IYRP and organised cultural event on that day.

11.IYRP Secretariat for South Asia :

The United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) on 15th March, 2022. Government of India has supported this proposal of Mongolia to the UN along with other 102 countries and 450 organizations globally. The members of the group formed 11 regions across the globe. SEVA has been functioning as secretariat for South Asia region of IYRP Network and P. Vivekanandan is chair of the region. We submit progress report of various activities of IYRP events organised by our network members to the Global Alliance of Rangeland and Pastoralists which inturn uploaded in the IYRP web site. For More details of IYRP activities refer : <https://iyrp.info/>

P. Vivekanandan attend the event and explain have IYRP has been promoted by united nations. and its importance and activities to be pursued both by CSO and other stake holders including government organisation.

We created one whats App group and also one e group with about 200 members at south Asia level for exchange of papers, publications, policy notes etc to promote the objectives of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026.

List of Events organized Jointly and Collaboration with others during 2025-2026

Sl. no	Date	Event Name	Organized by / in Collaboration with
1	April 7-16, 2025	Wool Processing training in Hajin, Bandipora, Jammu & Kashmir.	SEVA , NABARD, ULLAR BACHO Front
2	July 26-27 2025	Forests Rights Act 2006 workshop, Madurai	Tamilnadu Federation of Pastoral People's Sangams (TFPPS)
3	Aug 1-10 2025	Organizing forest grmasabhs for claiming grazing rights for pastoralists under FRA 2006	Hill cattle(Malaimadu cattle) herders Association, Theni district, SEVA
4	Sep 17-21 2025	Side event on IYRP 2026 Advancing Development: Enabling Development Partnership in the 12 th Madurai Symposium	Dhan Foundation and SEVA

5	Dec. 5, 2025	Pastoral Bio - Economy and Decarburization	Thozhuvam, and TANUVAS, Chennai
6	Jan. 1, 2026	Launching Ceremony of IYRP at Kanniyakumari	TFPPS and SEVA
7	Jan. 3, 2026	IYRP launching ceremony, cultural events and forming Grama Sabha for claiming Grazing rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 at U. Vadipatti village, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.	SEVA and Animal Husbandry Department
8	Jan. 3, 2026	IYRP launching ceremony at Neelbad, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Pastoral Youth Association
9	Feb. 11-12, 2026	Gojri Buffalo- A shared heritage of the Himalayas, Rishikesh, Uttrakhand	Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sanghathan
10	Feb. 13-15, 2026	Conserving Orans & Deobanis : Heritage and Biodiversity for Posterity, Alwar, Rajasthan	KARPAVIS
11	March 3, 2026	Bargur cattle pastoralists meeting at Dronagrimatt, Bargur Hills	TFPPS and SEVA
12	March 7, 2026	Discussion with Pulikulam Cattle Pastoralists and their seasonal migration route was held at Pulikulam Cattle Research Station,	With TFPPS, Sivagangai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts

P. Vivekanandan, Executive Director, SEVA

Date : 11.09.2026