



Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) South Asia

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

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Dated: _12.Oct.2022_

Minutes of Meeting of RISG_SA held on 12th October, 2022 [MoM-8]

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P. Vivekanandan, Coordinator, RISG-SA, initiated the meeting by welcoming all the participants. He stressed that India should lead the efforts in the SA region for implementation of IYRP activities leading up to 2026. Dr. Sadana, RISG-SA Chairperson, gave an overview of IYRP's journey and its goals and shared the progress made at both global and regional levels. Omar Kayess shared that livestock keepers in Bangladesh are mostly following semi extensive or stall feed system of feeding and narrated the problems of shrinking fodder resources due to grazing lands losing to agriculture in Bangladesh. In the absence of members from other countries, Vivekanandan updated the group on Bhutan's participation in getting letter of support and documenting entries for pastoralists' awards during 2020-21. Dr. Debalina Mitra updated the group on the schemes available under DAHD, Gol, and also mentioned that the Dept. is yet to receive data on pastoralists from all the states in India. The list of schemes (old and new) has been shared with the group.

Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Director highlighted that IGFR as a leading research institute on rangelands has already gathered and analysed significant volumes of data concerning grasslands and has prepared Fodder Plans for 27 states in India. Dr. Manoj Mishra presented his findings on the pastoral system - notably - out of 202 registered breeds of livestock, 75 breeds are maintained by the pastoral system and how this cost-effective system benefits the natural food and textile production in India. He stressed the need for recognizing and boosting the market access and policy parameters for pastoral production system. Ramesh Bhatti shared his experiences of assisting Kutchi pastoralists in securing grazing rights through the FRA.

Dr. Suresh Honnappagol shared his insights on the livestock health schemes and Kisan Credit Cards in the country, how pastoralists have been accommodated in the MFAHD circular dated August 23, 2022 and recommended specific measures to strategically engage with Gol agencies including creating a separate nodal point under State Animal husbandry Depts. to monitor the pastoral schemes being planned. He suggested giving life to the suggested Bill on "Protection of Local Livestock Breeds and Livestock Keepers Rights Act" which was accepted in principle by ICAR and it can be pursued by newly created Ministry of FAHD for passing as Bill in the parliament.

Dr. Arjava Sharma enlightened the group on previous efforts undertaken to assist pastoral systems at South Asian level. Dr. Ilse recommended the group to compile a global set of case studies which also highlights the adverse impacts to the Protected Area Network on access to grazing resources. Dr. Arun Dixit recommended the need for pushing Biodiversity Boards in bringing pastoral semens into the ABS mechanisms; collating and mapping the strengths and concerns of regional and sub-regional efforts and undertaking social-auditing of how forest and other developmental projects

displaced pastoral communities affecting their customary practices including their mobility. Dr. Kamal Kishore pointed out the need to make the approach towards bringing change from bottom-up and including more pastoralists in discussions for finding their true requirements.

Dr. Purnendu Kavoori highlighted the nuances of the pastoral economy and cautioned against the dangers of associating pastoral production systems with an 'industrial system of production'. Mahesh from SoH shared that most local livestock bodies in the Himalayas are pushing for hybridisation of local breeds of sheep with the Merino - an exotic breed, and how this trend is gradually increasing mortality rates amongst sheep herds as the hybrid breeds are not built for the Himalayan environments.

Vivekanandan presented the form of engagement being envisioned with the MoFAHD and other line departments (attached with other recommendations for GoI) and Ramesh Bhatti concluded the meeting with a Vote of Thanks.

### **Action points for the group (recommended by speakers):**

1. Collate comments and recommendations for adding on to the schemes for assistance under DAHD
2. Members to reach out to and collaborate with IGFR and respective State DAHDs to update state-wise data on pastoralists and Fodder Plans – evidence to be used for backing our policy recommendations in the long-run.
3. RISG-SA to actively undertake networking at South-Asian-level, government-level, CSO-level, pastoralists-level to implement activities leading up to 2026.
4. Increase participation of members from all the SA countries to develop united programmes.
  - a. Map regional (SA) and national efforts on pastoralism for scaling our efforts.
  - b. Write to South Asia Pastoralist Foundation (SAPA) formed in 2015 during the regional process of World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Pastoralists (WAMIP) with the support of FAO; SAARC verticals (headquartered in Nepal and Bangladesh) and BIMSTEC etc., for exploring how these groups are doing and how pastoralism can be brought into their agenda through IYRP.
5. Prepare a global set of case studies on the impacts of the Protected Area Networks (PANs) on pastoralism, particularly – access to grazing resources; this set of Case Studies can be released in CoP27 scheduled for November 6-18, 2022.
6. Reach out to State Biodiversity Boards to recognize and include pastoral semens (being used for artificial insemination) in the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms – incentivizing pastoralists to preserve their breeds.
7. Undertake social auditing of not just protected areas but also solar parks and other energy and development-oriented projects, primarily focusing on their impacts on pastoralists and rangelands.
8. Reach out to Wasteland Authority and de-tag rangelands from the Wasteland Atlas – a consultation meeting to be arranged.
9. Increase involvement of pastoralists and grassroot voices in the IYRP processes.

## List of Participants

| <b>India</b>                                                                  |                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Kamal Kishore, Coordinator, Rain-fed Livestock Network (RLN)              | Dr. Debalina Mitra, Asst. Commissioner, National Livestock Mission (NLM), Gol                 |
| Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi                             | P Vivekanandan, SEVA                                                                          |
| Prof. S. Honnappagol, Former-AHC, Gol                                         | D. K. Sadana, Founder-Secretary, ILSI, Former ICAR Scientist, Karnal                          |
| Dr. Arjava Sharma, Former Director, NBAGR, Karnal                             | Dr. Sabyasachi Das, National Coordinator, Revitalising Rainfed Area Network (RRAN), Hyderabad |
| Dr. Manoj Mishra, Director, Sahjeevan                                         | Dr. Punendu Kavoori, Director, Centre for Social Ecology (CenSE)                              |
| Raman Ahuja, Independent Advisor & Consultant                                 | Dr. Ilse Kohler Rollefson, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS), Rajasthan                      |
| Dr. Arun Mani Dixit, Centre for Environment & Social Concerns                 | Kishore Sheik Ahamed M.R., NABARD Project, Tamil Nadu                                         |
| Ramesh Bhatti, Programme Director, Center for Pastoralism (CfP) and Sahjeevan | Mahesh, Shepherds of Himalayas (SoH)                                                          |
| Ameer Hamja, Founder, Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangathan                        | Tatsama Motilal, IYRP Volunteer                                                               |
| <b>Afghanistan</b>                                                            |                                                                                               |
| Dr. Homayon Ludin, Sr. Nutrition Advisor, Management Science for Health       |                                                                                               |
| <b>Bangladesh</b>                                                             |                                                                                               |
| Omar Kayess, Agrarian Officer, Community Development Association (CDA)        |                                                                                               |