

Part 4 Working groups

Four workshop groups discussed and refined the four sets of recommendations that emanated from the international workshop on 'Farm Animal Genetic Resources from the Perspective of Rural Communities' held in Sadri, India on 12th to 16th October 2003 (see next page).

Questions for discussion

1. Do you agree that all governments should give high priority to an internationally-binding agreement on pastoralism, farm animal genetic resources and the recognition of Livestock Keepers' Rights? Such an agreement could:
 - Consider the role and needs of pastoralists.
 - Recognition of Livestock Keepers' Rights.
 - Include all farm animal genetic resources and associated agricultural biodiversity.
- 2 Do you agree with the set of principles embodied in the recommendations from SADRI on Farm Animal Genetic Resources?
- 3 Do you agree with the FOUR sections?
- 4 What could be added or deleted?
- 5 How can you improve the statement?
- 6 What could be added or deleted? How can you improve the section?

Group 1

A 'No' to Question 1 would have negative implications, especially in the face of globalization.

With a 'Yes' we should then use regional organizations like SADC, COMESA, IGAD, AU-IBAR to represent our case at international forums.

Such an agreement could:

- Consider the role and needs of pastoralists.
 - Needs for voluntary sedentary rights.
 - Recognition of Livestock Keepers' Rights.
- Include animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated agricultural biodiversity.

We should not restrict ourselves to farm animal genetic resources. Include wildlife as well.

Documentation of animal genetic resources (role of traditional communities)

- Strengthen and sustain the ongoing documentation process e.g. State of the World Animal Genetic Resources Report (FAO). Pastoralists should actively be involved in this. This process should be spearheaded by governments with the

Farm animal genetic resources from the perspective of rural communities

Asia Level Workshop hosted by Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan in Sadri (Pali), Rajasthan, India, 12–16 October 2003

Recommendations

The actions recommended by the workshop for promoting the sustainable use of farm animal genetic resources in Asia related to four separate issues:

Documentation of animal genetic resources (role of traditional communities)

- Ongoing documentation of indigenous knowledge on animal genetic resources.
- Add indigenous knowledge dimension to Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System.
- Modify scientific techniques to level of understanding of traditional community with cooperation of extension services.
- Establish pilot technology demonstration units with participation of traditional communities.
- Incorporate traditional indigenous knowledge into education systems.
- Promotion of knowledge exchange between and within communities.
- Organisation of training in the LIFE approach.

Strengthening the role of traditional communities in conserving and managing sustainable animal genetic resources

- Promote traditional indigenous knowledge through folk songs and stories (cultural forms) representation.
- Promoting and organization of traditional communities.
- Support community initiatives to conserve their animal genetic resources.
- Strengthen community awareness on sustainable management of natural resources.
- Enhance linkages horizontally and vertically between relevant institutions and communities.
- Promote traditional management practices through people participation.
- Support traditional community to develop market linkages and channels and credit/saving schemes.

Support for traditional communities to maintain their role, lobbying for cultural diversity

- Initiate setting up village level resource management committee to defend local common grazing rights (actors NGOs and governments) and other issues.
- Raise awareness in other sectors (forest/agriculture/veterinary medicine) and other relevant departments to discuss access rights to grazing and water.
- Respond to pastoralists' need for fodder in reforestation programmes.
- Promote and support village self help group for credit and marketing.
- Research for low cost feed supplements for draught and adverse conditions.
- Provide services for families and their livestock.

Treaty and legal requirements for the conservation and protection of intellectual property rights (IPR)

- Ensure that work on IPR goes hand in hand with participation and benefit sharing.
- Canvass and consolidate national issues concerning conservation of farm animal genetic resources in March 2004.
- Stimulate formation of national working groups on farm animal genetic resources:
 - to study the lead-up process to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
 - to determine what can be replicated.
 - to indicate obstacles and challenges.
- Disseminate findings of workshop in international treaty on farm animal genetic resources.
- Sensitize stakeholders in the region on the issue.
- Ensure the inclusion of grass land genetic resources in both, plant and animal resource conservation programmes.

- backing up of other stakeholders, e.g. NGOs
- 2 Add the indigenous knowledge dimension to the Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System (DAD-IS) administered by FAO.
 - 3 Open up a common database at local, national, regional and international levels. DAD-IS may not be able to incorporate all interests.
 - 4 Form a pastoral forum in each country to act as a pressure group and represent pastoral interests.
 - 5 Promote networking amongst pastoral forums. Knowledge exchange between and within communities.
 - 6 Set up secretariats at local, national, regional, and international levels.
 7. Modify scientific techniques to the level of understanding of traditional communities with cooperation of extension services.
 - 8 Establish pilot technology demonstration units with participation of traditional communities.
 - 9 Incorporate indigenous knowledge into the education system, especially at the primary school level.

The group agreed with the Sadri Recommendations, but noted that:

- There is a need for an umbrella pastoralist organization for networking at local national and international levels. This should be done with the goal of creating awareness through education, training on rights, empowerment, markets, value addition (school of wisdom).
- In this, the role of pastoralists will be to maintain the balance of pastoral livelihoods in arid and semi-arid lands to ensure sustainability. Pastoralists will also endeavour to conserve indigenous breeds within their areas to maintain genetic diversity.

On Question 2, the group agrees to all the sections but added the following:

- Capacity-building efforts should concentrate on building on existing knowl-

- edge rather than imposing new ideas.
- Environmental committees need to be established among pastoral communities.
- There is a need for capacity enhancement.
- There should be structures to maintain good relationships within and outside pastoral communities.
- There is a need to strengthen pastoral grazing committees for selective use and management of pasture and water points.
- There is a need to establish and strengthen appropriate health service delivery systems.
- Efforts to lobby influential persons, politicians, opinion leaders, administrators, religious leaders businesspersons and the media on for more action on the priorities of pastoral people should be enhanced.

In their reaction to Group 1's presentation, the workshop participants agreed that the statement from the Sadri Workshop contained issues and terminologies specific to India. Since all this is building up to a global-level action plan, broader, more encompassing phrasing was proposed.

Group 2

All governments should give high priority to an internationally binding agreement on pastoralism, farm animal genetic resources, and the recognition of Livestock Keepers' Rights. A policy should be established that takes into consideration the economic setting, the social framework, and political environment of pastoralists and which enhances and recognizes pastoralism as a viable livelihood system. The policy should make provisions for water, animal health, marketing, land tenure, security, and animal feed during droughts

Livestock keepers' entitlement to their lands and territories should be recognized through suitable legal instruments that en-

sure non-alienability of such lands out of livestock keepers' ownership without their informed consent and only in consultation with them. The group also called for the equal recognition of the citizen rights of livestock keepers as a people and of their culture and livelihood as derived from their livestock.

The group recommended the recognition of farm animal genetic resources owned by livestock keepers and their contribution to the national food security. This would support conservation of local animal breeds with unique gene pool derived from adaptation to arid and semi-arid rangelands, including associated and supportive rangeland biodiversity of grasslands, plant life, as well as wildlife resources.

The group was in total agreement with the four recommendations from the Sadri Workshop, adding the following points:

- Need for participatory planning and management of community-owned natural resources.
- Need for recognition and promotion of the cultural attachment and love held by livestock keepers for their farm animal's genetic resources.

In the open session to discuss the presentation, participants noted the following points:

- Tanzanite mining in Tanzania has precipitated a mass movement of young people to the mining areas. This is threatening the survival of traditional breeding knowledge which may lead to serious degradation of the genetic resources and the ecosystems that support the community.
- The importance of pastoralism is not fully appreciated by development practitioners and the rights of these groups are not respected. For instance when investors come to pastoral lands the interest of the indigenous communities are

not respected. The heavy emphasis placed on the government in pastoral development is not fruitful, partly because the term 'government' is used in its general form without reference to specific sections whose attention is being called.

- With respect to regional and international agreements, national governments should develop avenues for consent by local communities before committing the nation to a treaty.
- The Plant Genetic Resources Treaty process took from 1978 to 2001 to complete. It is important to develop and engage actors at the micro and intermediate levels in order to complement, and speed up macro level developments.

Group 3

The group agrees in principle to the proposal in Question 1, but notes that:

- There is a need for an umbrella pastoralist organization for networking at local, national and international levels. This will be done with a goal to create awareness through education, training on rights, empowerment, markets, and value addition (school of wisdom).
- In this, the role of pastoralists will be to maintain the balance of pastoral livelihoods in arid and semi-arid lands to ensure sustainability. Pastoralists will also endeavour to conserve indigenous breeds within their areas to maintain genetic diversity.

On Question 2, the group agrees to all the sections, but adds the following:

- Environmental committees need to be established among pastoral communities.
- There is a need for capacity enhancement.
- There should be structures to maintain good relationships within and outside

- pastoral communities.
- There is a need to strengthen pastoral grazing committees for selective use and management of pasture and water points.
- There is a need to establish and strengthen appropriate health service delivery systems.
- Efforts are needed to lobby influential persons, politicians, opinion leaders, administrators, religious leaders, businesspersons and the media on pastoral issues.

Group 4

The group noted such an agreement should be geared towards the recognition of pastoral peoples and indigenous animal breeders and their role in providing sustainable livelihoods and the conservation of animal genetic resources through a treaty in line with FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To make progress towards such a treaty, the group noted the need for appropriate policy approaches. In particular, the group recommended the following approaches:

- Affirm and recognize the historical role of pastoralists and indigenous communities towards domestic animal diversity and environmental services.
- Recognize the rights of livestock keepers in terms of access to resources and their right to continue using their knowledge in this and to access, save, use, exchange and sell their animal genetic resources unrestricted by IPRs (genetic engineering).
- Ensure that benefits of the use of animal genetic resources are accessible equitably to all.
- Provide characterization, evaluation and documentation of animal genetic resources, possibly through an appropriate national register.
- Provide a legal framework for the implementation of a global strategy for

conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources.

- Inclusion of financing mechanisms for the necessary processes and institutions for a animal genetic resources treaty
- Provide for sustainable use of animal genetic resources.
- Establishments of linkages to the Convention on Biological Diversity through FAO.

The following steps and opportunities should be exploited in the development of an animal genetic resources treaty .

- **2004** Convention on Biological Diversity, Conference of the Parties (COP) VII, 9–24 Feb 2004.
- **2004** Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at FAO 29 Feb–1 Mar: include pastoralism concept in the treaty.
- **2004** FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), 6 Oct: Push for the inclusion of the principle of Livestock Keepers' Rights.
- **2005** FAO, Nov 2005: Adoption of the rights of pastoralists.
- **2006** Convention on Biological Diversity–Conference of the Parties, 8 Mar: Recognition of farm animal genetic resources.

Comments and discussion

- There is a need to act swiftly on these recommendations as the first step is only a few months away. In particular, participants called for the delegation of the task of taking these recommendations to the FAO intergovernmental committee for action.
- The FAO can only act on these recommendations if the mandate to do so is provided by the relevant national governments. The most effective way for getting action at FAO is by lobbying the respective country representatives to

- raise these issues within FAO.
- The low levels of awareness at the grassroots level on the legal implications relating to animal genetic resources are of concern. To create effective lobbying mechanisms, there is need to raise awareness among grassroots pastoral associations.
 - In discussions over pastoralists' issues, there is always confusion between pure pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. This has contributed to the exclusion of pure pastoral communities from the policy framework and the neglect of issues such as land tenure for nomadic pastoralists.
 - The recognition of the role of pastoralists will in itself raise awareness of their concerns and priorities.
 - The FAO animal genetics department has a broader approach to farm animal genetic resources. It would be easier and more appropriate to address cultural related issues of pastoral communities through conventions on human rights, rights of indigenous people and avenues such as UNESCO.
 - At the international level there are already too many commissions and the inclusion of cultural issues within farm animal genetic resources would just complicate progress. This meeting should agree to a single action plan and give it full support to expedite progress towards a farm animal genetic resources treaty. Pastoral associations in various forms should spearhead the diffusion of information on farm animal genetic resources at the grassroots level.
 - There is a need to recognize various livelihood strategies of animal breeders but at the same time come up with a single front for animal genetic resources. There is a need to act at the micro, meso, and macro levels and to engage different groups and, in particular, to involve the general public, youths, pastoral associations, NGOs and community service organizations.
 - Pastoralists are a subset of livestock keepers. Maximum attention should be given to the wider problem of free flow of genetic resources without too much focus on who owns them, as the focus is not on the ownership but on the free flow and access for all.
 - It was proposed there should be a statement to support communities' ownership over their farm animal genetic resources. In response it was noted that such a statement can be used to mean implicit approval of the imposition of IPR over farm animal genetic resources, which could quickly degenerate in favour of private entities.
 - However, there was insistence from the floor that the recognition the role of communities in the development of farm animal genetic resources can only be achieved via IPR.
 - It was noted it is a very fine line: the rejection of IPR over farm animal genetic resources will leave the question of ownership wide open, while its acceptance could also eventually lead to the exclusion of some communities from accessing farm animal genetic resources, which could be disastrous for food security.
 - A list of plants critical for food security is excluded from any IPR regime.
 - IPR regimes can only grant rights to legal persons. This necessitates the selection of a few persons in the community to own the IPR, which in itself a big risk.
 - Owing to the inherent complications on terminology, it was proposed that the term 'animal breeders' be used in the declaration to give the widest coverage possible.
 - This proposal was refined and it was agreed the term 'pastoralists/indigenous livestock breeders' be used.

Way forward

In the development of the way forward after the workshop, the following points were noted:

- Inadequate policy framework is one of the largest barriers to the farm animal genetic resources treaty. Participants were therefore in agreement that they

should, and would start lobbying their national governments by all means possible to redress this.

- It was proposed that a secretariat be elected to follow up on the recommendations of the workshop. This would be purported by regional subcommittees.
- It was also proposed that farm animal genetic resources issues to be included in various State of the World reports to raise their profile.
- It was resolved that all representatives from pastoral communities take the lead in diffusing awareness on farm animal genetic resources at their respective communities. The post-workshop steering committee was also charged with the responsibility of being a resource centre for these representatives.
- It was resolved that all organizations represented at the workshop will make all efforts to disseminate the proceedings and resolutions of the workshop to a wider audience.
- To gather the resources required for advocacy and pressure for farm animal genetic resources, it was resolved all present should develop and implement projects and project proposals to undertake the various steps needed for a farm animal genetic resources treaty.
- It was proposed that national working groups be formed to create awareness and participation in the process towards a farm animal genetic resources treaty.
- It was noted that representatives at the workshop were from pastoral communities with high visibility and presence within their countries. The need to involve less numerous and visible communities was noted.
- The need for follow-up meetings to monitor progress was noted.
- The use of district pastoral associations, and equivalent institutions for dissemination at grassroots level was proposed. It was also recommended that these organizations form peer networks that would help create a snowball effect and give them a presence at local and national development where they can agitate for animal genetic resources and related issues.
- Participants were challenged to define specific steps needed in capacity building and incorporate this in their action plans.
- The need to maintain the participation of grassroots communities in forums to address animal genetic resources issues was emphasized to ensure the process is continuously aware of the on-ground situation.
- It was also noted that a treaty on animal genetic resources is not the only (or necessarily the best) way to preserve farm animal genetic resources. Action in areas like land tenure, extension services and related areas also have an important contribution to make.
- Participants were encouraged to create links with institutions like IPGRI and CGIAR, which can greatly aid the cause of farm animal genetic resources. However, it was noted such organizations could only come on board if a certain critical mass of interest was present, so the first challenge is to create this interest.
- The Karen Commitment (page 8) henceforth will be the guide for participants and their respective organization and communities in contributing to the international, national and local debates on farm animal genetic resources. The central role in this debate will be played by FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity, so it is very important to channel the views expressed in the workshop to these organizations.
- The organizers are committed to facilitating the opinions and contributions of participants to the subsequent debate and developments within FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity and associated processes. Article 8j of the Convention on Biological Diversity will only be meaningful for animal breeding communities if they aggressively make demands to the Convention that their concerns be addressed.

The Karen Commitment

On the basis of these discussions, the workshop participants drafted a declaration about the contributions of pastoralists and other livestock keepers to developing animal genetic resources, and their rights to continue to do so. This declaration was named the 'Karen Commitment' after the venue of the workshop in Karen, Kenya. The full declaration is printed on page 8.