

LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES
AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT



Annual Report 2015



The scenario around camel milk in India: A case for Livestock Keepers 'Rights!

On 27th March 2015, the Rajasthan Camel Bill (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) was passed by the Legislative Assembly. The results are depressing. Prices of camels have fallen to below Rs 10,000, even less than what has to be paid for a good goat. Most of the remaining camel herders are old, tired and resigned, hanging on to their camels only out of a sense of responsibility and nostalgia. None of their sons will follow in their footsteps. In fact, the children put pressure on their fathers to sell out their camel herds as quickly as possible: a non-asset that does not generate income, but necessitates hard work, practically around the clock.

One interesting fact has emerged: the extent of an unofficial camel milk market, especially in the southern and eastern parts of the state – which are not known as your classic camel breeding areas. That camel milk is sold in Chittorgarh, Udaipur and Bhilwara districts has long been known. But it now came to be known that in the districts of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa, Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur too, there is a highly organised camel milk market. About 30 “thekedars” each collect the milk from a number of herds and channel it into the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy System. The hitch is that the milk is not declared as being from camel, but as cow or buffalo milk.

Although Rajasthan has declared the camel state animal, it is not accepting camel milk! According to an insider source, the dairy has concluded that camel milk marketing is not economically viable, after a prior attempt during the Chief Minister’s previous period in office failed.

It is true that marketing camel milk like any other milk, based on fat content and oriented only towards volume and not towards quality, will not work. Because camel milk is low in fat and therefore only generates around 20 Rs/liter in the current pricing system. Considering the nomadic herding practices and the variable, often far distances that need to be covered between herds and chilling station this is a losing proposition.

Camel milk needs to be marketed separately and as a health food. Worldwide it is much in demand, especially for two conditions: Diabetes and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Its effect of lowering blood sugar levels in Diabetes 2 patients is scientifically proven, as is its impact on autistic children who are reported to sleep better and start establishing eye contact after taking relatively small amounts of camel milk.

There is an emerging market for camel milk in India as well. Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan is pioneering this and has started shipping frozen camel milk in 200 ml bottles to cities such as Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore. There is also a camel milk distributor in Delhi. This does not only help the patients, but also supports the livelihood of herders such as Bhanwarlal Raika who not long ago thought he would have to sell his herd, even though he loves camels and is both energetic and enthusiastic. “The day we started selling milk, was the turnaround for my herd.” He is earning 50 Rs/liter, or about 500 Rs/day currently and already has invested his profits into the purchase of a milking camel.

If demand for camel milk rises, more livelihoods could be supported and more camel herds saved. This is the way to go about it: slowly growing the market and saving one herd and one herder at a time. But it is beyond the means of a small NGO to do this. It requires training of camel breeders in hygienic milk collection, investment in infrastructure, new technologies for conserving and shipping the milk, business acumen and a parallel awareness raising campaign about the benefits of camel milk. Dairy business as usual will not work. But social entrepreneurship that is not only profit oriented, but concerned about the common good, about livelihoods, food security and biodiversity would. The rewards could be great. The presence of Rajasthan's remaining camel herds is closely correlated with the existence of large bio-diverse grazing areas, including gochars, orans and forests. The distribution of camels and such (community-) conserved areas practically overlaps. So conservation of the camel could go hand in hand with the conservation of nature, with the creation of livelihoods and production of health enhancing food, in a true agro-ecological approach. It would certainly add value to Rajasthan and could even become its USP (unique selling proposition).



ONE OF THE FEW YOUNG CAMEL BREEDERS, BHANWARLAL RAIKA, WHO IS BENEFITTING FROM THE EFFORTS OF LPPS TO MARKET CAMEL MILK AS MEDICINE.

International Activities

February, 11th-14th

International Conference of the Society for Domestic Animal Biodiversity, held at TANUVAS in Chennai.

Ilse Koehler-Rollefson (IKR) gave a keynote paper on Biocultural Protocols during this international conference, and chaired one of the sessions. LPP also supported participation of Dr. Balaram Sahu from Odisha who is coordinating the BCP on the Golla pastoralists.

February, 15th-23rd

Biocultural Protocol with Kuruba shepherds

IKR spent a week with two organisations that are working on the Biocultural Protocol of the Kuruba shepherding system in Karnataka and helped them to determine their focus as well as with data collection (see <http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=898>).

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February, 24th-26th

Meeting between pastoralists and government in Indore (Madhya Pradesh/India)

IKR was invited to participate in a meeting between nomadic shepherds of Rajasthan and government representatives that was organised by the Foundation for Ecological Security in Indore in Madhya Pradesh. This was followed by a core group meeting of the Rainfed Livestock Network of which she is a member.

April, 14th-15th

Visit to Al Ain Camel Dairy

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson visited the Al Ain Camel dairy in Abu Dhabi at the invitation of LIFE Network member Dr. Raziq Kakar.

April, 20th-22nd

Cotonou, Benin Experts Consultation Meeting on “The movement and exchange of animal genetic materials and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Africa”

IKR was invited to this meeting as an expert on Biocultural protocols and helped develop a statement by AU to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). For more information, please see <http://www.au-ibar.org/angr-resources/angr-documents/363-en/media/news/angr/681-expert-consultation-on-the-movement-and-exchange-of-animal-genetic-materials-and-implementation-of-the-nagoya-protocol-on-abs-in-africa>

April, 27th-28th

Guiding Group Meeting, FAO, Rome

LPP participated in the Guiding Group meeting held at FAO in Rome from 27-28th April. Social sustainability is now considered as an important angle and LPP was requested for providing written inputs on how to take the matter forward. In addition, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson presented a case-study about the nomadic sheep production system in Rajasthan in a meeting of the Focus area Group 1 which generated a lot of interest, because it showed the

enormous outputs of a traditional extensive system without any external inputs and because it challenged some of the prevailing concepts about “efficiency” in the livestock sector.

May 30th

Book Release “Wasted Lives” with THRDC in New-Delhi

Together with the Tibetan Human Rights and Development Centre, LPP launched a report by Gabriel Lafitte entitled “Wasted Lives. A critical analysis of China’s Campaign to end Tibetan Pastoral Lifeways” at the India International Centre in New-Delhi on 30th May. LPP coordinator Ilse Köhler-Rollefson presented a keynote address on the role of nomads in Tibet and other countries in food security and environmental protection.

July, 16th-19th

Kuruba BCP and Amrit Mahal Cattle

IKR backstopped further work on the Kuruba BCP with Gopikrishna, Nilkanth Mama and Dr. Athani in Belgaon and had the chance to visit the remaining keepers of the famous Amrit Mahal cattle in Karnataka.

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July 26th to August 7th

Consultancy on BCPs for pastoralists for CENESTA/Iran

In the context of LPP Consultancy to CENESTA from 26 July 2015-7th August 2015 in the context of the EuropeAide/132349/C/ACT/TPS project Empowering Iran’s Indigenous Nomadic Tribes: Towards Poverty Eradication and Nature Conservation through Diversification of Income and Wealth Generation Activities and the Promotion of Indigenous Community Conserved Areas implemented by the Iranian NGO CENESTA, IKR undertook a consultancy to provide inputs and support/capacity building for CENESTA staff with respect to development of Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs). During her visit, Ilse participated in a UNICAMEL meeting organised by Shahsevan pastoralists in Northwest Iran, gave a lecture **at the Animal Science Research Institute in Karaj.**

On 1st August, on “The Importance of Nomadic Pastoralists for Food Security and Animal Genetic Resource Conservation” that was attended by about 40 scientists and led to elaborate and sometimes heated discussion, besides visiting camel pastoralists in Semnan Province.



IKR AND THE FACULTY IF THE IRANIAN ANIMAL SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN KARAJ

October, 27th-28th

Participation in Camel milk symposium in Dubai

In view of the efforts of our partner in Rajasthan, LPPS, to establish a camel milk market and in preparation for the Marwar Camel Culture Festival, IKR participated in this meeting to become informed about the latest in advancements in camel dairying and to liaise with camel milk experts.

November, 6th-8th

Marwar Camel Culture Festival

The *Marwar Camel Culture Festival* under the patronage of H.H. Maharajah of Jodhpur took place at Sadri from 6-8 November. We managed to raise small amounts of additional funds from private donors. The three day festival started out with a camel milk competition, a camel milk hygiene training, and a camp by the Rajasthan Veterinary University (RAJUVAS).

www.pastoralpeoples.org

On the second day, the main programme point was a panel discussion between camel breeders and government officials (unfortunately many of them cancelled in the last minute). It was facilitated by scientists Dr. Chanda Nimbkar and led to concrete recommendations. The third day saw the participation of H.H. who launched and tasted from our cheese. In addition, the Cow Minister was also present.



The event received good media coverage, including in Indian Express and Business on-line. The recommendations were sent out to all relevant bodies and people.



At the occasion of the Marwar Camel Culture Festival organized by LPP's partner LPPS in Rajasthan, LPP organized a meeting of Indian partners that are working on BCPs in which they presented, commented and analyzed the existing draft BCPs from four communities in India: Golla pastoralists and Ganjam Goat, Kurubka Shepherding system of the Decca, Kangayam cattle breed of Tamil Nadu and Bakkarwal pastoralists of Jammu and Kashmir.

November, 16th-17th

3rd Biodiversity meet at Indian Institute of Statistics at Kolkata

IKR was invited to present a plenary lecture, entitled *India's Animal Cultures: Guardians of Biodiversity*.

November, 22nd-24th

International Grasslands Conference, New Delhi, India

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson had been invited as a keynote speaker by the International Grasslands Conference, a major scientific event held in Delhi from November 20-24th. As part of the program, LPP organised a special session on Pastoralism in India on 23rd November.

The speakers included

- Ilse Köhler-Rollefson: Ecologically and socially sustainable livestock development in drylands. (<http://de.slideshare.net/IlseKoehler-Rollefson/livestock-development-in-marginal-areas>)
- Saverio Krätli: Valuing Variability ("keynote address")
- Balu Athani on the significance of sheep pastoralism in providing organic manure
- Balaram Sahu: the role of goat, pig and buffalo pastoralism in Odisha in providing food security to the poor
- Ramesh Bhatti: Pastoralism in the Banni Grasslands of Kutch
- Gopikrishna: The importance of the Amrit Kavadi grazing reserves in Karnataka for livestock and biodiversity conservation.

The session was well attended and met with much support. A news item is on the LPP website at <http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/session-on-pastoralism-in-india-during-the-international-grasslands-conference/>.

Evening seminar at the India International Centre

In order to capitalize on the presence of the livestock experts in Delhi, we also held an evening seminar on 23rd November at the India International Centre with presentations by

- Saverio Krätli – Pastoralism: a critical asset for food security under climate change
- G.B. Mukherji – A policy-maker's thought process on nomadic herding
- Kamal Kishore – Pastoralism, indigenous breeds and the commons: a guarantee for food security
- Students for a Free Tibet – about the situation of pastoralists in Tibet



Other Activities

June, 22nd-28th

European Shepherds Meeting, Koblenz

LPP participated in the European Shepherds Meeting that took place in Koblenz. The Meeting was co-organized by LPP's board member Günther Czerkus. Shepherds from all over Europe participated and discussed on the role of pastoralists in the context of food security and environment protection. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations presented the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, an initiative to network and share experiences among pastoralists and scientists.

September, 16th-18th

Tropentag, Berlin

Aisha Rollefson presented a poster entitled "The Social Sustainability of Sheep Pastoralism in Western India: Impacts on Food Security".

November, 14th

Exhibition of organizations in Ober-Ramstadt

During the exhibition of organizations and associations Aisha Rollefson and Sabine Poth presented LPP's projects and activities to inform people on LPP's work. They also introduced camel products as soap of camel milk and camel dung paper cards.

November Website

In order to project the activities of the LIFE Network and to inform pastoralists and other stakeholders about the existence of the initiative, a dedicated website for the LIFE Network was designed in collaboration with the Network members. The website (www.lifenetworkinternational.org) presents all partners and offers all basic information about its work and objectives. It will contain an extensive resource section about Livestock Keepers' Rights and the history of the movement, as well as on-going developments with respect to Access and Benefit Sharing at the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Publications 2015

Access and Benefit-sharing of Animal Genetic Resources. Using the Nagoya Protocol as a Framework for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Locally Adapted Livestock Breeds by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Hartmut Meyer, LPP and GIZ ABS Capacity building Initiative. http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/Knowledge_Center/Pulications/anGR/Animal_Genetic_Resources_Meyer_Koehler-Rollefson_201504.pdf

Article: “*Beyond efficiency*” co-authored by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and David Steane was submitted to the Journal ANIMAL

Contribution of invited article about the role of Raika women in nomadic sheep production for a special issue of the Journal of Arid Environments on *Women in Drylands: Barriers and Benefits for Sustainable Livelihoods*

Contribution of invited chapter on *Innovations and diverse livelihood pathways Alternative livelihoods, livelihood diversification, societal transformation* for a special issue on pastoralism of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review

Article in Hindustan Times by Manjula Narayan “*Our lady of the camels*”
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/ilse-kohler-rollefson-our-lady-of-the-camels/story-QPbLcOFg8BAjeH2iBlmEDK.html>

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Publications about LPP Work

CSR Journal: <http://thecsrjournal.in/can-csr-save-the-gentle-giants-of-rajasthan/>

About LPP

LPP is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under German law. Donations are tax-deductible.

Financial

The League's income in 2015 was about € 37.707,54 and expenditures amounted to € 56.350,59. Details are given below. The accounts were audited by a professional chartered accountant in Darmstadt.

Euros	Funds at end of 2014	Income 2015	Expenditure 2015	Income – Expenditure 2015	Funds at end of 2015
Society	14.334,11	9.947,04	11.673,07	-1.726,03	12.608,08
Projects	17.052,45	27.760,50	44.677,52	-16.917,02	135,43
Total	31.386,56	37.707,54	56.350,59	-18.643,05	12.743,51

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.

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Donations are tax deductible.

Registration

LPP was registered as a non-profit society at the Darmstadt County Court (VR2337) on 15 March 1993.

Donors

LPP is extremely grateful to its donors supporting its work in 2015

- Misereor
- Brot für die Welt

We would also like to express our thankfulness to all other supporters of LPP.