



Anchored by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)

Sub- Group Discussions

Theme: Livestock and Rural livelihoods

PARTICIPANTS

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- ✘ Shailendra Tiwari – Seva Mandir
- ✘ Members for fisheries group also joined in between

INTRODUCTION (KEY POINTS TO SET CONTEXT)

- + India's genetically diverse livestock and poultry populations are a product of its traditional livestock systems.
- + The importance of the livestock goes beyond its food production function. since it plays a multiple role.
- + Livestock holdings are more equitably distributed than land holdings – landless and marginal communities and women derive livelihoods and sustenance
- + Livestock sector is more socially inclusive and a part of culture.
- + Livestock rearing provides a coping mechanism to deflect the crisis in agriculture
- + **In the context of CC - the role of livestock in providing ecological services needs to be recognized and becomes crucial**
- + Rainfed areas of the country have 70 % of the livestock and contribute 70% and 40% from Arid and Semi-arid areas respectively to agricultural GDP . (overall 31%)

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT NEED TO BE
ADDRESSED**

LIVESTOCK HEALTH SERVICES

- ✘ Health care monitoring and reporting systems need to be adopted and rooted at the village/the panchayat
- ✘ Surveillance and diagnostic infrastructure needs more investment
- ✘ Health services to be delivered by the govt. through disease control & eradication mode (minimum of 75-80 % of animals need to be vaccinated)
- ✘ In view of the above points – health cover needs to be free
- ✘ Timely availability of vaccines for all diseases for all types of livestock
 - immunological infrastructure need improvement & investment
- ✘ lack of adequate man power to render the vet. services –keeping in view the Veterinary Council Act .
- ✘ mechanism to cover Pastoralists needs to be developed

FEED/FODDER SECURITY

- ✘ Livestock populations are constantly increasing and fodder scarcity is still an issue
- ✘ CPRs are still a major source of fodder - recent study by FES reveal camels (100%), sheep and goat (80%), In.Cattle (60%) and even Cross breeds and buffaloes (30%) depend on CPRs for fodder
- ✘ Need to protect CPRs for livestock grazing – further reduction should be stopped (diverting CPRs for biofuel cultivation & SEZs)
- ✘ conserve & manage CPRs through community based groups – successful examples in Rajasthan (using NREGA/watershed/JFM prog)
- ✘ Droughts occur quite frequently– attention to fodder availability is paid only when drought is declared – need to have a pro-active fodder policy (fodder banks during good years)
- ✘ Data over 10 years shows constant increase in current fallows in arid & semi arid states - need plan to develop them through farmers participation
- ✘ Re-introduction of dual purpose crop varieties (ICRISAT /ICAR experiments
- ✘ Promote Agroforestry systems

Livestock Breeding

Policy-makers and programmes have consistently overlooked traditional systems in favour of industrial-production systems using exotic and cross-breeds resulting in:

1. Gradual erosion of indigenous breeds

2. majority of population are resource poor and cannot maintain Crossbreds - (further aggravating social inequity)

3. expansion of unsustainable production systems in fragile areas

✘ Enable Policy Framework to Strengthen Livestock Diversity by :

+ Breed-specific breeding policy that take into consideration local agro-ecological niches and community requirements

✘ major differences in the production environments

+ Focus on “optimising” production rather than “maximising production “

+ Planned breeding programme for development of Indigenous genetic resources

+ cover wider farming systems and the major role played by rural women

CONTD...

- × Indiscriminate Breeding services :
 - + CB productivity has stagnated / declined
 - + Crosses with higher exotic inheritance in cattle – (breeding & health problems)
 - + AI Coverage in Indigenous cattle is just 3 -5%
 - + Non-availability of indigenous breeding bulls & buffaloes
- × **Lack of Inventory, Characterisation and Monitoring of Animal Genetic Resources**
 - + Indigenous genetic resources to be redefined with a broader base
 - Active involvement of livestock keepers in the process of inventory, characterisation and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Other issues & concerns

- ✘ In -spite of livestock contribution to agriculture GDP (in 2009) being 31 % - investments are less than 10 %
- ✘ Considering the high demand for livestock products and limitation of resources there is a need to improve the resource base and utilization efficiency (considering the objective of doubling the availability of animal protein)
- ✘ Neglect of traditional backyard poultry – managed by women & under privileged.
- ✘ Role of livestock in RE needs to be developed
- ✘ Marketing of livestock and livestock products – to be streamlined to benefit small producers
- ✘ Credit and infrastructure – lack of appropriate policy and institutions
- ✘ Extension services: Our production system is resilient , low external input & extensive (optimally using the variable environment conditions) , but technology that is being spread is high input & intensive (inflexible) - change the extension paradigm