

# **Processes to Strengthen Livestock Keepers and their Rights in India**

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# Indian Pastoralists

**Raikas in Rajasthan – Camels**

**Rabaris in Gujarat – Gir, Kankrej cattle**

**Van Gujars in Himalayas – Buffalo**

**Gaddis in Shiwalik Hills – Sheep / goat**

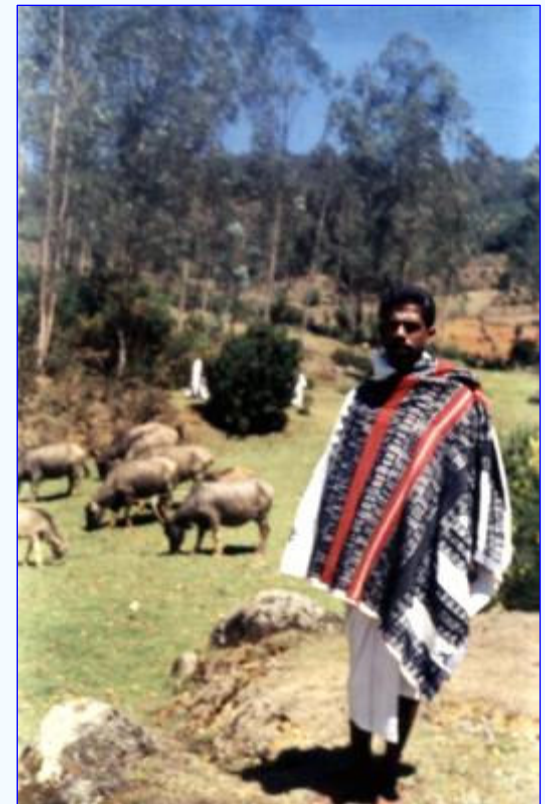
**Ladak Pastoralists - Yak**

**Dhangar Gowli in Karnataka – cattle**

**Konar & Others in Tamil Nadu –**

**Malaimadu / Pulikulam Cattle**

**Todas of Nilgiris – Toda Buffalo**



# Maintaining Animals – Dharma (A Sacred Duty Prescribed) for Certain Communities

- *Raikas* Caste was Created by Lord Shiva to look after Camels
- *Yadhavas, Gujjars* – Descendants of Lord Krishna to care Cattle
- *Todas* – Day-to-day Rituals are Associated with Buffaloes in the life of Toda tribes in Nilgris



- *Lingayats* – Will give one-day rest in a week for animals and animals not milked or engaged in any work on that day

# How Pastoralists Benefit Society



Neeli Ravi buffalo by Van Gujjars



- *In-situ* conservation of livestock breeds
- Protector of forests ,environment and wild life
- Providers of manure for soil health, and pollution-free draught power suitable for organic farming
- Pastoralism as a strategy to provide food security and overcome poverty in dry lands

# Problems Faced by Pastoralists

- **Grazing Permit is Denied in Traditional Grazing Sites due to Joint Forest Management Program / Sanctuaries / National Parks**
- **Original Pasture Lands Converted into Plantations (Eucalyptus, Jatropha)**
- **Exclusion of Pastoralists in Govt. Policies such as Forestry, Breeding Policy**



Lantana weed in Bargur Forests

- **Encroachment of Common Property Resources with *Lantana*, *Prosopis* etc.**
- **Availability of labour is becoming rare.**
- **Younger generation is not interested due to lack of value based education.**



# LIFE Network

**Growing Network of NGOs,  
pastoralists group /  
association and volunteers**

**Incl. SEVA, ANTHRA,  
LPPS, Sahjeevan, MARAG,  
Samaja Samrudha, Orissa  
Honeybee Network,  
Kangayam Research  
Foundation, Rahat,  
KRAPAVIS, and others.**



# LIFE Network India Activities (1)

**Since 2000:**

- **Promoted pastoralist and breeders' associations at the community level**
- **Documentation of local breeds**
- **National level and regional multi-stakeholder workshops on grazing policies and conservation of local breeds**



# LIFE Network India Activities (2)

- Submission of memoranda to various government departments towards favorable policies for livestock keepers
- International activities to lobby for Livestock Keepers' Rights and make the voices of livestock keepers heard during intergovernmental meetings (FAO, CBD, etc.)





# Community Prayer for Restoring Grazing Rights



**Chanted Bajans in 24 Places of our Country  
on 15 November 2005; 1250 Pastoralists Participated**

# Achievements (1)

- Restrictions for selling camel milk has been removed through the Supreme Court of India.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Forest Rights Act 2006 has been notified by Government. The Act provides grazing rights for traditional pastoralists.
- In November 2007, Parliament approved a National Policy for Farmers which calls for the pastoralists role in breed conservation and their grazing rights

# Achievements (2)

- National Bio-Diversity Authority collaborates with the LIFE Network in the documentation of local breeds and recognizing the breed's keepers (pastoralists and farmers) through awards.
- NGO (SEVA) has been included in the National Steering Committee on the conservation of threatened breeds.
- Government of Tamil Nadu issued a circular on grazing policy in favor of animal grazing in forests.

# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

**Consultation on a  
Code of Conduct for  
Supporting  
Pastoralists/Livestock  
Keepers for In-situ  
Conservation of Local  
Livestock Breeds**





# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

More than 70  
participants:  
pastoralists,  
NGOs,  
scientists, and  
government  
officials



# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

1. Meeting with government officials (Planning Commission)
2. Discussion of Livestock Keepers' Rights and Code of Conduct
3. Presentation of awards to community-based breeders and breed associations



# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

Participants  
discussed and  
adopted the  
Livestock Keepers'  
Rights Declaration  
and the Code of  
Conduct



# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

Presentation of Raika  
Biocultural Protocol to  
Chairman of the  
National Biodiversity  
Authority





## Criteria for Recognizing Awards to Pastoralists, Communities, Organizations Conserving Local Livestock Breeds

S. No	Category	Kind of Recognition		Inclusion in Website	Facilitation for Characterization of Breed, registration / value addition
		Material Reward	Non-material Reward		
1	Individual Pastoralist family/Herder/ (Full time livestock keeper ,landless or marginal farmer)	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Professional Breeder with part time livestock keeping (Hobby purpose, Big farmer, Royal family)	No Award	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Pastoral / Agro Pastoral Communities in a specific Geographical area	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Informal breeders group / breeders association, Goshalas,NGOs	No Award	Yes	Yes	No

The above criteria has been evolved during the LIFE Network meeting at NBAGR, Karnal on 2nd September 2008.

# Consultation in Delhi, October 6-8, 2009

Profiles of 24 breed  
conserving livestock  
keepers and associations  
were released.



# Delhi consultation: Recognition of Pastoralists for in-situ Conservation of Breeds

Cash Awards and Certificates were distributed to 24 Awardees at national level award function in collaboration with National Bio-Diversity Authority and National Bureau on Animal Genetic Resources,





**Thank You !**