The results are shared in regional meetings and by means of an international workshop. Next steps will include the investigation of the technological requirements for producing products tailored to urban consumer preferences and the identification of business partners or donors willing to invest and to build up a value chain on labelled products.

Creating value chains in which the control over the resources remains in the hands of traditional livestock breeding communities and in which processing is carried out locally has the potential to revive rural economies and to provide a future perspective for youths from these communities. For this endeavour, we are seeking collaboration and joint projects with private enterprises to connect livestock keepers and their unique, biodiversity conserving production systems to markets and consumers.

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Thanks to

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These breeds are the consolidated result of hundreds or even thousands years of purposeful breeding and of natural selection. They epitomize oodles of traditional knowledge and selection criteria of which no scientist has dreamt, such as the urge to forage, being social, and the guts to survive droughts and other calamities.

Unfortunately, this type of sturdy livestock is threatened by extinction as the world is being taken over by livestock mono-cultures: poultry produced by two or three companies globally, white hybrid pigs, and genetically closely related Holstein Friesian cows.

The League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) was founded in 1992 to provide relief in an acute crisis experienced by Raika camel pastoralists in India. Soon its focus expanded to other small-scale livestock keepers around the globe facing similar challenges. Now we are working globally and locally (through our partners in the LIFE Network) for resilient and socially sustainable livestock production.

In order to ensure the survival and better utilization of ecologically important breeds – animals that are the foundation for a more sustainable and greener approach to livestock production – LPP has partnered with the Fondation d’Entreprise Hermès, to investigate the potential and opportunities for developing value chains around traditional products from these breeds.

Working with pastoralist communities that have developed Biocultural Community Protocols (under the Nagoya Protocol of the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity/CBD), LPP and its partners in the LIFE Network are currently examining the scope for developing a special label – «the Ark of life» – that indicates to consumers that a product is from a locally adapted livestock breed and derives from biodiversity conserving production systems.