



KUTTAPALAYAM CONFIRMATION

We, members of the LIFE Network that represents the interests of small-scale and biodiversity conserving livestock keepers, have met here in Kuttapalayam, Tamil Nadu (India) from 13-15 August 2010 and confirm that:

- Our breeds make an enormous contribution to food production and food sovereignty. Their mobility and hardiness allow them to access distant and remote grazing areas especially in deserts, marginal lands and mountainous regions that could otherwise not be put to productive use. They convert the vegetation in these areas into milk, meat and other products that sustain the urban population.
- Our breeds can utilize small and dispersed patches of vegetation, for instance along roadsides, and many types of household and crop wastes, a capacity that is of crucial value for the economic empowerment and dignity of women.
- Our breeds are essential components of organic farming systems through the production of manure. Outside organic production systems too, their manure decreases the need for artificial fertilizer and they thereby mitigate climate change.
- Our breeds are important source of draught power which saves on fossil fuels.
- Our breeds act as insurance against drought and have the capacity to adapt to climate change due to their tolerance of climatic extremes.
- Our breeds are the basis for sustainable livestock production in the future, since they are independent of grains and do not compete with humans for food.
- Our breeds are integral part of the environment and in many cases necessary to sustain wildlife biological diversity as well as balancing eco-systems.
- Our breeds are product of traditional knowledge and sustainable lifestyles. They represent biological diversity whose survival is intimately tied to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. They therefore fall under the domain of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8-j) to which India is a signatory.

We call on:

- The upcoming 10th Conference of the Parties(COP 10) to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya** to focus attention on implementing in-situ conservation of traditional livestock keeping (pastoralist and smallholder) systems, in accordance with Article 8-j of the CBD and to acknowledge the significant contribution of local livestock keeping communities in conserving biological diversity.

- The **Government of India** as a signatory to the CBD to recognize the linkage between in-situ conservation of its domestic animal diversity and secure access to common property resources. We request a series of state-wise consultations with the concerned institutions governing these resources, including, and maybe led by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Rural Development and Revenue Department, to arrive at a solution that will enable in-situ conservation of livestock breeds.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** to step up implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources by enhanced support for Strategic Priorities 5 (promoting agro-ecosystems approaches to the management of animal genetic resources) and 6 (supporting indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources). Furthermore, we demand official inclusion of livestock keepers in the developing debate about the future of livestock production as evidenced by the State of Food and Agriculture 2009.
- **Development organizations (such as IFAD, IUCN, Ford Foundation, EU)** to support programmes of work that will enable local communities to establish **Biocultural Community Protocols** and thereby invoke **Livestock Keepers' Rights** that are necessary for them to continue acting as guardians of livestock biodiversity.
- Governments to endorse and support the implementation of Livestock Keepers' Rights.

Signatories:

Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan (Rajasthan, India)

SEVA (Tamil Nadu, India)

Sahjeevan (Gujarat, India)

Sivaseenapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (Tamil Nadu, India)

Natural Justice (South Africa)

MARAG (Gujarat, India)

League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (Germany)

Rainfed Livestock Network (India)

Samburu community (c/o Pat Lanyasunya, Kenya)

Spanish Federation of Shepherds (Spain)

Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (Gujarat, India)

Deoni Cattle Breeders' Association (Maharashtra, India)

Bargur Hill Cattle Breeders Association (Tamil Nadu, India)

Malaimadu Cattle Breeders Association (Tamil Nadu, India)

Vechur Conservation Trust (Kerala, India)

Centre for Ethno-Veterinary Practices, Thanjavur (India)

Umbalacheri Cattle Breeders Association (Tamil Nadu, India)

Jaisalmer Camel Breeders' Association (Rajasthan, India)

Raika Community Panchayat, Pali (Rajasthan, India)

Society for Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds, Germany

Lalji, World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People (WAMIP)