

## Proceedings of the Meeting of South Asia -Regional Sub Group-IYRP held at 6 p.m. on 17.Dec.2020

~~~~~

The meeting started with a pastoralist-song by Geeta Rabari of Gujarat, India. Opening remarks on the purpose of Meeting and welcome address was given by Mr. Vivekanandan, SEVA and it was followed by self-introduction by Dr. James (USA) and by participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and India.

Dr. Sadana, ILSI, made a presentation on genesis, objectives, and the major milestones touched since 2008 when the idea was generated in International Rangeland/Grassland Congress (IRC/IGC). The concept got momentum during the years as several countries joined and supported. In 2016 a call was made for 'gap analysis' and an International Steering Group was formed. In 2018, Mongolian Government made the proposal on IYRP to FAO's Committee on Agriculture and, in August 2019, to UN. More recently, in Oct. 2020, COAG-FAO endorsed the proposal for IYRP for 2026. Dr. Sadana stressed that the SA countries lobby with their respective Governments and write letter of support on IYRP. Afghanistan has already sent letter of support. Dr. Sadana also said that Regional IYRP Support Groups [RISGs] have been formed to generate wider support and partnerships in each of the ten regions of the world of which this SA-RISG is one.

Dr. Vijay K. Yadav, Director of ICAR-IGFRI [Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, UP state, India] described the activities of the Institute related to Rangelands, Pasturelands and their protection/development through its dedicated team of scientists and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). He described how they are working on mapping and improvement of rangelands and told that India has 10.5m ha under grasslands. He told that plans to visit Banni areas for a study in Jan., 2021 were already prepared to interact with pastoralists there and was happy that *ayatra* [group-walk] in the same region is being considered. He spoke about the Institute proposal to establish a National Authority on Grasslands and a National Fodder Mission to support 35 million livestock in the country. He appreciated the initiation of RISG-SA, and expressed that the idea of establishing a Cell at IGFRI will be discussed with the higher ups to play a facilitator role between Government and RISG.

Dr. Kamal Kishore RLN facilitated election of core team members viz. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Representative of RISG to ISG, and members for a Communication Team for RISG-SA.

RISG-SA unanimously selected the following members:

Dr. D. K. Sadana,India – Chairperson

Dr.HomayounLudin,Afghanistan – Vice-Chairperson

Mr. P. Vivekanandan,India - RISG Representative to ISG

Ms. Natasha Maru, India - Communication Team

Ms. Rashmi Singh, India - Communication Team

(For Chairperson- Dr. D K Sadana was proposed by Dr. Sabyasachi Das and seconded by Dr. Balaram Sahu; for Vice Chairperson- Dr. Ludin Humayun (Afghanistan) was proposed by Mr. Esmati and seconded by Mr. Faridon Ahmad; for RISG-SA Representative to ISG- Mr.P. Vivekanandanwas proposed by Dr. Balaram Sahuand seconded by Dr. Jinnah (Bangladesh); for Communication group- Ms.Natasha Maru and Ms.Rashmi Singh were proposed by Dr.Manoj Mishra and seconded by Mr.Sajal Kulkarni)

Dr. James O'Rourke,ISG Chair stressed on the following points for highest priority:

- a. Support Letter from each Govt. to Ambassador of Mongolia to FAO as soon as possible and well before the next FAO meet in June/July, 2021
- b. Dr.Sadana to ensure the writing of support letter from each country in time
- c. Start considering for the monthly thematic activities to be undertaken for IYRP year 2026

In concluding remarks Dr.Sadana accepted the responsibility to coordinate the activities ofSA-RISG. He stressed to include and persuade friends also from SriLanka, Pakistan, and Maldives to the RISG-SA. In the meantime each country may expand their network and activities on Rangeland and Pastoralism at local, state, and national levels. Dr.Sadanasolicited cooperation of all stakeholders. At the end, Dr.Sabyasachi Das,RRN/WASSAN proposed a Vote of Thanks.

~~~~~

Annexure:

**List of Participants:**

Sr	Name	Country	Organisation
1	P. Vivekanandan	India	SEVA
2	Sabyasachi Das	India	RRAN/WASSAN
3	Faridon Ahmad	Afghanistan	
4	Manoj Mishra	India	Sahjeevan
5	D. K. Sadana	India	ILSI
6	James O'Rourke	(USA)	ISG
7	Varusha	India	
8	Natasha Maru	India	Ph.D. Scholar
9	BalaramSahu	India	PathePathshala
10	Shah Mobin Jinnah	Bangladesh	Community Development Association
11	Kamal Kishore	India	RLN
12	KuengaNamgay	Bhutan	Ministry of Agriculture
13	HomayounLudin	Afghanistan	
14	Ramesh Bhatti	India	Sahjeevan
15	HayatullahEsmati	Afghanistan	Retired from ICARDA, Kabul
16	SajalKulkarni	India	RRAN