



drynet

www.dry-net.org

No.3/4

January 2013

News from Drynet

A global initiative giving future to drylands

Drynet is a project of 14 organisations from all over the world. They work together to combat land degradation

GLOBAL NEWS

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PUBLISHED BY



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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Namita Dipak

Namita Dipak, LPPS Coordinator for Drynet, Passed away on 1st June 12, at the age of 45



LPPS deeply mourns the sudden and premature passing away of Namitha Dipak on 1st June 2012. Namitha was intimately associated with LPPS almost since its beginning. She served as a board member of LPPS and since 2007 she was the Drynet coordinator. Although based in Delhi, she kept in close touch with our field activities.

Namitha was born in Bangalore, but spent her childhood in Kenya. Later she moved back to India where she studied at the Centre for Ecological Studies in Bangalore. After graduation she became the editor of the veterinary periodical Pashudhan that was then published by Indian Herbs in Bangalore. Following her marriage to Mr S. Dipak, she moved to New Delhi and became the chief editor of Livestock International. From 2007 onwards, she became the LPPS Drynet Coordinator, a position which she took up with much enthusiasm and to which she contributed her editorial skills, as well as her wide-ranging knowledge

and interest.

Namitha had writing in her blood and was immensely talented. Her blog, <http://ephemera-studio.blogspot.de/> bear witness to her way with words and her artistic sensibilities. She also found much peace in drawing and in crafts, and taught these skills to her son Anant. In addition to her enormous professional skills, Namitha was a loving and devoted home maker to her extremely closely knit family. To us at LPPS, she was a deeply loyal friend who could always be relied upon and from whose communication skills the organisation benefitted tremendously. The world has lost a truly exceptional person much too early. But Namitha's spirit will live on in our hearts, lives and work. We will never forget you, Namitha, and extend our condolences to Anant and Dipak.

- *In Remembrance., LPPS.*

EDITORIALS

TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK KEEPING: MORE THAN A PROFESSION

The high rate of urbanisation coupled with an increasing population has put great pressure on natural resources. The government now constantly faces an ominous question, what happens to the food security given that the agricultural growth is not in proportion to the increase in population. To correct this, constant attempts towards creating another green revolution or a white revolution are being made. The direct implication of this has been that the farmers and the livestock keepers are under constant pressure of advocacy on intensive methods through policies and programs.



This has become a very critical issue as the lenses with which these professions are viewed are very narrow and limited to only productivity and income. The intensive system destroys the traditional methods of breeding and farming that are being followed. What is being missed is the deeper understanding of what livestock really means for the traditional livestock breeder, who has been in the profession for at least a few centuries. Taking the case of traditional camel breeders of Jaisalmer, they have been breeding camels for nearly five centuries or more. A deeper look at their religious profile shows that the group comprises of Hindus and Muslims alike.

Within the Hindus too, there is a further break-up into Rajputs, Raikas, Vishnois and so on, i.e., castes and tribes among Hindus. In the rest of the country these communities have been known to be at the centre of communal tensions, whereas in Jaisalmer they have a deep bond and coexist in peace and solidarity. There is a lot of evidence that further enunciates this, and here we look at some examples.

Before the monsoons, camels are left to graze on their own and they scatter outside the perimeters of their village and its surrounding areas. The gathering of the camels for breeding is very interesting. The livestock keepers round up all the camels that they find within their area, irrespective of the ownership and gather them at a common field. Each livestock keeper does the same and thereby gathering all the animals at the pre-decided time and place. This joint effort involves livestock keepers from all communities, helping each other out. They all bring them to a fair organised in honour of Kachu Fakir, a religious place for the livestock keepers, which is visited by all members of the livestock keeping community for the good health of their livestock. It is there that each livestock keeper separates out his camels. Thus it can be said that to traditional livestock keepers, livestock signifies more than mere source of livelihood. It forms a deep-rooted bond within this community which transcends all social boundaries and integrates them. Though very important, this discussion highlights only one aspect. There are other aspects like traditional clothes, food etc., that are tied to the livestock keeping. These issues should be taken into consideration and policies should enable and not disintegrate these communities in the name of progress and food security.

CLONING: IN CONTEXT OF LIVESTOCK KEEPERS

The year 2012 saw the first ever cloning of Cashmere (pashmina) goats in Kashmir. These goats are mainly found in and around the cold and arid regions of Leh-Ladakh in India. These goats live under extreme weather conditions and thus have an inner fine coat of hair for protection, which is one of the finest wools available globally. The scientists involved claim that it's a cheaper and easier method of cloning and may be an answer to saving rare species of livestock and wild animals, especially the Cashmere (pashmina) goats. The cost-effectiveness of the method may be useful for its wide-adoption.

The picture seems heartening, but there are some concerns that need to be looked into before a widespread adoption of cloning takes place. Though the scientists discuss the dwindling number of these animals, the reasons for this decline need to be studied in depth. Cloning would be an effective method to increase numbers, if the ability to breed was the only reason. However, this is not the sole reason for the decline. The availability of fodder, the microclimate, the number of breeders, the financial capability of these breeders to rear bigger flocks, marketing and other economic reasons may have a larger role in this decline. Presently, the main system of rearing of these animals is nomadic. The ability of the cloned animals to survive under such conditions also needs to be studied in detail. The cloning of these animals and the method used is a laudable scientific achievement but its practical application needs to be examined. An excerpt from this article follows.

"This is the cheapest, easier and less time-consuming" method of cloning, compared with conventional methods that use high-tech machinery and sometimes chemicals, Shah said. Noori is the first Cashmere goat cloned by this method, though Shah earlier cloned a buffalo.



Eventually, Shah hopes to clone threatened species such as the critically endangered Kashmir stag, or hangul, the only surviving species of Asian red deer."

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2012/03/15/kashmir-scientists-clone-rare-cashmere-goat/#ixzz2FTYhUHg2>

- Articles Contributed by Kanika Chandel

REGIONAL NEWS

BHARANANGANAM DECLARATION

7th and 8th July 2012, Kottayam

The conference on "Native livestock breeds for the future of mankind" was organised on 7th and 8th July, 2012 at Hosanna mount in Bharananganam, Kottayam, Kerala, by the Vechur Cattle Conservation Trust with the support from National Biodiversity Authority Chennai. There was an exchange on information and a review of trends around indigenous livestock breeds. Since 70% of the livestock, which constitutes much of their biodiversity, is in

the drylands, this declaration is of major significance..



It was concluded that five decades of the existing policy of promoting cross-breeding and exotic breeds has not been fruitful in India. It was therefore strongly recommended that the following actions to be taken for the sake of rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as for national autonomy and independence from imports. These were:

- i. Fundamental re-orientation of India's top down breeding policies to community based development of indigenous breeds. While many Indian states on paper support conservation and use of indigenous breeds, this intention still needs to be operationalized in practice and requires major efforts and investment.
- ii. Support to the prevailing extensive production systems by providing secure access to grazing resources through community tenure rights and implementation of the Forest Rights Act.
- iii. Creation of strong incentives for local breed conservation and development, so the breeds that are on the verge of extinction or in rapid decline can be revived.
- iv. Participatory identification and mapping of indigenous breeds in their respective agro-ecosystems to arrive at a real assessment of India's animal genetic diversity, rather than subsuming 80% under the non-descript label.

- Reported by Vechur Cattle Conservation Trust, NGO

XI CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY

The COP 11 saw a wide-ranging participation on issues related to livestock diversity. There were three side-events organised by important stake-holders reported below.

Breed Saviours

Side Event COP 11, 10 Oct 2012
CBD, Hyderabad

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Balakrishna Pisupathi, Chairman National Biodiversity Authority of India. In his presidential speech he mentioned that the importance given to plant genetic resources at international level has not yet extended to animal genetic resources. The definition of agriculture is not merely plants but covers holistic vision of subsoil biodiversity, animal diversity and knowledge of communities etc. He said that the importance of domesticated diversity should be stressed and should be inclusive in the national development process. Whenever a genetic material is taken from our country it shall be regulated under ABS he emphasized. A book on "Breed keepers and Best Practices" published by SEVA was released by the Chairman.

Dr. Sadana senior scientist, NBAGR highlighted the history and background of Breed Saviour Award Programme initiated by SEVA in association with LIFE Network during 2009. He said that, more than 60 pastoralists and breeders association have been given awards over the last three years.

Dr. Sabyachidas of Sahjeevan highlighted the link between Banni grassland's domestic animal diversity and life style of maldharis. Banni grasslands are breeding tract of Patanwadi & Marwadi sheep, Kacchi goat, Kacchi & Kharai camel, Kacchi / Sindhu horse and the Banni buffalo. He said that Sahjeevan had registered Banni buffalo as 11th breed of buffalo in India. He distributed the Banni conservation plan document prepared by the Maldhari communities. Dr. Sadana in his presentation said that the effort of Goshala (cowshed), i.e., Namdhari Goshala in Chandigarh involved in conservation of Sahiwal cattle and its pure population which is less than 3000 in number.

Dr. Sosamma explained about steps taken by Vechur Cattle Conservation Trust (VCT) for increasing the population of vechur cattle from few numbers to more than 1500. VCT has actively articulated against castration of native bulls of cattle in Kerala.

Dr. Balaram Sahu presented Chilika buffalo pastoralists who depend up on Chilika Lake for grazing during night. He highlighted a bull mother farm initiated by a pastoralist who has been awarded with Breed Saviour Award 2009.

P. Vivekanandan highlighted the case of the "Umbalacherry cattle herders association", which was involved in calf rearing programme, bull distribution programme, cattle health camp, renovation of common property resources including ponds and grazing lands.

Mr. Karthikeya presented the status of Kangayam cattle, Korangadu pasture land and highlighted steps taken by Sivasenapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation at Kuttapalyam village in Tamil Nadu via cattle shows and prizes to best breed keepers.

Dr. Ilse concluded by highlighting the need for capacity building, training and

awareness among pastoralists in conserving domestic animal diversity in India.

-Reported by SEVA, NGO

India's forgotten grasslands

Side event COP 11, 12th Oct, CBD, Hyderabad

Anthra organised a side event entitled India's forgotten grasslands which made an effort to bring people from different organisations, fields of expertise and positions together, to discuss and debate on an issue often ignored. Grasslands in general tend to be neglected landscapes and are less known or recognised as compared to forest scapes, desert scapes or marine scapes during environmental discussions, despite the fact that they host a large variety of diversity of floral and faunal species.

The panelists for the session were Dr. Suvarana, an officer of the Indian Forest service of the Andhra Pradesh Cadre who is presently posted in the Rural Development Ministry of the Government of AP, Dr. Ranjit Manakadan Assistant Director at the Bombay Natural history Society, Mumbai, Mr. Pankaj Joshi, Ecologist and presently associated with Sahjeevan an NGO based in Kutch, Gujarat, Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, managing trustee, Sivasenapathy Kangeyam Cattle Research foundation, Dr. Kandasamy, Retd Professor of animal breeding and genetics, Namakkal veterinary college, Tamil Nadu and pastoralists from the Deccan, Banni, Sariska and other places. The moderator and facilitator for the session was Dr. Nitya Ghotge of Anthra.

The workshop tried to answer a few basic questions related to grasslands and biodiversity. The final recommenda-

tions were that given the rich and varied diversity a sq. km of habitat destruction of the grasslands potentially endangers biodiversity much more. Grassland ecosystems need due recognition for their critical contribution to the environment. Grasslands should not be categorised as waste lands and diverted to other use such as industry, SEZ's, mining, urbanisation. Grazing is essential in grasslands; a complimentary system where wildlife and livestock can graze needs to be better understood and promoted.

- Reported by Anthara, NGO

Pastoralists provide food security while conserving biodiversity

Side event COP 11, 12th Oct, CBD, Hyderabad

By converting natural vegetation, especially of drylands and mountainous areas, and a wide variety of crop waste into highly nutritional products, pastoralists play a dual role of on one hand conserving biological diversity and on the other hand of providing food security. However, pastoralists and their low-input production systems are under many pressures and threats. In order to survive and thrive, they require appropriate policy support which could be given in the context of implementing certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This was the gist of a side-event organised by the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) and its partners of the LIFE Network for community based conservation of indigenous livestock breeds during the 11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD. The side-event entitled Caravans of Biodiversity: India's Livestock Keepers, their Breeds and

Products took place on 12th October. It was opened with traditional songs and dance by Ms. Dailibai and three other Raika herders.



The event was presided over by Dr S. L. Goswami, Director of the National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) and by Dr. Ela Martyniuk, Poland's national coordinator of animal genetic resources. It featured presentations by Dr. Balaram Sahu of the Innovate Orissa Initiative about "Pigs, the protein pot of the poor", by Prof. Sosamma Iype of the Vechur Cattle Conservation Trust on the Attapaddy goat production system, by Hanwant Singh Rathore of LPPS about the Raika Biocultural Protocol, and by Kamal Kishore, Jacob Wanyama & Raziq Kakar, from the LIFE Network about the Ark of Biodiversity Project. The final presentation was by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, LPP: "Access and Benefit Sharing of Animal Genetic Resources: How it could work for livestock keepers".

- Reported by LPPS

Other Events

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CAMEL RESEARCH (NRCC) – QRT

November 2012, Sadri, Rajasthan

The NRCC conducted its QRT at LPPS Sadri. Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson of LPPS gave recommendations with regard to the policy issues. She recommended that in view of the continuing steep decline of India's camel population, the activities of the NRCC should focus and concentrate on finding ways of halting this decline. Since the NRCC on its own cannot achieve this, it is imperative to closely collaborate with other stakeholders in the camel, including central and state governments, Non-government organisations, camel breeders' associations (such as the Jaisalmer and Kutchi camel breeders associations) and private enterprise.

i. NRCC should support the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to save the camel that meets in regular intervals (quarterly or half-yearly)

ii. The purpose of the multi-stakeholder platform would be to:

- raise awareness among the general public and the media about the issue
- improve information flow
- identify and address research needs as they emerge from the field
- develop joint activities with the other stakeholders

-Reported by Hanwant Singh, LPPS

BIO-CULTURAL PROTOCOLS (BCP): AN UPDATE

Bio-Cultural protocols: livestock keepers confirm the importance of this tool

30th November to 2nd December, Shahdri, Rajasthan

Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) recently organised an experience sharing workshop about Biocultural

While the pastoralists unanimously underlined the importance of BCPs, it was also quite evident that a lot of uncertainty still surrounds the concept and that undertaking the process is by no means easy or fast. It requires time, resources and commitment for it to be of value. Nevertheless, BCPs are a crucial and even essential tool – for groups of marginalised people that traditionally have not attached that much importance to land ownership and are now losing out rapidly.



The Raika, for instance, never really tried to claim land rights after Independence, since they believed there was plenty of it and they preferred mobility for their animals, even placing taboos on building permanent houses. Now they are suffering from this ignorance, as Dailibai Raika elaborated. Biocultural Community Protocols were originally conceived in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and as the basis for Access and Benefit Sharing agreements with communities. However, they have developed since then and other legal frameworks than the CBD may be even more important reference points – such as the Right to Food. The essential elements of BCPs are documentation, awareness raising and knowledge about rights under national and international legal frameworks. How best to implement them, what methodologies to use, how to ensure their integrity – these are the questions that currently being addressed by various non-government organisations. However the communities need to proactively get into action.

BCP: Setting the Record Straight

15th January, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Jaisalmer is one of the fastest developing districts in Rajasthan, or even India. The once empty desert spaces are now being mined – for wind energy, solar energy, oil, stone, etc. This development if good for some, especially the large corporations behind these activities, but the majority of the local people, with their dependence on livestock keeping are losing out. For this reason, LPPS is supporting the Jaisalmer Camel Breeders Association to develop their Bio-Cultural Community Protocol under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. In this they put on record their role in conserving the local camel breeds as well as the associated rangeland biodiversity – many traditional practices exist or existed to conserve the environment, but – as is also becoming clear – they are eroding rapidly and will soon be forgotten. Camel breeding has lost its status and attraction for young people. The process to develop the BCP was already initiated some time ago, but now it was time to check the facts and focus on the essential points. So about 35 camel breeders assembled in the meeting hall of Jaisalmer's rural development authority and went through the draft document. Many bits and pieces were added, but further checking will be required, as at least seven different castes and communities have a common identity as camel breeders. Each one has a slightly different take on issues.

Hopefully this process will be completed in the next couple of months, so that the BCP can be released and shared with officials and the public at large.

- BCP update by Dr. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson, LPP

GRAZING RIGHTS FOR RAIKAS: A LONG WAIT...

19th January, Rajasthan

The previous issues of the LPPS Drynet newsletter have reported the on-going conflict between the forest department and the Raika (traditional livestock keepers) community. The conflict is due to the pastoral rights, which are being taken away from them as the Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is in the process of being converted to a National Park. The community had filed for these under the recently introduced Forest Rights Act, 2006. On the 19th of January 2013, the process received a setback. The application for the community forest rights of village Latada which had been submitted in March 2012 was rejected by the Sub-district Officer during a "Prashasan gao ki aur" on the grounds that it did not comply with the requirements of the new amendment. He said that they would have to apply through new amendment and the forest department would give training to the Village Forest Community. Also evidence for traditional use predating 1930 would have to be submitted. In the original claim file, oral evidence/affidavits by people older than 75 years had been provided, in addition that provided by Rav, the traditional record keeper of the Raika community. The records from first and second settlements which constitutes the evidence from nearly three generations was also included. The forest and revenue departments had been invited throughout the process, but forest department did not participate, although the patwari (revenue department official) helped. The claims of three other villages, also submitted before August, are still pending. In the Pali District (in Desuri, Bali

and Kharchi Tehsils) too no community rights have been given. In February 2012, the District Collector had asked for claims and objections before establishing the National Park and LPPS on behalf of forty three villages (gram panchayats) had sent a letter requesting their Forest Rights. They have not received any reply still. for claims and objections before establishing the National Park and LPPS on behalf of forty three villages (gram panchayats) had sent a letter requesting their Forest Rights. They have not received any reply still.

- Reported by Hanwant Singh, LPPS

GLOBAL NEWS

SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK KEEPERS NEED LEVEL PLAYING FIELD TO PUT LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT ON SUSTAINABLE PATH, SAY EXPERTS.

"Livestock Futures", Bonn (Germany) on 6th - 7th September, 2012.

During an international conference convened by the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP), about 80 experts from 16 countries and five continents discussed about the future scenarios of livestock keeping.

The experts – representing a wide variety of institutions and organisations ranging from herders' associations and non-government organisations to German government ministries and United nations (UN) bodies – recognised

the critical condition of the livestock sector and emphasized the need for steering it into a more sustainable direction with less dependence on oil and artificial fertilizers. Alternative approaches would use more solar power and thrive for closed nutrient cycles to prevent accumulation of manure. The preferred approach to the prevention of animal diseases would be by providing a healthy environment with fresh air and free movement.



There was agreement that many small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists already fulfil these criteria, but that their role and value in global food security tends to be ignored and is currently underestimated and undervalued.

Policies for a more sustainable livestock sector would on one hand seek to encourage or enforce internalisation of external (environmental) costs. Secondly, subsidies for industrial production need to be reined in. Thirdly, the relative position of small-scale livestock keepers must be strengthened by institutionalizing their participation in policy making processes and by supporting them to claim their "livestock keepers' rights" under existing policy frameworks such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Right to food. Furthermore, more emphasis has to be given to enabling livestock keepers to access markets and obtain fair prices, to take advantage of the demand

for regional and niche products and to build their own organisations. Rural entrepreneurs could play an invaluable role in setting up value chains and should be supported.

- Reported by Dr. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE RESILIENT DRYLANDS DEVELOPMENT

26th - 28th September, 2012

A workshop titled "New perspectives on climate resilient drylands development" was organised in Kenya between the 26th and 28th September 2012. The workshop was attended by sixteen participants from China, India, Kenya and Europe, to review the research findings and identify the key components of an overarching narrative and set of arguments to articulate a new perspective of climate resilient drylands development. The policy briefs will be developed as an outcome, which will be brought out subsequently.

INTER-REGIONAL LEARNING ON ANIMAL FINE FIBRE PROCESSING AND NICHE MARKETS

Bolivia, 31st July - 5th August 2012

Inter-regional learning on animal fine fibre processing and niche markets Workshop on "Inter-regional learning on animal fine fibre processing and niche markets" was held in Sajama National Park, Bolivia, from July 31 through August 5 2012. There were three days of workshop followed by a short study

tour of the pastures and rangelands, where Bolivian pastoralists raise alpaca, llamas, goats, and sheep and harvest fibre from wild guanaco and vicuna. It was organised by Odessa Centre assisted by the League for Pastoral Peoples and supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) one of the UN agencies.

THIRD MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM MEETING

Nairobi, 22-24 January 2013

The third Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) meeting was organized by the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, the International Livestock Research Institute and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and was hosted by the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya from 22 to 24 January 2013.

The aim of the Agenda is the sustainable development of the livestock sector through improved resource use to support livelihoods, long-term food security and economic development. This draft strategy puts forward the scope, focus, and preliminary set up to build the Agenda.

Scope

The purpose of the Agenda is to act towards continuous improvements of practices, such as choice of technologies, management or policy making, to ensure a more efficient use of natural resources.

Through its joint activities, the Agenda offers opportunities for dialogue and

collaboration at all levels, enhanced knowledge sharing, better and joint understanding of key issues, harmonized development of methodologies and consensus on guiding principles for moving forward.

Focus

The initial work will focus on three areas with an important potential for more efficient use of natural resources, as well as social and economic gains.

- o Focus area Closing the efficiency gap aims to stimulate the application of existing but not widely used technologies by the bulk of the world's producers whose use of natural resources is often greatly inefficient. Agenda partners will develop public-private and other forms of partnership to transfer and adapt resource use efficient technologies.

- o Focus area Restoring value to grassland pursues a better management of grazing land which can contribute to carbon sequestration, protection of water and biodiversity but also enhanced productivity and livelihoods. Agenda partners will explore and promote the financial and institutional innovations required for the delivery of grassland-related ecosystem services.

- o Focus area Towards Zero discharge aims at recovering and recycling nutrients and energy contained in animal manure, particularly from intensive and confined livestock production operations. Agenda partners will develop planning tools and regulatory and incentive frameworks to support viable manure management and create opportunities for recycling.

Initial set up

The multi-stakeholder, voluntary, consensus and knowledge-based nature of the Agenda is reflected in its initial set up. It consists of: i) an open Multi-stakeholder Platform for consensus

building on priority issues and actions; ii) a Support Group for the building of the Agenda; iii) a Guiding Group for overall direction, and activities guidance and monitoring; and iv) Focus area groups to implement the work programs.

The members of the LIFENetwork India, Pakistan and Africa and livestock keepers from India, Pakistan, Uganda and Tanzania participated in the proceedings. They brought the focus on livestock keepers and were able to sensitize the Agenda to the requirements of the pastoralists and small livestock keepers in the dryland regions of the world. According to the Director General of ILRI they contribute upto 80% of the livestock requirements even today and therefore the Agenda needs to calibrate its activities keeping this in view. The lifework Network members have committed themselves to continue to engage with the Agenda so that it remains continuously receptive to the requirements of the small livestock keepers living in the drylands

Article contributed by Kamal Kishore, Coordinator, Rainfed Livestock Network, Life Network-India

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change. Theme: Mainstreaming CBA into national and local planning. 7th international Conference: 18th to 25th April, 2013. Dhaka, Bangladesh Organised by IIED. For further details visit: www.cbaconference.org

REVIEW

"Invisible Guardians: Women manage livestock diversity", a recent FAO research paper authored by Dr. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson makes a strong case for

the inclusion of women in the national policies and programs for livestock. The author uses case-studies from across the globe to bring to light, the role of women in preserving livestock diversity. It also dispels the myth regarding the meagre role of women in livestock grazing, care and marketing of produce and brings forth the feminization of livestock-breeding especially in the developing and under-developed nations.



The author cautions against the sedentarization and on-going disintegration of livestock keeping and provides recommendations towards adoption of a gender sensitive approach.

Reference

FAO. 2012. Invisible Guardians – Women manage livestock diversity. FAO Animal Production and Health paper No.174. Rome, Italy.

The UN radio has captured the author's views on the subject. To read and listen, please use the following links:

<http://bit.ly/ZdSlwE>
<http://bit.ly/YMua8d>
<http://bit.ly/ZaJJXK>

This issue is published for the DRYNET initiative in India by Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan(LPPS), India. Postal address: P.B.1, Sadri, Pali District: Rajasthan-306702, India. E-mail: drynet@lpps.org and lppls@sify.com. Director Hanwant Singh Rathore. Editor: Kanika Chandel. Printed by Lovely Printers, New Delhi.