



LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Liga für Hirtenvölker und nachhaltige Viehwirtschaft e.V.

Annual Report 2004

www.pastoralpeoples.org

People-centred livestock development: Putting the livestock keeper first¹

by Evelyn Mathias and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

The consumption of meat and milk in developing countries is rising rapidly, and is expected to double in the next two decades. This is triggering a "Livestock Revolution": industrial livestock production is expanding into the South. Scientists stress that poor livestock keepers can also benefit from the rising demand – if the right measures support them. But what are the right measures, given that the benefits of livestock projects have so far mostly bypassed the poor?

Past projects commonly focused on raising animal productivity and optimizing the output of livestock products. Studies have demonstrated that such efforts did not bring the expected positive results on the economic situation of poor and marginalized livestock keepers. Take the example of dairy development: for many decades, livestock projects have fostered crossbreeding local with exotic cattle to improve their dairy performance. A study in Kenya found that this approach had positive impacts on the country's economy and society's welfare but improved farm performance little, especially among livestock keepers unable to buy the necessary inputs.

What can we learn from past approaches?

One study on the impacts of livestock development projects concludes that it is crucial to reform the institutional context in which livestock services are delivered if development is to help the poor. Another study suggests that the best way to support poor livestock keepers is by helping them build strong associations and argue for their rights. Policy and education are further important aspects to tackle.

Redirecting the focus from livestock to people

People-centred livestock development (PCLD) focuses on livestock keepers – men, women and children – rather than on improving livestock performance per se. The explicit recognition of the diverse cultural, social and ecological environments of livestock keepers is a key criterion. By facilitating development that the people themselves see fit, and by building on their strengths and specialities, PCLD strives to empower people and help them adapt their livestock keeping and livelihood strategies to the changing times.

Methodologically, PCLD seeks to combine the use of local and outside knowledge, drawing on various field-tested methodologies and approaches developed since the 1970s. Examples are participatory appraisal methods, the use of indigenous knowledge, participatory technology development, ethnoveterinary medicine, and many more. PCLD also recognizes that for pastoralists and small farmers, livestock fulfils multiple functions. Production is only one of them. Other uses include keeping an animal for draught and manure, as a living cash reserve and for social and cultural reasons.

The League for Pastoral Peoples has a new name!

In April 2002, the board of the League for Pastoral Peoples recommended the League's name be expanded by the phrase "and endogenous livestock development". The new name makes visible that the League's activities go beyond pastoralists to support marginalized livestock keepers in general, helping them to realize their own strengths. The name change was combined with a revision of the League's constitution, so it took about two years to realize.

PCLD in action

Livestock keepers' views on what is needed often differ from those of scientists and development professionals. For example, smallholders in India regarded the removal of constraints to feed and fodder availability and the improvement of management as more crucial than breed improvement. In such a case, a people-centred project would help farmers compile information on available feeds and fodder plants and their qualities, considering both local and commercial resources. This would build up a "menu" from which each family can choose the combination most adequate to their farm. The project may also help farmers to organize themselves to lobby to convince policy makers and scientists of the need to change how livestock services operate. In general, strengthening the resilience of livestock keepers is a key element of PCLD.

Further examples of PCLD measures include linking people to markets; assisting them to identify and explore speciality niches; convincing universities and other educational institutions to include information on traditional knowledge and livestock systems into their curricula; and lobbying for rights such as access to water, grazing lands, and appropriate education.

In short, PCLD is not a new method. It is an umbrella for people-oriented approaches. It reminds us that livestock development needs to put the livestock keepers first, and build on their ideas and experiences. The goal is economic improvement on the basis of sociological and ecologically responsible development.

Recognizing, not romanticizing, indigenous knowledge

As with any approach, the application of PCLD has its limitations and drawbacks. People may opt for a development path that brings short-term returns rather than long-term sustainability. Not all traditional practices work, and some can be detrimental. Stringent cultural norms may prevent a society from taking the necessary steps to adapt to new realities. PCLD workers must not romanticize livestock keepers' knowledge, but should try to understand it, while maintaining a critical distance. Only this way can outsiders help pastoralists, small farmers, and landless livestock keepers choose the best from their own resources and outside options.

Networking on PCLD

In June 2003 the League started an informal discussion group on endogenous livestock development (ELD).² The group has expanded to more than 25 international livestock specialists. Members share the concern that despite renewed interest in livestock, the international development debate does not seem to lead to innovative approaches for livestock development.

The ELD Group's goal is to further the recognition and application of PCLD through linking up with other like-minded organizations and facilitating an information exchange among all interested. Means include informal networking, the ELDev mailing list (see below) and the *People and Livestock* newsletter. A core group meets about twice a year, and meetings are open to all. To enable partners from the South to participate, meetings take advantage of the presence of international participants in Germany whenever possible.³

¹ This overview draws on a concept note by the ELD Group (see text) and a paper by Köhler-Rollefson "Endogenous versus globalized: An alternative vision of livestock development for the poor." Both will be available at www.lifeinitiative.net later in 2005. See Köhler-Rollefson's paper for the references on which this article is based.

² Together with Katrien van't Hooft of ETC Netherlands and Wolfgang Bayer of AGRECOL.

³ For further information contact Evelyn Mathias at evelyn@mamud.com.

International lobbying and advocacy

At the international level, LPP continued to advocate for 'Livestock Keepers' Rights' and for stronger integration of pastoralists and smallholders in efforts to conserve indigenous breeds.

3rd Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (ITWG-AnGR)

Rome, 30 March–2 April 2004

This was anticipated to be a key event on the long road in realizing internationally recognized 'Livestock Keepers' Rights'. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Evelyn Mathias of LPP, Thomas Loquang of the Karamoja Initiative for Sustainable Peace, Uganda, and Jacob Wanyama of ITDG-EA participated in the name of LPP. Together with Patrick Mulvany of ITDG headquarters, they organized a side event '**Livestock Keepers' Rights: A prerequisite for Global Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources.**'

In preparation of this event, LPP and ITDG had compiled a leaflet '*Indigenous Knowledge about Animal Breeding, Traditional Communities and the State of the World Report.*' The leaflet was circulated to all national coordinators and also distributed during the session. Several countries, including Botswana, Uganda, and Kenya raised their voice for starting negotiations towards an **International Treaty on Animal Genetic Resources**, causing a stir and a temporary interruption of the proceedings. The chair of the session then decided that such a decision would have to be deferred to the 10th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) scheduled for November 2004.

- *Indigenous knowledge about animal breeding, traditional communities and the State of the World Report:*
www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/ik_breeding.pdf

Dialogue between cultures and civilizations: Present state and perspectives of nomadism in a globalizing world – An international conference

Ulaanbataar, 9–14 August 2004

This conference was organized by the **Mongolian National University** and included a three-day field trip to the Kar-khorin area. In order to inform and raise the awareness of scientists, especially anthropologists, about the issue of 'Livestock keeper' rights', Ilse Köhler-Rollefson presented a paper entitled *Pastoral nomads and their stake in an international treaty on animal genetic resources* (with Jacob Wanyama and Evelyn Mathias). Together with Hanwant Rathore, she presented a paper on *The current dilemma and future perspectives of the Raika in India.*

At the invitation of the **New Zealand Nature Institute**, Ilse and Hanwant visited communities in the Southern Gobi to advise on how to go about a community-based project for sustainably managing the Bactrian camel.

10th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

Rome, 8–12 November 2004

With the support of LPP, LIFE Network members Thomas Loquang (Karamoja Initiative for Sustainable Peace, Uganda) and Jacob Wanyama (ITDG-EA) participated in the session and in discussions of the African Group. Together with Patrick Mulvany of ITDG Headquarters, they gave presentations during the session, raising the issue of livestock keepers'

A word of thanks

The following have kindly supported LPP's work in 2004:

- Misereor
- Deutscher Naturschutzring/ Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung
- EED

The following individuals have provided generous donations and in-kind support to LPP:

- Bettina Haas
- Günther Bock
- The Stürz family, Wembach
- Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson.

We would also like to thank

- Dr. Anita Idel for making possible LPP's membership in GENET.
- Dr. Paul Mundy for taking care of the LPP Website.
- Jutta Habedank and Brigitte Köhler for checking LPP's financial records and books.

rights and providing suggestions for activities essential to enable livestock keepers to continue their important role as stewards of local breeds.

Prior to the event, LPP prepared the booklet ***Livestock Keepers' Rights: Conserving Breeds, Supporting Livelihoods*** and sent it to some 250 government representatives to draw their attention to the importance of a legal framework and livestock keepers' rights for the conservation of animal genetic resources.

- *Livestock Keepers' Rights* booklet:
www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/livestockkeepersrights1.pdf.

The LIFE Project

In January 2004, LPP's Misereor-supported LIFE project went into its second phase. The project's goal is to further the conservation of local livestock breeds in and through communities, to improve the livelihoods of the breeders and keepers. Project components include networking, information dissemination, advisory services, training and advocacy. Evelyn Mathias coordinates the networking and publishes ***People and Livestock newsletter***. Issue 1 (November 2004) focused on threats to free access to animal genetic resources. The newsletter is distributed electronically.

The LIFE website has been redesigned by Paul Mundy. It contains news, information and publications about people-centred livestock development. LIFE Network member Peter Hofs kindly transferred rights to the lifeinitiative.net domain to LPP.

Another activity under LIFE is the ***Endogenous Livestock Development Mailing List*** (ELDev) established in October 2004 and officially opened in January 2005. It evolved from the Ethnoveterinary Mailing List that Evelyn Mathias had founded in 1999 and moderated in collaboration with an international team. See box on the right for more information on ELDev.

LIFE's advisory and advocacy activities have been described in the section above on *International lobbying and advocacy*.

- LIFE website: <http://lifeinitiative.net/>
- *People and Livestock* newsletter, issue 1:
www.lifeinitiative.net/docs/PALIssue1Nov04.pdf

People-centred livestock development

In June, Evelyn Mathias organized the second meeting of the **Endogenous Livestock Development Group** (ELD Group) in Bergisch Gladbach. At the meeting Ilse Köhler-Rollefson presented a discussion paper *Endogenous versus globalized: An alternative vision of livestock development for the poor*. The meeting's discussions provided the basis for a concept note on endogenous livestock development that was subsequently developed by Katrien van't Hooft and other group members.

Due to the generous sponsorship by Bettina Haas, it was possible to initiate a pilot study of projects that conform to the criteria for endogenous livestock development. This study is conducted by Ellen Geerlings.

Evelyn and Ellen also participated in the third ELD meeting that took place November 5 in the Netherlands. Agromisa and LPP co-sponsored the participation of Jacob Wanyama of ITDG Kenya.

Projects and workshops in South Asia

In South Asia, our activities continue to be undertaken in close cooperation with Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) and other partner organizations.

The ELDev Mailing List

This mailing list focuses on the development of livestock production, based on livestock keepers' initiatives, their own worldview, values, knowledge, institutions, and locally available plus suitable outside resources. The list is co-managed by Katrien van't Hooft, Evelyn Mathias and Eve Barth in collaboration with an international advisory team. In May 2005, the list had about 250 members.

To subscribe please send a blank message from your email address to ELDev-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ELDev/> for instructions.

If you have any problems related to your subscription, please contact Eve Barth at evelynbarth@netcologne.de.

Indian pastoralist network meeting

Sadri, India, 22–23 March 2004

Hedy Bühlmann and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson participated as resource persons in the Indian Pastoralists Network Meeting that was organized by the Indian NGO SEVA and hosted by LPPS in Sadri, Rajasthan. The purpose of this meeting was to initiate and structure a formal network that can lobby for the rights of Indian pastoralists. Eight NGOs and pastoral associations from throughout India, as well as the World Herders Council attended.

Recovering pasture opportunities for camels: Identifying the options – Camel breeders workshop

Sadri, India, 17–19 November 2004

2004 was designated by our partner Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan as the **Year of the Camel**. A survey conducted in early 2004 revealed an almost 50% fall in the camel population over the last nine years, in two administrative units of Pali district. In order to raise the issue and identify solutions to the problem, LPPS organized a workshop which was attended by about 50 camel breeders. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson assisted with the preparations for this extremely fruitful meeting, which was funded by the Ford Foundation and the Rolex Award.

- Workshop proceedings: www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/camel_workshop.pdf.

Saving the camel and peoples' livelihoods: Building a multi-stakeholder platform for the conservation of the camel in India – An international conference

Sadri, India, 23–25 November 2004

In order to raise awareness about the acute crisis of camel breeding in India and to benefit from experiences gained in other countries, LPP and LPPS jointly organized an international conference with support from Misereor, FAO and Rolex funds. This was attended by scientists from Sudan, Oman, Kazakhstan, France, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as journalists from India and the UK. The participants made their joint recommendations on how to save India's camel population in form of the **Mammaji-ki-dhuni Memorandum**. Due to the efforts of BBC radio journalist Susie Emmett, the **New Agriculturalist online** devoted its January issue to the camel. The conference facilitator was LPP member Paul Mundy, who also edited the proceedings.

- *New Agriculturalist Online*: www.new-agri.co.uk/05-1/focuson.html
- Conference proceedings (including text of the Mammaji-ki-dhuni Memorandum): www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/camel_conf_proc.pdf.

Cooperation with SCOPE in Pakistan

On 13–15 March 2004, Christiane Herweg visited the non-government organization SCOPE to see their activities in Pakistan. She also presented a lecture on the topic *Anthrax: A threat to man and livestock* during a workshop about livestock in Tharparkar district. This workshop was held in Mithi and was attended by about 80 people.

Analysis of Pakistan's livestock policy and institutional framework from the perspective of pastoralists

Since local efforts to support livestock keepers are always influenced by the overall policies in which they are embedded, LPP has initiated an analysis of the policy context and institutional frameworks of Pakistan with respect to livestock development. This is part of a larger project on pastor-

alism in the Thar Desert that is implemented by SCOPE and supported by Misereor. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson visited Pakistan in December to begin this study. She met with livestock keepers around Mithi, held a meeting with NGOs at the Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO) in Umerkot, presented a lecture in Mithi about animal genetic resources and Livestock Keepers' Rights, and talked to government officials in Karachi.

LPP participation in networks

- European NGO Network on Genetic Engineering (Genet) (Anita Idel)
- ELD network (Ellen Geerlings, Sabine Homann, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- German NGO Forum for Environment and Development's Working Group on Desertification (Christiane Herweg)
- German NGO Forum for Environment and Development's Working Group on Agriculture and Environment (Evelyn Mathias)
- LIFE (Local Livestock for Empowerment) Network (Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- ALIVE (Evelyn Mathias and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson attended the stakeholder workshop of the ALIVE project at the World Bank's office in Paris, 31 May–1 June).
- WAMIP (World Association of Mobile Indigenous Peoples) (Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- Working Group on Food Security of the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Evelyn Mathias).

Activities of LPP members

Hedy Bühlmann organized the CME in Niamey, Niger on 12–16 November 2004 on the topic of *Accès aux Ressources Naturelles pour les éleveurs: Code pastoral – Signe de reconnaissance légitime en faveur des éleveurs ou combat continu sans solution durable ?*

Christiane Herweg presented a lecture on *Engagement für Autonomie und Identität: 10 Jahre Liga für Hirtenvölker und nachhaltige Viehwirtschaft*, to the 'Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund' (an association of female academics) in Bremen on 18 October 2004. This was organized by Andrea Buchelt.

Sabine Homann completed her doctoral dissertation *Indigenous knowledge of Borana pastoralists in natural resource management: A case study from southern Ethiopia*. Congratulations, Sabine!

Anita Idel is a member in the project group of the German network on ecological animal breeding and provides guidance to the transnational network on ecological animal breeding which comprises mostly Eastern European countries. She also organized a session on animal breeding during the IFOAM Conference that was held in Nairobi in September 2004.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson presented a paper on *Participatory approaches to using the camel in combating desertification* (co-authored by H.S. Rathore) at the international conference *Desertification Combat and Food Security: The Added Values of Camel Producers*, held in Ashkabad (Turkmenistan) on 19–22 April 2004. This conference was organized by CIRAD (France) and the Institute of Desert Flora and Fauna in Ashkabad.

Ilse also is a resource person in the ILRI-BMZ-Project *Improving the livelihoods of poor livestock-keepers in Africa through community-based management of indigenous farm animal genetic resources*. She participated in the First Annual Project Workshop and Training held at IITA, Cotonou, Be-

nin, on 11–15 October 2004. She introduced the LIFE method into the project tool kit and remains involved with documenting the process of obtaining prior informed consent by the communities.

Evelyn Mathias is on the advisory panel of the GTZ/FAO/Universität Hohenheim study on gene flow. She participated in the study's planning sessions on 26–27 January and 23–25 June in Hohenheim. She also participated in *Sortenschutztagung* (on farmers' rights and patents) in Berlin on 20 January, the conference *Developing agrobiodiversity: Strategies and proposals for sustainable livestock and plant breeding* in Berlin on 4–5 February, and the international conference *Global animal production: Blessing or curse* in Wageningen on 4 November 2004.

Paul Mundy facilitated workshops and edited manuals on *Food security in pastoral areas in Ethiopia* (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Nairobi, www.mamud.com/foodsec.htm), and on *Drought cycle management: A toolkit for the drylands of the Greater Horn of Africa* (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Cordaid and Acacia Consultants, Nairobi, www.mamud.com/droughtcycle.htm).

Publications

This section includes outputs of LPP projects as well as documents by LPP members relevant to the objectives and focus of LPP.

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Idel, Anita. 2004. Final project report (sections on animal breeding and gender) in the BFMB Project "Agrobiodiversität entwickeln – was hemmt sie und was fördert sie?" www.agrobiodiversitaet.net.

Idel, Anita und Ulrich Petschow. 2004. "Das globale Huhn". *PROKLA: Zeitschrift für kritische Sozialwirtschaft* 135, Verlag Westfälisches Dampfboot, Münster.

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Papers at meetings, workshops and conferences

Köhler-Rollefson, I. and Rathore, H.S. 2004. "Participatory approaches to using the camel in combating desertification". International Conference on "Desertification combat and food security: The added values of camel producers", held in Ashkabad, Turkmenistan, 19–22 Apr 2004.

Köhler-Rollefson, I., Mathias, E. and Wanyama, J. "Pastoral nomads and their stake in an international treaty on animal genetic resources". International Conference "Dialogue between cultures and civilizations: Present state and perspectives of nomadism in a globalizing world", organized by the Mongolian National University in Ulaanbaatar, 9–14 Aug 2004.

Köhler-Rollefson, I. and Rathore, H.S. "The current dilemma and future perspectives of the Raika in India: Present state and perspectives of nomadism in a globalizing world". International conference "Dialogue between cultures and civilizations: present state and perspectives of nomadism in a globalizing world", organized by the Mongolian National University in Ulaanbaatar, Aug 9–14 2004.

Wanyama, J., Köhler-Rollefson, I., Mathias, E. and G. Akall. "Pastoralists' rights to animal genetic resources". 3rd International conference on biodiversity and organic agriculture, Nairobi, 22–24 Sept 2004.

About the League for Pastoral Peoples

Mission

LPP provides technical support, advisory services and advocacy for pastoral societies and other small-scale livestock keepers to help them pursue their own vision of development and to stand their ground in the face of unfavourable policy environments and alienation of their pasture grounds. LPP is also a resource organization for holistic and people-centred livestock development and promotes the concept of endogenous livestock development relying on indigenous knowledge and institutions, local animal genetic resources and feed. The well-being of domesticated animals is a secondary but important focus of its work.

Background

LPP was established in 1992 by a small group of veterinary and other concerned professionals confronted with the crisis situation of camel pastoralists in Rajasthan. Efforts to alleviate their situation set into motion a mutual learning process and a series of measures such as action research, projects related to animal health (including ethnoveterinary approaches) and marketing, as well as training and capacity-building. This has resulted in the establishment of the independent local organization Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) which now represents a key partner and provides infrastructural support for activities in India.

Philosophy

Taking our cues from pastoralists we believe in the interconnectedness between the well-being of people and their domesticated animals. By conceptualizing animals as machines, industrialized animal production systems sever one of the few remaining links between humans and the natural world. We regard animals as fellow creatures on this planet and not as subjects. The ultimate goal of our effort is human well-being.

LPP board members

- Dr. Christiane Herweg
c.m.herweg@t-online.de
- Dr. Juliane Bräunig
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- Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson
gorikr@t-online.de ,
ilsekr@rediffmail.com
- Dr. Evelyn Mathias
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New members and staff 2004

LPP would like to welcome:

- Sabine Homann joined as a regular member.
- Evelyn "Eve" Barth started working as a part-time administrative assistant in September.

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Bank account

Account no. 28004893, Sparkasse Darmstadt, Bank Code 508 501 50. Donations are tax-deductible.

Registration

The League for Pastoral Peoples was registered as a non-profit society at the Darmstadt County Court (VR 2337) on 15 March 1993.