Region presentation – South Asia

Nitya Ghotge

Anthra

3 – 7 October 2022 Dublin Ireland | 12th GASL MSP Meeting (Hybrid)
Speakers

Day 1

Key Note: Dr. Robyn Alders

Moderator Nitya Ghotge

Panelists
Dr. Wijaya Jayathilake  Sri Lanka
Mr. Ajay Vir Jhakhar  India
Dr. Pema Gyamtsho (ICIMOD)  Nepal / Bhutan
Dr. Salma Sultana  Bangladesh
Dr. Bhola Shreshtha  Nepal
Dr. Mohammed Younous  Pakistan
Wrap up Dr. Ilse Köhler Rollefson

Day 2

Moderator Chanda Nimbkar

Speakers on positive Action

Augusta de Ilse Camel

Ms. Pradeepa Silva Srilaka  Livestock breeds

Mr. Keshav P Sah (HPI)  Nepal  Women’s Cooperatives small ruminants

Dr. Inam ur Rahim  Pakistan  Livestock breeds and Landscapes

Ms Rumani Chakraborty  Goats and women’s empowerment and agency

Dr. Tashi Dorji  Yak kerding  landscape architecture

Dr. Moushumi Shreshtha  agri business  women’s entrepreneurship

Dr. Salma Sultan  entrepreneurship  veterinary services
The South Asia Regional Consultation

Date 23rd and 24th August
Format Online
Major agenda/program elements
• “Livestock sector actions towards more sustainable food systems with reference to Planetary Boundaries”

Number and stakeholder composition of participants
67 people registered for the meeting and at any time about 30 people participated.
Of the 67 participants registered about 25 were women.
Of the 18 Presenters 10 were women.
Pastoralists, veterinary students and young researchers represented youth and made presentations as well.
Key livestock sector challenges in the region

- Highlight 3 to 5 key livestock sector challenges in your region necessary to overcome to achieve sustainable food systems
- Young people do not want to practice farming or herding
- Emerging diseases and poor animal health services
- Disconnect between Science, technology and practice
- Planetary boundaries limit land use, climate change and loss of biodiversity
- High input costs
Key livestock sector achievements in the region

• Enormous growth in the sector in most countries more milk, meat and eggs available
• Small and local initiatives which acknowledge local knowledge systems, biodiversity
• Women centered initiatives such as project Mesha, India, initiatives in Nepal by Heifer International and initiatives by private entrepreneurs in Nepal and Bangladesh
• Locally adapted technologies
• Sharing and exchange of knowledge and practices in the Himalayan system especially yak care through the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Yak Herders Network Pathway towards sustainable yak farming for pastoral resilience
### Three to four key livestock sector outcomes to deliver in the region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION:</th>
<th>OUTCOMES OF THE 2022-2024 GASL ACTION PLAN</th>
<th>Dialogue</th>
<th>Policy change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPHERES OF THE GASL THEORY OF CHANGE</td>
<td>Evidence and practice change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sphere of interest</td>
<td>Sustainable livestock options are included in global development programming and resourcing</td>
<td>women and youth are key stakeholders in different parts of the livestock value chain</td>
<td>IYRP 2026</td>
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<td>Sphere of influence</td>
<td>Knowledge, attitudes, skills of decision makers change so they recognize the importance of options and MSP principles for sustainable livestock</td>
<td>Biodiversity is embedded in the region and in the communities who rear livestock.</td>
<td>importance of local innovations and knowledge systems</td>
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<td>Sphere of control</td>
<td>Diversity of GASL and other livestock stakeholders aligned, interconnected and harnessed</td>
<td>Many more women participating as presenters and participants</td>
<td>Planetary boundaries discussion</td>
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Support small holders and pastoralists and recognize and strengthen the existing circular (agro-pastoralist) economies

Products from smallholders and pastoralists need to find local marketing options which are non exploitative. The dependence of food security on the protection of common property resources must be recognized and reckoned for in policy making.

More research and extension on emerging diseases,

Climate change, land use and biodiversity are closely linked and can not be looked at in isolation. Livestock needs to be fitted into natural ecological processes to not upset the balance.
A ‘solution’ for the world

Youth groups of pastoralists are trying to find local answers to problems. Of supporting biodiversity, of ensuring forests are managed and maintained, of realigning with agriculture and of ensuring safe and good quality livestock products make their way to local markets.

Young entrepreneurs promote ‘cruelty-free’ livestock products that could appeal to vegan/vegetarian consumers.
South Asia has many examples of circular economy where livestock and agriculture are closely linked and are in sync with the environment. These need to be better researched, documented, highlighted and supported.
Commitments and next steps

Regional cooperation and sharing of knowledge and practices in circular economies.
Learning events and workshops for drawing attention to the existing sustainable practices in order not to lose them.
Better research that generates data and evidence about systems in the South asian region.
Thank you