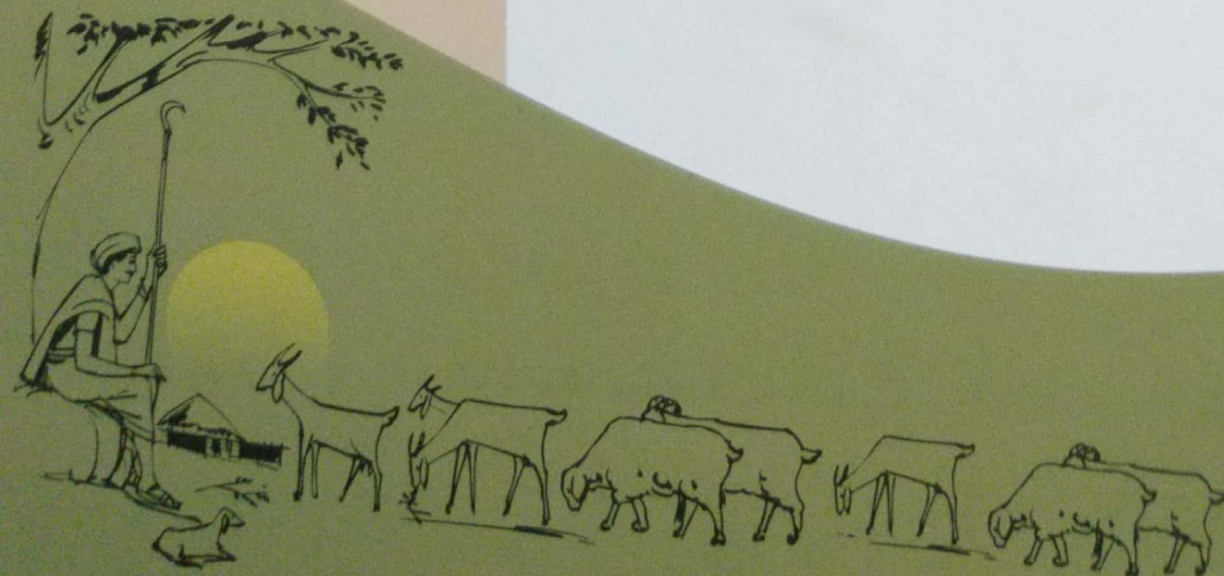


Multi-stakeholder workshop on Restoring Balance between **Livestock-based livelihood and Natural Resources**

Small Ruminant Rearers, Fodder Security,
Policy and Practices in Andhra Pradesh



Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Restoring Balance between Livestock-based Livelihood and Natural Resources

Small Ruminant Rearers, Fodder Security, Policy & Practices in Andhra Pradesh

Organised by:

A.P. Forest Department/APFA

Department of Animal Husbandry

Department of Rural Development

of Government of Andhra Pradesh

Centre for People's Forestry & Intercooperation

19th & 20th July 2007

Title : Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Restoring Balance Between
Livestock-based livelihood and Natural Resources
Small Ruminant Rearers, Fodder Security, Policy & Practices in Andhra Pradesh

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Financial Support : Andhra Pradesh Forest Department / Andhra Pradesh Forest Academy
Department of Rural Development
Intercooperation

Workshop Hosted by : Centre for People's Forestry

Copies : 500

Layout & Design : Dhatri Designers, 27643862

Printing : D & Dee 94407 26907

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Executive Summary

- Dr. D. Suryakumari
Director
Centre for People's Forestry

The multi-stakeholder workshop on "restoring balance between livestock-based livelihood and natural resources" was held on 19th and 20th July in Hyderabad at St. Ann's Generalate with special emphasis on small ruminant rearers. The workshop was jointly organized by the departments of Forests, Animal Husbandry and Rural Development of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the NGOs: Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) and Intercooperation.

About 80 participants (and the team of CPF) representing the state and district level officials of the organising departments, international, national and local NGOs working on the subject within and outside the state of Andhra Pradesh, Research Institutes of State, National and International levels, community representatives from VSSs, Panchayats and the sheep rearers cooperatives shared experiences, discussed issues pertaining to the small ruminant sector vis-à-vis fodder/feed and the environment and came up with several recommendations to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in general and to the concerned departments/agencies in particular.

In all, there were three sessions in the workshop and one panel discussion. The workshop started with "*Inaugural cum Introduction to the Workshop*" which was followed by self introduction of participants, background and purpose of the workshop (by Dr.D.Suryakumari of CPF), Inaugural address covering the need for and importance of the workshop (Mr.C.Sivasankara Reddy IFS, PCCF-Forest Production) and reasons for collaborating in the event by the representatives of the different departments. Mr. S.V.Kumar IFS, Additional PCCF -SF & Affn chaired the session and also shared about the FD's reasons for collaborating in the workshop. Mr. Joseph IFS, Addl. PCCF Wild Life shared the concerns of the wild life wing about the migratory and native (unproductive) cattle's intrusion into the protected areas. Dr.Zaheeruddin, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry department and Mr. Kishan Das, Joint Commissioner of Rural Development department spoke on behalf of their departments. All the speakers in the session felt that there is a strong need for coordination/collaboration among the different departments and NGOs especially in the context of the livelihoods of small ruminant rearers and the sustainable use of natural resources. So far, the small ruminants and the fodder/feed security of these animals have not received adequate attention though there were efforts to address the health care needs to some extent.

The theme of the **First Session** was "**Addressing fodder needs of resource poor small ruminant rearers under existing policy framework in the Government, scope & Practices**". In this session district level officials of the different line departments made presentations on the current situation in the field with regard to the theme of the session. Mr. C.Sivasankara Reddy and Dr. Urmila Pingle were the Chair and Co-Chair for this session. At the outset, Mr.Sivasankara Reddy made a presentation about Forest Department's view on the fodder and grazing aspects. The key issues that were flagged for discussion from this session are:

1. Should there be a grazing policy? If so which department has to be entrusted with the responsibility of implementation? Migratory animals from other states are causing immense damage to local forest ecology; how to check it?

2. How can the fodder needs of the small ruminants be addressed both as a poverty alleviation program as well as for conservation of natural resources?
3. How can the coordination among the Forest, Animal Husbandry and Rural Development Departments be made effective to take a critical role in developing a macro and micro plan to assess livestock fodder needs especially in areas with fodder crunch and/or vulnerable to ecological degradation?
4. On the need to develop a five year strategy plan
5. How to take up identification of government and other grazing lands in villages for fodder development by the rearers' co-operatives/Panchayats?
6. On the need for decentralization of health services as well as fodder seed propagation

The theme for the **second session** was - **"Perspectives from non-government stakeholders on challenges being faced by resource poor small ruminant rearers and ecological implications"**. This session was chaired by Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi IFS - CCF, CFM and the Co-chair was Dr. Md. Osman, Senior Scientist, CRIDA. Presenters in this session included: representatives of Panchayats from Achampet, VSSs from Medak and small ruminant rearers from Ananthapur, besides NGOs like WASSAN and CRISP. The issues flagged during this session are:

1. Fodder scarcity especially during drought
2. Inadequate vaccination/health care facilities
3. Diminished grazing lands and other common lands
4. Politicization and non-representative nature of the rearer's cooperatives, with weak institutional mechanisms
5. Inadequate presence of NGOs in the sector
6. Mis-match in the contribution the sector makes to the economy and the attention it gets from the Government
7. Lack of proper insurance schemes

After this session, a draft copy of the grazing policy prepared by the Forest Department was circulated among the participants, who were subsequently requested to give their suggestions on the same.

The theme of the **third session** was - **"Innovations in policies and practices in the context to safeguarding livelihoods of small holder livestock rearers in the changing environment scenario"**. The presentations of the session were from NGOs, Officials and researchers from outside and within the State. Ms. Mamta of Winrock International India chaired the session and Mr. Khetrapal IFS Retd of Sevamandir played the co-chair. This session was intended to gather learning from the good practices.

The **final session** was meant for discussions on **"Issues raised and possible solutions"**. In this session, the chair persons of all the three sessions made presentations on the summary of the sessions, issues raised and tentative recommendations before a panel consisting of five members each, representing one of the stakeholder groups. They were Mr. C. Sivasankara Reddy (FD), Dr. M. Sreenivas Rao (AHD), Dr. M. Madhusudan (RD), Mr. Udayshankar (NGO) and Dr. A. Janaiah (Senior Scientist - NCAP). The session was moderated by Ms. Rupa Mukherji, Delegate, Intercooperation.

After the presentations by the session chair persons, each of the panellists were asked to deliberate on a couple of specific points viz, i) what can the concerned department/agency contribute to the improvement of the fodder security to combat the plight of the small ruminant rearer's and ii) what are the suggestions for convergence of departments. The floor was opened for discussion after the deliberations of each of the panellists. At the end, the moderator summed up the outcome of the session.

Final recommendations that emerged include

1. De-stocking of cattle in the forested areas and substituting with sheep, providing incentives to the farmers for de-stocking and providing financial assistance for sheep rearing.
2. Increasing allocations for fodder components in all the watershed development and livestock based schemes under rural development.
3. Inclusion of representatives of insurance companies in all small ruminant related efforts. Also, loans should be given for medicines/ fodder/ insurance premiums - currently, only loans for buying goats/sheep are sanctioned.
4. Government departments should have a framework in place for inclusion of NGOs in their efforts - especially those that need inter-departmental convergence.
5. For identification of common property Resources, land mapping is urgently required. Forest lands, Panchayat lands, encroached lands, private lands are not clearly demarcated under the present system and often overlap.
6. Information dissemination is vital. For example, results from a lot of relevant research undertaken by the institute of Grassland Research in Jhansi, never reach the concerned stakeholders.
(For a detailed text on recommendations please see pages 61 & 63)

COMMITMENTS

Forest Department

- FD is prepared to increase the fodder potential of the forests (as a trade off for the introduction of grazing policy); Intensive fodder plots, superior varieties of fodder; surplus fodder available in the VSS forests
- Increase VSS involvement in grazing management

Animal Husbandry Department

- Willing to collaborate with FD on pilot scale on the feed pelletisation project in one location.

Rural Development Department

- If models are shown R.D. will replicate



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