

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report of SEVA 2023- 2024

SEVA is registered as NGO under society's registration Act (136/1992). SEVA has been involved in 2 major activities viz. documentation and dissemination of traditional knowledge and grassroots innovations; livestock development and conservation of local livestock breeds. The activities undertaken are shown below :

### Documentation and Dissemination of Innovations:

#### Traditional knowledge and innovations documented in Kanjangod, Kerala



Two days workshop on herbal treatment for animals and rural innovations have been organised on 23-24 Jan. 2024 at Moonam Mille Kanjangod, Kasargod District. Kanjangod Taluka, Kasargod district, Local farmers, livestock keepers including women numbering 32 members attended (list in annexure) . During this workshop we documented local practices in agriculture, animal husbandry. We shared best practices documented by SEVA / awarded by National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad. We also demonstrated on preparing herbal recipes for treatment of animals, crops, human. Mr. P.Vivekanandan, Director SEVA, and his team members viz. Sangeetha, Udhayakumari assisted in identification of medicinal plants, demonstration of preparation of herbal formulations for crops and animals. We also visited local Goshala maintained by Kabila Foundation, Nellithara. Mr. P.K.Lal, Director of Kabila Foundation and Mr. Jeyaraj of Keshav Ji, Smaraka Vayanashala, Moonnam Mile looked after all the arrangements for the 2 days workshop.

#### Innovations developed by Chellammal in South Andaman –Awarded with Padmasree



She is pioneer in introducing Krishipathi, Elephant yam, betelvine in Andaman island and it is suitable for Andaman climate while giving additional income for farmers. She promoted bee keeping with 15 bee hives in her garden it enhance pollination and improve productivity for the garden. She adopts organic farming techniques viz. Jeevamrudham, Panchagavya mulching with coconut husk and branches. Now she is not using any chemical fertilizer and saves money. Labour cost also reduced due to less irrigation and application of chemical inputs. She keeps 3 dairy cows, 4 goats, 10 poultry birds which provides additional income while giving manure for the farm. She prevents rain water run off by mulching techniques which is also useful for successful raising of Krishipathi crop which fetches good income for farmers. She supplies cuttings and planting materials of Krishipathi, Elephant yam and betelvine plants to needy farmers.

#### **Economics of the garden :**

She harvests 28,570 coconuts per annum and spends around 2 lakhs towards the cost of cultivation for different components and earns 1.65 lakhs from coconut alone. Her income from other promising intercrops are ginger (Rs. 1.12 lakhs), chillies (Rs. 26,800), banana (Rs. 52,000), papaya (Rs. 55,000), tapioca and elephant foot yam (Rs. 60,000 each), chinman and black pepper (Rs. 57,000), betelvine (Rs. 1.20 lakhs). From fish ponds, she earns Rs. 40,000 annually. And the net income from the coconut based integrated farm is about Rs. 8.39 lakhs per ha per annum. Smt. Chellammal is the recipient of best farmer award in Kisan Mela organised by ICAR-CHARI in 2012.

#### **Workshop on Pastoralism in Jammu and Kashmir: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward on 31 st July-1 st August 2023**

A two-day workshop on '*Pastoralism in Jammu and Kashmir: Issues, Challenges, and the Way Forward*' was organized jointly by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Tribal Research Institute, Jammu and Kashmir, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Srinagar, and Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia (RISG-SA) during 31<sup>st</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar. The workshop was attended by more than 200 participants, which included officials from different line departments of Jammu and Kashmir like the forest department, animal husbandry department, sheep husbandry department, and agriculture department among others; faculty members and students of different research institutions especially SKUAST-Kashmir, University of Kashmir, ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi, pastoralists across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, different NGOs and volunteers, besides participants from organizer institutions. The proceedings and recommendations of this workshop is shown in Annexure -3

#### **National Workshop on "Resilience of Indian Rangeland and Pastoralists: Role and Livelihood" 21-23 Dec 2023 at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, U.P.**



The workshop was organized jointly by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying; ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh; SEVA, Madurai, Tamil Nadu; FES, Anand, Gujarat; and South Asia region support group for International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 on 21-23 December 2023 at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate holistic understanding of issues around rangeland management and pastoralism in different parts of India and to develop strategies for regeneration of pasture land, common lands and to promote sustainable pastoralism. The workshop was attended by the delegates/ representatives from Pastoral Cell of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Organizations (Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, Rajasthan); Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur; State Development Departments; Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations (SEVA, Madurai, Tamil Nadu; Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand, Gujarat and its centres in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; Sahjeevan, Bhuj, Gujarat; KRPAVIS, Alwar, Rajasthan; Desert Resource Center /URMUL, Bikaner, Rajasthan; Rainfed Livestock Network, Pune, Maharashtra; International Land Coalition, Mumbai, Maharashtra), research scholars from different organizations (SKUAST, Srinagar, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi) and pastoralists from different parts of the country . On the first day of inaugural session on 21-12- December, 2023 Dr. Amaresh Chandra Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi chaired the session and in his welcome address he mentioned that two workshops/ meetings were held earlier at Bhuj and New Delhi in this direction and appreciated the establishment of the Pastoralism Cell which was a much needed initiative by the Ministry. He added that Grassland Authority needs to be established to implement the objectives of the proposed Grassland policy. Dr D.R. Palsaniya, Secretary, Range Management Society of India (RMSI), Jhansi mentioned the objectives and the purpose of the workshop to facilitate holistic understanding of issues around rangeland management and pastoralism in India and to develop strategies for improved livelihoods and regeneration of pasture land and common lands through participatory approaches.

Mr P. Vivekanandan, Executive Director of SEVA briefed about UN declaration on International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026 and mentioned how best we can utilise this opportunity to promote sustainable rangelands and pastoralism across different regions in South Asia level. He also mentioned about the section on Pastoralism in the National Framers Policy 2007 needs to be elaborated in the draft Grassland Policy being prepared and “One Panchayat, One Pasture land” be the slogan. Shri. Ishan Agrawal, FES, Anand suggested to scale up few pilot cases where they restored and regenerated pasture land in Rajasthan and Karnataka and need for replication by state

government in other states under MGNREGA convergence. Dr Avijit Ghosh, ICAR-IGFRI proposed vote of Thanks. The outcome of 2 days workshop was policy recommendations to Govt. The proceedings of our workshop is shown in Annexure.

## **Rangeland Awards**

As part of this workshop, the Rangeland 2023 Award ceremony is being organised on 28 March 2024 at Madurai Tamilnadu. It is the second round of Rangelands and Pastoralists awards and out of 18 entries received, the selection committee selected the 10 best entries, which include individuals, activists, local village level institutions or groups who executed protection and regeneration of rangelands, common lands, pasture lands that are depended on by local communities or pastoralists for grazing their livestock. On this occasion, we congratulate the awardees who will be provided with certificates and cash money of Rs. 10,000. This venture, we believe will motivate them to continue such sustainable activities and that would further serve a source of inspiration for others to follow. The list of awardees and proceedings of Award ceremony is shown in Annexure-2.

On 22 March 2022, United Nations declared 2026, the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) in order to promote sustainable rangelands and pastoralism globally. Therefore, this awards events ceremony is part of recognizing and documenting best practices in the protection and regeneration of rangelands that will contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals and protect the livelihoods of local communities.

### **Annexure -1**



### **Proceedings of the National Workshop on “Resilience of Indian Rangeland and Pastoralists: Role and Livelihood” 21-23 Dec 2023 at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, U.P.**

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and Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, Rajasthan); Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur; State Development Departments; Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations (SEVA, Madurai, Tamil Nadu; Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand, Gujarat and its centres in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; Sahjeevan, Bhuj, Gujarat; KRAPAVIS, Alwar, Rajasthan; Desert Resource Center /URMUL, Bikaner, Rajasthan; Rainfed Livestock Network, Pune, Maharashtra; International Land Coalition, Mumbai, Maharashtra), research scholars from different organizations (SKUAST, Srinagar, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi) and pastoralists from different parts of the country (List is enclosed).

## Session 1 : Inauguration



On the first day of inaugural session on 21-12- December, 2023 Dr. Amaresh Chandra Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi chaired the session and in his welcome address he mentioned that two workshops/ meetings were held earlier at Bhuj and New Delhi in this direction and appreciated the establishment of the Pastoralism Cell which was a much needed initiative by the Ministry. He added that Grassland Authority needs to be established to implement the objectives of the proposed Grassland policy. Dr D.R. Palsaniya, Secretary, Range Management Society of India (RMSI), Jhansi mentioned the objectives and the purpose of the workshop to facilitate holistic understanding of issues around rangeland management and pastoralism in India and to develop strategies for improved livelihoods and regeneration of pasture land and common lands through participatory approaches.

Mr P. Vivekanandan, Executive Director of SEVA briefed about UN declaration on International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026 and mentioned how best we can utilise this opportunity to promote sustainable rangelands and pastoralism across different regions in South Asia level. He also mentioned about the section on Pastoralism in the National Farmers Policy 2007 needs to be elaborated in the draft Grassland Policy being prepared and “One Panchayat, One Pasture land” be the slogan. Shri. Ishan Agrawal, FES, Anand suggested to scale up few pilot cases where they restored and regenerated pasture land in Rajasthan and Karnataka and need for replication by state government in other states under MGNREGA convergence. Dr Avijit Ghosh, ICAR-IGFRI proposed vote of Thanks.

## **Session 2 : History, Contemporary Status and Dynamics of Grasslands and Rangelands**



Dr. A. K. Roy, Emeritus Professor, RLBCAU, Jhansi and former Principal Scientist, ICAR-IGFRI made a detailed presentation on different types of grasslands in India. He covered various grasslands in the hills, plains and coastal ecosystems in India. He also made a distinction on the rangeland, grassland and pastureland. Mr. Ishan Agrawal made a presentation on the overview of Commons in India. He pointed out that last assessment of Commons was undertaken by NSSO in 1998 and thereafter no survey was undertaken and the recent data is missing. He mentioned about the types of commons, different initiatives taken by different state governments such as public land protection cells, Rajasthan Wasteland and Pasture Development Board and Charagah Vikas Samitis in Rajasthan, Gomala sub-plans in Karnataka, FRA Cells, etc.

## **Session 3: History, Contemporary Status and Dynamics of Indian Pastoralism**

Dr. Purnendu Kavoori, CSE, made a presentation on the overview of Indian pastoralism. He pointed out that pastoralism and transhumance are being depicted as marginalized in the mainstream discussion and its roots are in the colonial period. He mentioned that three terms, “criminal”, “weed” and “vermin” have origins in the colonial period. He mentioned

about the new narrative wherein pastoralists have been depicted as backward with socio economic development. He added that pasturelands and grasslands are non-equilibrium and mainstream economic thinking of development does not fit pastoralism.

Mr. Sajal Kulkarni made a presentation on the contribution of pastoralism and rangelands to Indian economy. Participants suggested him to validate the data so that underlying assumptions are tested for validity. Prof. S. Naseem ul Zafar, SKUAST Kashmir made a presentation on the pastoralism in Himalayan grassland ecosystem and the challenges such as climate change and habitat degradation.

Dr. B. L. Manjunatha, Scientist, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur made a presentation on the pastoralism and livelihoods in Banni Grasslands in the Kutch region of Gujarat. He presented on the historical changes affecting pastoralism, present livelihood options and the contemporary priorities of the pastoralists in Banni grasslands. Pastoralism/ animal husbandry employed >93% households and contributed 82% to the economy of Banni grasslands while charcoal production (8%), tourism (5%) & handicrafts, services, trade (<1-2% each) were the other livelihood options.

#### **Session 4: Rangeland Restoration, Management with MGNREGA/CSR scheme**

Mr. Venugopal, Joint Director, Government of Karnataka made a presentation on the Jal Sanjeevini project implemented by the Government of Karnataka. He mentioned about the water budgeting. Smt. Bandana from FES Rajasthan team shared experiences of working in 7 districts of Aravali region with pastoralist communities and villagers in restoring and regeneration of commons and pasture land in collaboration with Govt under MGNREGA; she also told the need for collection, saving and exchanging of quality native grass seeds.

## Session 5: Grassroots Voices of CSOs- Concerns and Actions



Dr. Sitaram Verma, KRPAVIS, made a presentation on the orans (sacred groves) and the role of communities in their conservation. Shri. Lakshmi Narayan, camel pastoralist also shared his experiences. Shri. Ritesh Pokar, Sahjeevan, Bhuj shared his experiences of working with pastoralists in Kachchh district of Gujarat. He covered different types of grasslands prevailing in Gujarat such as thorn-scrub forest of Kachchh, mangrove forests, vidis, etc. He mentioned about the Banni grasslands and the demand of pastoralists for their community rights over Banni grasslands. He added that *Prosopis juliflora* extracts 26 litres of water/day from the underground leading to saline water coming to the upper layer causing increase in salinity and its harmful effect on native grasses. The experience of Sahjeevan in restoration of *Prosopis* invaded sites in 4000 hectares area and the biochar based carbon credits was also discussed. The solar projects proposed at Chharidhand lake in Banni grasslands and its possible impact on bird sanctuary was also shared.

Mr. Anshul Ojha, Desert Resource Center, Bikaner made a presentation on the grasslands in western Rajasthan. He added that almost 32% of India's grassland is in Rajasthan. He

mentioned about the process of depastoralization through development programmes and irrigation projects in the region. He also narrated about the throw-away price for Indian wool and added that >90% of wool in Bikaner wholesale market is being imported. Dr. G. S. Bhati, ED, Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur mentioned about different schemes implemented by the Board. He added that >85% wool produced in India is coarse wool and suited for carpet making. He mentioned about new initiative of using Indian wool for making as bio-fertilizer.

#### **Session 6 : Documentation of best practices and Community Forest Rights of Pastoralists**

On 22/12/2023, recap of first day sessions was briefed by Dr. Anita Sharma RISG-SA. Shri. Vivekanandan, RISG, South Asia made a presentation on his experiences with SEVA on the importance of documentation of traditional knowledge, innovations and best practices for recognition of communities for management of pastures, local livestock breeds. He narrated about the Breed Saviour Award instituted since 2009, Pastoralists and Rangeland Awards in 2021 in collaboration with National Biodiversity Authority, Centre for Pastoralism, LIFE Network and publishing newsletters in local languages for communication of traditional knowledge and innovations in association with Honey bee network and National Innovation Foundation. He mentioned about the "Korangadu pastureland system" in Tamil Nadu and played song on IYRP 2026. Ms. Rituza Mitra, Centre for Pastoralism and Coordinator, FRA made an online presentation on the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The challenges faced by pastoralists in accessing forages were discussed. The claims of Community Forest Rights by pastoralists in different states and their status of approval were discussed taking examples from different states. The challenges in recognition of CFRs such as lack of administrative support at Sub-district level committee (SDLC), District level committee (DLC) and State Level Monitoring committee (SLMC) were also discussed. She urged Pastoral Cell under the Ministry to direct Ministry of Tribal Affairs to release guidelines for fast-track addressal of the CFR claims.

D. Anirban Guha, Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying and in-charge of Pastoral Cell made a detailed presentation on the role of livestock in Indian economy and different schemes implemented by his department including insurance schemes for livestock keepers. He shared that insurance claim settlement ratio was 79% in livestock sector.

Mrs. Natasha Maru, International Land Coalition, Mumbai shared that pastoralism should not be looked from the same narrative of the commercial agriculture and livestock rearing. She gave the example from Banni grasslands that grasslands are non-equilibrium system.

### **Session 7 : Search for Sustainable Options – Collective Wisdom – Group Discussion and Presentation**

There was a group discussions among the participants including representatives from pastoral community under four topics and the outcome of discussion has been presented as given below :

#### **Group 1: Mobility, Resource Accessibility and Conflict Resolution**

(i) Forest Rights Act 2006 Implementation: Individual Forest rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR) need to be granted to pastoralists which will allow them grazing rights in protected and reserved forests where their access is otherwise restricted. This will enable them to use the land for grazing (FRA must also include grasslands or mixture of ecosystems depending on the distance pastoralists travel). Along with this Habitat rights also should be vested to pastoralists. (ii) Forest department shall have a positive relationship with the pastoralists for holistic conservation of natural resources. (iii) Encroachment driven by land use change is the biggest constraint on pastoral systems. There are many reasons why encroachment needs to be arrested and rolled back. There are existing government initiatives for responding to encroachment by the government and to build capacities for community response. These need to be strengthened. (iv) *Prosopis juliflora* is very invasive in Banni grasslands in Gujarat state. These are cut/uprooted and used for Biochar/charcoal/briquettes as a source of income by pastoralists. It can also be used as a source of monetary benefit in terms of carbon credit program. (v) Remove illegal encroachment from village “Gauchars”, rangelands and mangroves. (vi) Let the grassland remain grassland. Forest department should not convert grasslands into forests by planting trees.

#### **Group 2: Restoration and Management of Range lands: Role of Institutions :**

(i) Resilience strategies adopted by different communities have to be documented. (ii) Establish grass seed banks in different regions. (iii) Grassland rejuvenation program should be taken up. Technologies to implement this are already available. Appropriate funds need to be given for its implementation. (iv) Promotion of unexploited/ underexploited healthy and nutritive livestock products viz. camel milk, goat milk needs be done. Measures have to be

taken for developing market linkages. (v) Grasslands are not always “green”. A large part of India has a dryland ecosystem that is not necessarily “green” but the vegetation that grows there and the biodiversity that is adapted to it has its value and place both for the sake of the ecosystem and pastoralists. These lands are equally important for grazing and are not to be classified as wastelands. (vi) There is need to focus on Livelihood based programs for Camel and small ruminant production systems. (vii) Camel reserve areas to be declared in Western Rajasthan for protection of camels as the camel population have reduced at an alarming scale. Year 2024 is to be being celebrated as International Year for Camelids. (viii) There is need for Bioregion based approach for deserts and desert like ecosystems (arid and semi-arid ecosystems). (ix) Grass seed collections and museums are to be encouraged. (x) Evolving a mechanism for having a registry of commons. (xi) Working on grazing land ecology – appreciating the ecology of grasslands. (xii) Seed production of local varieties. (xiii) Pastoralism should be encouraged as a way of life because it is an excellent strategy to fight against climate change. (xiv) Grasslands require a holistic approach towards their restoration. (xv) Native grasses and medicinal plants to be encouraged in grasslands. (xvi) Social fencing and livelihood generation through controlled grazing to be encouraged. (xvii) Ripple effect of grazing land if it opens for pastoralists and removing invasive species and growing native trees and useful plants in a participatory manner. (xviii) Save the grazing land through controlled grazing by issuing grazing pass cards/smart cards. (xix) Dispute resolution through joint committees with pastoralists in the committee.

Group 3: Data and Information Management: Database Creation, Mapping, Data Accessibility :

(i) Sharing a database of resource persons, agencies, departments, research institutions relevant for pastoralism, grasslands and livestock systems management in India. (ii) Consolidation of case studies on managing the commons. (iii) Survey and documentation of pastoral communities across the country which includes their livestock holding, land ownership, migratory route pattern of seasonal migration etc. should be undertaken. (iv) Two levels of data: High level data/geospatial data for overview of the problem, for instance to access area under grassland in different states. Ground level data: FRA processes for claiming the tenure through traditional boundary mapping of village followed by joint verification of the boundary. Same process can be followed for grasslands with pastoralists. (v) Breaking the

silos and open data sharing – record of rights, e.g. mistar rights, malaguzari rights.(vi) Water bodies' census was undertaken by the government. Such initiative has to be taken for development of database related to CPRs, especially rangelands,grasslands, pasture lands, etc. (vii) Common land mapping using Common land mapping (CLM) app in Karnataka.(viii) Panchayat assets register and PBR.

#### Group 4: Legal Framework for Pasture Land Policy :

(i) Compendium of enabling orders by various State Governments which support rangeland management and pastoralist.(ii) Policies for migrating pastoralists that support the education of their children, health, community halls, drinking water facilities and provide veterinary services on the spot.(iv) Policies for attracting youth to adopt their traditional livelihood practices.(v) Recognition and recording of commons and orans (sacred groves) of the State and their protection.(vi) One central body to be made to coordinate and sort out issues related to pastoralists, livestock, grasslands with the various government departments.(vii) A national pasture land and grazing policy should be prepared at the earliest. ICAR-IGFRI can lead or help in this with wider consultations with all stakeholders.(viii) Uniform insurance policy for livestock across the country is needed.(ix) Proper categorization of rangelands which are currently categorized as wastelands.A clear and inclusive definition of what are a rangeland, grassland and pastureland. What is the difference between these and what is a Common?The most basic and probably the most important change the government needs to make at the policy level is to replace the term 'wasteland' with the term rangeland (grassland also may work but rangeland is more inclusive). Rangelands and Grasslands are not wastelands. They are ecosystems in themselves. Hence justifying that these "wastelands" need to be used efficiently for development purposes or converted to forests is not the correct approach. (ix) Fellowship programs for pastoral youth – incubation program in value addition of livestock products. (x) Active engagement of pastoral cell, GoI with state civil societies. (xi) Ecotourism could be linked to rangelands. (xii) Credit linkages through pastoral banking funds. (xvi) Creating programmatic architecture for better management and governance of common lands. (xvii) Strengthening institutions such as public land protections cells for acting on the encroachments over commons.(xvii) Decentralized system of grass seed sharing and storage should be strengthened. (xviii) Policy should acknowledge the role of communities in conservation of lands. Communities should be recognized as stewards and

not just as users. (xix) Community based invasive species control program and campaign. (xx) check it. (xxi) Regular efforts for seed collection. (xxiii) Formation of a joint consultative committee including Panchayat level management committee of Commons.

**Field visit to Community seed bank and IGFR Research and Demonstration plots on 23/12/2023:**



Field visits were made to Ramgarh and Ganeshgarh villages in Babina block of Jhansi district and participants interacted with the farmers cultivating different kinds of fodder crops and millets. Shri. Prabhudayal Rajput, farmer from Ramgarh shared that farmers in his village have developed a FPO wherein they cultivate, save and exchange millet seeds among farmers with the condition that farmers give back 1.5 kg of seed/ grain for every 1 kg of seed taken from the seed bank of the FPO. Shri. Veer Singh Rajput in Ganeshgarh village was involved in dairy enterprise and vermicomposting and he shared his experiences to the workshop participants. Field visits were also made to the research and demonstration units of ICAR-IGFRI including silvipasture for round the year fodder production, *Hardwickia* based two and three tier silvipasture system, amla and guava based hortipasture systems, experiments in use of drone in grassland rejuvenation under National Livestock Mission were visited. Dr. Amit K

Singh, Dr. Kamini and Dr. Avijit Ghosh, scientists from IGRI coordinated the field visits and various sessions in the workshop. The participants dispersed after the lunch.

### **Recommendations of the Workshop :**

1. Majority of rangelands, grasslands, pasturelands and other community property resources are broadly categorized as “wasteland” by state governments in their land utilization records. The term wasteland has to be removed and appropriate nomenclature has to be given. Clear definition of ‘grassland’, ‘rangeland’, ‘pasture land’, etc. to be categorized across different climatic zones and the term “wasteland”, degraded forests have to be replaced with specific grassland terms.
2. There is an urgent need for formulation of National Pasture Land Policy for protection, restoration and management of rangelands, commons from further deterioration. Creation of National Grassland Authority would be appropriate to implement the objectives of the policy discouraging conversion of rangelands into intensive cultivation or for tree planting.
3. There is a need for creation of a centralized or state wise database (Commons Registry) on available rangelands area, commons, mapping of livestock grazing by pastoralist communities, mobility and their seasonal migration system. This should be integrated in all land use planning, conservation and decision making for protection and regeneration of range lands.
4. Panchayat Asset Register - Common Lands should be maintained at Panchayat level in the Panchayat Asset Registers similar to the model developed by Karnataka & Rajasthan states. Checking encroachment of commons through mapping of commons (e.g Common Land Mapping through app in Karnataka) can also be undertaken by other states.
5. Initiatives by communities or individuals in grassland management viz. control of invasive species, conservation of bio-diversity (wildflora, fauna, local breeds, traditional varieties etc as per Biological Diversity Act 2002 and beyond), social fencing, watch and ward system, regulated grazing, best practices including traditional institutions, knowledge are to be documented and recognized with incentives/ awards.
6. Establishment of community based seedbank networks for rangeland grasses, fodder crops and trees in different climatic zones of our country to conserve, exchange and promotion of seeds/ propagation materials of native grass species has to be undertaken.
7. Recognition and granting of both individual and community forest grazing rights (CFRs) to pastoralists and residents as per provision of Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA 2006) shall be undertaken. Pastoralism cell may work closely with Ministry of Tribal Affairs in development and release of guidelines for claiming grazing rights of

pastoralists and making awareness for both government functionaries and pastoralists at community level. Mention success stories of few states viz. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir where CFRs were granted to the communities.

8. Issuing of identity cards/smart cards for pastoralists is important as they are involved in long distance mobility – crossing districts and state boundaries. This will also help them in availing facilities for their health, rations in fair price shops / public food distribution system, veterinary medicine, children’s education, etc.
9. Pastoralism has to be considered as extensive grazing system of animal production for maintaining the rangeland health. Contribution of pastoralism to the livelihoods of the pastoral and agri-pastoral communities (in terms of employment and incomes) and the region’s/ country’s economy needs to be analyzed and acknowledged. Direct benefits (milk, meat, wool, manure and other livestock products as contribution to the society) and indirect benefits to the ecology and environment (role in carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, etc.) has to be quantified. Benefits of carbon credit should also be taken care. Penning is to be included as practice in organic farming and subsidy extended to herd keepers similar to fertilizer industry or valued equal to any organic input.
10. Separate budget allocation for pastoralism to be included in short term and long term plans including awareness program for celebration of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP). Funds are to be earmarked for participatory implementation programs viz. eradication of alien species such as *Prosopis juliflora*, *Lantana camara*, *Parthenium*, regeneration of pastureland, water storage ponds in common lands and for creating facilities for pastoralists for their temporary stay along their transhumant route i.e. community halls, education for children through mobile schools, drinking water facilities, veterinary facilities in coordination and convergence of MGNREGA and other special schemes. Government of Karnataka, Rajasthan created a sub-plan for Gomala i.e. grazing land development under MGNREGA emulated in other states.
11. Pastoral cell in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying is to be further strengthened through manpower and resources. Such pastoralism cell/ dedicated units may be developed/ strengthened in states where pastoralism is practiced. .Pastoralism cell may coordinate all concerned departments and stakeholders associate with pastoralism. Inventory of organizations and individuals working on pastoralism has to be developed and involved in the implementation of schemes and programmers including organizing various events related to IYRP 2026.
12. It is important to attract youth in sustainable pastureland and pastoral system by measures in processing livestock products for higher value addition and by motivating them proud of their culture and economically rewarding. Pastoral field schools for orientation for youths can be explored.



**List of Participants attended National Workshop on Resilience of Indian Rangeland and Pastoralists: Role and Livelihood 21-23 December 2023, IGFRI Jhansi**

<b>S No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/ Institution</b>	<b>E-mail ID</b>
1	P.Vivekanandan	SEVA, Madurai	vivekseva@gmail.com
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3	Anita Sharma	Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida	asharma24@gmail.com
4	Ranjeet Sahani	FES, Karnataka	ranjeet.sahani@fes.org.in
5	Danish Chaudhary	Urmul, Delhi and Rajasthan	danish@samakhya.com
6	Vishwa Thacker	Sahjeevan, Kutch, Gujarat	vishwa@sahjeevan.org
7	Purnendu Kavoori	FES, RLN, Centre for Socioal Ecology	pskavoori@gmail.com
8	Ritesh Poker	Sahjeevan, Kutch, Gujarat	ritesh@sahjeevan.org
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42	Natasha Maru	International Land Coalition, Mumbai	natasha.maru@gmail.com
43	Dr. Sitaram Verma	KRAPAVIS, Alwar, Rajasthan	svermaalwar@gmail.com
44	Subrata Singh	FES, Anand, Gujarat	subrat@fes.org.in
45	Laxmi Narayan	Pastoralist, (KRAPAVIS), Rajasthan	

**Annexure**  
**3 Days Schedule of Sessions**

<b>DAY 1: 21 Dec. 2023</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration of Participants	
<b>Inaugural Session</b>		
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Inauguration and Welcome Address	Dr. Amaresh Chandra Director, IGfRI
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Agenda of the Workshop - Objectives, Priorities, Expected Outcomes	Dr D.R. Palsaniya, Secretary, RMSI
10.20 AM- 10.30 AM	Special Address on Protection and Restoration of Pasture lands	Mr Ishan Agarwal, Coordinator FES
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Special Address on IYRP 2026	Mr P. Vivekanandan – Co Chair RISG-SA
10.45 AM-10.50 AM	Vote of Thanks	Dr Avijit Ghosh, IGfRI
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Tea Break	
<b>2. History, Contemporary Status and Dynamics of Grasslands and Rangelands</b>		
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	-Types and status of Indian Rangelands -Overview of Commons in India	Dr. A.K. Roy, IGfRI Mr. Subrata Singh, FES
11.50 A.M. -12.00 noon	Discussion	
<b>3. History, Contemporary Status and Dynamics of Indian Pastoralism</b>		
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM	-Overview of Indian Pastoralism -Contribution of Pastoralism & Rangelands to Indian Economy  -Pastoralism in Himalayan Grassland Ecosystem and challenges  -Pastoralism, Livelihoods in Banni Grasslands: Issues Challenges	Dr. Purnendu Kavoori, CSE  Mr Sajal Kulkarni , RLN  Prof. S Naseem ul Zafar Geelani, SKUAST, Srinagar  Dr Manjunath, CAZRI
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Break	

<b>4. Rangeland Restoration, Management with MGNREGA/CSR scheme</b>		
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Experience in Rajasthan Experience in Karnataka Experience in the country level	FES Rajasthan Mr. Venugopal JD, Karnataka FES Case studies
<b>5. Grassroot Voices of CSOs- Concerns and Actions</b>		
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Sharing of Experiences: CSO and Community Representatives	FES - Country wide KRAPAVIS – Rajasthan SAHJEEVAN- Kutch
4:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Tea Break	
4:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Sharing of Experiences: CSO and Community Representatives Initiatives of Phasmino wool Shepherds of Ladakh	Mr. Anshul Ojha & Team Desert Resource Center Dr Bhati ED, Central Wool Development Board
<b>DAY 2: 22 Dec. 2023</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>	
9:30AM – 10:00 AM	Recap of Day 1	Dr. Anita Sharma RISG-SA
10:00 AM – 10:20 AM	Forest Rights Act 2006, Community Forests and Pastoralism	Ms. Rituja, Centre for Pastoralism, Sahjeevan, New Delhi
10:20 AM – 10:30 AM	Documentation of best practices for recognition of communities for management of Pasture land and livestock breeds	Mr. Vivekanandan, RISG SA
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Tea Break	
<b>6. Grassroot Voices of Practitioners - Concerns and Actions</b>		
10:45 Noon - 1:00 PM	Voices of Community Members & Discussion	Moderators: Mr. Anshul, Mr Sajal and Pastoralist Participants
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Break	

<b>7. Sustainable Pastoralism: Group Discussion and Presentation</b>		
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Group Work on Rangeland, Grassland and Pastoralism : Mobility, resource accessibility and conflict resolution Restoration and Management-Role of institutions Data & Information Management: Database Creation, Mapping, data accessibility Legal Framework on Pasture land Policy	Moderators: Mr P. Vivekanandan Dr. Anita Sharma Dr. RV Kumar Dr Natasha
3:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Tea Break	
3:45 PM – 4:30 PM	Finalisation of Recommendations	Dr Anita Sharma and Dr Kamini IGfRI
4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Way forward and Concluding Remarks	Dr Amaresh Chandra
4.45 PM- 5.00PM	Vote of Thanks	Mr Ishan , FES, Dr Amit Singh, IGfRI
<b>DAY 3: 23 Dec. 2023</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>	
8:00AM – 1:00 PM	Tour to nearby pasturelands in Jhansi/Banda/Chitrakoot districts and interaction with local pastoralists	Co-ordinator: Dr Mukesh Chaudhary, Senior Scientist Dr Kamini, Scientist, ICAR-IGfRI
1:00PM to 2:00 PM	Lunch Break and return to destination	

On the first day of inaugural session on 21-12- December, 2123 Dr. Amaresh Chandra Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi chaired the session and in his welcome address he mentioned that two workshops/ meetings were held earlier at Bhuj and New Delhi in this direction and appreciated the establishment of the Pastoralism Cell which was a much needed initiative by the Ministry. He added that Grassland Authority needs to be established to implement the objectives of the proposed Grassland policy. Dr D.R. Palsaniya. Secretary, Range Management Society of India (RMSI), Jhansi mentioned the objectives and the purpose of the workshop to facilitate holistic understanding of issues around rangeland management and pastoralism in India and to develop strategies for improved livelihoods and regeneration of pasture land and common lands through participatory approaches.

Mr P. Vivekanandan, Executive Director of SEVA briefed about UN declaration on International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026 and mentioned how best we can utilise this opportunity to promote sustainable rangelands and pastoralism across different regions in South Asia level. He also mentioned about the section on Pastoralism in the National Framers Policy 2007 needs to be elaborated in the draft Grassland Policy being prepared and “One Panchayat, One Pasture land” be the slogan. Shri. Ishan Agrawal, FES, Anand suggested to scale up few pilot cases where they restored and regenerated pasture land in Rajasthan and Karnataka and need for replication by state government in other states under MGNREGA convergence. Dr Avijit Ghosh, ICAR-IGFRI proposed vote of Thanks.

## Annexure -2



### **Proceedings of “Rangeland Awards 2023 Workshop” held at Dhan People Academy, Pulluthu, Madurai on 28-3-2024**



SEVA in association with Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying (under National Livestock Mission) organised one day Rangeland Awards cum workshop at People Dhan Academy, Pulluthu, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India on 28.3.2024. There was participation of 37 members from different states including awardees. On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 UN declared 2026 as International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists. In this regard SEVA plays a pivotal role in coordinating with NGOs, Govt organisations, volunteers in organising regional workshops to emphasize the significance of preserving and restoring rangelands (including pasture lands and common lands) used by local communities, particularly pastoralists who rely on these resources for their livelihoods.



In collaboration with the Indian Grasslands and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) in Jhansi, the Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand hosted a Rangeland Awards ceremony and Workshop at Pulluthu. Ten individuals or communities were honored with certificates and a cash award of Rs.10,000 each during the event. Previously, SEVA issued invitations and calls for proposals for awards through national-level announcement for publicity and in many NGO networks. Among 18 entries received, 10 were chosen through a national-level selection committee comprising scientists from ICAR institutions and NGOs and the award recipients are as follows:



1. Mr. Kayamdeen, Village Shiv Sagar, Narayanpura, Jodhpur District, Rajasthan
2. Van Panchayat, Baja Nadila Village P.O., Borgaon, Bageshwar District , Uttarakhand
3. Vriksh Utpadak Sahkari Samiti, Kekriya GP: Sarana, District: Bhilwara, Rajasthan
4. Van Suraksha Evam Prabandhan Samiti Village: Kadech Block: Sayra, District: Udaipur, Rajasthan
5. Rupan Mata Vriksh Utpadak Sahkari Samiti , Khakhrakhuna, Panchayat: Kadech , Block : Sayra, District: Udaipur, Rajasthan
6. Women's Pastureland Management Committee Rabari Vas, Nagpur , Village Rapar , District : Kachchh, Gujarat
7. C. Rajiv Gandhi , Kalkulam, Mudikkarai(post). Kalayarkovil, District: Sivagangai-630551, Tamil Nadu
8. Smt.T..Soundaram Ramasamy, Kathasampalayam, K.P.Chathiram, Nanjathalaiyur Post, Chinnatharapuram (Via) Thirupur District, Tamil Nadu
9. Sumer Singh Bhati , Village Sawanta, Post-Rasala, District Jaisalmer, Rajasthan,
10. Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangathan, Gujjar Basti, Gaindikhata, P/o Gaindikhata, Haridwar, Uttarakhand



During the event, a group discussion was held regarding the formulation of a National Pastureland Policy aimed at restoring and regenerating pasturelands across various climatic zones in our country, while ensuring the livelihoods of pastoral communities dependent on such commons. The meeting was chaired by Auditor Jeyabaskaran, President of SEVA and he released book on Profiles of Rangeland Awardees 2023. Mr. M. P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, Dhan Foundation distributed certificates to the awardees and proposed several initiatives, including obtaining a GI tag for animal products such as camel milk from Jaisalmer and registering selected pasturelands such as Korangadu (Tamil Nadu) and Banni Grassland (Gujarat) under UN heritage sites.

Dr. Igshaan Samuel, who serves as the co-chair of the International Support Group (ISG) for the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists (IYRP) from South Africa, delivered a special online address focusing on the restoration of rangelands and its significance for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and as a source of livelihoods for local communities. He emphasized the importance of caution regarding the planting of trees, as part of greening projects implemented in various countries, stating that it may not be a natural solution for rangelands. Finally, Dr. Thanammal, from the Kumaguru Institute of Agriculture proposed the vote of thanks.

**List of Participants for the Rangeland Awards 2023 cum workshop  
at Dhan People Academy, Pulloothu, Madurai on 28-3-2024,**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Participants &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Organisation Name / Address, Mobile &amp; Email Id</b>	<b>Cell Number</b>
1.	G. Vengadesan	25/27, Fanner Colony Virattipathu, Madurai -16	9940676964
2.	M. Umachandran	12, Koodal Nagar 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Madurai	9360672327
3.	S. Subanathan	2/266, Kudipatti Peraiyur Taluka Madurai -625703	6380260230
4.	Meetharam	Kadech, Udaipur, Rajasthan.	9521226042
5.	Surmaram	Khakhrakhuna, Kadech, Udaipur, Rajasthan.	9166428370
6.	Asha Chalaviya	Foundation for Ecological Security, Udaipur	7665429231
7.	R. Soundaram Ramasamy	R. Soundaram Ramasamy Kandasamy palaiyam Thiruppur District	9952759237
8.	M.S. Devadas Gandhi	M. Devadas Gandhi Madurai - 625020	9944083633
9.	P. Tamilmani	P. Tamilmani Vaithilingapuram Srivilliputhur	9245134568
10.	V. Venkatesan	DHAN Foundation Madurai	9578855114
11.	K. Narmadha	DHAN Foundation ' Madurai	7904536903
12.	Dr. Thanammal	Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture Coimbatore	7995854073
13.	Faryana	Haridwar Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangahthan	9675169815
14.	NAGMA	Haridwar Van Gujjar Trival Yuva Sungahthan	9410332320
15.	Mohomed Ameer Hamja	VGTVS Haridwar Rishikesh Uttarakhand.	9927531392
16.	G. Maria Mora Program manager Van Gujjar tribal	VGTVS Haridwar Rishikesh Uttarakhand	
17.	Sumer Singh Bhatti	Sanwata, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan	9828459903
18.	Bhageethi Prasad		
19.	V. Sakunthala	SEVA, 45 TPM Nagar, Virattipathu, Madurai	7502742485
20.	S. Valsalan	126/242 Chandramansion Arokiyamatha 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Kammagarai Madurai -- 16	9894607200
21.	M.S. Jayachandran	6/11 Elangovadigal Street, motchagapuram, Villupuram district.	9543617487

22.	Dr. Kapil Bist	Mohalla Talla Galli, Jakhandevi, Almora, Uttarakhand.	9627694404
23.	M.Uthayakumari	Jambavonodai Muthupettai, Tamil Nadu	9751201736
24.	P. Vivekanandan	SEVA 45, TPM Nagar Virattipathu, Madurai	7708852334
25.	E. Mohanakrishnan	2-48 T. Kalathur Perambalurca Tamil Nadu /621114	9894401680
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28.	C. Rajivgandhi	Kalkammudikharai Kalaiyar Kovil Sivagangai - 630551	9677517899
29.	Raghuratha Sethupathy	300 A, Dhaja Nagar Manamadurai - 630606	9159106540
30.	Ravesh Kumar	The DHAN Academy	6386886606
31.	Sajal	The DHAN Academy	9068141386
32.	Mohini Nisha	The DHAN Academy	6204698839
33.	R. Jeyabaskaran	SEVA 31/9, Sathiasai Nagar Main Road TVS Nagar, Madurai	9442572990
34.	P. Rajendran,	Vivekananda College Thiruvudagam, Sholavandan	9944551731
35.	Kishore Ahmed	123/10 Ram Nagar 1 <sup>st</sup> street , S.S. Colony Madurai -625016	8754820702
36.	M.P. Vasimalai	DHAN Foundation, Madurai	0452 2302500
37.	G. Sundar	Realstech, Thirunagar, Madurai	8925197006

### Annexure -3

#### **Workshop Proceedings Workshop Proceedings “Pastoralism in Jammu and Kashmir: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward” 31<sup>st</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2023, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**



The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha ji. At the outset, an overview of Pastoralism in Jammu and Kashmir was provided by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, J&K. Introduction about the International Year for Rangeland and Pastoralists was done by P. Vivekananda, Co-Chair South Asia, IYRP Support Group. Special addresses regarding the different aspects of pastoralism in Jammu and Kashmir were

given by Dr. Roshan Jaggi, PCCF, J&K, and Prof. Nasir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir. The program was facilitated by Dr. Abdul Khabir, Deputy Director, TRI, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rashmi Singh, member of IYRP South Asia Support Group, and Chair Rangeland and Biodiversity IYRP- Global Working Group.

In the inaugural address Hon’ble Lt. Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha ji mentioned that pastoralism is one of the oldest professions in the world. Nomadic livestock plays an important role in the business and livelihood of the communities and it is deeply connected with heritage, culture, traditional knowledge, and co-existence with nature. He mentioned that he considers the pastoral community as protectors of forests and climate warriors. They certainly play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, climate change mitigation and contribute to growth and food security. His opinion coincides well with the objective of IYRP 2026, which has been declared by UNGA on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Presentations were made by eminent speakers including Dr. Anita Sharma (Shiv Nadar University) on ‘Gujjar and Bakkarwals of Jammu and Kashmir: Past, Present and Future’; Dr. Ovee Thorat (Independent Researcher) on the Ethnographic view of Bakkarwal lives in Jammu and Kashmir; Preet Sharma and Padma Dolker (WWF, India- Ladakh office) on Understanding Pastoralism and Wildlife relations; and Dr. Suheel Ahmad (ICAR- IGFRI Srinagar) on Ethno-botany, ethno-veterinary practices and Himalayan pastoralism. Three presentations were made by the members of the pastoralist communities including Gujjar, Bakkarwals, and Chopans; these members were Ghulam Mohiuddin Chopan, Taraiq Ahmad Chopan, Dr. Shahid Sulaiman, and Farooq Khan Gujjar respectively. The session was summarised by Dr. Khem Chand, Principal Scientist, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi.



Group discussions on three themes including Rangeland Ecology and Wildlife, Pastoral Livelihoods and Alternatives, and Culture and Conservation were held in three subgroups with participants involving a variety of stakeholders, researchers, and pastoralists. A summary of the workshop was presented by the team members and a vote of thanks was made by Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Rasool.

On the 2nd day, (1<sup>st</sup> August 2023), a field visit was conducted to interact with the Bakkarwal and Gujjar community members at Shirmal, sub-alpine pastures at Goripathri (Sedow), Heerpora, and Dubjan areas of Shopian district. The team interacted with the officials of mobile veterinary clinics of the Sheep Husbandry Department of Jammu & Kashmir at Dubjan. The team also visited a Gujjar and Bakkarwal hostel, run by the Tribal Research Institute, situated on the banks of River Rambiara at Shirmal, district Shopian.





Based on the two-day workshop the following recommendations are suggested for future actions to help improve the pastoral livelihoods and rangeland health in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Overall Recommendations:**

- Studying the status of pastures and exploring the ways to improve their conditions with immediate attention for the restoration of Sonamarg, Yusmarg Mohanmarg (near Manigam), Lalmarg, Gujjar Dor Dudhi (near border), and Dodhpathri through MGNREGA and other relevant government schemes may be considered.
- Improved documentation of pastureland for an updated classification using GIS and remote sensing tools and techniques are to be undertaken. A special focus should be given to studies exploring rangeland productivity and regeneration amidst the intensive tourism impacts. The status of exotic plants and weeds, and eradication methods also need to be documented.
- Occupancy surveys of a variety of wildlife species need to be carried out in pastures across Jammu and Kashmir, building on the existing work in collaboration with the state and non-governmental organizations and experts working in the domain of wildlife conservation.
- Documentation of existing local community-led management practices and ethno-veterinary practices are to be carried out involving the pastoralists as key stakeholders for wider adoption and knowledge transfer.
- Exploration, identification, and documentation of pastoral cultures and traditional knowledge regarding pastoralism-based livelihood dependency and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of pastoralism-based livelihood are to be considered.
- Pastoral census should be initiated with a robust understanding of both pastoralists as well as livestock composition.
- Encourage the conservation and promotion of local livestock breeds among the pastoral communities of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Conservation and management of local fodder genetic resources through explorations and augmentation of fodder availability by promoting indigenous fodder species and top feed resources.
- To ensure inclusion, allow access of children of all the pastoral communities to the Gujjar-Bakkarwal hostels and consider renaming of Gujjar-Bakkarwal Hostels to Tribal Hostels, or set-up a separate Pastoralist hostel for the children of other pastoralist communities.
- Creating community-driven market economies and opportunities for pastoral products including a variety of culturally embedded art and craft products and value addition.
- Improving access to social welfare facilities and services including construction of community halls, distribution of solar lamps, waterproof tarpaulin, and improving drinking water facilities. Also, special attention needs to be given to improved healthcare facilities for pastoralists.
- Promote vaccination and animal health camps according to the seasonality of disease and mobility of the community to ensure protection before summer grazing in Alpine zones.
- Formulating guidelines for participatory management of pasturelands involving all the pastoralists and other stakeholders on the lines of JFM (Joint Forest Management).
- Policy initiatives need to be developed if pasturelands are diverted to non-pasture uses on the lines of CAMPA. There has to be provision of a Compensatory Pasture Management Authority.
- A multi-stakeholder board needs to be framed for Pastoralists and Rangelands involving representatives from all the stakeholders i.e., forest department, sheep husbandry, agriculture, animal husbandry, Tribal Affairs, Universities, IGFRI, Pastoralists etc

**Key Recommendations:**

- Improving the quality of the pastures with a combination of scientific management practices as well as pastoralists' local knowledge, using a variety of methods including rotational grazing, re-seeding with the endemic forage species etc. Forming collaborative efforts with community representatives, ecologists, governmental and non-governmental organisations for crafting pasture management strategies and conservation of locally available fodder species.
  - Equal opportunities to the pastoralists (including Chopans) should be given at par with the status of Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - The nodal agency for the implementation of FRA 2006 should be assigned to the Tribal Affairs departments, as practiced in the rest of the states of India.
  - Initiatives should be taken for conserving and preserving the cultural heritage of pastoral communities by creating a separate state-level cell for pastoral communities.
  - By recognizing the IYRP 2026, generate data databases on common lands in the public information system to prevent deterioration of rangelands and stop conversion of such lands for other uses.
-

## **Workshop Organising Team:**

### **A. *Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Tribal Research Institute, Jammu and Kashmir***

1. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, J&K
2. Sh. Mohammad Harun Malik, Secretary in the Tribal Affairs Department, J&K
3. Sh. Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Director, Tribal Affairs Department J&K
4. Sh. Abdul Khabir, Deputy Director, Tribal Research Institute, J&K

### **B. *ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute***

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2. Dr. Sheeraz Saleem Bhat, Senior Scientist, and Scientist-in-Charge, ICAR-IGFRI, Regional Research Station, Srinagar.
3. Dr. Suheel Ahmad, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IGFRI, Regional Research Station, Srinagar.
4. Dr. Nazim Hamid Mir, Scientist, ICAR-IGFRI, Regional Research Station, Srinagar.

### **C. *Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia (RISG-SA)***

1. P. Vivekanandan, Co-Chair, Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia
2. Rashmi Singh, IYRP Support Group -South Asia-Communication Team
3. Dr. Anita Sharma, IYRP Support Group -South Asia-Communication Team
4. Dr. Arun Dixit, IYRP Support Group -South Asia Chair
5. Dr. Natasha Maru, IYRP Support Group -South Asia - Communication Team

### **D. *Other Special contributors:***

1. Dr. Khem Chand, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi

Dr. Shahid Sulaiman, SRDE Srinagar

2. Preet Sharma, WWF Ladakh
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Dr. Ovee Thorat, Political Ecologist, Srinagar

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