

Proceedings of the Regional Workshop

on

Pastoralism in western India: Challenges and Options for the Rural Poor

**Indian Institute of Management,
Ahmedabad, India**



July 30, 2003

Introduction

The workshop was held at the Management Development Centre, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad on July 30, 2003. It was attended by 35 participants including researchers, policy-planners, pastoralists community representatives, practitioners, representatives from Forest Department, NGOs, etc. from two western Indian states, namely, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The workshop theme “Pastoralism in India: Challenges and Options for the Rural Poor”, led to discussions towards recognizing the importance of pastoralists in their contribution to the economy. Most of the pastoralists are resource poor and their economic system is constantly threatened and/or marginalised by inappropriate government policies. This marginalisation has resulted in an exponential increase in numbers of pastoralists below the poverty line in many third world countries. More action on the ground is needed particularly in changing attitudes of stakeholders – especially policy planners and decision-makers – as this is indeed one of the greatest constraints. At the workshop, emphasis was laid on working out ways of impacting on the policymaking process and active participation of pastoralists in designing and implementing programmes and policies that affect their livelihoods.

This was the second regional stakeholders workshop on the topic; the first one was organized for the Himalayan region at the CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur on June 24, 2003.

Workshop Structure, Vision and Objectives

The workshop consisted of three types of activities: presentations, working group sessions and plenary session. Presentations on LPP activities and the project proposal were made by Dr. Wyn Richards, Manager LPP, NR International Ltd., U.K. and Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, with the goal of stimulating ideas and discussion. These were interspersed by the formation of working groups involving all participants, whose goal was to work through a process whose end result would be development of concrete action plans for the project.

Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to Dr. Wyn Richards, Manager LPP, UK, Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Project Coordinator, League for Pastoral Peoples, Germany, representatives from pastoralist communities and supporters for their participation and significant contribution to the workshop.

Dr. Wyn Richards made a brief presentation on the DFID’s Livestock Production Research Programme activities. In his presentation, he emphasized the importance of development agencies, donors and in-country stakeholder communities working together to overcome the enormous challenges currently facing rural society and contribute to the delivery of the UN Millennium Development Goals; eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment, reduction of child mortality, improved maternal health, reduction in HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases, and achievement of environmental sustainability. He stressed the importance of identifying and involving appropriate in-country target institutions in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects. He mentioned that 16 pro-poor projects/development activities have been completed or underway in India under the LPP over the last 8 years. A project on development of simple rationing protocols for dairy cows/buffaloes was completed and a picture-book approach has been validated. As a means of scaling-up this approach, training in the use of these dairy rationing guides is currently underway in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra by state dairy co-operatives, NGOs and LPP. A project on Deccan

Plateau in collaboration with the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and local NGOs on reducing levels of mycotoxins in milk is also on-going. More recently, a “Scoping Study on Indian Pastoralism” has been completed by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and League for Pastoral People, Germany. Important issues raised in this study included an absence of official pastoral development policies, considerable public sector hostility/prejudice towards pastoralists, lack of a consolidated ‘voice’ to represent the unique role pastoralists play (e.g. in efficient and sustainable land use, in maintaining India’s rich biodiversity, in maintaining an unique cultural heritage including knowledge in ethno-medicine), and lack of advisory services on animal health/production. A more in-depth study to be commissioned aims at raising awareness of the opportunities and issues and for influencing decision makers of the greater contribution pastoralists can make given a more enabling policy environment. He invited the participants to comment/contribute to the project design and implementation plans at this meeting.

Mr. S.C. Snehi, Managing Director, Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd chaired the technical session. Before making a presentation on the project proposal, Prof. Sharma presented a vision for the workshop and a discussion of what the workshop was designed to accomplish. He emphasized the need for involving key stakeholders in the deliberations before launching the project. He made presentation in a mix of English and Hindi (local language) to facilitate more meaningful discussions in view of the background and profile of the pastoralist representatives. He began by identifying the underlying assumptions of the workshop:

1. Pastoralists in India are highly food insecure and suffer from lack of basic services such as education and health, veterinary services, infrastructure and from a negative attitude among policy makers.
2. Pastoralists have very limited organizational capacity and there is no organized civil society at local, regional, and national levels to bargain/negotiate with the government or other interest groups/institutions, which hinders their full involvement in policy formulation and implementation
3. The problems and solutions are in part regional/location-specific; therefore, there is a need to think solutions at a regional/local level

The main objectives and vision of the workshop were to:

1. Bring together key stakeholders to discuss a project proposal submitted for funding to the LPP on “Study on Pastoralism in India” to be undertaken by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in collaboration with other organizations/institutions and solicit feedback and comments on the proposal and future strategies from the participants
2. To acquaint stakeholders with the activities of DFID’s Livestock Production Programme (LPP).

The workshop was designed to bring together a wide range of participants, from government, donors, NGOs, researchers, private sector, pastoralist community representatives and leaders and other research information units. The workshop’s purpose was to capture the diverse ideas and experiences and translate them into concrete action plans for the proposed study. This workshop provided the chance to work, interact, and share ideas. The workshop was not presenting a blueprint, but was designed to stimulate dialogue and discussion and to engender ownership of project concepts and activities in the participants.

The participants were split into five groups, each of which was given a specific topic to discuss:

- Group I:** Database on pastoralists
- Group II:** Identification, and prioritization of major natural resource constraints on pastoralists' livelihoods
- Group III:** Identification, prioritization & addressing major policy/institutional constraints through participatory processes
- Group IV:** Identification of major misperceptions of pastoralism held by decision-makers and the general public and finding solutions
- Group V:** Identification of institutions representing pastoralists and design sustainable mechanisms for networking between pastoralists and other stakeholders concerned with pastoralist development

The working groups deliberated on the issues and provided specific suggestions/recommendations and plans on improvement in the project proposal. The groups re-assembled in plenary and presented the following reports and other participants made some comments/suggestions. Mr. S.C. Snehi, Managing Director, Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd. chaired the session.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

Group I:

Group Leader: Dr. H.K. Desai, Managing Director
Vidhya Dairy, Gujarat Agricultural University,
Anand, Gujarat

This group discussed the following theme: Baseline data on pastoralists; the group agreed on the following points:

- There is a need to generate robust estimates/database on livestock population and pastoralists population trends at micro- as well as macro-level for analysis.
- Changes in livestock holding patterns and land use patterns need to be analyzed by using Livestock Population Census and other secondary sources. This exercise should be complimented with consultation with concerned departments/institutions.
- Analysis of Livestock Population Census data should be done to examine population trends of pastoral communities.
- Review of national and state policies, which have impact on pastotalists, could be an important contribution of this project.
- Characterization of migratory patterns and their impact on natural resources like water-harvesting structures, grazing lands, etc. should be examined.
- It was suggested that while identifying pastoralist communities/families for household surveys, their mobility should be considered and appropriate timing for conducting PRAs or household surveys should be selected.

Group II:

Group Leader: Dr. Ultra Kothari, Lecturer
Sociology, Travel & Tourism
Sri Sathya Sai College for Women,
Jaipur, Rajasthan

This group discussed the following theme: Identification, and prioritization of major natural resource constraints on pastoralists' livelihoods. The group agreed on the following issues:

- The group identified the following natural resource constraints faced by pastoralists:
 - Shrinking land base for grazing animals
 - Pressure of natural calamities like drought, famines and environmental degradation
 - Shortage of grass and fodder during lean seasons particularly monsoon
 - Access to Common Property Resources, restrictions on grazing land by Forest Department
- Need to design/implement programmes for regeneration of natural resources through participatory approach involving local organizations including NGOs and CBOs
- Inappropriate grazing policy at state and national level
- Need for a review of national and state forest policies and other policies affecting the livelihoods of pastoralists

Group III:

Group Leader: Dr. Amita Shah, Professor
Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR),
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

This group discussed the following theme: Identification, prioritization & addressing major policy/institutional constraints through participatory processes. The group presented the following ideas:

- Study dynamics of pastoralism: Temporal and spatial issues
- Problems faced by the pastoralists enroute and at migration places
- Provision of educational, health, veterinary services during migration
- Vulnerability to weather related problems
- Integrated land use policy considering grazing and fodder requirements of the pastoralists
- Legal issues related to purchase of land by landless pastoralists
- Effective management of grazing lands and pastures by involving key stakeholders
- Inter-caste and intra-caste conflicts
- Land resource mapping

Group IV:

Group Leader: Dr. Rakesh Saxena, Professor
Institute of Rural Management (IRMA)
Anand, Gujarat

This group discussed the following theme: Identification of major misperceptions of pastoralism held by decision-makers and general public and finding solutions. The group agreed on the following:

- Need to address the issue of misperceptions held by policy-planners and general public about possible effects of pastoralism on natural resources like land, water resources, forest lands
- Analysis of trends in land resource use patterns
- Organizing pastoralists in groups like co-operatives
- Involvement of pastoralist communities in regeneration and protection of forest and other common lands through Joint Forest Management (JFM)
- Identification of actual/needed beneficiaries
- Study misperceptions about policy making process and policy planners particularly the forest department officials in the minds of pastoralists
- Need to study socio-economic and demographic characteristics of pastoral communities

Group V:

Group Leader: Mr. Sanjay Joshie, Team Leader
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
Bhilwara, Rajasthan

This group discussed the following theme: Identification of institutions representing pastoralists and design sustainable mechanisms for networking between pastoralists and other stakeholders concerned with pastoralist development. The group agreed on the following issues:

- Create database related to institutions/organizations, which represent the interests of pastoral communities at local and regional level for project states as well as at national level
- Classification of organizations into government organizations/institutions, non-governmental organizations, those directly and indirectly involved with pastoralists issues, and international organizations which speak for pastoralists
- Mechanism to create networks of such organizations at local, state, regional, national and international level
- Funding issues for sustaining such networking organizations
- Political and social issues in connection with networking activities

In the last session of the workshop, the participants tried to put the ideas which had emerged from the group work into an action programme for the next phase of the project. Prof. Sharma mentioned that we are now at the stage where we have to decide on the way forward and welcomed their involvement in the project. Dr. Wyn Richards indicated that we might convene more workshops of this nature during the implementation phase of the project, particularly to

report findings and agree on future direction of the research. Below is the summary of the discussion related to the expected outputs from the project and indicators of achievement:

Output I: Improved baseline data on pastoralists

Indicators of achievement:

- Reliable and robust estimates of pastoral populations, livestock population trends and characterisations of migration patterns by ethnic/caste groups for the selected states
- Procedures for better estimation/mapping should be tried for the state

Output II: Major natural resource constraints affecting pastoralist livelihoods to be identified, prioritised and addressed through participatory processes

Indicators of achievement:

- Identification of appropriate and replicable solutions to at least one major natural resource constraint through participatory processes
- Plans of action for state-wide adoption to be formulated

Output III: Identification and prioritization of major policy/institutional constraints faced by pastoralist community

Indicators of achievement:

- Appropriate and replicable solutions to at least one major policy/institutional constraint to be identified and plans of action for implementation to be formulated

Output IV: Identification of major misperceptions of pastoralism held by decision-makers and general public as well as held by pastoralists about policy-planning and decision makers

Indicators of achievement:

- Dissemination programme targeted at decision-makers and general public to be designed and implemented
- Awareness programmes to create awareness about the policy formulation and implementation process among pastoralists

Output V: Identification and involvement of institutions, which represent the concerns and needs of pastoralists in policy formulation process; create network of pastoralists and other key stakeholders concerned with pastoral activities

Indicators of achievement:

- A database of institutions (government, non-government and private sector), their skills, experience and activities in promoting the needs of pastoralists in policy making process
- Create networking of such institutions/organisations at local, state and national level and mechanism such as managerial capabilities, financial resources, etc. for sustaining these networks

Annex I: Workshop Programme



Stakeholders Workshop on “Pastoralism in India: Challenges and Options for the Poor”

July 30, 2003, KLMD Conference Hall IIMA

Programme Schedule

0930-1000	Registration	
1000-1045	Welcome and Introduction	Vijay Paul Sharma, IIMA
	Presentation	Dr. Wyn Richards, Manager, UK DFID Livestock Production Programme (LPP)
		Introduction of DFID’s LPP activities in India
1045-1100	Tea/Coffee break	
Chair:	Sh. S.C. Snehi, Managing Director Gujarat Sheep & Wool Development Corporation Ltd.	
1100-1130	Presentation	Vijay Paul Sharma, IIMA
		Project Proposal on “Indian Pastoralism” and “Project logframe”
1130-1145	Questions/ Clarifications	
1145-1315	Group Discussions	Group I Baseline data on pastoralists and mapping of migration routes for policy formulation Group II Identification, prioritization and addressing major natural resource constraints on pastoralist livelihoods through participatory processes Group III Identification, prioritization & addressing major policy/institutional constraints identified, prioritized and addressed through participatory processes Group IV Identification of major misperceptions of pastoralism held by decision-makers and general public and finding solutions

Group V

Identification of institutions representing pastoralists and create sustainable mechanisms for networking between pastoralists and other stakeholders concerned with pastoralist development

1315-1400 Lunch

1400-1430

Group Presentation Preparation

1430-1600 Plenary Discussion

Presentation by each group followed by comments/observation

What Next?

Vijay Paul Sharma, IIMA

Further discussions on future possible work-plan for the project

Closure of workshop

Chairman's concluding remarks

1600-1615 Tea/Coffee break

Annex II: List of Participants

S. No.	Name & address
1.	<p>Sh. S. C. Snehi, IAS Managing Director Gujarat Sheep & Wool Development Corporation Ltd. Block No. 18, 5th Floor Udhyog Bhavan, Sector 11 Gandhinagar – 382 010</p> <p>Phone: 079-323 2213, 323 2254 Fax: 079-322 9651</p>
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