



## Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) South Asia

Afghanistan • Bangladesh • Bhutan • India  
Nepal • Maldives • Pakistan • Sri Lanka

Number : \_File/MoM/03\_

Dated : \_14.Mar.2021\_

### Minutes of Meeting of RISG\_SA held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 [MoM-3]

~~~

The meeting started with a Pastoral song in Cholistani language recorded and provided by Dr Rahim, Pakistan. After a formal welcome to all participants, Dr Rahim made a presentation on '**Status of Rangelands and Pastoralism in Pakistan**' and stated that around 60% of total surface land in Pakistan is Rangelands. Land use is, however, fast changing to non-pastoral systems like potato cultivation. He expressed features of unique pastoral breeds like Kari sheep kidding thrice in one year ('short gestation period'), Cholistani cattle that move to jungle late evening time and often graze on their own, Achai cattle and also Azikheli buffalo having high reproduction ('more than 80%'). He also showed the routes followed by the pastoralists. There are cases where mobility (even upto 700 km) has reduced from 26 days in a month to just 4 days now. The 'resting places' on their routes have diminished, even vanished in some cases; and, now, they are bound to carry fodder on mules. There is an increase in 'zero-grazing' in the low-land areas. Rangelands and Pastoralists have a continued role as meat is largely coming from these areas while milk is coming from buffaloes. To a question from Dr Arjava Sharma, Dr Rahim clarified that in the continuum of grazing lands, trans-boundary movement of pastoralists occurs between Afghanistan and Pakistan as a traditional practice. Dr Rahim also told that a few farmers lease fodder trees grown in their field-bunds viz. Bhimal / Beul (*Grewia optiva*) to pastoralists for Rs. two thousand per tree per year.

Dr Pasha also apprised the group that they have approached the Animal Husbandry Commissioner of the country and are pursuing them to reply to the Mongolean letter and to support IYRP.

Meeting ended with thanks to participants and a request to all other countries for presenting status of Rangelands & Pastoralists and progress on lobbying with their respective Governments.

#### Participants

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dr Inam-ur-Rahim, Pakistan      | Dr S H G Wickramaratne, Sri Lanka |
| Dr Talat Naseer Pasha, Pakistan | Natasha Maru, India               |
| Dr Arjava Sharma, India         | P. Vivekanandan, India            |
| Dr Sunil Gamage, Sri Lanka      | D. K. Sadana, India               |

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

[ D K Sadana ]  
+91-94160.30654  
sadana.dk@gmail.com

Campaign for designating International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists  
by the United Nations for 2026

