

# Annual Report of the League for Pastoral Peoples 2000/2001

## *Livestock Development for Food Security or for Famine: Policy Makers have the Choice*

by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

There are many ways of keeping livestock. Pastoralists are at one end of the spectrum. They graze their herds on natural vegetation or possibly crop by-products, utilizing arid or barren stretches of land that cannot be put to any other productive use. The breeds they keep can survive droughts and feed shortages, cope with harsh environments, and are resistant to diseases. These traits are more important than productivity and enable pastoralists to survive in their inhospitable environments. Because of the relatively low meat and milk yields of their animals, these production systems are generally perceived as backward and in need of change to raise their productivity.

At the other extreme of the animal husbandry spectrum is the intensive production of poultry, pigs, and cattle with huge numbers of eggs, fantastic daily weight gain and huge milk yields. Such animals and production systems generate a plentiful supply of food, thereby nurturing people and preventing hunger. This is a commonly held belief, even among animal husbandry professionals.

Yet, closer analysis reveals that this argumentation is deeply flawed. The enormous amounts of meat and milk produced by high yielding animals devour equally enormous inputs. This starts with their feed requirements often composed of grain that could be directly consumed by people. In addition, such high yielding animals, because of their lack of general fitness and because of crowded husbandry conditions, need antibiotics, hormones and other feed supplements to remain healthy. Money has to be spent on housing and creating artificial environments, therefore it is a capital intensive enterprise. There are toxic effluents

bad for the environment and, last but not least, animal welfare considerations.

Due to the traumatic experiences with Mad Cow Disease and FMD during the past months, there is now considerable political will in Europe for checking the excesses of intensive livestock production and instead supporting more sustainable, extensive and even "organic" animal husbandry systems. Unfortunately, at the same time, the same production systems that have fallen into disrepute here because of human health and animal welfare concerns, are on a huge expansion course in developing countries. Because of increasing urbanization and a burgeoning middle class, the demand for meat and milk products in developing countries has already risen immensely and is expected to approach the per-capita consumption levels of the developed countries by 2020. This phenomenon is referred to as the "Livestock Revolution". It is a development that has garnered the attention of several international organizations, including the FAO, ILRI and DFID. These agencies are concerned about its possible effects on small farmers and fear that they will be squeezed out of the market by these capital intensive enterprises and lose their livelihoods. But up to now there is a notable absence of concrete suggestions for how to utilize the demand for livestock products so that it benefits the rural poor.

How to achieve "Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020" was the topic of an international conference organized by IFPRI, the International Food Policy Research Institute of the CGIAR, held in Bonn from September 4-6, 2001. Strangely enough, although IFPRI analysts themselves have coined the term "Livestock Revolution" and have identified livestock as the largest subsector of agriculture, this issue with its huge implications for food security, employment and the environment was not on the official agenda of the September gathering. A variety of questions were posed and discussed, such as "How committed are we to solving hunger?", "Why have we made so little progress?" and "Whose responsibility

is it to end hunger?”. But the conference hardly touched livestock. Thus it was left to the NGOs to bring the “Livestock Revolution” to the attention of the media and the general public. Their verdict is clear: Stop subsidizing the export of industrialized animal production to the developed world and instead support these countries to pursue endogenous

livestock development that builds on local feed supplies and animal genetic resources. Such measures will not only protect the livelihoods of millions of smallholders and pastoralists, but also ensure sufficient cereal supply to eliminate the justification for genetically modified crops.

## ***About the League for Pastoral Peoples***

### **MISSION**

LPP provides technical support 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’s mission goes beyond people by considering the well-being of human’s domesticated animals as a secondary but important focus of its work. It seeks to promote the concept of endogenous livestock development relying on indigenous knowledge and institutions, local animal genetic resources and feed.

### **BACKGROUND**

LPP was established in 1993 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 an independent local organization (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 conceptualising 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.

### **BOARD**

*President:* Dr. Christiane Herweg (c.m.herweg@t-online.de)

*Vice President:* Dr. Juliane Bräunig (j.braeunig@bgvv.de)

*Project Coordinator:* Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson (gorikr@t-online.de)

*Treasurer:* Dr. Evelyn Mathias (evelynmathias@netcologne.de)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The League presently has 23 members (including the board members).

### **CONTACT ADDRESS**

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- c/o LPPS, Ambedkar Nagar, Desuri Road, Sadri 306702, Pali District, Rajasthan, INDIA. Tel. 0091-2934-85086; e-mail [lpps@sify.com](mailto:lpps@sify.com); <http://www.lpps.org>

## **BANK CONNECTION**

Membership account no. 28004273, donations account no. 28004893 at Sparkasse Darmstadt, Bank Code 50850150. Donations are tax-deductible.

**REGISTRATION:** The League for Pastoral Peoples was registered as a non-profit society at the County Court Darmstadt (VR 2337) on 15.3.1993.

## ***Activities***

**LIFE Initiative: "LIFE" stands for Local Livestock For Empowerment of Rural People** and is a movement for supporting rural communities through the conservation and development of indigenous livestock breeds and species. The following activities were undertaken under this banner last year:

- **Participation at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources** for Food and Agriculture held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 4-6 September, 2000. The League was practically the only NGO represented among all the government officials and the lone voice for more involvement of farmers and pastoralists in conserving domestic animal diversity.
- **Visits with NGOs and pastoral associations in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttarkhand.** Ilse Köhler-Rollefson as coordinator of LIFE undertook extensive travel and field research to gain insight into the situation of indigenous breeds and their keepers. Together with LPPS Director, Hanwant Singh, she met Rebari in the Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat who keep Gir cattle and buffalo. In Tamil Nadu, P. Vivek of SEVA organized a tour to meet with two herders association conserving the Malaimadu (hill cattle) breed, to show an as yet undocumented goat breed that routinely produces litters of 4-5 kids, and another threatened breed, the Vembur sheep. Visits were also made to Nari cattle breeders in Rajasthan, sheep breeders in the Bikaner area, as well as to the R.L.E.K., an NGO working with buffalo breeding Gujjars in the Rajaji National Park.
- **International Conference/Workshop "Local Livestock for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods", held in Udaipur and Sadri from 1-4 November, 2001.** In cooperation with LPPS, and with additional funding from the GTZ's Programme for "Managing Agrobiodiversity in Rural Areas", the Swiss Development Corporation and Heifer Project International, the League organized this workshop which brought together about 80 participants from various backgrounds, including herders organizations, NGOs, government, and universities. The first two days were devoted to more formal presentations in Udaipur, the second part was held in Sadri at the Training Centre in Alsipura and involved two field visits to Raika herders as well as working groups and discussions in the plenary. The workshop culminated in the Sadri Declaration (see p.6)
- **Website.** Thanks to Peter Hofs of Banjara Consultants in Bangalore, LIFE also has its own website at [www.lifeinitiative.org](http://www.lifeinitiative.org).
- **Regional Coordinator for India and Asia.** We are pleased to announce that Mr. W.M.K. Warsi took up the position of regional coordinator for LIFE in September. He is combining this assignment with coordinating the CME activities in India.

**Study on Pastoralism in India.** At the request of NRInternational, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson undertook a scoping study on "Pastoralism in India" in cooperation with Prof. Vijay Sharma from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmadabad.

**Exploratory visit to Pakistan.** Christiane Herweg, together with Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, travelled to Pakistan in early March at the invitation of SCOPE, a Karachi based NGO that acts as Pakistan's

focal point for the CCD (Convention to Combat Desertification). They visited pastoralists in the Tharparkar desert, found out exciting details about the Rebari of Pakistan, and also toured to the Cholistan desert. Together with SCOPE, a plan was made to undertake a joint-project for sustainable land use practices in the Tharparkar desert for which LPP will act as advisor for livestock issues.

**NGO Activities accompanying the 2020 Vision Conference "Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020" organized by IFPRI in Bonn, 4-6 September, 2001.** In cooperation with the Forum for Environment and Development, LPP undertook various activities to draw attention to the relevance of appropriate livestock development policies for food security. League members Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Evelyn Mathias produced a leaflet entitled "Livestock and Food Security", organized a lunchtime session, and helped with compiling and editing a reader on "food security from the grassroots perspective". Evelyn also organized a field trip to an urban organic farm.

### **COLLABORATION WITH LPPS**

The following activities in India were undertaken in close cooperation with our partner-organization Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS):

**Camel Milk Legitimized by Supreme Court.** In November 2000, the Supreme Court in Delhi issued a judgement that declared camel milk as fit for human consumption and its sale as legal. This was the happy end to an extended campaign by LPPS to overturn an earlier judgement by the High Court in Jodhpur that had deemed camel milk as hazardous to human health and sentenced a Raika to jail. LPPS had mounted a campaign and collected money to hire a lawyer to bring the case to the Supreme Court. Juliane Bräunig of LPP had written an expertise summarizing scientific evidence for the effect of camel milk on human health.

**Support for Women's Programme of LPPS.** LPP supported the sewing and embroidery programmes of LPPS through payment of the salaries for two teachers for the period of one year. Furthermore, in October 2000, LPP also sponsored a short-term consultancy by gender specialist Runu Chakraborty to identify options and strategies for development of a womens' programme.

**Evaluation of LPPS Programmes.** Under the mandate of LPP, Dr. Evelyn Mathias undertook an evaluation of the field projects for camel pastoralists undertaken by LPPS since its foundation in 1996. Her task was to provide a review and summary of past project activities and identifying possible interventions and strategies for the future. At the end of her visit, Evelyn and Ilse spent a couple of days in Pune to learn about the activities of **Anthra**, a like-minded NGO also working in the field of animal health.

**Help for Earthquake Victims in Kutch.** Thanks largely to the efforts of new LPP member Jutta Habedank and Dr. H. Herweg, LPP was able to support reconstruction of a boarding school for Rebari children. LPPS director Hanwant Singh handed the donation to the principal of the school in Anjar.

**NGO Network for Livestock and Pastoral Development.** Ilse Köhler-Rollefson is serving as external advisor and resource person to the NGO Network for Livestock and Pastoral Development in Western India that is coordinated by AFPRO and LPPS and supported by Misereor. The aim of the network is to foster livestock development that builds on indigenous knowledge and resources rather than high input models of animal production. The first meeting took place on 11-12 July, 2001 at the LPPS Training Centre in Alsipura.

### **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

**With CME.** LPP members Anita Idel and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson attended the 6<sup>th</sup> CME organised by Hedy Bühlmann. This time the herder meeting was held near the Pyrenees in Orthez, Southern France, on 16-23 September 2001 and devoted to "Crisis as Chance for Change" (for further information on the CME, contact Hedy Bühlmann at [condial@bluewin.ch](mailto:condial@bluewin.ch) or check out [www.condial.org](http://www.condial.org)).

**With FiBL.** Anita Idel was recently appointed as coordinator of FiBL Germany (a research institute on biological agriculture) and has been busy setting up their new office in Berlin. In January 2002, FiBL and LPP will be involved in a workshop on international livestock development ('Agrarwende international: Wo bleiben die Tiere?') organised in collaboration with EED and Counterpart Germany during the international agricultural trade fair 'Grüne Woche' in Berlin.

## NOTE OF THANKS

Just for once we would like to express our gratitude to all those people who support the work of LPP so generously – some for years, to mention for example family Stürz from Wembach/ Germany and Bettina Haas from Darmstadt/Germany.

## Papers at Workshops/Conferences

**2nd International Camelid Conference "Agroeconomics of Camelid Farming**, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 8-12 September, 2000. Juliane Bräunig presented a paper entitled "Economics of Camel Breeding in India" by J. Bräunig, I. Köhler-Rollefson and H.S. Rathore.

**IFOAM conference** held in Basel in 2000. Anita Idel presented a paper entitled "Animal welfare aspects of the utilization of domestic animals in the German speaking area during the 18th and 19th century".

**International Workshop: Community-Based Management of Animal Genetic Resources: A Tool for Rural Development**, held in Mbabane (Swaziland) from 7-11 May 2001, organized by GTZ, MoA Swaziland, UNEP, SACCAR and SADC. Anita Idel presented a paper on "Access and Benefit-Sharing in the Context of Farm Animal Genetic Resources" and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson one of the keynote addresses entitled "State of the Art of Community-Based Management of Animal Genetic Resources, with special reference to pastoralists".

## Publications

### ***Finally, it's here !!!!***

**A Field Manual of Camel Diseases. Traditional and Modern Health Care for the Dromedary** compiled by I. Köhler-Rollefson, P. Mundy and E. Mathias. ITDG Publishing, London. 2001. Order at [www.itdpubs.org.uk](http://www.itdpubs.org.uk)

Hedy Bühlmann. *Lait sud-nord* (Milk south-north). Dossier CME 2/2000 (c/o condial@bluewin.ch).

Idel, A. The relationship between humans and animals. The key for further organic development. *Ecology and Farming* 27 ( May issue):9. 2001

Köhler-Rollefson, I. Intellectual property rights regime necessary for traditional livestock raisers. *Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor* 9(1):12-15. \$\$\$DATE

Köhler-Rollefson, I. *Management of Animal Genetic Diversity at Community Level*. GTZ Project: Managing Agrobiodiversity in Rural Areas, Eschborn, August, 2000.

Köhler-Rollefson, I. Pastoralists, the Livestock Revolution and Organic Animal Husbandry *Ecology and Farming* 27 (May issue):10-11. 2001

Almekinders, C. and Köhler-Rollefson, I. *Similarities and Differences between Plant and Animal Genetic Resource Management and Conclusions for Technical Co-operation*. GTZ Project: Managing Agrobiodiversity in Rural Areas, Eschborn. 2001

Mathias, E. Ethnoveterinary medicine. *Ecology and Farming* 27 (May issue):14-15. 2001

Marina Martin, E. Mathias and C. McCorkle. *Ethnoveterinary Medicine. An Annotated Bibliography of Community Animal Healthcare*. Indigenous Knowledge and Development Series, ITDG Publications. 2001

**"SADRI  
DECLARATION",**

**being recommendations passed by the participants of the  
International Conference + Workshop on**

**Local Livestock Breeds for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**

Udaipur and Sadri, 1-4 November, 2000

**Acknowledging** the diverse roles of indigenous animal breeds for sustainable rural livelihoods in India (for food security, soil fertility, draught power, as social and cultural asset, source of income and saving etc), especially in marginal areas,

**being conscious** of the threat to domestic animal diversity, (due to government policies, economic pressures, increasing poverty, cultural erosion etc., and

**concerned** about the lack of awareness in all spheres of stakeholders,

**we recommend:**

1. Policy changes concerning

- access to resources (grazing, water ...)
- changes in emphasis in the curriculum for veterinary + animal husbandry scientists, extension workers, etc. (more emphasis on bio-diversity, conservation of indigenous breeds)
- breeding policy reviews through consultative processes involving all stakeholders.
- formulation of land use plans that guarantee land use/rights for indigenous breeds and indigenous livestock keepers

2. Concerted actions by NGOs, CBOs and communities, including

- networking, documentation, awareness raising and dissemination of information about the situation and advantages of indigenous breeds
- improvement of marketing (niches) for the products of indigenous breeds
- developing of local institutions + breeding organizations

3. Changing/expanding research towards the needs of poor livestock keepers

towards achieving:

- improved economic situation of livestock keepers
- legal recognition of indigenous breeds as national assets
- maintenance of Indian Domestic Animal Diversity (DAD) for the benefit of future generations